

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting
on
Tuesday, March 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
Elidia Vasquez	1st Vice President	Present
Seat is vacant	2nd Vice President	n/a
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Present
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Present
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	Absent
Lee McTaggart	Board Member	Absent
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
Daliah Galvan	Board Member	Present
Danny Bergerano	Board Member	Present
Alex “Al” 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 6:35 p.m. after meeting quorum
- Jon recited the SVANC’s pledge and stated that it was adopted on January 27, 2004.
- Mike O. took roll call and read the Pledge of Alliance

2. Opening Remarks from the President of SVANC

- None

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

- Officer Vasquez distributed a map of the crime stats.
- There was a rise in property crimes for burglaries of motor vehicles. However after a couple of arrests the increase in this type of crime has gone down.
- Home burglaries have occurred where the burglar gets into the house through open

windows, doors, etc., looking for purses. Please keep your windows and doors locked at all times.

- The prostitution activity on Lankershim and San Fernando Road is a lingering problem, but their vice-unit is working on it and a number of 'Johns' have been arrested as a result of it.
- A number of gang members were arrested belonging to local gangs. Since a lot of this police work happens at night, the Officer asked the residents to stay inside their homes and thanked them for their patience and understanding when all the noise is taking place at late hours of the night in their neighborhood.
- Business robberies have been occurring so if any resident see anything suspicious, please report it to the LAPD immediately.

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

- Daniel Skolnick, Planning Deputy CD6, introduced himself and stated that he's responsible for all planning and land use issues for CD6.
- Joaquin Macias, Field Deputy for CD2, stated that the Voit Art Project was delayed due to the rain but it should be finished within the next three weeks. The ribbon-cutting date is tentatively scheduled for mid-April.
- M. Sanchez, field deputy for Assembly member Felipe Fuentes, stated that the census signs for lawns are ready to be delivered and asked those interested in having these signs delivered to their homes to leave their contact information.

5. Comments from DONE Representative – Barry Stone

- None

5a. Mike Brown, Bureau of Engineering, Street and Storm Water Program, City of L.A.

- On February 4, 2010 a similar presentation was given at this meeting on the updated FEMA flood-zone maps.
- History: The City has been a member of the National Flood Insurance program, a FEMA program, since 1980 and its purpose is to provide flood insurance to the City of L.A. in order to be able to participate in any Federal grants or any Emergency funding that has to do with flood emergencies. It also helps the City of L.A. to encourage the use of flood plain management and try to reduce the flood plain hazards within the City.
- The City has also been a member of the Community Rating system, which is another step with FEMA, since 1990. It provides resources to do a flood plain management plan along with outreach to the communities in order for the City to get a rating. The rating is from 1-10; 10 being the worst where the City receives no benefit and 1 being the best. The City's rating is 7, which means that the homes within the 100-year flood plain receive a 15% discount on their flood insurance, and those outside receive a 5% discount. As part of the community rating system, they do a community assistance visit, which is an audit. FEMA sends out auditors to check the area and the City's records in order to do an assessment and give/maintain/approve the City's rating.
- In 2007, the City had a community assistance visit – they take place every three to five years. During their last visit, they discovered that some of the areas that had previously been open and/or able to receive flood waters during storms were now either filled-in or bermed-off and are no longer receiving flood water. Therefore, FEMA told the City to do a Hydraulics and Hydrology study of the area to find out if these flood zones changed. The results of the City's study were that they had changed. This means that these areas were no longer used as retention basins to

