

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village  
Board Meeting  
05-26-04**

**Approved 12-0, June 23, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by NCVV President Peter Sanchez at 6:31 pm.

Mr. Sanchez thanked all of those in attendance, and explained to function of Neighborhood Council and how the program benefits the community. Mr. Sanchez noted that the agenda for the evening is full, and expressed his desire to spend considerable time on the budget, the issue of inclusionary zoning, and a visit from Wendy Greuel.

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcoming Remarks.** Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to call roll. Board members in attendance were: Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Ms. Debra (D.J.) Harner (cultural organization), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (community senior organization), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), Ms. Jody Hidey (residential homeowner), Ms. Ann Hull (business), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Mr. Tom Paterson (residential renter)(arrived at 6:46 pm), Mr. Chris Pechin (residential homeowner), Mr. Nick Pool (business), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Dr. Daniel Wiseman (faith based). Board member excused absent was Ms. Breice Reiner (community service organization). Board member absent was Mr. Walter Katz (residential renter).

Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to call the agenda posting roll for the May meeting. Beth Hillel Temple, (Mr. Simen), yes; Shaarey Zedek Congregation, (Dr. Wiseman), yes; The Hemster, (Ms. Hidey), yes; East Valley Senior Center, (Ms. Hatfield), yes; Jon's Market, (Mr. O'Connor), no; Steven's Nursery, (Mr. Simen), yes; Valley Photo, (Ms. Hull), no; Marie et Cie, (Mr. O'Connor), yes; Bank of America, (Mr. Braswell), yes; Botique Voila, (Ms. Hull), no; 7-11, (Mr. Pool), no; Newspapers, (Ms. Reiner), yes.

Mr. O'Connor asked about the actual location for posting agendas, stating he was not sure where the agenda was posted at Jons. Mr. Sanchez explained that all posting locations have community boards, which is where the agenda should be placed.

Mr. Sanchez stated that a member of the community, Mr. Charles Peyton, had requested to videotape the evening's meeting. The request seemed to have conflicting information to assist in deciding if it should be allowed – under The Brown Act there was wording that seemed to endorse the request, but under the California Privacy Act there is wording that might supercede The Brown Act in directing that taping not be allowed. A discussion was held among Board members with questions such as what will be the use of the video (personal use), should a 30 day notice be given so that all in attendance are aware they are being taped (Mr. Sanchez will follow up), and a request for clarification from the City related to such requests (Mr. Sanchez will follow up).

After lengthy discussion and review of materials available at the meeting, Mr. Peyton retracted his request. Mr. Sanchez promised the Board that he would investigate the issues related to videotaping any of the NCVV meetings and report back to the Board at the June meeting.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the April meeting were sent by email to the Board, and copies were available for the public at the meeting. *A motion was made by Mr. Simen to accept the minutes and seconded by Ms. Hidey. The minutes were approved by a vote of 12-0.*

**Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment.** Mr. Sanchez invited those in attendance to complete a speaker’s card and to speak to any issue on the agenda, reminding them that every speaker is limited to 2 minutes.

Mr. Paul Kulak, owner of Kulak’s Woodshed, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He apologized for his comments at the April meeting, explaining that he did not expect the large number of supporters to attend the meeting. While very gratifying, it was also very stressful. Regardless, he expressed regret for the “circus” that transpired, and individually apologized to Tom Paterson for his comments directed to him. Mr. Kulak reported that the city had closed Kulak’s Woodshed for 24 hours after the meeting, but they are re-opened under temporary permit and working with Wendy Greuel’s office to go through the appropriate channels to get permanent permitting. Mr. Kulak gave a brief history of the growth of the business and his decisions related to permitting, and restated they have been a good part of the community and have had no complaints except for those from one neighbor. He invited the Board to visit Kulak’s Woodshed.

Mr. Jim Brittany, owner of Brittany floor covering on Laurel Canyon, was there to speak against Kulak’s Woodshed. He claimed that Mr. Kulak maintains an email list of over 5000 people, most of whom don’t reside or work in Valley Village. He felt that they constituted the presence of so many at the April meeting, and that these were the source of many of the calls and emails that followed. These contacts had a powerful impact on the decision to allow Kulak’s Woodshed to continue to operate. He stated “it appears he has your endorsement.” After 200 plus calls to Wendy Greuel’s office, they worked their way through city hall and “the powers that be” to get the business open again.

Tom Patterson arrived at 6:46 pm.

Mr. Brittany stated he has issues with tax dollars used for supporting someone who by his own admission illegally operated a business for over 4 years, during which time violations were pointed out but permits were not required.

Mr. Brittany read from an email sent out by Mr. Kulak that stated “in January 2000 he set out to do something everyone said he couldn’t do, and he tried to get permits but there wasn’t a clear category for his business. So he had three choices, a long permit process or to operate under the city’s radar, or to close.” Mr. Brittany said Mr. Kulak made the

wrong choice. He asked that NCVV seek out the opinions of those in the 2 block surrounding area that are affected by this business.

