

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting**

**on
Tuesday, February 9, 2010
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

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

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

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

- Mike O. called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. after meeting quorum
- Nick recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- Mike O. took roll call and read SVANC’s pledge.

2. Opening Remarks from the President of SVANC

- Mike announced that he had candidate statement forms for anyone interested.
- Mike stated that a lot of meetings are being held regarding the proposed cuts to the NCs’ yearly funding from \$45,000 to \$22,000. They are also considering cutting the NCs’ roll-over funds from the previous year.
- Mike stated that some of the benefits provided by the NCs include community cleanups, volunteer participation, donation of funds to community based organizations for community-related projects, to schools, libraries, support programs for local youth, to buy equipment for the police and fire depts., etc.

- Mike stated that Sun Valley has just been re-mapped and some areas have been declared as flood plain area, which has affected 568 properties (150 of these are commercial and industrial).

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-

- Louie Sanchez, Consultant for Assembly member Felipe Fuentes, member of the Assembly member's select committee on the Census, stated that Census day is April 1st. He distributed a list for the attendees to write their information if they wanted a Census sign delivered to them.
- The first census mailing will go out for delivery on March 15th. The secondary form will be mailed for delivery on April 1st, and the third attempt to have the form filled out will be done by enumerators (*people*) who will go to your physical address and ask you to fill out the form.
- Mike O. added that the enumerators will only ask you 10 simple questions, which do NOT include asking you for your social security number, place of work, account numbers, legal status, etc. He asked stakeholders to be cautious because there are people impersonating census takers. Mike distributed a flyer listing preventive steps to take in order not to become a fraud victim.
- Antonio Sanchez, East Valley Area Director for Mayor's office, announced that the Day of Service/Community beautification day will take place on March 20th. This year due to the Public School Choice Resolution, the City is partnering with LAUSD and concentrating on different service projects at low-performing schools such as Byrd Middle School, Pacoima Middle School and Valerio Elementary School. The goal is to have 10-15 projects at each site.
- Antonio asked anyone interested to fill out a project application form and to be specific about the project, the plan to accomplish it, and how the Mayor's office and the City can help. He asked the NC to assist with the organization of any of these projects.
- Joaquin Macias, Field Deputy for CD2, stated that the Voit public art project was postponed due to the rain. The cement for the center beams was poured and is curing, the installation will take about two weeks, and weather-permitting the ribbon-cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for the 1st or 2nd week in March.
- Joaquin Macias stated that the discussion regarding the NCs' funding went back to Council committee, presided by Mr. Krekorian, who supports the NC system.
- Gemma, Senator Alex Padilla's office, stated that the Senator is working on a Body Armor Bill which will prohibit felons from purchasing any type of body armor in the State of California. The Senator's office is working closely on Census outreach.
- Mary Benson, CD2 Representative, returned the keys of the NC office to Mike O. She stated that Athens Waste's EIR was certified last week and is now in the permitting process. The LEA will inform the NC of the public hearing date. If the NC has any specific conditions that it wants incorporated into the permit, then the NC needs to send a written comment letter to Wayne Tsuda.

5. Comments from DONE Representative – Barry Stone

- Barry was not present

5a. Presentation, Brian Gallagher, LADOT, regarding a possible change to the speed

