

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

President
Mike O'Gara

1st Vice-President
Mary Benson

Secretary
Karina Garcia

2nd Vice-President
Elidia Vasquez

Treasurer
Julie Monroy



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**SUN VALLEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center, 10631 Vinedale Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, SVANC Pledge.

The General Meeting of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by President Jon Eshbach, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. No Roll Call was taken.

Seating and Installation of new Board of Directors.

Mr. Eshbach announced that the new Board Members must be installed, and that Mary Benson, Lee McTaggart, Jose Morales, Nicholas Perdaris, Exiquio Ruiz, and Dr. Ronald Sipus are leaving the Board.

Grayce Liu, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (office 818-374-6851, cell 323-972-7805; grayce.liu@lacity.org), announced Certificates of Service for outgoing Board Members. Eric Menjivar, Field Case Worker for L.A. City District Two Councilwoman Wendy Greuel (818-755-7676; eric.menjivar@lacity.org), presented the Certificates. Mr. Eshbach also announced and presented President's Award Certificates for Board Members.

Mr. Eshbach asked for nominations for the two Seniors Representative positions.

MOTION (by Susan Bartlett, seconded by Mike O'Gara): to nominate Virginia Beck to be a Seniors Representative. Ms. Beck declined the nomination.

MOTION (by Raul Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Bartlett): to nominate Lee McTaggart to be a Seniors Representative. Ms. McTaggart was announced by Mr. Eshbach to be a new Seniors Representative.

Ms. Benson was also announced by Mr. Eshbach to be a new Seniors Representative.

Mr. Eshbach asked for nominations for the two Youth Representative positions.

MOTION (by Mr. O'Gara, seconded by Julie Monroy): to nominate Frank Felix to be a Youth Representative. Mr. Felix was announced by Mr. Eshbach to be a new Youth Representative.

Ms. Liu congratulated incoming and thanked outgoing Board Members, then administered the oath of office to all Board Members, those already serving reaffirming their commitment.

Mr. Eshbach announced that Officers would now be elected. He asked for nominations for President.

MOTION (by Jerry Piro, seconded by Ms. McTaggart): to nominate Mr. O’Gara for President. Mr. O’Gara was announced by Mr. Eshbach to be the new President.

Mr. Eshbach asked for nominations for the two Vice-President positions.

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Ms. Monroy): to nominate Danny Alcala to be a Vice-President.

MOTION (by Ms. Bartlett, seconded by Ms. Monroy): to nominate Mary Benson to be a Vice-President.

Mr. Alcala deferred to Ms. Benson.

Ms. Benson was announced by Mr. Eshbach to be a new Vice-President.

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Mr. Piro): to nominate Elidia Vasquez to be a Vice-President.

Ms. Vasquez was announced by Mr. Eshbach to be a new Vice-President.

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Ms. Benson): to nominate Farina Garcia for Correspondence Secretary.

Ms. Garcia was announced by Mr. Eshbach to be the new Correspondence Secretary.

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Ms. McTaggart): to nominate Julie Monroy for Treasurer.

Ms. Monroy was announced by Mr. Eshbach to be the new Treasurer.

At this time, Board Member Danielle Harmon was excused for a medical reason.

2. Review, correct and approve Minutes

MOTION (by Ms. Benson, seconded by Ms. Monroy): to **TABLE** the approval of the Minutes until next month’s General Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by acclimation.

3. Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments

Esther Vasquez, LAPD Officer (818-634-0854), reminded everyone to be careful of distraction burglaries and break-in attempts. They're working with undercover surveillance equipment to improve the quality of life. Tim Saito, Neighborhood Prosecuting Attorney, L.A. City Attorneys' Office (213-978-7043; tim.saito@lacity.org), encouraged Stakeholders to help identify problems in the community. LAPD Officer Tim Walia (818-834-3155), who works with the Foothill Volunteer Surveillance Team (FVST) (Officer Walia or 818-834-3156), reported that 10 of the 15 most recent crimes were car break-ins, especially GPS machines and iPods; he reminded not to leave backpacks or laptop computers in cars. There were also four burglaries and six car thefts. He's asking the NC to allocate \$7,000 to the FVST to help purchase a surveillance van.

At this time, Mr. O'Gara requested and it was agreed without any objections to address Item #8 at this time. [See Item #8.]

4. Presentation/announcements from elected officials or their representatives.

Mr. Menjivar introduced himself and announced that there'll be a tenants' rights meeting at Coldwater Canyon School tomorrow.

Efron Valdovenos, of State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes' office, introduced himself and announced that Assembly Bill 1818, regarding veterans Housing, is doing well, and explained that Assembly Bill 2076 is regarding employee verification, to protect and promote business.

