



Officers  
**President: Ann Job**  
**Vice President of Administration: Diane Valencia**  
**Vice President of Communications: Kathy Grubert**  
**Treasurer: Alex Guerrero**  
**Public Relations Coordinator: Maria Silva**

MINUTES  
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, March 24, 2016

Sylmar High School / Spartan Hall  
13050 Borden Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342

**Minutes are a summary of business conducted at a meeting. Only the Motions are precise.  
These Minutes are in meeting order; not in item number order.**

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

President Ann Job called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. Christian Rubalcava led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call** – Roll was taken by Board Members stating their names and seat designation.

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council's quorum is 11.

17 of the 21 Board Members were present during roll call: Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Peggy Courtney, Laurie Fadness, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Carlos Lara, Ann Job, Derek Martin, Dennis Orellana, Peter Postlmayr, Patricia Rau, Christian Rubalcava, Maria Silva, Roy Smith, and Diane Valencia.

2 Board Member arrived later: Joanne Fernandez (6:46) and Chris Shows (8:30)

1 Board members left before meeting ended: Dennis Orellana at 8:30

2 Board Members were absent: Alex Guerrero and Brenda Resendis.

21 of the 21 Board Seats are filled.

**3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper** – Diane Valencia explained meeting protocol.

**4. Welcome and Announcements** by Board Meeting facility Host. Before introducing Derek Martin, Ann Job thanked Sylmar High School for allowing the SNC to meet there, even though school was on spring break. Mr. Martin welcomed us. The marquee for the Sylmar High School has been installed, and the parking lot lights are also up.

**5. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations**

- 1) **Senior Lead Officer Keith Crawford**, has just become our new SLO, replacing SLO Menchaca. He has been at the Mission Station for 7 years. His phone # is 818-838-9846. He left flyers about himself on the information table.

*Joanne Fernandez arrived at this time (6:46)*

- 2) **Captain Glenn Bayham** was transferred to Sylmar Fire Station # 91 this month. LAFD is recruiting to replace retiring firefighters; he left pamphlets about "Join LAFD.org" a new campaign expected to run up to 2017. The other captains at Fire Station 91 are Sydney Chambers (B Platoon) and Donald Darby (C Platoon). The phone number there is 818-756-8691. They have an ongoing campaign to encourage residents to install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. They have sand bags and sand for those needing them.

3) **Abigail Moreno representing Councilmember Fuentes.** The councilmember met today with the new captain that is replacing Captain Chamberlain at Mission Station.

4) **Jim Leahy representing Assemblywoman Patty Lopez** of the 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. He left information on the table about legislation she introduced this year.

5) **David Gonzalez representing LAUSD Boardmember Monica Ratliff.** He mentioned that Olive Vista Middle School was featured on ABC News for its participation in “Ready, Set, Go” a program to encourage fitness as we prepare for the Olympics. LAUSD has a balanced budget for this year and project a balanced budget for next year; therefore, there will not be teacher layoffs.

**6. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items** within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction

1) **David Levin** encouraged stakeholders to vote for Don Neal and George Ortega at the upcoming SNC elections.

2) **Eugene Hernandez** supported David Levin’s position. He complimented Abigail Moreno, Steve Jaramillo, and Tania Soto on Councilmember Fuentes’ staff.

*Carlos Lara left at this time (7:20)*

3) **Bonnie Bernard** noting that this was the last meeting of the current SNC Board, she mentioned its accomplishments over the last two years: a) bringing back the monthly open Executive Committee meeting and regular Budget Committee meetings; b) committing a whole year to revising the 2009 Bylaws and Board Rules; c) holding the “Make Your Horse Count” event; d) distributing free safety reflective bands for horses; e) taking a stand on the Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal Project; f) declaring a State of Emergency due to Sylmar’s lack of emergency services resources; g) identifying and getting potholes filled twice year by Street Services; h) reaching out to our schools with the Pencils Project; i) reviewing and engaging the community on land use projects and development; j) hosting town halls on issues affecting the community, like the recent Town Hall regarding fire services in Sylmar; k) starting a committee for the underserved which includes the homeless; l) giving out backpacks filled with respite items to our homeless in Sylmar; m) providing refreshments at the meetings; n) for the president attending meetings held at City Hall and throughout the Valley raising the City’s awareness of Sylmar.

