

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
for
Tuesday, October 11, 2011
6:30pm – 8:30 pm**

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

Board Member	Title	Status
Angelica Dueñas	President	Absent
Julie Monroy	1 st Vice President	Absent
Mike O’Gara	2 nd Vice President	Present
Robert Lim	Treasurer	Absence Excused
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Present
Gary Aggas	Board Member	Present
Linda Housden	Board Member	Absence Excused
Imelda Padilla	Board Member	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Monica Vacas	Board Member	Present
Art Kalantarian	Board Member	Present
Vic Hernandez	Board Member	Absent
Gerry Prieto	Board Member	Present
Guy Dionne	Board Member	Present
Josephine Navares	Board Member	Absent
Nicholas Dalton Pawle	Board Member	Present
Fern Romans	Board Member	Absent
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
Luis Medina	Board Member	Present
Stella Arrington	Board Member	Present

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Code of Civility, Roll Call

- Mike O’ called the meeting to order at approximately 6:39 pm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Code of Civility was read
- Mike O’ took roll

ITEM 2: Opening Remarks (President)

- none

ITEM 2A: Ethics and Open Government Training – Reminder for the members of the SVANC to complete Ethics and Open Government Training for City Officials. Please visit:

<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/education.cfm>

ITEM 3: Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments will always be allowed to address the Board when they are ready in order to facilitate their schedule. (Officer Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, and Officer Michelle Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer).

- Chief Rick Combs, LAFD’s representative of the administrative battalion that serves this area, which includes Fire Station 77, stated that there is concern for potential mud/debris flow for the homes on Owlén Avenue, directly below the fire area. This area was surveyed by geologists and the LAFD.
- Chief Combs brought LAFD Emergency Preparedness handbooks and made reference to page 38

which has information as to the steps to take to mitigate the impact of a mud flow, erosion or flood event in your area.

- Chief Combs shared the following mitigation points in case of any type of an emergency:
 - Identify the problem and its potential risks
 - Understand the risk the problem presents
 - Develop a plan, or as in this case develop a pre-plan, which will consist of diverting/moving the potential mud/flood flow away from the property by sand bagging, which is not to be used as barrier berms but instead should be used as a diversion tool. Plastic can also be used in this case but due to the past fires, using a sheeting of plastic along the hillside will cause water to flow off the hillside. However, one has to make sure that water is diverted safely into the storm drain. Plywood can be used to act as a barrier along the sides of the homes and wooden sticks in the ground to create a ‘wall’. Remember that the goal is to divert the water not block it. A long term solution is erosion control by making sure that the areas of concern are planted and drained well. Typically when there is a fire, there is a 3-5 year cycle for that area to recover as far as vegetation is concerned; the steeper the incline, the longer it takes for the vegetation to re-grow. Also, hydro seeding is another option, but on steep inclines it is not as effective because of the runoff. During a serious event like the past fires, the most important thing to consider is evacuation and personal life safety.
 - Look for resources available by the LAFD. Some of these are included on the last couple of pages of the emergency booklet.
- Officer Vasquez reported that approximately 6-gold chains have been snatched in the last two months, primarily in the Vineland corridor from San Fernando Rd to Saticoy, but the police has a description of the male suspect.
- The Officer reported that crime is down by 15% in the area. The crime stats include: 3 robberies in September; a slight increase on the aggravated assaults/assault with a deadly weapon crimes, which include some domestic violence crimes; residential/commercial incidents increased a bit; burglary for motor vehicle crimes increased slightly—the Officer advised community members not to leave any valuable property in sight, inside the car.
- The Officer encouraged and stressed the importance of reporting any suspicious activity. She also added that the new iWatch program is a community program to help your neighborhood and City stay safe from terrorist activities. It encourages people to be the ‘eyes and ears’ against terror plots.

ITEM 4: Presentation/announcements from **elected officials** or their representatives.

