

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council**  
**Minutes of General Meeting**  
on  
**Tuesday, January 12, 2010**  
**6:30pm – 8:30pm**

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

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Mike O’Gara	President	Present
Mary Benson	1st Vice President	Present
Elidia Vasquez	2nd Vice President	Present
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Present
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Absent
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Jon Eshbach	Board Member	Present
Stephen Franklin	Board Member	Present
Jerry Piro	Board Member	Absence excused
Luis O. Medina	Board Member	Present
Manuel “Manny” de la Torre	Board Member	Present
Angel Silva	Board Member	Absent
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	Absent
Nicholas Dalton Powell	Board Member	Absence excused
Nick Perdaris	Board Member	Absent
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 Pledge of Allegiance
- Mike O. took roll call and read SVANC’s pledge.

**2. Opening Remarks from the President of SVANC**

- Mike announced that Susan B. has asked for an item requesting \$565 to buy stainless steel mirrors to be installed in a tunnel to be included in next month’s agenda. Susan stated that these mirrors are for the Wickes pedestrian walkway due to a safety factor, and lighting is also being considered for this bridge in the future. Vulcan is manufacturing the mirrors.
- Mike mentioned that he is having a lot of issues with the City Clerk regarding the election. The City Clerk staff informed SVANC that Elidia could not run for office because that would make Poly H.S. a biased location, but they did not take into consideration that the location they chose for the SVANC’s election, Fernangeles, was a biased location because the Board’s secretary works there. Mike informed the City Clerk’s election staff that two Poly High people were interested in running

but due to this situation, they can't run now.

- Mike stated that the SVANC has always affirmed without showing proof of residence, but the City Clerk is now requesting documentation. Also, the packet they sent out about SVANC has the candidate filing form which does not include the at-large stakeholder category.
- Mike asked Barry, DONE, about the status of the SVANC's budget.
- Mike mentioned that a community resident who lives on Glenoaks is concerned that nobody informed/notified the neighbors about the Voit Art project.

**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 informed the community that Foothill Division has a new area captain, Captain Hiltner.
- Officer Vasquez reviewed the crime stats for December. These included: burglary crime rose for motor vehicles at residences because of items that were left in plain view, a couple of robberies, two within a block from each other but within a two-hour period and they seem to be gang related, an aggravated assault crime in the park against a transient, and a similar crime at Fernangeles against a handicapped person, and an incident about road rage.
- Officer Vasquez stated that Officer Rodriguez is scheduled to return in February.
- The Officer informed the community about a new LAPD program called Nixle.com which sends immediate updates of incidents that are happening in the area. Any resident can access it through email, cell phone and can be used with the texting feature.

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

- Joaquin Macias, CD2, stated that the Voit Art project, which is an 80-foot long by 30-foot high, stainless steel public art piece/sculpture, is being constructed on the Glenoaks by Lanark median. It is expected to be completed by the end of January and the ribbon-cutting ceremony is tentatively being scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February.
- Community members mentioned concern about graffiti on the art project and were informed that stainless steel is very easy to clean. Also, they were informed that CD2 had an information meeting about the project in the Summer of '07 for which notification went out to all residents immediate to and in the surrounding area of this project (further than the 500 feet notification requirement including the whole hill side in that area, but on this side of the freeway).

**5. Comments from DONE Representative – Barry Stone**

- Barry announced that the SVANC will hold an election in March and invited all stakeholders to attend a meeting on Thursday at 6:30 pm, at San Jose Elementary School, where the topics will be about the NC system and about the upcoming election.
- Barry informed the Board members that he has sent a question to DONE's funding division regarding this issue but has not heard back from them yet. He did state that an email blast from DONE's GM informed the NCs to continue functioning as if their roll-over money was there and to continue functioning as is until further notice.
- Susan asked Barry about the audit and how it might relate to anything that SVANC is or is not doing. Barry answered that no one is sure what or if any changes will result in the funding program.

