

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Ann Job

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Diane Valencia

Communications: Kathy Grubert

TREASURER: Patricia Rau

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Maria Silva

Sergeant-At-Arms: Christian Rubalcava



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GENERAL BOARD MEETING - MINUTES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall Auditorium, 13050 Borden Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342

All Minutes are a summary, not a transcript, of what was said at a meeting. The only two exceptions to this are the Motions and quotes. Minutes are not a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Ann Job called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. Derek Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call – Roll Call was taken by Patricia Rau. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council is 11.

13 of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Kathy Bloom, Peggy Courtney, Laurie Fadness, Lucille Floresta, Ann Job, Carlos Lara, Derek Martin, Dennis Orellana, Peter Postlmayr, Patricia Rau, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, and Diane Valencia.

7 Board Members were absent: Cheri Blose, Carlos Gonzalez, Kathy Grubert, Jackie Mata, Brenda Resendis, Maria Silva, and Roy Smith.

20 of the 21 Board Seats were filled. Vacant Board Seats: one Retail.

22 stakeholders and guests signed in. At least 6 other guests/stakeholders were in attendance.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Diane Valencia explained this.

4. Welcome by facility Host – Meeting Host Derek Martin of Sylmar High School welcomed everyone.

He announced that Sylmar is recognized now as the best of the best sports high school in the valley.

By May 1, Sylmar High School will learn if a charter school will be “coming on board.”

5. Approval of Minutes of the March 26, 2014 General Board Meeting

MOTION (by Christian Rubalcava, seconded by Laurie)

MOTION PASSED by a vote of the 13 board members present: 11 in favor: Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Lara, Martin abstained, Orellana, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Valencia, and Job. 2 abstentions: Lara and Martin.

6. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations

Senior Lead Officers Menchaca and Lonergan from LAPD Mission Station addressed those in attendance.

Stakeholder Steve List took the lead in praising the police actions during this morning’s officer-involved shooting in Sylmar at Glenoaks and Tyler. They asked anyone who might know about this incident to contact Mission Station. Crime is up everywhere in LA except in the Mission Division. In response to stakeholder Eugene Hernandez’s comment, SLO Menchaca told us that an independent investigation takes place whenever there is officer-involved shooting incidents. Derek Martin said that Sylmar High School conducts a different drill every month, and had a lock-down drill today that was scheduled, and not related to today’s incident.

Amanda Mejia from Mayor Garcetti’s office reported on Civic U, a three-session training program hosted by the Mayor to further educate neighborhood council members in LA city government and stress the neighborhood councils’ role in it. She mentioned the Mayor’s directive to reduce water usage in the city by 20%. She told us about the App waze for hit-and-run incidents and Amber alerts, as well as road closures. She invited us to join the Mayor in planting trees around Olive Vista Middle School on Arbor Day. Steve List pointed out that the Mayor

asked Sylmar High School to supply all the drought resistant plants that were on stage during his recent State of the City Address. Jose Castillo asked a question, for which she will have to get back to him with the answer. **Julio Anleu from LAUSD Board, Monica Ratliff's representative** presented updates: Job Fair to be held on 5/8. Ms. Ratliff will meet with Sylmar High School regarding the 4th of July fireworks display. The School Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 1 to 4.

Angelica Ayala, LA County Supervisor Kuehl's representative for the San Fernando Valley came to introduce herself.

Councilmember Felipe Fuentes arrived around 7:15 (50) and spoke for about minutes. He announced (1) that the Sylmar Community Plan is now being moved forward again; (2) there is a motion before the City Council to create a new committee for homelessness on which he has volunteered to serve; (3) there will be a 4th of July fireworks display at Sylmar High School this year. This will support Sylmar High School, and serve to discourage illegal fireworks in Sylmar. In response to a comment by Stakeholder Dan Feinberg about the High Speed Rail, he stated that he think that no route yet is worthy yet of our consideration. Further he asserted that the absolutely worse option would be the 14/5 alternative which is at grade and bifurcates Sylmar, San Fernando, Pacoima, and Sun Valley. When the Authority presents the options they consider to be worthy, the City of LA can lodge its opinion in the legal part of the record. To stakeholder Kelli Land's question regarding solar farms, he told us that because of our large parcels 18 of the 24 applications for the feed-in-tariff program are in our District. The City successfully challenged the State, which was working with a 1977 statute that assumed that all solar projects are good, and did not provide protection for municipalities. Now there is an amendment to the Statute, so now in the City of LA, every ground mounted solar project must go through the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process. As a consequence out of state developers are suing the City and the City is fighting back. David Levin thanked Councilmember Fuentes and Mayor Representative Mejia for being a part of the City's effort to get the Veterans Administration West LA Campus to meet their obligation by providing housing for veterans.

