

**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**

13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

Telephone: (818) 833-8737

Fax: (818) 833-8707

E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org

Website: www.SylmarNC.org

Office Administrator: David Levin

Minutes of the  
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)**  
**GENERAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, June 28, 2012**

at the Church of the Foothills, 13425 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Hiral Bhakta, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Laurie Fadness, Rosemary Jenkins, Randall Kelly, Martin Laufer, Derek Martin, Liz Meher, Kristin Mills, George Ortega, Chris Shows and Quyen Vo-Ramirez. Cheri Blose and Don Neal arrived later. Board Members absent: Nick Krall, Sherry Lincoln, Jeanne Rowe, Enrique Segura, and Roy Smith (all excused). One Board seat (Industrial) was vacant. Also attending: 38 Stakeholders and Guests.

Thirteen of the 20 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. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 24, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

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

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

Mr. Bhakta explained the above.

**5. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.**

Meeting Host Barbara Winslow welcomed everyone and invited them to services every Sunday at 9:30 in English and at 4:00 in Spanish. She recognized Sylmar High School Teacher Steve List and other volunteers for creating a community garden at the Church.

*Board Member Don Neal arrived at this time.*

## **6. Public Officials, Community Representatives and Board Member Announcements and Presentations.**

Ms. Vo-Ramirez temporarily turned the Meeting Chairmanship to Mr. Bhakta, who recognized Ms. Winslow with a Certificate of Appreciation for providing these Meeting locations and for many other community services. Mr. Bhakta then turned the Chairmanship back to Ms. Vo-Ramirez.

There was a moment of silence in honor of recently passed Sylmar Recreation Center Director Markus Bruder.

Manny Figueras, Constituent Svcs. Rep. for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Manny.Figueras@LACity.org), reminded that fireworks are illegal in the City and of the fire danger. The City Council approved a \$500,000 sidewalk repair program for the northeast Valley and a horse licensing Motion to encourage horse licensing registration.

Tania Soto, Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes (818-504-3911; Tania.Soto@asm.ca.gov), distributed copies of and described "Assembly Bill 2231: Sidewalks: repairs."

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](http://www.LAPDonline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station)), reported that crime is down 8%, though there is still a lot of theft from vehicles. He explained that calls for help, including about fireworks, have to be prioritized.

Mr. Figueras also encouraged contacting the LAPD at (818) 734-2223 about loud parties and reminded that the City Noise Ordinance applies 24-7, all day every day; the LAPD may write a "Loud Party ticket." Also, foreclosed and other empty properties are being used for "fly parties" that attract people from all over the City; contact the police if this is happening.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reminded about the third annual Race for Youth August 30<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the MB2 Raceway [13943 Balboa Blvd., Sylmar CA 91342]. The fundraiser is a go-cart race; public safety officials will drive. Last year \$14,000 was raised for police Jeopardy, Cadet and boot camp programs. Also, the SNC will have a First Aid class later this year. Stakeholders who show their CPR or First Aid training completion card can receive one free emergency kit from the SNC.

## **7. Public Comments**

Jane Burke, CPAB (Community Police Advisory Board) Member, announced Officer Appreciation Day, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Mission Division. Eugene Hernandez, L.A. Mission College Citizens Advisory Committee Member, encouraged Stakeholders to contact the Community College District to release funding to finish the Student Services Building at the College.

8. **Presentation** regarding 2012 Neighborhood Council Elections.  
Glenn Bailey, a Neighborhood Council Independent Election Administrator (IEA) [Glenn@EmpowerLA.org; 818-293-8683; Elections@EmpowerLA.org], described how City timelines and decision-making resulted in a “compressed schedule” for the August 4<sup>th</sup> Election. He urged more Stakeholders to become Candidates and visiting www.EmpowerLA.org to see Election documents. He described the Candidate filing process, which can be completed online, faxed, U.S. Mailed or hand delivered.

9. **Discussion and possible action** to [see below Motion].  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10. b.] Mr. Laufer, SNC Election Chair, explained the proposed allocation. Ms. Vo-Ramirez described outreach that has already begun. There was discussion regarding the ad and its cost. Mr. Kelly noted that additional Election costs will be allocated from next Fiscal Year’s Budget.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Kelly): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocates \$756 in funding for the SNC’s share of a \$6,000 ad shared by eight northeast San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Councils in the Daily News newspaper on June 4 and August 4, 2012.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 14 in favor; one opposed.

