

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California



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SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Tammy Flores

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Diane Valencia

Communications: Maria Silva

TREASURER: Wilson Bell

PUBLIC RELATIONS: David M. Rodriguez

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GENERAL BOARD MEETING – MINUTES Thursday, September 22, 2016

Sylmar Charter High School – Spartan Hall, 13050 Borden Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Tammy Flores called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Tammy Flores led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call –

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council's quorum is 11.

16 of the 20 Board Members were present during roll call: Wilson Bell, Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blöse, Hector Cabrera, Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Tammy Flores, Kathy Grubert, Frank Hughes, Ann Job, John Pacheco, Peter Postlmayr, David Rodriguez, Diana Rodriguez, Christian Rubalcava, Emily Rubalcava, and Maria Silva.

2 Board Members arrived later: Greg Hoerner and Diane Valencia.

Ms. Valencia was attending a meeting of the High-Speed Rail Authority on behalf of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. She arrived during recess. She reported about on current status of the high-speed rail, via Sylmar, and brought literature from the meeting for stakeholders and board members.

2 Board Members were absent: Lucille Floresta and Derek Martin.

20 of the 21 Board Seats are filled. There is a Home/Condo Owner vacancy.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper – Maria Silva explained meeting protocol.

4. Welcome and Announcements In his absence, Derek Martin arranged for Steve List to welcomed us to our host facility, Sylmar Charter High School.

5. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations

1) **Abigail Moreno**, Field Deputy stationed out of the Sylmar Field Office, reported that even though our Councilmember Felipe Fuentes resigned his seat on the City Council effective September 11, the staff is still in place and functioning on behalf of CD 7.

2) **Monica Ratliff**, LAUSD Board member, addressed those in attendance. Ms. Ratliff told us of the change in the school year calendar so that next year school will begin 1 week later, getting closer to Labor Day. Board member David Rodriguez thanked LAUSD for working so closely with the SNC on our events. Stakeholder, Eugene Hernandez, asked Ms. Ratliff about the possibility of LAUSD schools recognizing September 16, Mexico's Independence Day. Julio Anleu, from her office was also in attendance.

3) **Steve List**, member of the city's Community Forestry Advisory Committee representing Council District 7, addressed us. The committee is dedicated to employing best practices in maintaining city trees, while preserving native and endangered species. Mr. List told us the best approach to take if a tree needs to be removed. If you pull a city permit to take out a tree in CD 7, it goes first to the Urban Forestry Committee. Then that committee might give a report to Mr. List to look at the tree and give his opinion on its possible removal; for example, the tree may be on the endangered list, in which case further consideration would need to be taken by the city. Mr. List mentioned that stakeholder, Toni King (also in attendance), had asked him about dead trees on Sayre St. He told us that rather than asking Street Services to remove it, the better approach would be to work with Abigail Moreno and

make this a part of a clean-up partnership with Street Services and the SNC. He invited anyone who has a question to contact him.

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

- 1) **Vanessa Martinez**, currently Deputy Attorney General for the California Department of Justice, introduced herself as a candidate for Council District 7. Website: VoteVaness.com
- 2) **Eugene Hernandez** spoke in support of Prop 54 for greater transparency in the state legislature. One of the provisions would be that a bill must be put online for public viewing for three days before the vote. He mentioned that September is Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month.
- 3) **Marti Marshall** read from the State Constitution: Article 1, Section 1; Article 1, Section 3; and Article 2, Section 1.
- 4) **Sheldon Cabrera-Miller** spoke on behalf of **Ken Craft** of President and CEO of Hope of the Valley, which is asking that the SNC support Hope of the Valley's Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless.
- 5) **Saaliha Khan**, asked that the SNC support Northeast Valley Health Corporation's Toy Drive. The NVHC has recently opened a clinic on the campus of Mission College.
- 6) **John Holmes**, urged everyone to weigh in on the High-Speed Rail because of a proposed route (SR14) that would greatly impact Sylmar. He brought comment cards and asked us to send them into the HSR Authority.
- 7) **Karo Torossian** introduced himself as a candidate for Council District 7. He is currently Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use for Councilmember Paul Krekorian. He has served on a neighborhood council and appreciates the importance of our work.
- 8) **Melissa Harrison** introduced herself as a candidate for the LAUSD Board. She also addressed us in Spanish.

