

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting
on
Tuesday, July 14, 2009
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

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

Board Member	Title	Status
Mike O’Gara	President	Present
Mary Benson	1st Vice President	Present
Elidia Vasquez	2nd Vice President	Present
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Absence excused
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Absent
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Jon Eshbach	Board Member	Present
Stephen Franklin	Board Member	Present
Jerry Piro	Board Member	Absent
Luis O. Medina	Board Member	Present
Manuel “Manny” de la Torre	Board Member	Present
Angel Silva	Board Member	Present
Lee McTaggart	Board Member	Present
Rafael Cárdenas	Board Member	Absent
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Absence excused
Dionisio Alcalá, Jr.	Board Member	Absence excused
Arthur “Art” Sweet	Board Member	Absence excused
Nicholas Dalton Powell	Board Member	Absence excused
Nick Perdaris	Board Member	Absence excused
Samuel Palomino	Board Member	absent
Frank Felix	Board Member	Absent

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

- President Mike O’Gara took roll and with quorum met called the meeting to order at about 6:36 pm.
- Jon led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mike O. read the SVANC pledge.

2. Opening Remarks – Mike O’Gara

- Mike announced that he is going to be absent for the September SVANC’s regular board meeting and asked Elidia to preside over September’s meeting.

3. Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments - Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, and Officer Michelle Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer, LAPD’s Foothill Division.

- None

4. Presentation/Announcements from Elected Officials or their Representatives-

- Gemma, Senator Padilla's office, announced that the Senator is against the budget currently being proposed. The legislative body is still being negotiated.
- Erick Menjivar, CD2 field deputy, mentioned that there will be a special election on September 22nd, which has 14 candidates who are currently running for the seat and are listed on the City Ethics Commission's website.
- Erick stated that the digging has already begun for the Voit Art project, the art piece has been constructed, and it is expected to be completed in 2-3 weeks.
- Erick stated that the Community Beautification Grant application deadline which is given by the Public Works Department will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. An application can be downloaded from the website or by calling (213) 978-0226.

5. Comments from DONE Representative – Barry

- Announced that on September 19, from 8:00 – 12:30 pm there will be a roundtable discussion with the Mayor's Gang Reduction Youth Development Team with the Neighborhood Council's Board members and stakeholders to discuss ways to partner regarding gang issues. At this meeting, the City Attorney's office will provide training on how to deal with conflict within NC's boards and with difficult stakeholders. Location to be determined.
- On July 16th a meeting will take place regarding the planning of the citywide Congress. The planning session will take place at 360 E. 2nd Street, between San Pedro and Central.
- Barry asked all the Board members to register their email address on DONE's website.

5a. Brian Gallagher from LADOT, senior transportation engineer for the EAST valley office,

talked about upcoming speed limit changes and how it will affect some of the streets in the area of the Sun Valley NC.

- A few years ago, the laws in the California vehicle code were changed with respect to how speed limits are to be established. It was done this way to protect smaller cities from setting up speed traps to generate money for the cities.
- The City of Los Angeles is following the procedures that are in the California vehicle code, which now state that LADOT has to do speed studies of these streets every 7-10 years where it goes out with radar guns and measures the speed that people are driving. Whatever the speed it measures that 85% of the drivers are traveling at, that's what LADOT will set the speed limit to, which will be rounded to the nearest 5-mile-an-hour increment. For example, if it measures it at 32 then it will be rounded down to 30; if it's measured at 33 then it will be rounded up to 35.
- Assemblyman Kirkorian is saying that it will be rounded up, if it's 31 then it will go up to 35, but it's only his proposal, which right now it's stalled in Sacramento.
- If there is a really high accident rate on those streets after LADOT does the rounding, then they are allowed to reduce it by another 5-miles an hour; or if it sees certain types of situations, where there is a combination of unexpected obstacles in the roadway, either kids, bicyclists, equestrians or wild animals, combined with a curve, a hill on the roadway or no sidewalks. Then LADOT can also justify a 5-mile-an-hour reduction in certain instances.

