

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Quyen Vo-Ramirez
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Hiral Bhakta
and Don Neal
TREASURER: Randall Kelly
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Nick Krall



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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Minutes of the
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 23, 2012**

at Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall, 13050 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President of Communications Don Neal called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Cheri Blose, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Rosemary Jenkins, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Liz Meher, Don Neal, George Ortega, Jeanne Rowe, Enrique Segura, Chris Shows and Roy Smith. Hiral Bhakta arrived later. Board Members absent: Quyen Vo-Ramirez (excused). Three Board seats (Retail, Industrial and Renter) were vacant. Also attending: 23 Stakeholders and Guests.

Sixteen of the 18 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11, so the Board could take such votes.

3. Minutes Approval

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 26, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

4. Housekeeping, Stakeholder Comments, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper.

Mr. Neal explained the above.

5. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Officer Menchaca's report.] Sylmar High School Assistant Principal Freddy Ortiz (818.833.3700+1+8; FXO8969@lausd.net; www.SylmarHS.org) welcomed everyone. There will be a Public School Choice 3.0 Meeting here this Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; he explained two school proposals that will be presented.

6. Public Officials, Community Representatives and Board Member

Announcements and Presentations.

Manny Figueras, Constituent Svcs. Rep. for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Manny.Figueras@LACity.org), announced that the City Bureau of Street Lighting reports a lot of copper wire theft, causing street lights to be out. He distributed and reviewed proposed City Council Redistricting maps.

John Lonergan, LAPD Mission Division (south/west of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0610; office 818-838-9848; 31304@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), reported a slight crime increase over last year, mostly property crimes, especially burglary and theft from motor vehicles. Copper is also being stripped from homes; other metals are also being stolen, including manhole covers.

Alonzo Menchaca, LAPD Mission Division (north/east of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0619; office 818-838-9846; 36178@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), reported that burglary from motor vehicles is the “biggest crime” and “way up” in his area, though overall crime is slightly down. If a stranger knocks on your door, make some noise to indicate that someone is home. He explained crime statistics.

[This announcement was made after the Host welcome.] Mr. Neal reported that, at last night’s Olive Festival Meeting, L.A. County said they will support the concept of the Festival with modifications. There will be a Community Meeting March 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the L.A. Mission College Campus Center; the County is planning to cut down more than 50 trees at El Cariso Park to make space for two soccer fields. Mr. Krall announced the May 19th-20th, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. 6th annual Sylmar Relay for Life [www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCA] cancer research and services fundraiser.

Board Member Hiral Bhakta arrived at this time.

Ms. Jenkins announced the April Phoenix House Global Youth Project; the Sylmar High School horticulture competition; and the April 7th 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Spring Egg Hunt at the Sylmar Recreation Center. Also, the February 25th Fire Station painting completion and Library landscaping completion projects are postponed. Mr. Laufer announced that the Southland Regional Association of Realtors “pressured” the City to not transfer responsibility for sidewalks repair to homeowners. He described different proposals and ideas.

Mr. Neal turned Chairmanship of the Meeting over to Mr. Bhakta at this time.

Mr. Bhakta announced the February 29th Mayor’s Budget Survey submission deadline.

7. Public Comments

Stakeholder Mack Hunter, El Cajon St. Block Captain, said that residents are opposed to construction of the proposed Lakeside Park. Encinitas Ave. between Cobalt and Larkspur needs resurfacing; there is a large pothole and frequently

pooled water. Ms. Jenkins recommended contacting Nazario Saucedo, Director, L.A. Bureau of Street Services (213-847-3333; www.LACity.org/boss). Mr. Figueras said that Street Services will try to fix the pothole, however, their Valley crew is down from more than 30 to five. Mr. Neal indicated that proposed Lakeside Park information has been on the SNC website for more than one year; Mr. Figueras noted that there have been Community Meetings; and Mr. Bhakta reported that the SNC supports the Park and Community Meeting attendees “mostly supported” it.

Bart Reed, Transit Coalition Executive Director (818-362-7997; Bart.Reed@TheTransitCoalition.us; www.TransitCoalition.org), announced a CSUN Transportation Tiger Team and introduced Gail Pitters, who described Team work to “get community consensus” regarding various projects; the Team will survey Sylmar residents by e-mail, phone and in person regarding local bus service.