**5a. Presentation** from Tom Gibson and Craig Rains, Representatives of Dept of Recreation & Parks about a Skate Park In Sun Valley also an update on Cesar Chavez Park

- Mr. Gibson stated that Prop 84 is a state bond program to develop parks for new parks, new properties or to improve older properties. Currently there are two properties for which additional funding is sought. One is the Cesar Chavez, the previous Sheldon/Arleta landfill site, which already has some funds allotted but needs additional funds for further development.
- The other new property is in acquisition which is at the corner of the 5 Fwy and Sheldon Street.
- Prop. 84 allows for up to \$5 million per application and whatever amount is granted has to cover the entire cost of the project for which it applied for the funds.
- Mr. Raines stated that based in the community members' input who have attended the six meetings held about these projects so far, the biggest demand for use at the 12511 Sheldon Street project site is a skate plaza. This plaza should include the elements of stair sets, flat rails, ledges, planters, pyramids, manual pads, etc. which will all be visible from the streets. Also, it will include support components like concession stands, restrooms, drinking fountains, a fitness trail, a buffer zone (e.g. rolling berms, native landscaping, trees for shade, fencing, etc.) to keep the skaters and the boards safely from the street and adjacent properties, possible lighting for night-time use, and three different areas to skate for the different levels of skaters. A parking lot is included in the design. The area will be unsupervised, but signs will be posted regarding park hours.
- The street-style of skating, which is the predominant style that the community wants, is just a glorified urban plaza, where people can picnic in the middle of the skate plaza due to its configuration.
- Mr. Gibson said that the Cesar Chavez Rec Complex is a project that is under construction and is currently in the grading phase. It is 47 acres and will have a baseball field, a softball field, two full-size soccer fields, two youth soccer fields, a picnic area, restroom, basketball court, a large play ground area, a splash pad area, and a parking area. Along the north and east sides, it will have more landscaping and it will be for a more-passive use in order to keep the noise level down for the adjacent residential areas. The community's suggestions included jogging trails, concession stands, Japanese gardens, dog parks, tennis courts, lighting for night use, but since this site is a landfill, the cover can't be punctured with concrete footings required by large sports field lighting.

**5b. Presentation**, Angeli Cronheim, Los Angeles Parents Union (LAPU) about Students from Roscoe elementary and Fernangeles Elementary School going to the new Julie Korenstein School

- Ms. Cronheim stated that LAPU is not an entity of LAUSD or any charter school. The LAPU is to empower parents and community members to be more involved in education and education policy.
- Ms. Cronheim said that the LAUSD School Board passed the Public School Choice Resolution last August, which means that for every single new school built in LAUSD, different operators like Teacher's unions, charter schools, and parents can submit proposals along with the District to run the school under a new school model; as of date LAUSD has built 50 new school.
- The Julie Korenstein School or Valley Region #7, located at 7650 North Ben Ave., North Hollywood will take students from Camellia, Armenta and Strathern Elementary Schools; and Fernangeles' students will go to Strathern; and Roscoe's students will go to Camellia and Armenta because of student overcrowding and overpopulation.

- Ms. Cronheim is informing the parents and community members within the boundaries of those existing schools that they can vote on the models they like best from the operators of the district in the first week of February. The date and place of where the advisory votes will take place will be announced in the near future.
- Two meetings will be held with the parties submitting proposals for these schools on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 at Strathen Elementary School; and on January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Sun Valley Library at 6:00 pm.

## 6. Public Comment

- None

## 7. Board Member Comments

- Jon said that the Board has not received a financial report for several months. Therefore he requested that a written financial report be given to the Board members. Mike O. responded that he has requested one from Julie Monroy on several occasions via emails but has not heard from her.
- Mike told Barry that he is working on outreach for the elections; therefore he is going to include an item on next month's agenda to contract an accountant through Apple to review the SVANC's financial books.
- Mary B. informed everyone that she has been hired as a staff member by Councilmember Krekorian, CD2, to be this area's council representative and will be at the Sunland/Tujunga field office (818) 352-3287. Due to her new position, she formally resigned from the SVANC Board.
- She also announced Councilmember Krekorian's swearing-in ceremony to be held at 1:00 pm on Sunday, January 17, at the Marvin Braude Van Nuys City Hall, 14410 Sylvan Street, Van Nuys.

## 8. Committee Reports:

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

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Item 9:** Outreach Committee- Mike said that to date 17,000 packets have been distributed in Sun Valley in an effort to recruit candidates, has placed an ad in the North Valley Reporter, has distributed 1,400 throughout Sun Valley, and printed about 5,000 flyers. Candidates are needed.

**Item 10:** Update on SVANC's Elections and Outreach – see Item 9.

**Item 11:** Report on the Christmas event at Fernangeles Park

- Karina, SVANC's secretary and Rec and parks employee, thanked the Board for their \$700 donation and Crown Disposal for donating \$1,200 in toys. The event was extremely well organized this year and she brought pictures of the event to show the members.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**ITEM 12:** Review, correct and approve minutes from our November 10, 2009 and our December 8, 2009 meeting. (Karina Vallas)

- After discussion on a couple of changes on the minutes, Susan made the motion to approve the November and December 2009 minutes and Lee seconded.
- The item carried.

