

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Don Neal  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: George Ortega  
and Kristin Mills  
TREASURER: Chris Shows  
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jose Oliva



**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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Minutes of the  
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, January 30, 2014**

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

SNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

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

President Don Neal called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Neal.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Fifteen of the 19 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Ricardo Benitez, Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Ann Job, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Kristin Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, George Ortega, Rubi Ramirez, Patricia Rau, Chris Shows and Diane Valencia. Laurie Fadness and Roy Smith arrived later. Board Members absent: Jose Oliva and Chardell Powell (both unexcused). The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11 (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Sylmar-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled. Two Board Seats (Industrial and Retail) were vacant. Also attending: 34 Stakeholders and Guests.

**3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper** – Mr. Neal explained this.

**4. Welcome, Introduction, and Announcements by Board Meeting Host.**

Meeting Host Mr. Martin welcomed everyone and described local High School activities.

**5. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Neal requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

**6. Public Officials and Community Representatives announcements and presentations.**

Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; [Tania.Soto@LACity.org](mailto:Tania.Soto@LACity.org); <http://CD7.LACity.org>), described the public

safety need for more Neighborhood Watches. Help is available, including at the CD7 Office [at 14117 Hubbard St., #D-1, by Glenoaks in Sylmar].

*Board Member Laurie Fadness arrived at this time.*

**7. Board Member community announcements.**

Mr. Neal reported a tortoise beetle infestation of trees in El Cariso Park. Mr. Benitez reported on the good police response to a tragedy this morning.

**8. Reports**

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work for the March 8th Election and Meeting location communications, the website, Board Member e-mail accounts, community project volunteers, the Board Members Roster and List, business cards and phone service invoices, land use documents and more.

Treasurer/Budget – Mr. Shows deferred to below Item #11.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega reported that the Committee met; Sakaida & Sons Trucking made public comments about their proposed mining project above Gavina Ave., which Mr. Ortega described. It was explained that there had been no need to Agendize that at that Meeting; it was only public comment.

Outreach – Mr. Benitez reported that there was a Cesar Chavez Day celebration in Pacoima.

Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services -- Mr. Shows indicated that there was no report.

Equestrian -- Ms. Blose announced a February 15th community horse ride event at Stetson Ranch sponsored by City Council District Seven; it will be on the SNC website and Facebook.

Bylaws -- Mr. Martin indicated that there was no report.

Election – Ms. Job reported that “the filing process has been completed . . . 18 new people are running for Seats.”

President – Mr. Neal reported that there are a total of 38 SNC Election Candidates.

Ad Hoc Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal – Ms. Valencia reported that the Lopez Flood Control Basin is being filled due to the L.A. County Dept. of Public Works “annual cleanup process,” scheduled to soon end.

**9. Public Comments**

Non-Board Member Candidates for the March 8<sup>th</sup> SNC Election [see <http://empowerla.org/snc/sylmar-nc-2014-elections> for more information] introduced themselves and described their backgrounds, community services and interests. They were: Christian Rubalcava, Eugene Hernandez, Kathy Grubert, Emily

Rubalcava, Jeh Meher, Wally Aguilar, Brenda Resendis, Jackie Mata, Ashley Noble, Les Aisenman, Lucille Floresta, Jeanne Shamin and Carlos Lara. There will be a Candidates Forum by February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Jack Lindblad, 39th District State Assembly Green Party Candidate, was concerned about watershed pollution. Stakeholder Michael Carpenter, a Sakaida & Sons Trucking consultant, stated that it is their “intention to have a community meeting in the near future.” Don Sakaida, whose father is the Sakaida & Sons Principal, said they are “looking forward to working with the community.” Stakeholder Mikaela Chapman announced and described the “Relay for Life” Cancer Walk-a-Thon 24-hour event [[www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCA](http://www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCA)] on Saturday-Sunday May 17-18, 2014 at Olive Vista Middle School. Mr. Aisenman believed that the SNC Land Use Committee did not allow comments on the Sakaida & Sons comments at that Meeting. Stakeholder Dan Feinberg encouraged participating in L.A. County Dept. of Public Works public meetings [see <http://dpw.LACounty.gov/care>] about Pacoima Reservoir sediment dumping.

*Board Member Roy Smith arrived around this time.*

### **Old Business**

#### **10. Discussion and possible vote** [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Campbell-Jones, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will purchase a redesign and update of our website, with upgrade to “mobile responsive”, to address growing ability to reach a constituency of mobile phone users, and to assist with Sylmar NC Outreach & Sylmar NC Elections, not to exceed \$3,500.

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

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with ten in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benitez, Bloom, Blose, Campbell-Jones, Job, Mills, Don Neal, Ortega, Shows and Valencia), five opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fadness, Lincoln, Judi Neal, Rau and Smith) and one abstention (Ramirez).

### **New Business**

#### **11. Discussion and possible vote** to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Neal explained the need.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Lincoln, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its monthly recurring operational expenses (phone, office supplies, meeting supplies, Secretary only) for the months of July 2013 to December 2013 (3rd & 4th qtrs). One is auto-deducted by the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment.

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

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benitez, Bloom, Blöse, Campbell-Jones, Fadness, Job, Lincoln, Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Ortega, Ramirez, Rau, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

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

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Campbell-Jones): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves renewal of our internet domain names. The renewal is due by April 18th, in an amount not to exceed \$36.00, for one year to renew domain names.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Shows confirmed that this is to renew both SNC domain names [<http://www.sylmarneighborhoodcouncil.org> and [www.SylmarNC.org](http://www.SylmarNC.org)].