8. Reports

Secretary

The Secretary reported on recent work regarding the City Redistricting process; the Mayor’s Budget Survey; the Sylmar Olive Festival; ordering for Board Members’ nameplates and badges; signing up for e-police e-mails; a State Agriculture Dept. Notice; ordering Board Members’ business cards; community facilities funding and space availability; the Lakeside Park project DEIR; and more.

Treasurer/Budget

Mr. Kelly deferred to below Item #16.

Land Use

Mr. Smith reported about the February 6th City denial of a Conditional Use Permit to install a cell tower at 13665 Polk St.

Outreach

Mr. Neal indicated that there was no further report.

Election

Mr. Laufer said that there was no report.

Public Safety and Services

Mr. Shows said that there was no report.

Green

Ms. Jenkins said that there was no report.

Equestrian

Mr. Benitez encouraged outreaching about the March 8th, 6:30 p.m. Committee Meeting. Ms. Blose reported that the Stetson Ranch project will be discussed at the Meeting.

Mr. Bhakta added that all SNC Committee Meetings are held at the Sylmar Recreation Center, Susan B. Anthony Bldg. and reviewed the schedule [see www.SylmarNC.org].

Bylaws

Mr. Bhakta relayed that Ms. Vo-Ramirez said there was no report.

Additional Reports, requested by the President

There were no additional reports.

Unfinished Business

9. **Report and discussion on possible action** to fill vacant seats on the SNC Board of Directors (Industrial Rep., Renter Rep. and Retail Rep.).
There were no candidates at this time.

New Business

10. **Discussion and possible action** [see below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the Sylmar Recreation Center's Annual Spring Egg Hunt on April 7, 2012 in financial partnership in an amount not to exceed \$500 towards supplies such as baskets, candy, gift bags, games and face paint.

DISCUSSION: Markus Bruder, Sylmar Recreation Center Director (818.367.5656; Markus.Bruder@LACity.org), introduced himself, distributed fliers and described a girls softball event, a youth baseball league and the Spring Egg Hunt. Mr. Kelly assured that funding is available.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 14 in favor; Ms. Blose opposed; Mr. Ortega abstained.

11. **Discussion and possible action** [see below Motion].

Mr. Bhakta referred to the distributed maps and described proposed boundaries and implications. Mr. Krall supports the planned realignment.

MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter to the City of Los Angeles Redistricting Commission to maintain City Council District 7 boundaries as currently drawn.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Laufer was concerned that consolidating horse owners under one City Council District gives horse owners less power than having two City Councilmembers representing them. Ms. Blose believed that it is better to have horse owners in one City Council District because the Councilmember can be more dedicated to equestrian issues. Mr. Ortega described a way for an equestrian or any interest group to outreach and empower themselves.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Kelly); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with nine in favor; four opposed; three abstained.

Mr. Bhakta requested and Mr. Ortega and Mr. Laufer agreed to draft the letter.

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

12. Discussion and possible action [see below Motion].

Mr. Bhakta described that Ms. Vo-Ramirez secured the kits.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Krall): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will host a first aid and/or CPR class for our community, date and location to be determined, and allocate funding in the amount of \$500 towards class fees. Attendance would be on a first-come first-serve basis and participants would receive an emergency kit sponsored by Fire Station 91.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Kelly assured that funding is available and would be used to pay instructors and possibly for workbooks. Board Members expressed support for the class. Mr. Ortiz offered Sylmar High School as a class location.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Kelly); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

13. Discussion and possible action [see below Motion].

Mr. Ortiz announced the Sylmar High School “Good Food” Beautification Day. There will be 5K and 1K runs from L.A. Mission College to the High School. Jennie Carey, Community School Coordinator, Sylmar Neighborhood Partnership (818-833.3706; JCarey@laep.org; <http://www.laep.org/sylmar>), stated that the goal is for around 100-125 students to participate. She described event needs; “outreach is quite large” and all activities will be at the High School.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Martin): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the Mayor’s Day of Service “Good Food Day” in the amount of \$560 towards water bottles for volunteers on March 31, 2012.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carey said the City indicated it may only contribute up to \$1,000. Dan Rosales, Jr., Planning Deputy for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Dan.Rosales@LACity.org), offered to arrange a water donation. It was clarified that bottled water, not water bottles, were being requested.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Kelly); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 10 in favor and three opposed (Laufer, Ortega, Smith).