Minutes were approved as amended by the Board at the general meeting held on August 11, 2009

- The way the vehicle code is currently written is very specific. There are things that LADOT can not use to reduce the speed limit, like the school, senior centers or a park because they already have their own signs. No studies need to be done for these.
- For a regular speed limit that it's in effect and enforceable by radar, then LADOT has to do the engineering study.
- The Valley has about 25 speed limits in the streets that have expired, and the police department is not doing any enforcement on it right now. The LADOT is trying to get them renewed by the City Council so that the police department can resume enforcement with radar.
- LADOT is not recommending that the speeds of traffic go up; it's just recommending that the speed limits be set based upon the speed that most people are driving.
- Some examples of the streets that LADOT is going to do is Sheldon between Glenoaks and Roscoe, which will recommend that the speed limit be raised from 35mph to 40mph, except where the schools are, which will have the 25 mph when children-are-present signs.
- Q: What did the police do before they had radar? This all has to do with whether they can use radar to enforce the speed limit, correct? The police department has indicated to LADOT that they will either use the radar or the laser enforcement or they will not enforce it. They've had a lot of accidents involving police officers when they used the pacing method, where they would have to follow the car for a half mile and then pull the car over, that they discontinued it because it was unsafe.
- The police department's practice is that to do the enforcement of the speed limits, it will only use the radar or the laser enforcement, and in order to be able to use these methods of enforcements, the LADOT has to set a speed limit that's backed by an engineering study.
- Q: When will these speed limits take effect in Sun Valley and how can they be protested before they take effect? All of the speed limits on the list will be presented to the Board of Transportation Commissioners in August or September, the LADOT's role is to accommodate the police dept, do the technical study and make a recommendation based upon the law and the data gathered. After it's presented to the Board of Transportation Commissioners, the public is welcomed to attend that meeting and voice their comments. Then it will go before the City's transportation committee where it again will be voted on and finally presented to the full City Council.
- Susan commented that Sheldon is in bad conditions, from Glenoaks to San Fernando Road. The school will become a high school, which will have a lot of young drivers on those streets.
- Elidia stated the same concerns as Susan and suggested that a radar be set up by the school when the study is being done and when the children are present. Brian answered that the studies are done at intervals of ¼ mile to ½ mile spacing during the hours of 09:00 am and 2:00 or 3:00 in order to get the traffic in a free flow condition rather than to measure traffic when it's really congested because during peak hours there is not a tendency of people speeding, but agreed to do a study in front of Elidia's school.
- Mike suggested taking a straw-poll of the members of the audience and the majority of those present agreed with what LADOT is doing with respect to raising the speed limits.

- Q: Jon asked why is LADOT restriping La Tuna Canyon? Because the community requested bike lanes and stakeholders were concerned about equestrian access.
- Mary requested a copy of the traffic count on La Tuna Canyon; Brian will email a copy of the traffic count to Mike O.

5b. Gemma Jimenez, Alex Padilla's office, regarding legislation he is proposing in the State Assembly.

- Gemma Presented legislation that the Senator is sponsoring and wants to know if it's something that the NC would support. One of the Bills is SB600 regarding tobacco tax and SB 603, which became a 2-year bill. SB449 the firearms bill is going to be heard this year and SB25 the waste diversion increase bill has also become a 2-year bill is going to be held in the senate and will not be heard until next legislative session.

6. Public Comment

- Lisa Paredes stated about an ongoing issue with a company called Wet that has design facilities and testing labs located at 7542 Delia Ave, Unit D and 7540 on San Fernando Road. The facility tests water cannons which shoot up around 500 feet in the air and the water lands all over the city streets, sidewalks, and neighborhood private residences. The company does not give advanced notices when these tests will be performed.

7. Board Member Comments and Committee Reports

- Mike O. informed that the SVANC logo is hanging on Sunland Blvd.,
- Mary B. announced that she is a candidate for CD2, that she will not be present at the August and September meetings, and asked all the Board members and any members of the audience members who are interested in the development projects going on in Sun Valley to get involved with the SVANC's Planning committee.

8. Committee Reports

- President: none
- Treasurer: none
- Land Use: Mary announced that there are a number of land use letters scheduled in the agenda. She mentioned that the CRA has come back to Sun Valley and asked the NC if it has any project areas within the existing CRA zone that the community would like projects started. The CRA zone consists of San Fernando Road down to (illegible) and up to Brandford. The CRA will be at the Sun Valley library to meet with people that are concerned. Mary is concerned with the corner of Sheldon and San Fernando Rd., across from the Sara Medical Clinic. Mary recommends the Board to send a copy to the CRA letting them know about the studies/reports that took place about six years ago so that the CRA does not duplicate these efforts. Mike will send the notice of that meeting's date, which will be held at 6:00 pm.
- Outreach: none
- Environmental Justice Ad-Hoc: There will be an ad-hoc environmental justice meeting to discuss the CRRR's EIR on July 21, at SVANC's office, 9000 Sunland Blvd., on the corner of Penrose, at 10:00 AM.(CRRR: Community Recycling and Resource Recovery Facility, previously known as Crown disposal).