Ricardo Benitez, representing Assemblymember Patty Lopez, told us that of the 14 bills she has presented in the Assembly, 7 bills passed. President Ann Job commended Assemblymember Lopez for holding a meeting for neighborhood council presidents of neighborhood councils to meet with her Deputy of Legislation.

7. Committee Reports

Executive Committee – nothing specific to report

Budget Committee – Patricia Rau – announced the upcoming quarterly budget meeting

Outreach Committee – Kathy Bloom chaired the last Outreach Committee in Maria Silva's absence, and called for volunteers for both Relay for Life and Make Your Horse Count

Equestrian Committee – Cheri Blose - absent

Bylaws Committee – in Roy Smith's absence Diane Valencia stressed that the Board needs to meet in order to make the May 1st deadline to have our Bylaws back to DONE in response to their feedback.

Planning & Land Use Committee – Peter Postlmayr – there was no business, so meeting was not held.

Government Affairs & City Services – Christian Rubalcava – nothing to report

Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety Committee – Chardell Powell absent

Ad Hoc Sediment Removal Committee – Kathy Grubert absent

Underserved Stakeholders Committee – Peggy Courtney - the committee met and two guest speakers will be at next month's meeting.

- 11. Presentation** to champion and showcase new retail businesses in Sylmar. (out of order to accommodate Mr. Pena) Dennis Orellana, our new retail rep, invited Victor Pena to speak to us about his having opened up a restaurant in Sylmar, the Crunchy Crab on Glenoaks at Polk. He is licensed to serve beer and wine.

8. Reports by Liaisons to the City

Budget Representatives – Patricia Rau – the Budget is being sent to the City Council

Department of Public Works – Ann Job – Kevin James, President of the LA City Department of Public Works Commission, will come to the SNC to report to us at a time to be determined.

Legal / City Attorney – Diane Valencia – there is nothing to report

9. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction

David Levin was allowed 4 minutes, stakeholder George Ortega having relinquished his time to Mr.

Levin. Others who spoke did so within the 2 minute limitation: Stakeholders: John Holmes, Steve List, Randall Curtis, Eugene Hernandez, Marti Marshall, Dan Feinberg, and Les Aisenman.

10. Discussion and review of the “Make Your Horse Count” event, being held on May 16, 2015, at Stetson Ranch from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Volunteers needed. In the absence of Cheri Blose, Kellie Land member of the Equestrian committee made the presentation.

13. RECESS

12. Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action relative to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) policy regarding the Code of Conduct, Commissioner Grant could not make this meeting because the President had not been clear enough in the invitation to Ms. Grant. Diane Valencia took this opportunity to tell us that the SNC is in full compliance with BONC’s Code of Conduct.

14. Discussion of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Bylaws regarding absences.

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Bylaws, dated January 26, 2014

Article V, Section 7 (Absences)

Diane Valencia read: "Any Board Member who misses three (3) regularly scheduled consecutive Board Meetings during any twelve (12) month period will be automatically removed from the Board. Each Council Board Member absence shall be recorded in the Council's meeting minutes or other manner of Council record keeping, and that, upon missing the required number of Board meeting for removal, the President shall notify the Board Member of the absences and place on the agenda the removal of the Board Member at a regular or special Board meeting whereupon the Board shall determine the validity of the absences before taking action to remove the Board Member."

15. Discussion & possible Board action to remove Boardmember Carlos Lara, per Article V, Section 7 (Absences) of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Bylaws, dated January 26, 2014.