- hold water until the storms lessened, the water is now forced onto the streets, backs up and floods some of the property/residents; this is for a 100-year storm.
- A 100-year storm is a statistical designation that means you have a 1-in-100 chance of this storm event happening within 1 year.
 - The City added about 795 new parcels to the flood zones, totaling about 868 parcels in the flood zones in the Sun Valley water shed. This means that if you have a mortgage and it's backed by the Federal government, FEMA requires you to have flood insurance. If you are in a 100-year flood zone, then the flood insurance is much higher.
 - The City submitted a letter of map revision to FEMA, and wants the residents to know that if you buy flood insurance at the lower preferred rate you will be grandfathered with that same rate when FEMA decides if you are in a designated flood zone.
 - Once FEMA approves the City's map revision, there will be a 90 period to make comments or appeal. During this period, the City will also ask for an additional 90-day extension to do outreach to the community. By the end of this project, the City asked for a total of 270 days grace period or three 90-day extensions.
 - The City expects that by around January 2011, these map revisions may be official.
 - Mr. Brown stressed the importance to homeowners who are in a flood zone to talk to their home owner's insurance agent regarding flood insurance if you don't already have it.
 - Mr. Brown provided copies of the original letter sent to FEMA and a list of websites. One of this websites has these maps listed in PDF format. Visit the website, locate the map of your house and see if it's in the blue zone.
 - FEMA rules state that if the flood zone touches your property, it does not have to be inundated, but if it touches your property then your property is in a 100-year flood zone. If you feel that your house is above the 100-year flood zone you can apply for a letter of map amendment; one of the websites on the list will show you how to apply for it. If you apply for a plan amendment, a surveyor will have to show that your floor elevation is above the flood level that's shown, send this to FEMA and you might get your home excluded from the flood zone; note that your property will still be excluded but your home can be excluded too.
 - Mr. Brown added that if you sell your house and you are in a flood zone and have current flood insurance, then the designation of being out of the flood zone will be transferred to the new property owner, therefore the new property owner won't have to spend a lot more money on flood insurance.
 - Mr. Brown said that L.A. County is working on a Master Plan to actually put in a flood control system in Sun Valley. They already bought the Strathern pit and plan to turn it into a retention basin and divert the water into an infiltration basin that they've already built. Once these improvements are made and these flood control facilities are in place, they will do another study and it will be re-evaluated. A lot of these areas should come out of that flood zone after the county does its work.
 - Mr. Brown stated that letters were sent to the property owners of the new 795 parcels that are in the flood plain zone. Mike O. asked Mr. Brown to notify these property owners as soon as 50% of the grace/extension period has been reached.

5b. Anibal Guerrero and Paul F., from the SEVEN-ELEVEN real estate dept., regarding the possibility of opening a retail store at Sunland Blvd and San Fernando

- Anibal announced that the store on Vineland and Saticoy will open dry (without a liquor license for beer or wine) and will be 24 hours a day, on March 29th. He added that all 7-11 stores only sell beer and wine, not hard liquor.
- Paul said that there are no plans at anytime in the future to apply for a beer and wine

license at the Vineland and Saticoy location.

- Paul stated that 7-11 just signed a lease with the landlord of the old Exxon station site on the corner of Sunland and San Fernando Road. This store is being planned to open 24 hours but without a liquor license. Currently, they are under negotiations whether or not to open the site with a store and a gas station, but more than likely it will not be a gas station because that location is under remediation (*contaminated*).
- Paul has asked the landlord to do upgrades on the whole site, including re-painting the entire center and redoing the sign faces for all the tenants/business.
- Mike O. informed Paul that SVANC asked the 7-11 principals of the store on Vineland and Saticoy to install bike racks but it was never put in writing and although the 7-11 principals promised they would, it was never done. However, SVANC is requesting that bike racks and a community bulletin board be part of this new proposed store on Sunland and San Fernando, and asked that these requests be included in writing as part of the 7-11's application to the Planning Dept's Zoning Administrator.