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- Ad-hoc office: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Item 09: Polo shirts with SVANC's logo are done. Julie is working on the shopping canvas bags.

Item 10: Review correct an approve minutes from SVANC's March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9th's 2009 regular board meetings and the special meeting regarding the staff report for the Bradley WM's EIR.

- March 10th's meeting minutes: Lee made the motion to accept the March 10 meeting and Mary seconded it, there was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- April 14th's meeting minutes: Lee made a motion and Susan seconded it, there was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- May 12th's meeting minutes: Jon made the motion and was seconded by Lee, there was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- June 9th's meeting minutes, Jon made the motion and was seconded by Stephen, there was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- The minutes of the special meeting for the Dept. of City Planning held at Sun Valley park regarding Bradley Waste Management's trucks and tipping fees, which was presented to the City's Planning Dept. on April 22.
 - Jon made the motion and was seconded by Lee, there was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Item 12: Brief update on the three Informational meetings held by CRRR & SVANC Consultant in May 21, June 23 and July 8, 2009. The consultant recommended was Chatten Brown and Carstens to consult with the SVANC to write a letter regarding the EIR. Mike is hoping to have two meetings with the Environmental Ad-Hoc Committee on July 21st and the other one the first part of August, since August 17th is the deadline for public comments on the EIR.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 11: Motion/Discussion/Vote to vote up to \$500 to transcribe the tapes from the CRRR meetings held at Byrd Middle school and Poly High School to forward those public comments to the Zoning Administrator.

- Jon made the motion and Susan seconded it, there was no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Item 12: Motion/Discussion/Vote Cleaning of the bus stop concrete in front of the Auto Zone.

- Mary got three quotes to clean up that area and was told that the area can be restored to look like new concrete.
- Mary asked for a motion to spend up to \$130 for the bus stop in front of the Auto Zone, since this vendor does not accept credit cards, Mary asked the Board's authorization for the monies to be paid to the Chamber of Commerce.
- Jon suggested that Sun Valley Graffiti Busters have a power washer and Mary asked if Graffiti Busters would do this work for \$120.
- Jon made the motion to clean the concrete at the bus stop in front of the Auto Zone for up to \$120, Angel seconded it.

- Stephen asked why the concrete area at this bus stop is the one being considered. Susan responded that it is one of the foulest areas, and Mary added that they have a bus stop shelter and a recessed area that is full of trash, urine and graffiti. She added that there is a re-pavement and street improvement project on two of the cross walks between across Ratner will have a beautiful logo cross walk painting, and mentioned that the street would be in better shape than the sidewalk. This was signaled out as a test to see the before and after, and wants these funds to come out of the Outreach budget.
- Lee suggested that the area be photographed before the work gets started and then send the photos to Auto Zone's corporate offices.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 13: Motion/discussion/Vote to support the Sunland-Tujunga NC in their opposition to a developer who is building 229 homes on the Verdugo Hills golf course. A letter will be sent.

- Jon made the motion and was seconded by Mary.
- Mary stated that Mr. Gallagher, LADOT, who talked about the re-stripping of La Tuna Canyon into a one-lane road each way because La Tuna Canyon is classified as a collector's street not a major highway.
- It was mentioned that there is only about 10k cars per day traveling on La Tuna Canyon. With 229 homes, this will increase the traffic by an estimated 2000 trips without counting the other projects that have been approved for construction that will use La Tuna as well.
- Cheryl Greslie suggested participating in the meetings because the impacts are not only regarding the traffic and the homes but they want to save the Golf Course. The deadline for public comment is August 20th, 2009.
- The motion carried unanimously to send this letter to the Planning Committee.

Item 14: Motion/discussion/Vote to approve up to \$5000 for Graffiti Busters to clean up Sun Valley Graffiti and bulky items.