*Ms. Bernard was interrupted during her two minutes, so she was given time at the end of the meeting (Item #25).*

o) Sylmar is making history by conducting the first online voting in the City, and finally p) we should be proud of our neighborhood council, which was certified as the 69<sup>th</sup> neighborhood council back 2003. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) said then that though it sometime took up to 8 hours to certify other neighborhood councils, because of the “terrific work of the formation committee” Sylmar was certified in about an hour. Ms. Bernard thanked the board for its service.

4) **Nancy Woodruff** commended Diane Valencia on the Town Hall held on Saturday on fire services for Sylmar. As a member of the Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council, she will ask them to submit at Community Impact Statement (CIS) in support of Sylmar’s attempts to get another fire station. She announced that she will be running for Council District 7 seat.

5) **Kevin Suscavage** announced that he is running for the 39<sup>th</sup> State Assembly District.

6) **Toni King** thanked the board for helping Sylmar.

7) **Yolanda** from Relay for Life for Sylmar, announced the April 23<sup>rd</sup> 24-hourevent.

*Carlos Lara left and Dennis Orellana arrived.*

**7. Approval of the Minutes** for January 28, 2016 General Board Meeting

The minutes not being available, the item will be considered at the next meeting.

**8. Approval of the Minutes** for February 25, 2016, General Board Meeting.

**Moved** by Grubert; seconded by Martin; call for the vote by Fadness.

**Discussion:** Smith pointed out an error in Item #23 (whereby Smith and Shows are noted as having voted both yes and no, when actually they had both voted no). Rau was noted as both abstaining and voting yes, when actually she abstained. Approval was contingent on the correction.

**Motion Passed** by unanimous vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (17): Bloom, Blöse, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Orellana, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

**9. Committee Reports** were made by:

**Underserved Stakeholders Committee** – Peggy Courtney confirmed that the committee meets on the third Monday at Concordia Jr/Sr High School.

**Outreach Committee** – Kathy Bloom thanked everyone who attended the Fire Services Town Hall, commending Diane Valencia for her wonderful presentation. Then Ann Job thanked Kathy Bloom for her extraordinary good work on the event.

**Ad Hoc Sylmar Sign Committee** – Laurie Fadness said that the recently formed committee has only met once, but will resume after the elections are over.

**Executive Committee** – Diane Valencia said that she has sent out reminders to two boardmembers whose ethics training will soon be expiring, and asked committee chairs to get their approved minutes to her, so they can be posted to the website.

**10. City Liaison Reports** were made by:

**Animal Services Liaison** – Amanda Bloom reported that No Kill Los Angeles (NKLA) in association with Best Friends is having \$25 pet adoption during the month of March. She gave a ‘shoutout’ to Laurie Fadness (her co-liaison) for her many efforts in rescuing animals. Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez ‘piggybacked’ on this to say that on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 there will be a meeting of the El Cariso Park Advisory Board. He will propose a dog park at El Cariso Park or at Veterans Park, as well as a skate park.

**Public Safety Liaison** – Diane Valencia referred to Saturday’s Fire Services Town Hall culminating in community generated petitions and letters to give to the Mayor. On April 20 the Mayor will present his draft City Budget to City Council. The Budget Committee and Council will meet through May 4<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the letters and petitions to the Mayor and related material are available on the information table to anyone interested. Regarding LAPD, she will be attending a reception on March 29 with Captain Robert Moreno. She has also reached out to our new SLO Crawford to discuss safety issues in Sylmar.

**City Attorney Liaison** – Diane Valencia mentioned that she and Ann Job were contacted by the City Attorney’s office regarding having our community prosecutor meet with the board and stakeholders in the near future. This program puts a city attorney in the neighborhood to address low-level crimes that can lead to more serious crimes.

**11. Discussion and possible Board action** relative to the noticing of Committee meetings as “Joint” meetings with the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board.

Diane Valencia said that she would entertain a motion to table this item until the next meeting because we are running overtime.

**Move to Table** by Rau; seconded by Fadness.

**Motion Passed** by unanimous vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (17): Bloom, Blöse, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Orellana, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Silva, Valencia, and Job. No (1) Smith; Abstain (0)

**12. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for November, 2015.

**Motion** by Smith; seconded by Valencia; call for the vote by Valencia.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (13): Bloom, Blöse, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Rau, Rubalcava, Valencia, and Job; No (1) Smith; Abstain (3) Orellana, Postlmayr, and Silva.