limits on Lanark Street

- Mr. Gallagher stated that the LADOT is working with the LAPD on updating speed limits on a few streets in Sun Valley. He added that the way the law in the State works is that the speed limits are set based upon an engineering study of the conditions of the roadway and the speeds that people are traveling on that roadway. The speed limit is good for seven years; at the end of seven years, if nothing has changed it can be automatically renewed for another three years. Now is the 10 year mark, so a brand new study has to be done. The study looks at the land use along the roadway, the pedestrian (a walkway), bicycle facilities (curve lane wide enough for bikes and cars, or is there a place for bike use without getting hit by cars), and the accident rates along that stretch of roadway and at the speeds about every ¼ mile.
- The LADOT is required to determine the speed that 85% of the drivers are traveling at and then round it to the nearest five-mile-an-hour increment (ex: if most people are traveling at 38 mph, then the LADOT is required to round it to 40 mph speed limit). However, if there are a lot of accidents on that street, then the speed limit can be lowered by 5 miles an hour, or if there is a combination of unusual activity on the roadway, like animals, kids, bikes combined with limited visibility due to curves, hills, shadows from fwy over-crossings, landscaping or fences that extend out the roadway, an argument can be made to reduce the speed by 5 miles an hour.
- The process is done by measuring the speed people are already driving and then looking at the safety rate of that road; if people are driving at that speed and no accidents are occurring, then the speed will be set at that limit. The goal is to match the speed limit to the speed that people are already traveling. This reduces the potential for accidents on the road.
- At school zones and parks LADOT installs signs with 25 mph when children are present and these signs override any other posted speed limits.
- LADOT is working on four major Streets in Sun Valley: Laurel Canyon, Glenoaks, Sherman Way, and Lanark Street, which is more of a residential street. The data has been collected for Lanark Street and found that the speed that most people are driving is 32 mph, and rounded to the nearest 5-mile increment, it will be 30 mph. There is no accident pattern on that street, so the speed limit LADOT will recommend is to keep the existing 30 mph on that street; however after carefully studying that area's hills, curves, and blind spots on driveways, there is a possibility that the LADOT can try to justify reducing the speed limit on that street down to 25 mph, but 85% of the cars on that street are traveling faster than 25 mph, so if the speed limit is reduced there is a good chance that the number of tickets will increase and mainly be issued to the people that are driving in and out of that neighborhood.
- The stretch on Lanark covers from Hollywood Way to Wheatland Avenue.
- LADOT had a major million dollar project on the traffic signals at about 100 different intersections in Sun Valley. The project is to upgrade all the signal equipment at intersections with left-turn arrows and to install a cable that would connect all the intersections to a central computer downtown at city hall where real-time traffic data is collected from the streets and the signals will be adjusted automatically based on the traffic conditions, rather than on the hours of the day and how much traffic LADOT thinks there is on that roadway. The system is still under construction and all the signals are not tied into the computer yet, but once they are timed-in, they will be synchronized much easier.

6. Public Comment

- Angelica Dueñas presented the official paper work regarding the flood plain areas. She is planning on organizing the residents and business owners to oppose these areas' designation by contracting an independent surveyor to survey these areas at a lower costs rather than paying an assessor \$2,000 to prove that your property is not in a flood plain area, which will be included in the plan and eliminate your property from this category.
- Al Santillanes, CRA Project Manager, announced that the CRA has a homeownership program for first-time home buyers. Anyone interested can attend the workshops that will be held on February 27th, March 27th and April 17th ---see the flyers for further information.
- The CRA's Visioning results are in! Two workshops regarding the community's vision will be held to discuss these results, on February 20th from 10-3 in Panorama City Health and Safety Fair; and on March 6th from 10-3 in Sylmar Public Library.
- Daliah asked Mike for a contact at Metro to ask them why Route 153 has been discontinued. A lot of the students took this route to their schools and it made it much convenient and faster to get to school.

7. Board Member Comments

- Nick stated that Sheldon Street has deteriorated more after the rains. He called Bill Robinson, Dept. of Street Services, who will send a crew to fill-in the potholes and would try to prioritize the resurfacing of this street.
- Elidia invited everyone to a play at Poly HS beginning on Wed, February 17th through Saturday, February 20th, at 5:00.

8. Committee Reports:

- **President:** none
- **Treasurer:** Julie (*who had been absent because her son had been ill for the past three months*) stated that she is currently reconciling the last two quarters. As of February 8th, the SVANC has spent \$31,836, leaving a balance of \$58,931—this amount does not include \$10,200 earmarked for rent for the year; and \$7,000 that DONE has not deducted for the purchase of the van that was approved in 2008 for the surveillance team; and \$6,500 that SVANC had earmarked and approved for the warranty of the police license plate reader. Also, \$2,600 is owed to Languages4you for interpretation services and transcription of the minutes, and \$712 for the rental of the photocopier have to be deducted from the \$58,931 amount.
 - Julie stated that as of February 5, 2010, DONE no longer wants the NCs to use petty cash. Any amount left in the petty cash must be returned to DONE by March 31, 2010. Currently, SVANC has \$206.18 in petty cash, which will be returned to DONE by the deadline.
 - Julie added that there is a new Demand Warrant system. Therefore, if a Board member wants to include an action item in the agenda for funds to be earmarked for any project, he/she has to fill out the Motions Agenda Item and the Community Benefit forms along with any other supporting documents which must be attached to the Demand Warrant in order for DONE to process it.
 - Mike O. stated that Jon asked for a Budget Accounting. At the beginning of fiscal year '09-'10, SVANC only got \$47,000 from the City, but the NC had not spent \$89,000 from previous years, leaving a balance of \$136,000. Currently, the City is trying to keep the total amount of \$89,000, but SVANC has already allocated a great deal of that money. Per the figures Mike calculated as of today, the SVANC has spent \$82,000 to date, but DONE is saying that they only had \$47,000 to transfer to SVANC as of July 1st, 2009. SVANC contributed \$3,600