- Mike asked for a volunteer to do a Community Benefits study to figure out whether this has to be a neighborhood purposes grant or a (illegible). Mary volunteered.
- Mary stated that this would not be a Neighborhood Purposes Grants. Many NCs have contracted with companies like Chrysalis who do graffiti removal for projects that are outside of the contract with the City. This includes freeway, on-and-off ramps, cleaning up trash. The City reimburses in Sun Valley Graffiti Buster's area to pick up bulky items but not to pick up trash. They authorize the painting out of graffiti on public and private places but not on state or federal property. Also if there is graffiti that cannot be removed outside of the Sun Valley Graffiti Busters area, then Sue can not legally respond to paint out graffiti unless there is an entity that has contracted with her to do so.
- The NC would contract for a set number of hours with Graffiti Busters for services rendered.
- Susan stated that the City informed them that as of June Graffiti Busters removed 17.5 tons (or 38,000 pounds) of trash in the Sun Valley area.
- Susan and Jon recused themselves from voting on this item.
- The motion was made, seconded and the motion carried.

Item 15: Motion/Discussion/Vote to send a letter to the City regarding the Jackson event about the cost to the City and the fact that they imported \$50,000 in lunches for the Police that should have been spent in the City.

- Lee stated that it is not appropriate for the City to spend \$4 million for this funeral service.
- Lee also requests an explanation why the City purchased \$50,000 worth of lunches outside of the City and County of Los Angeles and who approved this purchase
- Motion made by Mary and was seconded by Jon.
- Stephen asked why did the City provide lunch for the police department, and it was answered that because the Police was not permitted to leave their posts.
- Mike made a friendly amendment to the letter that this was a major entertainment event and that money would be made from this event.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 16: Motion/Discussion/Vote to write a letter to the LADWP regarding a Resolution to defer cap increases for 2009-2010 budget-Council file number 09-010.

- Mary stated that the SVANC concurs with the defer cap increase. There will be a meeting next Saturday with LADWP to talk about the proposed increase of 14%; next, there will be another increase plus the 14% plus what the customers are already paying now. The LADWP is proposing a Tier base tariff, like with the water usage.
- ECAF (Energy Cost Adjustment Factor) is the plan under which all these increases will take place, for a total of 41% ECAF increases.
- The resolution is to Defer CAP increases 09-010
- The letter will be sent to Soledad Garcia, President of the LADWP committee.
- Jon made the motion and Susan seconded it.
- There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Item 17: Motion/Discussion/Vote to pay up to \$4000 to joint venture with Foothill Trails NC in the purchase of the "Jaws of Life" for Fires Station 77.

- Cheryl Greslie asked for the SVANC's support informing the NC that Fire Station 77 received a grant but the Councilwoman did not make the motion to be presented to the full council, so the grant expired.
- Mike stated that Nancy Woodruff, Foothill Trails NC, has contributed \$4000 for a total of the \$8000 needed, currently the NC would be contributing up to \$4000.
- Jon made the motion and Lee seconded it.
- No further discussion, the motion carried.

Item 18: Motion/Discussion/Vote to vote on a Black Widows Baseball to assist the players to go to Cooperstown New York to play Baseball.

- This item will be tabled to next month's agenda.

Item 19: Possible Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve letters to the Planning Dept with comments from the SVANC Planning Committee on proposed planning issues in Sun Valley APCNV 2009-1410-ZC-BL 9347-9355 San Fernando Road. LETTER for Seven-Eleven, letter for 8654 Sunland Blvd., Apartments for small lot sub-division 9100 Telfair Ave.

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- One letter is for San Fernando Rd. and Sheldon the building that is selling car parts from the lots on the alley, and the NC is trying to get Building and Safety to take care of this issue.
- There is a letter for the 7-11 Store stating that the NC did not want a liquor license which is at the corner of Saticoy and Vineland. There is a petition with 1000 signatures. The hearing will take place on Thursday July 16, at 4:30 in the Braude Building, Van Nuys.
- The next letter is for 8654 Sunland Blvd., for a three-story apartment building but the sun will be blocked from going into the apartments from the south side. He is building 44 apartments with three bedrooms each.
- The other letter is at 9100 Telfair Ave., across from the High School, the Planning Dept. representative changed some items, there are 16 houses being proposed on a lot which originally had two houses.
- Jon made the motion and was seconded by Mary.
- No further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Item20: Public Comment-none

ADJOURN – A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at approximately 08:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.