Board member Carlos Lara spoke in his own behalf.

MOTION (by Fadness, seconded by Orellana) to Remove Boardmember Carlos Lara

DISCUSSION: other board members and stakeholders spoke about Mr. Lara and the process. David Levin challenged the board, asserting that this item should not have been put on the agenda. Stakeholder Les Aisenman asserted that this council is right in following the Bylaws, that Bylaws are not discretionary. Patricia Rau called for the vote.

MOTION FAILED by a vote of the 13 board members present: 0 in favor; 13 Against: Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Lara, Martin, Orellana, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Valencia, and Job. 0 abstaining.

Mr. Lara remains on the Board.

16. Discussion & possible Board action to remove Boardmember Chardell Powell, per Article V, Section 7 (Absences) of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Bylaws, dated January 26, 2014. Mr. Powell has resigned due to the illness of his wife, and is effective immediately. Therefore this item is tabled.

17. Discussion and possible Board action to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for April, 2015

MOTION (by Christian Rubalcava; seconded by Diane Valencia)

DISCUSSION was held.

MOTION PASSED by a vote of the 13 board members present: (9) in favor: Bloom, Courtney, Floresta, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Valencia, and Job. (2) Against: Fadness and Shows; (2) Abstaining: Lara and Orellana

18. Treasurer's Report

- 19. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.00 for a Public Address system, including but not limited to a mixer, speakers, speaker stands, receiver, wireless microphone package and related equipment.

Diane Valencia provided a spreadsheet to show the items for consideration for our PA system. The spreadsheet specified the 3 vendors being considered.

MOTION (by Rubalcava, seconded by Rau)

DISCUSSION was held. Rubalcava called for the vote.

MOTION PASSED by a vote of the 13 board members present: (12) in favor: Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Martin, Orellana, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Valencia, and Job. (0) Against; (1) Abstaining: Lara

- 20. Discussion and possible Board action** to select a vendor for the Public Address system.

Diane Valencia provided us with a spreadsheet of the 3 vendors being considered. One vendor Cassell's Music suggests a package that would save us money while expanding our capabilities. The mixer will have 8 inputs (allowing for our 7 mikes). Also he suggested a digital recorder be tied into the mixer. This vendor will also give us training at our board meeting.

MOTION (by Valencia, seconded by Martin) to approve Cassell's Music as the vendor of choice for the public address system; to purchase the system as outlined in the quote in an amount not to exceed \$1,800.00 to cover any additional small items.

DISCUSSION was held, and Valencia stated that she had negotiated a last and final best price with Cassell's Music.

MOTION PASSED by a vote of the 13 board members present: (10) in favor: Bloom, Courtney, Floresta, Martin, Orellana, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Valencia, and Job; (2) Against Fadness and Shows; (1) Abstaining: Lara

- 21. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$300.00 for a new Sylmar Neighborhood Council Banner for events.

Kathy Bloom made the presentation in Maria Silva's absence.

MOTION (by Bloom, seconded by Fadness)

DISCUSSION was held discussing that this is for one banner, and might well be mesh, because of the wind situation in Sylmar. The banner would come out of Outreach. Carlos Lara called for the question.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote of the 13 board members present: (13) in favor: Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Lara, Martin, Orellana, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Valencia, and Job; (0) Against; (0) Abstaining

- 22. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$150.00 for a Sylmar NC insert/ad in the program for the Los Angeles Mission College Chicano Studies Graduation on May 15, 2015.

Professor Jose Maldonado told us that the funds would go for a book grant to the graduates.

MOTION (by Lara, seconded by Fadness)

DISCUSSION was offered, but seeing no discussion the vote was taken.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote of the 13 board members present: (12) in favor: Bloom, Fadness, Floresta, Lara, Martin, Orellana, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Valencia, and Job; (0) Against; (1) Abstaining: Courtney

23. **Board Member Community Announcements.** – due to lack of time, omitted.
 24. **Board Member Comments** - due to lack of time, omitted.
 25. **Future Agenda item suggestions from public and Board members** – due to lack of time, omitted.
 26. **Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment.** Job moved to adjourn; seconded by Fadness. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 10:00.
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