Before the meeting was adjourned, the following were allowed to give public comment:

- 9) **Ronnie Veliz** asked us to help with a petition that that the organization, #44toNone, is circulating calling for a year-round shelter for the homeless to be built in Sylmar. A copy of the "letter of support" is attached for the record. Their website is <http://bit.ly/agenda44>. Their goal is to get 3,000 signatures.
- 10) **Victor Sandoval** asks for us to take action to help the homeless by signing the petition.
- 11) **Cristian Amenez** spoke in support of the shelter petition.
- 12) **Tony Wilkinson** announced that he has been appointed by City Council President Herb Wesson to be a liaison to CD 7. His email address is tony.wilkinson@lacity.org.

New Business

7. Committee Reports were made by:

Executive Committee – Tammy Flores had nothing to report.

Budget Committee – Wilson Bell reported that the committee had its first meeting since his becoming Treasurer. He said that the newly-formed committee reviewed the policies for the committee. He has already received some requests for funding, which will be forwarded to the Board for its consideration.

Bylaws Committee – In Diane Valencia's absence, nothing was reported, though a Bylaws committee had been formed and held.

Outreach Committee – David Rodriguez introduced the members of the committee. He told us of the upcoming Town Hall and Resource Fair. He asked that all board members assume responsibility in promoting SNC events and in volunteering to work at the events.

Planning & Land Use Committee – Peter Postlmayr reported that the committee met about the two items that will be discussed later in the program. Claudia Rodriguez from CD 7 contacted the committee about a sub-division to be discussed at the October meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee for the Sylmar Sign – Laurie Fadness reported that she was forming her committee.

Government Affairs Committee – Ann Job told us that she rode with Abigail Moreno on Tuesday to identify and report bulky items to be picked up by Street Services, and thanked Abigail for that opportunity. Further she reported on her having addressed the City Council's Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Affairs, and Neighborhoods Committee on Friday, September 16. Because the SNC had submitted a Community Impact statement on Council File #16-0917, Ann was invited to sit at the table to address the Committee and to answer questions from the committee. Submitting Community Impact Statements on Council Files gives us more visibility as a community and greater influence in decisions made by the City Council and the Mayor.

Homeless Services Committee – Peggy Courtney reported on the committee's September meeting for which there were 22 additional stakeholders in attendance. Nathaniel Vergow of LA Family Housing was present to discuss the number of homeless in Sylmar. At the next meeting the committee will discuss a petition regarding a year-round shelter in Sylmar as well as Council File # 15-1138-S11, which is about neighborhood councils having input on homelessness issues. The committee meets on the first Thursday at Church of the Foothills.

Emergency Preparedness Committee – John Pacheco reported that committee member Janet Gibson will present an introduction to Map Your Neighborhood at the Town Hall on October 15. He called for all board members to avail themselves to Map Your Neighborhood events, CERT training, Basic Preparedness with First Aid, and CPR.

Equestrian Committee – Cheri Blöse reported that the committee did not meet in August. The Committee has been working with the City and the County in to put a horse cross walk and light signal at Roxford and Olive View Drive. They will be working with CD 7 to have a grand opening when the light goes in.

8. City Liaison Reports were made by:

Animal Services Liaisons – Kelli Land said Lucy Foundation will be at Vallarta on October 7 for free spay and neuter. She told us of a pilot program instigated by the District Attorney’s Office and Paws LA to unite homeless veterans and homeless pets seeking homes.

Budget Representatives – Christian Rubalcava passed for Ann Job’s Budget Advocate report in the next item.

City Attorney Liaisons – Tammy Flores said she had nothing to report in Diane Valencia’s absence.

Planning Liaisons – Cheri Blöse and Ann Job said there were no planning hearings for them to attend this month.

Public Safety Liaison – Due to his absence Greg Hoerner asked John Pacheco to report that our liaison officer had been on leave; therefore, there was no report given by Greg or Diane Valencia.

Transportation Liaison – Wilson Bell had nothing to report

DWP – there are no liaisons for this position

9. Budget Advocate Report: Ann Job, one of three Budget Advocates for Region 1, reported that she attends two Budget Advocate meetings a month, and reports to two other neighborhood councils. As a member of the Budget Advocates’ Animal Services Committee, she attended the Animal Services Commission meeting that was held at Best Friends in Mission Hills. It is unusual for the Commission to meet so near Sylmar. She told everyone to check out the Budget Advocates’ website and that everyone is welcome to attend Budget Advocate meetings.