**13. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for December, 2015.

**Discussion:** Ann Job said that DONE told her that they will not honor the payment to Flowers 4 You for flowers for Boardmember Laurie Fadness when she was critically ill in the hospital. Payment for that will fall to Ann Job. Further she assured Laurie that we do not regret having given her flowers, that “she is worth every petal,” and that we are so grateful that she is well again.

**Motion** by Rubalcava while acknowledging of the Flowers for You issue; seconded by Smith.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (14): Bloom, Blöse, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Smith, Valencia, and Job; No (0); Abstain (3) Fadness, Orellana, and Silva.

**14. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for January, 2016.

**Motion** by Rubalcava; seconded by Fernandez; call for the vote by Postlmayr.

**Motion Passed** by unanimous vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (14): Bloom, Blöse, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Silva, Valencia, and Job; No (2) Fadness and Smith; Abstain (1) Orellana.

**22. Discussion and possible action** to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for February, 2016.

**Discussion:** Maria Silva asked about the \$500 we approved for Sylmar Park for their Halloween party that was returned in February. Ann Job said it very difficult to give anything to Sylmar Park; it seems the city doesn’t want us to give to a particular park.

**Motion** by Smith; seconded by Fadness; call for the vote by Rubalcava.

**Motion Passed** by unanimous vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (10): Bloom, Blöse, Courtney, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Rau, Rubalcava, Valencia, and Job; No (4) Cabrera-Miller, Postlmayr, Silva, and Smith; Abstain (3) Fadness, Fernandez, and Orellana.

**15. Recap of accomplishments and milestone** of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council in the 2014-2016 term.

The following boardmembers made the following comments:

- 1) Laurie Fadness thanked Cheri Blose and praised the successful Make Your Horse Count event that registers horses, and thus protects equestrian properties. Ann reminded everyone that Make Your Horse Count was chosen by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners as the winner of the Empowerment Award for Region One, and the event was acknowledged at City Hall by the City Council with another plaque.
- 2) Kathy Grubert thanked Roy Smith, Diane Valencia, Kathy Bloom, Bonnie Bernard, Les Aisenman, and George Ortega for their work in updating the Bylaws.
- 3) Cheri Blose stated her appreciation for the acknowledgment for the value of Make Your Horse Count. Our equestrian properties are being protected because now our horses are being registered. Ann Job mentioned a specific instance of this Board stepped up to protect an equestrian property, on which there were plans to build an eldercare facility. Further she thanked Peter Postlmayr for coming to this board as a stakeholder to tell us of his community's work in opposition to it. The result: not only was the eldercare project abandoned, Peter Postlmayr became a boardmember and Chair of the Planning & Land Use Committee.
- 4) Diane Valencia reminded us that 4 days before this Board was seated, we lost our office. Yet we have managed to keep this board functioning. She also spoke about our advocacy, including our only two Community Impact Statements, resulting in getting the need for at least one more fire station in Sylmar to the desk of the Mayor this year for Budget consideration.
- 5) Peggy Courtney spoke of how underserved this community is—not just in terms of emergency services, but also for services for our indigent population. With her committee, the 2 Homeless Counts, and the Sylmar Homeless Connect Day we are beginning on a very long journey. Ann Job commented that she is proud that this board has opted to take on the hard things like—fire stations and homelessness.
- 6) Diane Valencia thanked Maria Silva for her Pencils Project as a significant outreach to the Education Community. We even got one candidate out of that project.
- 7) Maria Silva said that we must enhance our outreach to our Spanish-Speaking stakeholders.
- 8) Ann Job said that we are not just a meeting every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the week; that is not who we are. We are what we do in the community.

**16. Recess** – featuring Girl Scout Cookies.

*At 8:30 Dennis Orellana left and Chris Shows.*

*Jay Handal, Director of Elections City-Wide for the neighborhood council system, was not on the agenda but he addressed us since we are the first in the city of Los Angeles to have online elections. He answered questions, making it clear that in addition to online voting, there will still be voting at the polls on April 2.*

**17. Discussion and possible action** to approve sending a letter to Mayor Garcetti, elected officials, and other representatives regarding LAFD resources and service levels in Sylmar.

**Motion** by Martin; seconded by Smith; call for the vote by Blose.

**Discussion:** Postlmayr commented that though Sylmar is “taking the brunt on this,” it actually impacts the whole region.

**Motion Passed** by unanimous vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (17): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job; No (0); Abstain (0).

**The letter to the Mayor will be made a part of the record.**

**18. Discussion and possible action** to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$3,825 to support the annual Make Your Horse Count event, scheduled for Sunday, May 15, 2016, at Stetson Ranch from 10 am to 3 pm.