Mr. Charles Peyton, business owner on Laurel Canyon, stated “I have been made out to be a monster. I have been asked to put up with loud music, and when I tried to turn mine up, complaints were made against me. He (pointing at Mr. Kulak) has operated illegally from the beginning and has made \$100k to \$150k per year tax-free. He was illegally granted a temporary permit at my expense.” Mr. Peyton stated there are no handicap accessible facilities, people openly drink alcohol on site, and the business violates the zoning for the space.

A verbal confrontation between Mr. Kulak and Mr. Peyton ensued, during which Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Kulak to cease speaking and come to order, or he would be asked to leave the meeting. Mr. Peyton stated that in the interest of his personal safety and the safety of others, he would leave the meeting at this time. Mr. Peyton left the building.

Mr. Sanchez asked that the Board refocus on the agenda, and reminded the public participant that NCVV Board has no authority to issue permits or advise or approve/deny on issues that have not been properly submitted to the appropriate city departments. Proper paperwork for a variance for Mr. Kulak or any other business must first be submitted to the city before NCVV can give a recommendation. It is unfortunate that Mr. Peyton and Mr. Brittany were under the impression of the NCVV approval of Kulak’s Woodshed, when it has been very clear from the beginning NCVV has not taken an official position on this issue, and could not.

Mr. Hatfield commented that both parties are making personal observations about the other and we have no opportunity to verify this information. We should find some way to head off the misinformation that brought these parties to our meeting.

Mr. Paterson stated that he is very troubled that Wendy Greuel’s office has “bent over backward” to support this business. His committee has been trying for 7 months to get attention on another zoning issue that requires similar clarification.

Ms. Hatfield advised that “as someone who has been on the elected official side of this type of situation”, we should learn from Mr. Kulak’s effort. He is working the system to be heard. Elected officials respond to email, phone calls and faxes.

Ms. Hull stated that situations like Mr. Kulak’s are unusual. Studios for rehearsal or recording don’t fit “neatly” into zoning. This is a very grey area.

Mr. Pechin echoed the importance of public input on an issue like this, and stated that we could learn from Mr. Kulak’s actions.

**Agenda Item 6 – Executive Committee Report.** Mr. Sanchez reported that the Executive Committee met on May 22 and reviewed several items that will be covered later in the agenda. He advised that office space for NCVV is coming along and there

should be a decision and final determination of plans before the June meeting. He reminded the Board that the commitment of space has been made by CBS, and adjoining Neighborhood Councils will be partnering with NCVV to take advantage of the offer.

**Agenda Item 7 – Treasurer’s Report.** Mr. Hatfield reported on a decision by the city to move all Neighborhood Council fiscal years to coincide with the city fiscal year. NCVV funding initiated in April 2004. Our current fiscal year is April 1 to March 30. The city’s new guideline will require that we move our year to July 1 to June 30. This will leave us with one quarter of funding that must be spent in the new year. The new guideline would require that we encumber our first quarter funding into the next fiscal year. To date we have spent \$70, and have a remaining \$12,425 to spend from the current quarter.

Our current funding must be encumbered to the new fiscal year before June 16. This will require two resolutions from NCVV:

1. Budget for current quarter’s allocations
2. Request to encumber the funding into the new fiscal year.

The Executive Committee has approved that funding may be spent in three specific areas:

Beautification, Outreach, Office/Administrative

Within these three categories, Ms. Hatfield requested earlier in May that Board members submit spending requests to her for the current allocation of funding. She presented the replies to the Board.

Mr. Sanchez explained to the public participant the funding process of Neighborhood Council’s and examples of projects that the Board is seeking to financially support.

Mr. Pechin asked for clarification on “encumbrance,” and asked to present an outreach program related to the soundwall on the 170 freeway for consideration of funding.

Mr. Hatfield defined “encumbrance,” and explained that all encumbered funds must be spent by 12-31-04. Mr. Sanchez asked if there were other restrictions? Mr. Hatfield stated that the budget has to be specific for encumbered funding request. Mr. O’Connor asked how much we are encumbering? \$12,430.00. Dr. Wiseman reminded the Board that even with an approved budget, we do not have an approved allocation specific to the funding. Mr. Hatfield stated again the deadline of June 16 to encumber funds, and that the Board must approve an action at this meeting since we would not meet again prior to the deadline. He also stated that he will submit a second request for next quarter’s allocation on July 1. Mr. Pool asked if the funding could be placed into a “reserve?” No. Do we have to seek bids? No, we just need a budget plan for the use of the expenditures.

Ms. Harner asked if there was a difference between what was budgeted and what was spent, would we be okay? Yes, if it’s over, we will draw from the next quarter funding.

Ms. Hatfield distributed the summary of responses to her email requesting potential projects to be funded. All projects submitted are listed according to the three categories approved by the Executive Committee. Ms. Hatfield will add the soundwall on the 170 freeway to the list under Outreach.