- Mary Benson, CD2 Field Representative, announced an L.A. prescription savings card from the City of L.A., which has become a group provider for prescriptions. The card is free, unlimited use and it is accepted at most pharmacies.
- Mary announced a CareNow health event on October 20 – 23, 2011 from 7 am to 5 pm, L.A. Sports Arena, free medical, dental and vision care, amongst other health care services, will be provided and available. Everyone interested in attending the health fair must register on October 16th to pick up a wrist band which will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Mary also announced that the Department of Sanitation is offering free pickup of large bulky items from apartments, condos and townhomes, by calling 311.
- Quincy Reid, Assembly member Fuentes’s office, said that the Assembly member’s Bill 1069 provides tax credit to film companies for shooting at least 75% of their films in California—the tax credit for the filming companies have been extended to 2014.
- Quincy said that the 5 Freeway closure will take place from October 17-21, 2011, at the Van Nuys Blvd. on-ramps, Osborne Street and the South bound I-5 connector at the 170 fwy. The closures for the Osborne, Sheldon and Van Nuys Blvds., will continue until January 2012. If there are issues with graffiti on the freeway or for a closure schedule, please call CalTrans at (855) 454-6335.
- Emily Williams, Council member Cárdenas’ office, announced a job fair, Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, Balboa Sports Center, 17015 Burbank Blvd, Encino, CA
- Emily announced a health fair sponsored by Council member Cárdenas’ office, Saturday, October 29, 2011, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, at the Japanese Garden, 6100 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys.
- Emily said that one of the safety concern issues in the area reported by constituents is the issue of homelessness. She added that the Council member’s office has 5- grad students from UCLA’s Luskin School of Public Affairs, candidates in Masters of Social Work degree, who are volunteering to do a

canvassing of homelessness in the area. This number will be added to the count results done during the Homeless Coalitions' outreach efforts in North Hollywood and Sun Valley, in which some of SVANC's Board members participated. The students' results will be used to do a need assessment of the area. The findings will be presented at a meeting to be scheduled in December for the Sun Valley community with the goal to create public-private partnerships and a plan that can be used to address this issue. Mike O. stated that last month Olga announced a meeting with the Homeless Coalition to be held on October 27, 2011 at the park, and Mike asked for a list of invitees to this meeting. Mike O' said that SVANC's board members who joined the Homeless Coalition on the homeless count from 4am-6am was Mike O., Gary A., Monica V., Linda H., and from CD2, Mary B. and Damian C. Mike added that he would like to see more people involved when these type of efforts occur.

- Ms. Williams also stated that another issue of concern in the area is prostitution around Lankershim and San Fernando. Ms. Williams added that she and Jim Dantona, CD6 Chief of Staff, will meet with Captain Joseph Hiltner, Foothill Station, and representatives of the Mary Magdalene project to discuss this issue. The goal is to create partnerships and strategize about ways to reduce the demand for this type of activity.
- Mr. Sergio Ibarra, President of Arleta NC., extended an invitation to SVANC's board to participate in Arleta's NC events and to work together in a couple of regional projects like the high-speed rail and the MTA study on Van Nuys Blvd, which is related to transportation issues. Sergio said that in the recent past Arleta NC funded a jaws-of-life machine for Fire Station #7, and added that the NC is implementing the Arleta Healthy Communities' Initiative, which is modeled after SVANC's walking groups.

ITEM 5A: Presentation Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation. They will make a presentation regarding the status of the City's wastewater system and proposed sewer service charge rate adjustment.

- Julie Sauter, Dept. of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, made the following presentation: a "Ten Year Financial Plan for Your Wastewater System":
 - Protect the valuable infrastructure: The quality of life, health, safety and economic vitality of communities depend on clean water, and sewers and treatment facilities that work.
 - The City's waste water system comprises of 4-waste water treatment plants which are Hyperion, Donald Tillman, Los Angeles-Glendale, and Terminal Island.
 - The systems are getting older by the day, putting communities at risk for breaks, spills, odors and other major problems.
 - Treatment plant facilities have an expected 30-year life and sewers around 80 years. Based on the current budget, these can only be replaced every 168 years. Currently, of all sewer lines, about 30% of the existing sewer lines are over 80 years old; and about 50% of the existing sewer lines are over 60 years old.
 - There are approximately 125,000 sewer pipes (6,700 miles of sewer) which are cleaned annually. The sewer lines run from 4" to 13'.
 - About 800 miles of sewers are inspected using closed circuit television (CCT) each year
 - About 60 miles of aging and deteriorated sewers are restored annually
 - About 350 million gallons of wastewater are treated daily to meet federal and state clean water quality standards; About 79 million gallons are recycled along with LADWP.
 - There has not been a sewer rate increase for 14 out of the past 20 years
 - Sewer spills have been reduced by 80% since fiscal year 2001
 - Citywide, sewer related odors have been reduced drastically
 - Even though the Department's staff has been reduced by 28% since 1994, and by 14% in the last 3 years, the Department has increased efficiencies and is doing more with less
 - Emergency repairs are much more expensive than if planned ahead.
 - The Department has cut its operating costs by \$27 million in the last two years. Therefore, by tightening its belt, it has been able to meet its obligations