10. Introduction and questions with Eve Sinclair, newly appointed BONC Commissioner for the North Valley.

Ms. Sinclair informed Ann Job that she might not be able to accept the SNC’s invitation to attend our meeting. She said that if she could attend, it would have to be later in the evening. Ann asked that this item be delayed, in case Ms. Sinclair arrives.

Further she said that Ms. Sinclair emailed a statement to read if she does not attend. (Ms Sinclair did not come, so Ann read Ms. Sinclair’s statement before the meeting was adjourned.)

Greg Hoerner arrived during this item at 7:20.

11. Presentation regarding Sylmar Biotech Health Academy

Presented by Principal Maria Herrera and Assistant Principal Lori Hunt. Principal Maria Herrera of Sylmar Biotech Health Academy talked about her school and its emphasis on health and science. She said that SBHA, which shares a campus with Sylmar Charter High, is a “Linked Learning” school with strong ties to the Youth Policy Institute and Los Angeles Mission College. Principal Herrera introduced three of her high school seniors— Raymond Carrillo Ceja, Giselle Cristobal, and Naiya Winn—who talked about their learning experiences and internship opportunities.

14. Discussion and possible action to approve holding a School Beautification Project at Osceola Elementary School on October 1, 2016. Presented by David M. Rodriguez, Chair – SNC Outreach

Moved as written, by Wilson Bell; seconded by Christian Rubalcava

Discussion: Mr. Jose Velasquez, Principal of Osceola elementary addressed the Board. David Rodriguez, Outreach Chair, stated that discussions were underway to hold a beautification project at Osceola Elementary. This would be a joint project between the SNC, Osceola Elementary, Ultra Greens Nursery, and LAUSD. The project would entail landscaping the south-side of the school with mulch and drought-resistant plants.

Motion Passed by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bell, Bloom, Blöse, Cabrera, Cabrera-Miller, Grubert, Hoerner, Hughes, Job, Pacheco, Postlmayr, David Rodriguez, Diana Rodriguez, C. Rubalcava, E. Rubalcava, and Silva; No (0); Abstain (1) Flores.

15. Discussion and possible action related to a 5 year renewal of a Conditional Use Permit with full alcoholic sales for on-site consumption in an existing restaurant at El Tarasco restaurant, 13039 N. Glenoaks Blvd., to allow the continued sale and dispensing of a full line of alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption in conjunction with an existing 2,107 square-foot restaurant with 78 seats. Changes from the prior approval are: To operate 8am to 11pm (was 10pm) Monday-Thursday and 7am to 12am (was 11pm) Friday and Saturday in the C2-1 zone with alcohol sales beginning at 7am (was 10am); and, incidental live music, such as mariachi trio or similar, providing peak hours strolling and table entertainment with no stage.

Presented by Peter Postlmayr, Chair - SNC Planning & Land Use Committee

Motion to approve the drafted letter in support.

Moved by David Rodriguez; seconded by Wilson Bell.

Discussion: Stakeholder, Eugene Hernandez, spoke in opposition. Stakeholder, Laurie Fadness, spoke in support. Dan Rosales, the applicant’s representative, said that the restaurant has been in business since 1986, and that its presence has benefitted the corner of Polk and Glenoaks. Mr. Rosales said the applicant is asking to be allowed to serve alcohol earlier in the morning

because culturally the breakfast dish, menudo, is typically served with beer. Further he said that per the LAPD, there have been no complaints about the business from neighbors.

Motion Passed by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (13): Bell, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Grubert, Hoerner, Job, Pacheco, Postlmayr, David Rodriguez, Postlmayr, C. Rubalcava, E. Rubalcava, and Silva; No (1) Cabrera; Abstain (3) Bloom, Hughes, and Flores.

12. Certificate of Recognition for Dyer Street Elementary Staff and Principal Ernestina Gandera

Director Maria Silva, SNC VP of Communications and Educational Representative began recognition for Dyer Street Elementary School staff by giving background on what it takes to become a California Distinguished School and state code. She reviewed Dyer's school data and programs to support student achievement. She also shared the commitment it takes by the leader to encourage, support and facilitate leading a school through such success. Ernestina Gandera has done it twice with 2 different schools one being the only elementary California Distinguished School in Sylmar. Director Silva then introduced School Board Member Monica Ratliff who presented certificates of Recognition to both Dyer ES and Ernestina Gandera.