6. Public Comment

- Al Santillanes, CRA Project Manager, announced community meetings to discuss "ways to improve your community over the next 10-30 years" if the CRA is successful in amending or adopting the redevelopment Plan. The first meetings will be held on Saturday, March 20th 10-Noon, in Pacoima; & Sunday March 21st, 10:30-12:30 in North Hollywood at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Food and child care will be provided.
- Mike O. welcomed the candidates who are running for SVANC's Board on the election on March 27th to make a statement if they wished.
 - Art K., attorney, is running for the SVANC's board to share his experience and knowledge and to improve the community's public safety and stakeholders' involvement.
 - Monica, realtor, is running for the SVANC's Board in order to help improve education, schools and the community in Sun Valley.
 - Robert, programmer, is running for the SVANC's board to contribute his knowledge and to be of service for the betterment of the community. He envisions setting up computer training for the community. He is also a Red Cross volunteer.
 - Estela is running for the SVANC's board to help create more positive opportunities for the youth and to improve education.
 - Susan, SVANC's board member, manages a graffiti removal program, is a member of the police advisory board, and is interested to be re-elected because she is very motivated to improve the community.
 - Elidia, Administrator at Poly Technic HS and current SVANC's board member, is running for re-election to continue improving the academic activities and educational opportunities for the youth.
 - Stephen, teacher and current SVANC's board member, is running for re-election to continue trying to make sure the schools get their fair share of resources.

7. Board Member Comments

- Jon asked if SVANC's board has discussed the issue regarding the County's plan to dump the dirt and debris into the ravine in La Tuna Canyon that resulted from the floods in La Cañada/Flintridge. Jon also stated that on Earth Day, April 24th the Chamber of Commerce is going to co-sponsor an event at Sun Valley Park, and asked that this item be included in SVANC's April agenda for a motion/discussion/vote to possibly contribute funds for this event.

- Daliah announced that Poly H.S. and Byrd Middle School are having a Day of Service on March 20th at 8:00 am to clean up the area and plant vegetation. It was also suggested that a collection-of-socks project for all ages be started in the area for the homeless.
- Susan said that the amount for the purchase of the metal to fabricate stainless steel mirrors exceeded the \$575 amount approved by the Board.

8. Committee Reports :

- President: none
- Treasurer: none
- Land Use: none
- Environmental Justice: none

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 9: Outreach Committee (Mike O.) – distributed copies of the SVANC’s ad in the local newspaper, had generic flyers for the candidates to use at will, and said that there are about 600 newspapers with SVANC’s ad available for any candidate to insert his/her flyer along with SVANC’s orange flyer who is willing to distribute them door-to-door.

- Mike O. said that he attended a Dept of Recs and Park meeting where they voted \$51,000 of Quimby fees to be included in the application to apply for a \$5 million grant for a skate park on Sheldon, South of Laurel Canyon in Sun Valley. Quimby fees are a result of the Quimby Act which requires developers to pay a % of the total cost of the project in fees in order to help mitigate the impacts of property improvements in a city/county/community.

Item 10: Update on SVANC Elections and Outreach on same – Mike O. announced that SVANC’s Board elections will be held on March 27th.

Item 11: Treasurers report with update on Roll Over Funding –

- Julie said that the list has been submitted to DONE who requested SVANC to list the pending projects and amount of funds SVANC has allocated and approved. The funds that have been allocated add up to a total of \$68,215.19. However, SVANC is waiting to hear from DONE’s decision whether or not these monies will remain in SVANC’s budget.
- Mike O. added that DONE put a freeze on all the roll-over monies way after SVANC started spending it. However, later on DONE changed their position and stated that if these funds had been voted and approved for projects such as rejuvenation projects, the volunteer surveillance team, the warranty for the camera on the patrol car, etc., then they would allow SVANC to use the funds for these projects. No decision has been made yet on what will happen to the the NCs’ roll-over funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 12: Review, correct and approve minutes from our February 9, 2010 meeting. (Karina Vallas).

- After minutes were amended, Susan made the motion to approve February 9th meeting minutes as amended and was seconded by Nick. No further discussion took place.
- The motion carried.

ITEM 13: Discussion/MOTION/Vote to participate in Easter Sunday events at Fernangeles Park and Sun Valley Park not to exceed up to \$500 per park (Karina Valles)

-Zoila Rivera, Fernangeles Rec Center, informed that on Friday, April 2, the Annual Spring Egg Hunt will be held at the Rec Ctr, and is asking SVANC for funding support.

-Mike O. stated that he has sent letters to the park staff at Fernangeles and Sun Valley regarding the procedures to follow for funding requests for events, including the upcoming Easter and Spring events. Specifically he stated on the letter that when SVANC sponsors events, the organizers must recognize SVANC (i.e. logo) on their written publicity event materials.