--BUT IT IS NOT FINISHED YET!

The need exists to sustain its successes and renew its aging systems. The Department must continue to invest an average of \$168 million a year in infrastructure. In doing so, it will:

- Rebuild and repair essential aging infrastructure
- Protect communities and neighborhoods from sewer overflows and odors
- Protect beaches and waterways
- Comply with permits and mandated water quality requirements
- Reduce the Department's financial risks and construct projects at reasonable interest rates
- Assist residents in replacing broken home sewers and connecting to the sewer system if they are using septic systems
- Create green jobs

- To support this vital investment, a 10-year financial plan has been prepared with a proposed sewer fee increase of \$28 per year for each of the next 10 years for the average L.A. family.

ITEM 5B: A presentation from the San Fernando Bike Path Team to update SVANC and the Community on where they are in the new developments of the San Fernando Rd bike path construction.

--Mr. Tim Fremaux, LADOT, Mr. Gerry Hernandez, BOE and the Bridge Improvement Program, Ms. Dee McMill, Department of Cultural Affairs/Public Art Divisions, Ms. Becky Snodgrass-Lambert, Department of Cultural Affairs

- Mr. Fremaux gave an overview of the San Fernando Rd. Bike Path project, but more specifically about the art component as it pertains to the Bridge over Tujunga Wash.
- Mr. Fremaux discussed the larger project, the overall bike path corridor and Phase 3 from Branford St. to City of Burbank which includes this bridge.
- Mr. Gerry Hernandez, Bureau of Engineering, gave an overview of the bridge itself- the length, size and components.
- Ms. Dee McMillin, Cultural Affairs Department, who along with Merge Conceptual Design—the contractor for the Art design, described the art component of the bridge project which includes decorative stamped concrete railings and a windflower.

ITEM 6A: Public Comment on matters within the Board’s subject-matter jurisdiction. Members of the public are limited to **three (3) minutes** per speaker.

- Mr. Jack Lindblad – campaigning for the State Assembly in 2012
- Mr. Bart Reed – the transit coalition (Measure “R” project)
- David Hernandez – community resident
- Virginia Beck – Sun Valley Beautiful, gave an update on the Laurel Canyon/Webb beautification project
- Eugene H.- San Fernando Valley Greens stressed the importance of creating programs and reaching out to help the homeless. Ms Eugene is also campaigning for the State Assembly in 2012
- Ricardo Benitez – community resident
- Jose Perez – Polytech H.S.

ITEM 6B: Board member comments on matters within the Board’s subject-matter jurisdiction. Board members are limited to **three (3) minutes** per speaker; and additional discussion time if request is made to place an item on an agenda of a future meeting.

-none recorded

OLD Business:

ITEM 7: Review, correct and approve minutes from our September 2011 Board meeting. (GARCIA-VALLES)

- Motion made by Imelda and seconded by Nick to approve the minutes of September 13, 2011. A discussion took place as to the corrections to be made, after which it was put up for a vote.
- The motion carried

NEW Business:

ITEM 8: Committee Reports - Outreach- Planning- Community Affairs- By-Laws —Treasurer

- Outreach Report- none
- Planning Report - none
- Community Affairs – none
- By-laws- none
- Treasurer’s September 2011 Purchase Card Transactions are the following:

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount	Purchaser
09/15/2011	Papa John’s	Pizza for August Board Meeting	\$53.60	R. Lim
09/26/2011	Time Warner	Phone and Internet (office)	\$123.56	R. Lim
		Total Spent:	\$177.16	