along with the amount contributed by the Foothill Trails NC to purchase the jaws-of-life for the local fire department; the City has not paid SVANC's office rent in the amount of \$10,200/year; \$7,000 have been committed for the purchase of the surveillance van; \$18,000 have been committed for the installation of the crosswalks on Sunland Blvd., which will have SVANC's logo; \$5,000 have been committed to Graffiti Busters; \$1,000 have been committed to purchase native California plants, which require a low amount of water, for the Chamber of Commerce's median at Wick's on Laurel Canyon; and ongoing expenses for interpretation services, transcription of the meeting's minutes, water and pizza for the meeting attendees.

- **Land Use:** See Item 20 below.
- **Environmental Justice:** See Item 20 below.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 9: Outreach Committee – None

Item 10: Update on SVANC's Elections and Outreach- the elections will be held on March 27th at Poly H.S from 1:00 to 7:00 pm. If anyone is interested in running as a candidate for a position on SVANC's Board can still file by February 25th and will be included as a write-in candidate. SVANC's Board consists of 3 categories, each with seven seats: residential, property/business owner or someone who works in the neighborhood, and at-large. Presently, 16 candidates are running under the Residential category; the remaining two categories don't have seven candidates running under each category yet.

Item 11: Treasurers report with update on Surveillance Van and Camera car maintenance agreements.

- The SVANC Board approved the purchase of the Surveillance van in 2008. All the paperwork requested by DONE has been turned in, but there's a lot more paperwork to be filled out.

- Camera car maintenance agreements: About two years ago when SVANC was part of the North Hollywood and Foothill Police Depts., SVANC contributed funds along with Sunland Tujunga, Foothill Trails, Pacoima, and Arleta, and purchased two sets of cameras that were mounted on a police car that reads license plates of cars coming towards the patrol car and the other camera faces towards the back reading the license plates of parked cars, in an effort to find stolen vehicles. The Board approved to purchase the warranty for these cameras, but due to a lack of agreement between the warranty company and the police dept., the purchase of the warranty will not take place.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 12: Review, correct and approve minutes from our January 12, 2010 meeting. (Karina Vallas)

-Susan moved and Lee seconded to approve the minutes as written.
-The item carried unanimously.

ITEM 13: Discussion and Vote to appoint new Board members to replace some who have left.

Replace Mary Benson with Eldia Vasquez

- Daliah Galvan, senior at Polytechnic H.S., has been attending SVANC's meetings since Sept. 2009 and likes the public's participation and involvement in the meetings. She has actively participated in fund-raising activities to benefit the local kids, Haiti and other charitable organizations.

- It was moved unanimously to appoint Daliah Galvan as a Board member under the youth advocate category.
- Danny B. junior at Sun Valley H.S., is the leadership and student body president. He wants to join SVANC in order to be the youth advocate for Sun Valley H.S.'s students.
- It was moved unanimously to appoint Danny B. as a Board member under the youth advocate category.
- Per the bylaws, since the first Vice-President resigned from the Board, then the 2nd Vice-President becomes the 1st Vice-President, therefore, Elidia Vasquez is now the 1st Vice-President.

ITEM 14: Discussion/Motion /Vote to participate in a safety measure to keep our kids safe on their way to and from school by installing stainless steel mirrors at the Wicks' walkway. The metal sheet is a 48"x96" piece of highly polished 16 gauge stainless steel. The cost is not to exceed \$575.

- Susan stated that the Wick's walkway has been a problem for years, with graffiti, safety and lighting issues. \$540 will allow for the purchase of a sheet that will make between 4-8 stainless steel, heavy-gauge mirrors from Industrial Metal Supply. If the mirrors need to be installed on the posts, then Vulcan Materials will provide the posts and fabrication of the mirrors.
- Susan made the motion to spend up to \$550 for the purchase of the sheet metal to be made into mirrors and to be used at that location; and if there is sheet metal left, it can be used at another location that needs safety improvement. It was seconded by Nick.
- The item carried unanimously.