13. Recess – Cake was served to celebrate Dyer Street Elementary and Sylmar Biotech Health Academy's staff, teachers, and students.

Diane Valencia arrived from the High Speed Rail Authority's meeting during the recess at 8:15.

16. Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution supporting various accommodations related to Sylmar as it pertains to the San Fernando Valley Rail Safety Improvement Project, presented by the Transit Coalition, Bart Reed, ED. This includes pedestrian crossings, "sealed" street crossings (eliminates the train sounding horn at intersections), provide restrooms at train stations, double track to allow more efficient movement of trains and would allow more Metro service times.

Presented by Peter Postlmayr, Chair – SNC Planning & Land Use Committee

Motion to approve the drafted letter in support of the resolution.

Moved by Wilson Bell; seconded by Christian Rubalcava.

Discussion: Stakeholder, Eugene Hernandez, spoke in opposition. Cheri Blose, board member, spoke in support. In response to a concern by David Rodriguez, Peter Postlmayr said that 5 stakeholders near the rail were at the Planning & Land Use Committee.

Motion Passed by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (17): Bell, Bloom, Blose, Cabrera, Cabrera-Miller, Grubert, Hoerner, Hughes, Job, Pacheco, Postlmayr, David Rodriguez, Diana Rodriguez, C. Rubalcava, E. Rubalcava, Silva, and Valencia; No (0); Abstain (1) Flores.

17. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Minutes of the August 25, 2016 General Board Meeting.

Moved to approve, as written, by Wilson Bell; seconded by Christian Rubalcava.

Discussion: Cheri Blose pointed out a typo.

Motion Passed by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bell, Bloom, Cabrera, Cabrera-Miller, Grubert, Hoerner, Hughes, Job, Pacheco, Postlmayr, David Rodríguez, Diana Rodríguez, C. Rubalcava, E. Rubalcava, Silva, and Valencia; No (0); Abstain (2) Flores and Blose, since she had been absent.

18. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Minutes of the August 25, 2016, Special Board Meeting

Since this special meeting did not take place, the agenda will be marked as not having been held and will be posted thusly.

19. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Minutes of the August 30, 2016, Special Board Meeting

Since there are no minutes yet for this meeting, the item was postponed.

20. Discussion related to various Neighborhood Training topics, including but not limited to, agendas, minutes, the Brown Act, serial communications, and other topics which may be of benefit to the SNC's Directors.

Ms. Valencia reported on the new process to post all Committee agendas that would take effect October 1, 2016. Committee Chairs will now only be sending agendas to Ms. Valencia and Ms. Silva, who will ensure that the agendas are posted. Ms. Valencia reminded the Board that any document that requires a signature needs to go to DONE and possibly the City Attorney for approval. All such documents can be sent to Ms. Valencia to oversee any document requests. Ms. Valencia reminded the Board that all Directors should be serving on at least one Committee and that Committee Minutes should be sent to her within 10 days of Committee approval. Committee Chairs are primarily responsible for finding locations for their meetings, and the Executive Committee will assist as needed. Mr. Hoerner asked if it would be possible to send out email blasts to our Stakeholder database so that community notifications go out well in advance of the meeting since ENS notifications are often done so late. Ms. Silva indicated that she would be willing to do a monthly eblast notification to the SNC's database and reminded the Board to turn in their meeting sign-in sheets so that the SNC can grow its database.

21. Treasurer's Report – Wilson Bell announced the members of the Budget Committee: Tammy Flores, Diana Rodriguez, Kurt Cabrera-Miller and Ann Job. He had asked members to commit to a Saturday meeting to work on the budget to reflect the Sylmar Neighborhood Council's Strategic Plan, as adopted at the August 30, 2016, Special Board Meeting. Therefore, the Budget

Committee's next meeting is scheduled for October 8 from 9 AM to Noon. Location to be determined.