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

- Mike O. stated that the Board currently has eight openings: 3 in the business category, 3 at-large and 2 youth appointees.
- Mike O. asked Alex "Al" Garcia, as an at-large member, to introduce himself. He has been working on the skate park project and with the Aztecs.
- Lee made the motion and Luis seconds to approve Al as a new Board member.
- Mike O. asked Victor Hernandez, as an at-large member, to introduce himself. He created a neighborhood watch group.
- Karina made the motion and Lee seconded to approve Victor as a new Board member.
- The items carried.

**ITEM 14:** Discussion about "the orphaned area " that lies at the conflux of the Pacoima NC and the Arleta NC and the SVANC. Here is the description per the DONE (Mary Benson)

NORTH VALLEY AREA

Area A (Pacoima)

*The unincorporated area is bounded by Branford St. on the northwest; Amboy Ave. on the northeast; Muscatine St. and Rincon Ave. to its terminus, then connecting with Laurel Canyon Blvd. on the southeast; and Laurel Canyon Blvd. on the southwest. The unincorporated area abuts the Pacoima Neighborhood Council on the northwest; the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council on the northeast and southeast; and the Arleta Neighborhood Council on the southwest.*

*I have invited members of the Arleta and Pacoima NC's to join our discussion*

- There is a small section of real estate between Sun Valley NC, Pacoima NC and Arleta NC that does not belong to any of these NCs. Irregardless of which NC was certified first or last, DONE has asked one of these three NCs to take over that section of real estate. Barry Stone said that there are 291 houses there but this info is from the 2000 census. Mike O. has numerous questions about this area. Mike invited the members from Arleta's and Pacoima's NCs to join the discussion at this meeting.
- Robert Rouge, Arleta NC, stated that Arleta's sense of community is everything West of the I-5 Fwy. His position is that this area should be adopted by the SVANC claiming that it will 'square-off' SVANC's boundaries. Robert stated that the adoption of this area is in conflict with the Arleta/Pacoima plan.
- Mike O. read a statement written by Leila Campos which stated that "this area is located in Arleta's zip code and that area is recognized by the Bureau of Engineering as part of Arleta." Who do the residents identify with? As members of Sun Valley or Arleta. Neither NCs have had any residents from that area attend any of the NCs' meeting.
- Jim K., President-Arleta NC, continued reading a document written by Leila Campos, "the area is recognized by the Bureau of Engineering as part of the community of Arleta, however the Arleta NC feels that they are not ready to add more area into this boundaries, staff has not conducted (*not clear*)." He continued reading from the Arleta/Pacoima Community Plan, Ch 1 "Arleta is bounded approximately to the northeast and east by I-5, the remaining borders, south, west and north are bounded by the communities of Mission Hills, Panorama City, Sepulveda. Pacoima is bounded approximately to the southwest by the I-5 to the north by the City of San Fernando, Sylmar and Simi Valley I-118, to the east by Foothill Fwy 210 and Foothill Blvd, and the Sunland, Tujunga, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace community borders to the east and south."
- He added that Arleta is west of the I-5 Fwy by the community plan. Therefore, he feels that there is no tangible benefit to the community of Arleta to 'adopt' this area.
- Saul Perez, VP Arleta NC, stated that the 'orphan' area will not be able to receive proper representation because city services are cut off at a certain point and that should be the area to be included within the NC's boundaries.

- Mike O. stated that the most important question to ask is “What is the best to do for that area? For the people who reside there? After looking at the survey a decision will be made.”

**ITEM 15:** Discussion /Motion /Vote to increase the Outreach Budget for Elections from \$8000 to \$10,000 (Mike O’Gara)

- Mike stated that \$8000 are available to spend on outreach, so far \$4,250 have been spent on the mailing with Academy, though \$3,200 was originally budgeted; \$300 for newspaper ad.
- Mike asked a motion to have the discretion to spend more than \$8,000 but no more than \$10,000. He will try to not spend more than \$8,000.
- Elidia made the motion and Karina seconded.
- The item carried.

**ITEM 16:** 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.

- nothing to report

**ITEM 17:** Public Comment

- none

**ITEM 18: ADJOURN** – A motion was made by Susan and seconded by Karina. The item carried at approximately 8:25 pm.