ITEM 15: Discussion /Motion /Vote Hire an Interpreter per City Clerk at \$50 per hour for our Election Day also to Approve having At-polls Voting instructions and Vote by mail Ballots for disabled translated to Spanish(Mike O'Gara)

- The City Clerk did not translate any of the materials into Spanish, Mike asked for approval to hire a translator to translate these documents at a cost of \$50 and needs approval to have the At-Polls Voting instructions and the Vote-By-Mail ballot translated into Spanish.
- Julie made the motion to hire a translator and to have the two forms translated into Spanish and Nick seconded.
- The item carried unanimously.

- **ITEM 16: Discussion /Motion /Vote** to help the Leadership Class of Sun Valley Middle School travel to Washington DC to see how the Federal Government works, not to exceed \$500 (Stephen Franklin)

- Nick made the motion and Susan seconded.
- The item carried unanimously.

ITEM 17: Discussion /Motion /Vote to hire an accountant thru Apple One to reconcile our first two quarters of the 2009-2010 Budget year and write a new budget for the balance of the year. Cost not to exceed \$200 (Mike O'Gara)

- Mike asked permission to hire an accountant to reconcile the first two quarters of SVANC's 2009-2010 financials.
- Susan made the motion and Nick seconded.
- The item carried unanimously.

ITEM 18:Discussion/Motion/Vote to purchase a projector for the Sun valley Library so that they may begin to have a FREE Family movie night at the library. Cost not to exceed \$999 (Mike O'Gara).

- Mike stated that SVANC approved on a different occasion \$3,000 for the purchase of DVDs for the children.

Minutes were approved as amended by the Board at the general meeting held on March 9, 2010

- Lee made the motion to give funds up to \$999 to the library for family movie night and Nick seconded.
- The item carried unanimously.

ITEM 19: Discussion/Motion/ Vote To repair the clasp on the portable computer owned by SVANC. Cost not to exceed \$100 (Julie Monroy)

- Nick made the motion to pay up to \$100 for the repair cost of SVANC's portable computer and Susan seconded.
- The item carried unanimously.

ITEM 20: Discussion and **Possible Motion/Vote** To approve letters to the Planning Dept with Comments from the SVANC on proposed planning issues in Sun Valley This will include Cell tower at 9005 Bradley Ave and another one at 11401 Tuxford St. The 100 unit Apartment building on Cross Streets Stagg and Fair, The Development Project APCNV 2009-1410-ZC-BI located at 9355 San Fernando Road and Sheldon Street . Lopez Canyon Truck Driving School. Update on FEIR from Athens Services.

- Mike stated that no action has taken place regarding the Cell Tower on Bradely Ave.; nothing further has taken place regarding the 100-unit apt. building; a proposal was presented to the developer who wants to build a 4-story apt. building on the vacant lot next to the Sun Valley Youth Community Center. This project's architect contacted Mike O. to schedule a meeting to discuss SVANC's concerns.
- The Lopez Canyon Truck Driving School on top of the landfill in Lakeview Terrace will have about 10 diesel trucks driving around the streets of Sun Valley. Over 50 community members attended a meeting in opposition to the driving school. Councilmember Alarcón also attended in favor of the school and the project was approved.
- The NCs can't file appeals, so other community groups are getting together to organize fund raises, have already hired an attorney for the appeal and the appeal has been filed.
- Nancy Woodruff, Community Alliance for Open Space, which includes all the different Community groups and seven NCs, has applied for an appeal to the ZA's decision to approve the variance and is requesting SVANC to write its support for this appeal. The appeal includes the NMD which is legally insufficient. Also, the variance was self-imposed by the City for its own convenience to allow the Teamsters to rent land and building for \$1 per year rather than the normal fee so that City employees and others principally from CD7 may get free training. There is no basis for one Department of the City, in this case City Planning, to grant a variance to another Department of the City, in this case Bureau of Sanitation. This has not happened before and is really unjustified under variance rules. The excuse that this is an interim use does not justify the precedent that is being set by this action to degrade open space.

ITEM 21: Public Comment - none

ITEM 22: ADJOURN – the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.