10. **Discussion and possible action** to [see the below Motions]:  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.]

a. August 4, 2012 SNC Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet approval.  
Mr. Bailey distributed copies of “Candidate Guidelines” and the “2012 Candidate Filing Form.” There was extensive discussion resulting in the following Motion.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benitez, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves, as noted in the SNC Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet, having its Election on August 4, 2012 from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Sylmar Recreation Center. Candidates would be verified by “documentation” and Stakeholders 14 and older by “self-affirmation.” There would be no vote-by-mail.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 14 in favor.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez clarified that “documentation” refers to being a Sylmar Stakeholder and that a Candidate does not have to be a U.S. citizen.

b. Election outreach plan approval.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Jenkins): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its SNC Election Procedures Outreach Plan.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 14 in favor.

11. **Reports**  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.]

### Secretary

The Secretary reported on recent work facilitating and forwarding Agendizing and funding requests; updating the Stakeholder database; providing August 4th Neighborhood Council Election information; facilitating August 30th Race for Youth flier design; providing SNC Minutes, Bylaws and website references to and for various subjects; fact-checking and coordinating Website information; and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- Mr. Kelly deferred to below Item #s 12 and 13.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega indicated that there was no report.

### Outreach

Mr. Neal invited the SNC to meet at L.A. Mission College's Culinary Arts Institute. The Sylmar Olive Festival will be held September 1-3 at El Cariso Park.

*Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.*

### Election

Mr. Laufer reported that the SNC Election is scheduled for Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 1:00 – 7:00 at the Sylmar Recreation Center.

### Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services

Mr. Bhakta reported that the DWP has proposed a rate increase.

### Green

Ms. Jenkins indicated that there was no report.

### Equestrian

Ms. Blose reported that Anita Cerna [Planning Assistant, L.A. Department of City Planning; 818-374-5042; www.Planning@LACity.org], brought "the first stage of the equestrian re-zoning" plan to the Committee; Sylmar and other horse-owning communities are in danger of losing equestrian land.

### Bylaws

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] has a moratorium on Bylaws changes.

### Additional Reports, requested by the President

There were no additional reports.

## **Additional Unfinished Business**

**12. Discussion and possible action** to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Kelly distributed and reviewed copies of the US Bank Purchasing Card statements of 5-21-12 and 6-21-12.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its purchasing card expenditures of May and June 2012.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 14 in favor.

**13. Discussion and possible action** to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Kelly distributed copies of and reviewed the "Proposed [SNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013." The City reduced the Annual Budget to \$37,000. DONE returned \$1,605 improperly charged, so available funding will be \$38,605.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its proposed Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget as presented.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Laufer "would like to see a lot more money spent on community improvements." Mr. Kelly explained some proposed funding.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 14 in favor; one abstained.

**New Business**

**14. Presentation** on I-5 corridor improvements as it relates to Sylmar.

Caltrans Representative Claudia Mejia (ClaudiaMejia@hillintl.com; <http://www.dot.ca.gov>) described the 118-170 Freeways project "reconstructing the 118-170 bridge connector" and other improvements. Maps and other information are available. The connector "will be completed on schedule in 2014."

**15. Discussion and possible action** to [see below Motion].

Stakeholder Krisna Crawford-Velasco described the event.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Ms. Campbell-Jones): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the Independence Day Fourth of July City Council District Seven Celebration at Hansen Dam with financial partnership not to exceed \$500 toward the audio system.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Kelly was concerned that the SNC has asked in previous years for this presentation to be made to a Committee, but again it has been made to the Board. He also noted that the SNC is already listed on event material as a co-sponsor but has not voted, and that there has been trouble getting previous invoices paid due to last-minute requirements.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with seven in favor; two opposed; four abstained.

**Recess.** There was a brief recess at this time.

**16. Discussion and possible action** to submit a letter to Los Angeles City

Council/Member to finish bus stop landing pads at intersections of Hubbard St. at Dronfield St., Glenoaks Blvd. at Cobalt St., and also Glenoaks Blvd. at Bledsoe St. Presentation by Bart Reed Transit Coalition – Tiger Team.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez requested and it was agreed to Table this Item.

**17. Discussion and possible action** to [see below Motion].

**MOTION** (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will write a letter of support for AB 2231 regarding sidewalk, etc. repair responsibility.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Jenkins described the bill and issue.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 11 in favor; two abstained.

**18. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Bhakta encouraged working together for the August 4<sup>th</sup> Election. Ms. Vo-Ramirez reviewed Election outreach. She also announced that Mr. Smith requested and has been granted a Leave of Absence.

**19. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date**

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced the next General Board Meeting on Thursday, July 26th at 6:30 p.m. at Concordia Jr./Sr. High School, 13570 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar.

**20. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 8:53 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.