- Karina stated that the in this difficult economic times unfortunately resources for kids are being reduced and/or eliminated leaving very little recreational options for kids. Karina asked for the funding amount not to exceed \$500 for this event.

-Margarita, Sun Valley Park, stated that they are waiting for the permits for a carnival which will be held at the park on April 2, 3, 4. She added that they have sponsorship commitments from various community organizations that will have their own booths at the event.

- Julie made the motion to approve up to \$1,000 (up to \$500 for each park for their Easter/Spring events and Karina seconded. No further discussion took place.
- The motion carried.

ITEM 14: Discussion/Motion /Vote to participate in assisting the Poly High School to print and distribute mailers to their parents (approx 3200 parents). They will run our generic ad for SVANC participation in each newsletter, for about 9 months Cost not to exceed \$300 (Eldia Vazquez)

- Elidia passed a flyer sample.
- Jon made the motion and Nick seconded. No further discussion took place.
- The motion carried.

ITEM 15: Discussion /Motion /Vote to pay the Post Office Box for another year not to exceed \$110 per year. Start Date April 1st (Mike O’Gara)

- Jon made the motion and Stephen seconded. No further discussion took place.
- The motion carried.

ITEM 16: Discussion/ possible Motion/Vote on the possibility of identifying a high crime area in SVANC boundaries for Led Lighting. Person making motion shall be responsible for following through.

- Mike O. sent this information to the Board, it is primarily for CD2 since it has a deal with the City to put lead lighting in any residential high crime areas. Mike is wondering is Sun Valley can get similar funds.
- No action taken on this item.

ITEM 17: 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 may include The Seven-Eleven Proposal for The Corner of San Fernando Road and Sunland Blvd & 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. Additionally the Apartment Complex at ____ Sunland Blvd.

- Mike O. suggested not to take action on the 7-11 proposal since they have nothing in writing nor have they presented any official proposal to the Planning Dept, Zoning staff.
- Mike O. said that two more cell towers will be placed one at Laurel Canyon and another one at the Burbank boundary, both will be on top of buildings and will be enclosed. However the cell towers that will be placed on Bradley and on Tuxford will be 60’ tall.
- Daniel, CD6, added that the City, who is the lead agency, has no jurisdiction over cell towers and cell sites attached to buildings, however when community members attend public hearings on cell towers, they should focus their comments on the visual impacts (i.e.

the model poles, model pines or the model palms).

- Mike O. had no updates on the Development Project APCNV 2009-1410-ZC-BI
- Mike O. said that SVANC voted to send a letter regarding the Lopez Canyon Trucking School, which will be sent in the near future. However, the Homeowners Association of Shadow Hills appealed the Planning's decision on the Athens Services project. Mike O. sent a letter, representing himself since he did not have SVANC's Board permission to write it on behalf of the Board. The Homeowners Association and Mike O. met with CD2's planning deputies to discuss possible changes to the Athens project. The Board took no action on this subject.
- Mike O. stated that the architect of the 4-story Apartment complex that is being proposed on Sunland Blvd., next to the rock house, contacted Mike O. to have a meeting with the people living in the Condominium building next to this complex, but none of the tenants have answered Mike's calls, therefore no meeting date has been set. The Board took no action on this subject.

ITEM 18: Public Comment

- Daniel, CD6, invited stakeholders interested in planning projects that are being proposed to set up a time on Mondays or Wednesdays to meet with the Developer of any proposed project, the stakeholders interested and with Daniel at CD6 office.
- Carlos Coronel talked about an article on the L.A. Times about Mayor Villaraigosa's proposal to eliminate the Neighborhood Councils in an effort to save \$1.2 million. He asked how this will affect SVANC and what effort it's taking to prevent it. Mike answered that the City's Education and Neighborhoods Committee, chaired by Councilmember Krekorian, is in charged of the NCs. Also, Mike O. is a Board member of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils and they vigorously oppose the issues with DONE being moved to CDD, the roll-over and reduction of funds, and they've sent a letter to the City's committee stating their opposition.

ITEM 19: **ADJOURN** - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.