[The rest of this Agenda Item was addressed after Item #14.]

MOTION TO RECONSIDER (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Krall): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will reconsider the [above] Item #13 funding Motion regarding supporting the Mayor’s Day of Service “Good Food Day” in the amount of \$560 towards water bottles for volunteers on March 31, 2012.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Neal explained that the Item #13 Motion did not clearly indicate for what the funds would be used. It was again clarified that bottled water, not water bottles, were being requested. Also, Neighborhood Councils are not allowed to donate funds and the request did not specify what item(s) were being requested, so bottled water was chosen to fund.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER PASSED by a hand vote with 14 in favor; one abstained.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the Mayor's Day of Service "Good Food Day" in the amount of \$560 towards paper cups for volunteers on March 31, 2012.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Jenkins); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor and three opposed (Laufer, Ortega, Smith).

14. Discussion and possible action [see below Motion].

Mr. Ortiz described the project and community benefits and displayed a diagram of the proposed "Drug-free Sylmar" mural.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Krall): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the Mural Project at Sylmar High School on March 31, 2012 in financial partnership in an amount not to exceed \$220 towards paint and painting materials.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Kelly indicated that funding will be made available. Mr. Bhakta reminded that water donors could be sought so that funding could otherwise be used. Mr. Ortiz said the SNC name would be promoted and reported that Principal Jan Lyons approved the mural design.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Kelly); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with nine in favor including Mr. Bhakta, three opposed (Laufer, Ortega, Smith) and three abstained.

15. Discussion and possible action to

A. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #15. B.] [See below Motion.] The site is zoned (T)(Q)RD6-1 and (T)(Q)RD6-1 on 2.8 acres.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves, with appropriate dedications, street improvements and provision of 114 parking spaces, of the City Zoning Administrator's decision to allow at 13233, 13249 and 13263 Wheeler Avenue the construction, use, addition and maintenance of a Senior Housing Development comprising two four-story buildings: one with 95 units of senior independent housing; the second with 58 units of assisted living care housing.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith explained the “significant need” for senior housing. The Applicant has presented to the Committee and made accommodations. Even a Stakeholder strongly in favor of a nearby proposed Charter School supports this project. Access and egress would both be on Hubbard St. An Applicant representative displayed a project diagram. The previous proposal was for 300 homes. Mr. Neal was concerned regarding traffic impact and previous community opposition to other area projects. Mr. Ortega explained that the project can prompt the City to make street improvements that would smooth traffic flow. Ms. Blöse added that the Sylmar Homeowners Association supports the project.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 11 in favor; five opposed; one abstained.

B. [This Agenda Item was addressed after the last part of Item #13.] [See below Motion.]

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves of a Conditional Use Permit for a restaurant under construction at 14117 Hubbard Street for on-site sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages with an addition of 360 s.f. of indoor-outdoor patio space, for a total of 6,428 s.f. and 287 seats with live entertainment.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ortega distributed a handout regarding and described the project. Mr. Rosales said the Councilman’s Office met with the LAPD Vice Squad to “work out some conditions” and the applicant has “done the due diligence they need to do.” Mr. Krall reported that the Committee considered this project three or four years ago and that this request is just to establish a liquor license. Mr. Smith added that the dance floor condition was renewed.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 14 in favor; two abstained (Kelly, Segura).

16. Discussion and possible action to approve SNC Purchasing Card expenditures for January 2012.

Mr. Bhakta recommended and it was agreed to Table this Item until the March 22, 2012 General Board Meeting.

17. Appointments of Committee Chairs by the President

Mr. Bhakta recommended and it was agreed to Table this Item until the March 22, 2012 General Board Meeting.

18. Board Member Comments

Ms. Blöse will be unable to attend the March 22nd General Board Meeting. Mr. Martin encouraged attending the Public School Choice 3.0 Meeting here this Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Room Nine.

19. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

Mr. Bhakta announced the next General Board Meeting will be here Thursday, March 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

20. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Mr. Bhakta declared and the Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.