Requested by Cheri Blose, Equestrian Committee Chair.

**Motion** by Smith; seconded by Fadness; call for the vote by Smith.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Valencia, and Job; No (0); Abstain (1) Smith.

**19. Discussion and possible action** to approve, per Planning & Land Use Committee's (PLUC) approval of 12411 N Bromont Avenue AA-2015-2869-PMLA 4-Lot Parcel Map with private Street.

Presentation by Peter Postlmayr, P&LUC Chair

**Motion** by Postlmayr; seconded by Fadness; call for the vote by Rau .

**Discussion:** Postlmayr said that it is on the border with San Fernando, near the little park that is operated by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and that is across from Home Depot. Maria asked about what outreach they have done with the neighbors. Postlmayr said that the zoning has already been approved, and the city has taken action on it. Smith said that this might be an instance of the developers “trying to skirt around the committee and the board.” This will be for single-family homes.

**Motion Failed** by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (5): Blose, Floresta, Postlmayr, Rau, and Rubalcava; No (9) Courtney, Fadness, Grubert, Martin, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia and Job; Abstain (3) Bloom, Cabrera-Miller, and Fernandez.

Martin asked what happens now. We will report our position to the city.

**20. Discussion and possible Board action** to form an Ad Hoc Committee focused on illegal vending, including possible implementation of a pilot program. Presentation by Bonnie Bernard

Ms. Bernard suggested that this be tabled until the new board is installed.

**Motion to Table** by Smith; seconded by Valencia; seeing no discussion, the vote was held.

**Motion to Table Passed** by a reverse vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job; No (0); Abstain (1) Cabrera-Miller

**21. Discussion and possible Board action** to form a Committee to address sidewalk repairs in Sylmar

Presentation by Eugene Hernandez

Mr. Hernandez is asking for a Community Impact Statement regarding the condition of sidewalks in Sylmar. Often people in wheelchairs have to go out into the street because of broken sidewalks. He asks that the new board make this a priority. Ann Job asked for clarification since the motion calls for a committee to be formed, not for a CIS. Mr. Hernandez said that he will want a new committee to be formed by the new board.

**Motion to Table** by Smith; seconded by Valencia; seeing no discussion, the vote was held.

**Motion to Table Passed** unanimously by a reverse vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (17): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job; No (0); Abstain (0)

**23. Treasurer’s Report.** Not given since the treasurer was absent.

**24. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve the President’s appointment of Budget Representative(s). Moot since this board will be dissolved.

**25. Possible Resumption of Item #6 - Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction.**

Ronnie Veliz had come to the board meeting for Item # 20, which was tabled. He was allowed to speak.

**Ronnie Veliz** spoke in support of those who have to turn to street vending in order to survive and to support their families. He said that according to a study by the non-profit research group, Economic Roundtable, street vendors contributes more than \$2 billion to the City of Los Angeles. He asked that the board support legalizing, not criminalizing, street vending.

Bonnie Bernard did not have her full time to give her statement during #6. She was allowed to speak. Peter Postlmayr asked that she start from the beginning.

**Bonnie Bernard’s** completed statement (which runs two minutes) can be read above in Item #6.

**26. Board Member Community Announcements.** Elections on Saturday, April 2.

**27. Board Member Comments**

**Derek Martin** said that Mr. Lee, the Principal of Sylmar High School, with the backing of more than 80% of the teachers has filed a petition to become an Affiliated Charter High School with LAUSD. They will get the answer in June.

**Roy Smith** said that since this is the last meeting of this board, he wanted to thank everyone for doing what is often a ‘thankless job.’ He reminded us that we can’t make everyone happy, nor should we; we just have to do what we think is right. He wished all the candidates ‘good luck.’

**Joanne Fernandez** thanked the board for allowing her to be on the board. She is not running for the SNC, because she is running for the 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

**Maria Silva** brought up the possibility for a mixer for the candidates and stakeholder next week before the election, and to use that also for outreach. She wants the new board to think about doing more outreach.

**Kurt Cabrera-Miller** thanked the stakeholders who ‘stuck it out’ for the whole meeting. (applause)

**28. Future Agenda Item: Joanne Fernandez** suggested that we create an Ad Hoc Committee for the High Speed Rail.

**29. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment.** – Roy Smith moved to adjourn, without objection we adjourned at 9:45.