5. Comments from D.O.N.E. representative

Ms. Liu introduced herself and announced the Congress of Neighborhood Councils May 17th near downtown L.A. (311; lacityneighborhoods.com). Attendance and lunch are free and community leaders will be there. The focus will be on gang violence and budget processes. There'll be training on May 31st from 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for new and "seasoned" Board Members. She distributed and briefly reviewed "Los Angeles [NC] System Information" and "Unacceptable Purchases" handouts. The DONE funding person is Kevin McNeely, DONE Funding Program Administrator (213-485-1810; kevin.mcneely@lacity.org). Ms. Liu encouraged the NC to appoint a Funding Liaison to focus funding questions, and a Legal Liaison. A Brown Act video is available to view at the DONE website, lacityneighborhoods.com, including about preventing serial meetings (an exchange of ideas "should only be at General Meetings"). A conflict of interest questionnaire and an Early Notification System about City business are also available online. City Council-mandated Bylaws changes are needed; she'll communicate with the Board regarding this, especially the Stakeholder definition. There won't be any more NC Board term limits, and terms will be either two or four years.

6. Public Comments

Stakeholder and former Board Member Jill Campbell distributed a brochure regarding and introduced the "Mobile Shower Program," which is in its first year. She'd like to ask

for funding later. Homeless peoples' "response has been amazing." The program is for chronically homeless people and is operated out of a Van Nuys shelter. They're working to help transition people off the street, and are accepting donated clothes, soap, and towels.

Greg Bartz, Neighborhood Council Liaison, L.A. Dept. of Water and Power (213-367-2800, greg.bartz@ladwp.com), introduced himself, and distributed and reviewed a handout with various DWP information, including about the May 17th "Lineman's Rodeo," which NC members are welcomed to attend, and the "Proposed Rate Restructuring," which he can be contacted about for more information. You can calculate your DWP bill using the calculator at the www.ladwp.com website. He cautioned about imposter DWP employees; call immediately if you see one. He's following up on the fence covering near the Hansen Dam Spreading Grounds.

Stakeholder Karl Kunak invited new Board Members to participate in Committees and encouraged clothing donations for the "Mobile Shower Program." He distributed a "Wireless Telephone Laws FAQs" handout, noting that the new laws begin July 1st.

Stakeholder Mike O'Gara (SVANC President Mike O'Gara's son) introduced himself and announced that he is a judicial candidate in the next election. More information is available at the www.lacba.org website.

7. Board member comments

Ms. Benson stated that the City Council has proposed to cut NC budgets by up to 40% (to \$30,000 per year, instead of the current \$50,000), and we need to let the City Council know our feelings. She encouraged Stakeholders to "flood" L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon's (818-756-8409, -9115; lacity.org/council/cd7) office with comments.

Mr. Felix has heard complaints that Tujunga recycling center trucks are blocking traffic. Officer Vasquez said that the LAPD is enforcing the laws against this.

New Business

1. Presentation: Cile Borman – Hansen Dam July 4th Celebration.

Ms. Borman introduced herself and distributed a calendar with sample advertising. She's been involved with this event for 14 years. It includes fireworks, safety education, and NC outreach, including a booth. Five NCs are in the event's area. More security is needed, and funding is being reduced. She's asking for \$5,000 in funding. The Pacoima NC allocated \$2,000.

It was agreed to agendize this Item for a vote at the next General Board Meeting.

2. Presentation: Hugo Sanchez – Salute to Recreation.

Ms. Monroy announced that Mr. Sanchez was not able to attend this Meeting. She passed around a "Salute to Recreation" event brochure.

3. Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve the Budget for fiscal year 2008-2009.

Ms. Monroy distributed a “[SVANC] Budget for Fiscal 2008-2009.” Mr. Eshbach recommended moving \$3,000 from the “Elections” category to the “General Outreach” category. Mr. O’Gara reminded that the Budget can be changed up to 12 times per He and Ms. Monroy had showed the Budget to Mr. McNeely, who said it was “perfect.”

At this time, Mr. O’Gara requested and it was agreed without any objections to address the second Item #7 at this time. [See the second Item #7.]

At this time, the second Item #3 was continued to be addressed.

Ms. Benson expressed that the Sun Valley Graffiti Busters are excellent and they deserve the funding, but that we must be careful not to request out-of-area service. Mr. Eshbach related that a new trees map is being created.

MOTION (by Ms. Bartlett, seconded by Ms. Benson): to accept the Budget as amended, moving \$3,000 from the “Elections” category to the “General Outreach” category.

MOTION PASSED by acclimation, with Mr. Piro opposed.

4. Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve a second credit card.

Ms. Benson explained that DONE recognized the need for NCs to have a second credit card to expedite purchases; the Treasurer has the first credit card.

MOTION (by Ms. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Eshbach): to approve a second credit card for SVANC in the name of Mike O’Gara.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous acceptance.