22. Review and Adoption of the August Monthly Expenditure Report (MER).

Moved by Christian Rubalcava; seconded by Maria Silva.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Motion Passed by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bell, Bloom, Blose, Cabrera, Cabrera-Miller, Grubert, Hoerner, Hughes, Job, Pacheco, Postlmayr, David Rodriguez, Diana Rodriguez, C. Rubalcava, Silva, and Valencia; No (0); Abstain (1) Flores; Ineligible (1) E. Rubalcava.

23. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to the YMCA's Thanksgiving Baskets program. (10)

Presented by Jane Stanton, Executive Director/VP – North Valley Family YMCA at Porter Ranch

Motion to approve as written.

Moved by Wilson Bell; seconded by Kurt Cabrera-Miller.

Discussion: Ms Stanton told us that \$1,000 covers 25 baskets. Principals at Harding and Sylmar Elementary Schools will identify families in need whose children attend their schools. One hundred families will receive Thanksgiving "Baskets" (a cloth bags for the cans, a cloth bag for produce plus a turkey.) SNC members are welcome to volunteer to the fill the 'baskets.' Ms. Stanton told Kevin Suscavage (a resident of North Hollywood) that if a family wants a vegetarian basket, they will provide a gift card in lieu of a turkey. Stakeholders Eugene Hernandez and Marti Marshall oppose the motion; Laurie Fadness supports it.

Motion Passed by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (14): Bell, Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Grubert, Hoerner, Hughes, Job, Pacheco, Postlmayr, Diana Rodriguez, C. Rubalcava, Silva, and Valencia; No (2) Hector Cabrera and David Rodriguez; Abstain (1) Flores; Ineligible (1) E. Rubalcava.

24. Discussion and possible action to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$450.00 per month for temporary staff, secured through a DONE-approved employment agency. Duties include, by are not limited to acting as a Minutes Taker for Board meetings and performing general clerical and administration work for the SNC.

Presented by Diane Valencia, SNC Vice President of Administration

Moved by Wilson Bell; seconded by Greg Hoerner to approve expenditure not to exceed \$450.00 per month for temporary staff, secured through a DONE-approved employment agency.

Discussion: Discussion was held. Ms. Valencia explained that it take approximately 7 hours just to draft and transcribe the Minutes from Board meetings and listed additional tasks that could be taken over by temporary staff. Ms. Valencia also explained that the SNC is only one of two Neighborhood Councils across the City that does not have a Secretary on the Board. Ms. Job suggested that others on the Board could share the various tasks that need to be done. Mr. Postlmayr suggested that the SNC might be able to find a volunteer from the community. Dr. Rodriguez expressed concern that the amount being requested is available under Operations in the SNC's budget.

Motion Passed by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bell, Bloom, Blose, Cabrera, Cabrera-Miller, Grubert, Hoerner, Hughes, Job, Pacheco, Postlmayr, David Rodriguez, Diana Rodriguez, C. Rubalcava, Silva, and Valencia; No (0); Abstain (1) Flores; Ineligible (1) E. Rubalcava.

25. Board Member Comments / Announcements

Diane Valencia reported on the High Speed Rail event that she attended earlier in the evening.

Ann Job noted out that our Commissioner on the Board of Neighborhoods did not come to our meeting; therefore, she read Eve Sinclair's statement (as noted in Item 10), and it will be made a part of the record.

Wilson Bell announced the member of the Budget Committee.

John Pacheco asked that the Budget Committee provide the Board with a list the organizations to which the SNC has given funds in recent years. He wondered why we could not have an intern help with administrative tasks.

David Rodriguez reminded the Board of the Olive Festival on this weekend, and that the SNC will have a table there on Sunday and we'll need volunteers to help.

Maria Silva said the board members attending the Congress of Neighborhoods should report back to the SNC what they learn in the workshops to empower and build the capacity of the members. She gave acknowledgment to Director Kathy Bloom for her dedication to setting up and providing dedicated service of snacks and goodies to the Board and stakeholders present.

Tammy Flores acknowledged that everyone got their shirts.

26. Future Agenda Items

Write to Executive Board by email at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org or mail Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, P.O. Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-1023

Peter Postlmayr asked that we discuss seeking volunteer help regarding administrative tasks for the SNC

Kathy Grubert added that we need to explore spreading around the board's tasks so some are not overburdened.

Wilson Bell suggested that we might want to change our Bylaws and have a Secretary on the Board.

The next General Board meeting will be on October 27, 2016 at Sylmar High School

27. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment. Adjourned at 9:52.