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benitez, Bloom, Blöse, Campbell-Jones, Fadness, Job, Lincoln, Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Ortega, Ramirez, Rau, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

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

Mr. Shows distributed copies of a statement from “City of LA Publishing Services” indicating that the SNC owed them for previously printed business cards.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves payment (past due) for business cards for Outreach for Board Members in an amount not to exceed \$310.00.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benitez, Bloom, Blöse, Campbell-Jones, Fadness, Job, Lincoln, Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Ortega, Ramirez, Rau, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

**14. Presentation** by San Fernando Valley Partnership about their group’s efforts against underage drinking in the NE San Fernando Valley. Bart Trevino and Albert Melena (818.837.7767; [BTrevino@SFVP.org](mailto:BTrevino@SFVP.org); [AMelena@sfpv.org](mailto:AMelena@sfpv.org); [www.sfpv.org](http://www.sfpv.org)) presented. Mr. Trevino said “our mission is to reduce underage drinking here in Sylmar.” Mr. Melena said “it’s really a substance abuse and public policy problem.” They said a local business was seen selling single-can alcoholic beverages, a violation of their allowable Conditional Uses.

**15. Discussion and possible vote** on [see the below Motion].

**MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports its Land Use Committee recommendation to approve of a Conditional Use Permit for the installation and operation of a new wireless monopole with 12 panel antennas, 1 mw dish, 6 RRUs, 6 TMAs, 1 parabolic antenna, 3 GPS antennas, 1 emergency generator w/fuel storage and other assorted

equipment behind a new block wall at an existing truck storage facility on a 21,604 ft<sup>2</sup> site at 12438 San Fernando Road.

**DISCUSSION:** The cross-street is Astoria. Mr. Ortega distributed copies of and reviewed project documents and described the project and equipment which are to improve cell phone reception in the mixed commercial/residential area. He “circulated” information to surrounding neighbors; none appeared at the Committee Meeting except one supportive neighbor.

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

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

**16. Discussion and possible vote** on Land Use Committee Recommendation of Denial of a Conditional Use Permit /Zone Variance to have a drive-thru, and 24 hour operation, in the R-1 Zone at a proposed McDonald’s Restaurant on the 4,150 ft. site of the current “El Chaparral” restaurant at 13763 Foothill Boulevard. Mr. Neal indicated that this Item was withdrawn before this Meeting. Stakeholder Bonnie Rodger believed that “we don’t need [a McDonald’s Restaurant] next to the High School” or “four McDonald’s in Sylmar.”

**17. Discussion and possible vote** to support a resolution in opposition to the development of permanent Wash Basin Sediment Debris dump sites in the “North and South Canyons” in Sylmar next to the Pacoima Dam. The Pacoima Sediment Debris Clean Out project. Presentation by Les Aisenman. Mr. Ortega believed that this Item should first be considered by the SNC’s Ad Hoc Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal Committee.

**MOTION to DEFER to COMMITTEE** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Shows): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council DEFERS this Item #17 to its Ad Hoc Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal Committee.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Neal agreed with Mr. Ortega. Mr. Aisenman believed that the Ad Hoc Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal Committee has not met often enough. Mr. Neal requested that the Committee Agendize this Item and encouraged Mr. Aisenman to bring a resolution to the committee. Ms. Fadness and Ms. Job believed that Mr. Aisenman should be allowed to speak at this time. Ms. Job indicated that the Committee will meet within 14 days and his comments “will be taken as input.”

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION;** there were no objections.

**MOTION to DEFER to COMMITTEE PASSED** by a hand vote with 14 in favor; one opposed; two abstained.

**18. Discussion and possible vote** to write to protest the recent firing of LA Mission College Drama Professor Guillermo Aviles, who was fired after participating in a local community play event at the historical Pioneer Cemetery.

Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez presented and described Professor Aviles' community service. He stated regarding the Professor that "his colleagues have refused to grant him tenure." Mr. Hernandez considered this "essentially a firing" and wanted the SNC to support a petition protesting Professor Aviles not being granted tenure. Mr. Neal requested and Mr. Hernandez agreed to provide more information.

**MOTION to TABLE** (by Ms. Campbell-Jones, seconded by Mr. Ortega): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council TABLES this Item #18 until further information is received.

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 16 in favor; one abstained.

19. **Presentation** on possible "SNC Logo" development options for both website and mobile app.

Mr. Shows distributed copies of and explained possible logo designs. A design that Ms. Campbell-Jones "could develop . . . for free" could be incorporated into one of them. Ms. Job believed the SNC should have the public submit logo designs, possibly through a contest.

20. **Board Member Comments**

Ms. Blose announced that the City "has asked us to cut water use by 20%." Ms. Job thanked the Election Candidates for attending and counseled that serving as a Board Member is a big time commitment involving a lot of work. Mr. Neal noted that a botanist was examining El Cariso Park trees and that the County indicated that they were unaware of the activity.

20. **Future Agenda Items, Meeting date**

[The second #20 on the Agenda.] Write to Executive Board at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org, or mail Sylmar Neighborhood Council, c/o Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342. The next General Board meeting will be February 27, 2014 at Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall, 13050 Borden Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342.

19. **Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**

[The second #19 on the Agenda.]

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Fadness).

**MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED** by a voice vote with no objections.

Mr. Neal declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.