September 2011 Demand Warrants

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount	Purchaser
------	--------	-------------	--------	-----------

10/10/2011	Languages4you	Spanish Interpreter Services from 4/2011 to 09/2011	\$1,290.00	SVANC Board
10/10/2011	Languages4you	Minute Transcriber Services from 4/2011 to 09/2011	\$1,380.00	SVANC Board
		Total Spent:	\$2,670.00	

- Susan made the motion and was seconded by Nick was made and voted on to approve the Treasurer's report
- The motion carried

ITEM 9: Motion/Discussion/Vote to transfer Purchase Card name from Robert Lim to Mike O'Gara. Mike will handle day-to-day purchases for SVANC, while Robert will handle the development of the monthly expenditure reports. (MONROY)

- Mike O. said that the Mike O' will handle the day-to-day credit card purchases and Julie M. will handle the Demand Warrant requests from DONE, and Rob will handle all of the monthly expenditure reports.
- Mike also stated Mike O', Rob and Julie will meet at the end of October 2011 to update the budget and work on the quarterly report for the first 2011-2012 quarter.
- Susan made the motion and was seconded by Nick.
- The motion carried

ITEM 10: Motion/Discussion/Vote to participate in the 2011 SFV Veterans Day Parade. \$500 (AGGAS)

- Gary A. stated that some of SVANC's members rode in the parade and without further adieu Gary introduced Mr. Dan Rosales.
- Mr. Rosales stated that he presented an invoice and an application requesting SVANC's participation in this year's parade.
- Mr. Rosales stated that there had not been a Veteran's Day Parade in that area of the San Fernando Valley since about eight years ago; but stated that over the past few years, that same area has been celebrating the Veterans from each of the U.S. military branches by asking them to participate in the Veteran's Day Parade.
- Mr. Rosales asked for SVANC's partnership with the Veteran's Day Parade Planning Committee stating that SVANC's logo would be stamped on the event's t-shirts, which averages between 1,800 to 2,500 hundred t-shirts and are distributed to about 2,500 veterans who participate in the parade. Mr. Rosales added that the number of people along the parade route consists of approximately 10,000 attendees.
- Mike O' stated that he was going to vote against the one-time \$500 SVANC's sponsorship funds for this event. Mike reiterated that SVANC did not receive what was promised for its sponsorship of last year's event. Therefore Mr. O'Gara asked his fellow SVNAC's board members to vote against this motion since there is no hard evidence that demonstrates that this sponsorship does 'any good' for the Sun Valley community, and added that many people were unhappy with last year's parade results.
- Mr. Rosales stated that its organization has done a lot of outreach in the Sun Valley community and added that this is a Valley-wide event. It will be held on November 11, 2011, to start at 11:00 am.
- A number of other SVANC members agreed that the parade organizers gave very little or no recognition to SVANC for last year's participation in this event, such as mention on the event's flyer, the banner on the car, the event's program, etc., to which Mr. Rosales replied that he promised that this year SVANC would be duly recognized.
- Nick made the motion and was seconded by Imelda
- The motion carried with 12 in favor and 1 opposed
- The motion carried

ITEM 11: Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve SVANC writing and submitting for a \$5,000 *Block Grant* for the Sun Valley Community Gardens. (PADILLA)

- Imelda stated that community gardens are public spaces for local community members to grow produce.
- Imelda said that these proposed two-parcels of land are owned by the LADWP and Crowne Disposal will help with this development. One proposed garden is on Sheldon and Glenoaks, and the other one is being proposed on Lankershim and San Fernando Road.
- Imelda will do the outreach to create a list of residents who are interested in applying for a plot for these community gardens.
- Imelda asked SVANC to allocate \$5,000 for these developments and the funds be managed by SVANC. However, it was clarified that this ITEM is not asking SVANC to allocate these funds; instead this item is asking SVANC to approve the action of writing and submitting an application for a Block Grant from a group called CDD.
- It was suggested that Imelda get together with Olga A., CD6, to further analyze and clarify the block-grant application writing process.
- No action taken on this item.

ITEM 12: PUBLIC COMMENT – none

ITEM 13: Adjournment – a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 08:50 PM.