5. Motion/Discussion/Vote that SVANC purchase name plaques.

Ms. Monroy explained that using name plaques at our Board Meetings would give the Board a more professional look.

MOTION (by Ms. Monroy, seconded by Mr. Eshbach): that SVANC purchase name plaques for the new Board.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion regarding plaque formats, costs, and preferences.

MOTION to TABLE this Item (by Ms. Bartlett, seconded by Ms. Benson): to investigate costs for plaques, stationary and business cards.

MOTION PASSED by acclimation.

Stakeholder Anita McClennan volunteered to help investigate the costs.

6. Discussion of cleaning the mural at San Fernando Rd. & Penrose St. on the Swap Meet wall.

Ms. Bartlett explained that the community helped to create this historical mural and it needs cleaning. The cost would be \$1,120 to clean it and \$900 to coat it. She will talk with the store owner about sharing the cost.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed in the middle of the second Item #3.]

7. Discussion of Rejuvenation Project at Sunland Blvd. -- San Fernando Rd.

Mr. O’Gara mentioned that brick crosswalks will be installed on Sunland Boulevard from Strathern Street to San Fernando Road. Work will also be done at Vineland Park and at crosswalks. Local organizations, including the NC, may be able to have their logos put into the crosswalks. There was discussion regarding the esthetics and coordination of the colors and conditions of light poles, bus benches, etc. and the need for rejuvenation.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed between the first Item #s 3 and 4.]

8. Motion/Discussion/Vote: Appropriation of \$7,000 for the purchase of a van for the Volunteer Surveillance Team.

Officer Walia distributed an FVST brochure and reviewed a two-page handout that included an invoice from the FVST to the SVANC in the amount of \$7,000, and “[FVST] 2007 – Annual Recap.” He described that the FVST was founded in 2007 and assists the LAPD, and that the volunteers have completed more than 685 hours of surveillance this year, saving the City more than \$20,000. Volunteers have assisted in apprehensions and arrests, and also look for copper and catalytic converter theft attempts.

Ms. Benson requested an accounting of the \$35,000 allocated last year before the NC allocates more money to the FVST, and to Table this Item for accountability purposes; the City Controller has requested justification.

MOTION (by Ms. Benson, seconded by Ms. Monroy): to **TABLE** this Item until next month’s General Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Ms. McTaggart described that the VST pays their own expenses, and that the City won’t give awards to them for catching taggers because the volunteers “work with the City.” Mr. Kunak is concerned about whether other local organizations are also contributing to the Police Department. Officer Walia indicated that the **License plate reader Cameras** that were damaged last year is being repaired again, **(NEED REPAIR)** but that there’s been a problem getting the computer software from the manufacturer. Mr. O’Gara asked Officer Walia to return next month with an accounting.

MOTION PASSED by acclimation, with one opposed.

9. **Motion/Discussion/Vote: Appropriate up to \$500 from the Land Use budget to purchase an independent engineering report on the 12515 Sheldon St. project.**

Ms. Benson explained that this project is a proposed 25-home subdivision. There is a future danger that because the DWP will be flooding nearby basins, the water “will permeate” the ground underneath, making it unstable in an earthquake. The report would probably cost around \$100. The applicant already did an EIR [Environmental Impact Report].

MOTION (by Ms. Benson, seconded by Mr. Eshbach): to appropriate up to \$500 from the Land Use Committee budget to purchase an independent engineering report on the 12515 Sheldon St. project, provided there is a need to provide a second opinion by the Neighborhood Council to the City Planning Department.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Benson explained that the City receives information only from the applicant and does no independent investigation. The DWP flooding is new information that wasn't available when the EIR was done, and we have a responsibility to Stakeholders who may buy those homes. The City will consider new information presented in an independent report. Mr. Kunak said that it's a “bad location to build.” Mr. Alcala and Mr. O’Gara are concerned regarding spending NC money to do the City’s job.

At this time there was a **MOTION** (by Ms. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Eshbach) to extend the meeting seven minutes until 9:00 p.m. The **MOTION PASSED** by acclimation.

MOTION (on Item #9) **PASSED** by acclimation.

[There was no Item #10.]

11. **Discussion: Posting places for Meeting Agendas.**

Mr. O’Gara explained that the NC is required to post Meeting notices at eight locations. There was extensive discussion regarding posting locations and location change requirements. Ms. Bartlett and Mr. Eshbach volunteered to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee which would later be referred to the Rules and Elections Committee.

12. **Training for new and continuing Board Members.**

Mr. O’Gara mentioned that this Item was addressed by Ms. Liu in the first Item #5.

13. **Adjournment**

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach): to adjourn the Meeting.

Mr. O’Gara adjourned the Meeting without any objections at 9:03 p.m.