Some members of the Board asked to personally explain their requests. Mr. Paterson detailed his project that would permit a rubberized embossed wall with a patterned design that would be used in areas of heavy graffiti and could easily be cleaned/replaced. Ms. Hatfield reviewed her request for more neighborhood watch signs in the community. She has spoken directly with our Sr. Lead Officer and he is forwarding costs to her. A request was also made for an event specific to National Night Out (August 6).

Dr. Wiseman spoke regarding his request that NCVV spend, before to June 30<sup>th</sup>, all the unspent funds on office equipment and supplies. He forwarded this in the form of an email to Ms. Hatfield listing items and approximate costs totaling over the \$12,730 in remaining funds. He stated the unusual costs associated with starting up a business, and referenced his list of proposed items for the office that could be purchased. He reminded the Board that City, County and State budgets are often not finalized until months after the start of the fiscal year and that may make receiving and spending “our” funds difficult if not impossible. He suggested we might pre-purchase goods and services. Mr. Hatfield advised that encumbrance funding cannot be used for any prepaid services.

Mr. Paterson asked the Board to consider assisting the Homeowners Association in their payment for graffiti removal in Valley Village. Mr. Hatfield said that would be an appropriate use of funding.

Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that specific goals should be attached to any project, and that all projects should fall into the three categories approved by The Executive Committee. He stated that he expected much of the office supplies and furniture could be donated. Mr. O’Connor asked if the Board is having a difficult time spending the funding? No. Mr. Sanchez explained that as a new Board, we were establishing our infrastructure simultaneous to our first funding opportunities, so we are being more deliberate in our decision making.

Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Hatfield to restate the resolutions he needs.

1. Approve a budget for our first fiscal quarter;
2. Approve an encumbrance of the funding into the new fiscal year.

Mr. O’Connor reminded the Board of the needs of our public schools. Mr. Pechin asked for three additional days to present his project. Mr. Hatfield advised the Board that whatever motion is passed at the meeting, he could retain the flexibility allocated at a later date with Board approval. In effect the Board would be approving the funding to be spent in the three categories and giving the treasurer discretion to specify individual projects that would be funded. These projects could be approved at the next Board

meeting. The important point is approving the allocation of the funds to the budget categories.

Mr. Pechin motioned that \$12,430 be approved to be spent within the three target categories approved by The Executive Committee, and that the funds be allocated specifically at the discretion of The Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Hatfield asked that any requests for specific funding from the first quarter allocation have a detailed budget attached and sent to him by June 5. The motion was passed 12-1.

*Ms. Hatfield made a motion to approve the three categories for Board funding, with specific opportunities under each category. Those are:*

*Office Expense*

*Outreach*

Neighborhood Watch

Valley Village Summer Movie Festival

National Night Out

*Beautification*

Gateway sign at 101 and Laurel Canyon

Beautification plan

Mr. Braswell asked if the motion could be amended to add graffiti removal. Ms. Lori Dinkin stated that the program no longer exists. Mr. Braswell withdrew the amendment.

Mr. Pechin asked that the soundwall be added to Outreach. Agreed.

*The motion was seconded by Mr. Pechin.* Ms. Hull asked that the Board be diligent about focusing the attention received from funded efforts onto Valley Village and NCVV. We need better recognition for our community efforts. Mr. Sanchez agreed and stated that it is important to distribute information about NCVV at all events.

Mr. Pool asked if this would help Mr. Hatfield in his job as Treasurer? Yes.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel arrived at 7:30. Mr. Sanchez introduced her, and asked that the Board move to agenda item 4 and allow Ms. Greuel to address the Board. Mr. Sanchez then asked that discussion on the pending motion be ended and a vote conducted. Mr. Simen mentioned that there was a member of the public who wished to speak to the pending motion. Mr. Sanchez recognized the public participant, who stated that the city will provide graffiti removal and that it did not need to be paid out of funds (provided for NCVV). Mr. Sanchez thanked the public participant for the input, and clarified that graffiti removal was not a part of the motion.

*The motion was approved 12 – 0 – 1.*

Mr. Sanchez then moved to the issue of encumbering funds. *A motion was made by Dr. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Pool to encumber the first quarter funding to the new fiscal year. The motion passed 13 – 0.*

**Agenda Item 4 – Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel.** Mr. Sanchez reintroduced Councilwoman Wendy Greuel. She apologized for coming after the start of the meeting, but explained that she was also committed to an event at Wadsworth Theatre earlier in the evening promoting anti-smoking messages in schools. She reminisced about participating in the first organizing meetings for NCVV, and expressed appreciation to all who worked so hard to bring the process forward. She also thanked the Board for “all you do and the time you spend on issues of such importance.” She stated that Neighborhood Councils have been a strong voice on many important issues recently or currently before the city. Examples given were the proposed DWP rate increase which failed, recent activity that influenced the city’s bond rating, and recent denial of a request for police departments to not respond to home alarm systems. All were carefully coordinated with Neighborhood Councils and Homeowners Associations. “You have a big impact on city hall. We are starting an army for change.”

She has worked hard to sponsor more activism in neighborhoods. She reminded all in attendance that a simple call to 311 would get help for most city services. She is proud to be called the “pothole Queen”, and proud of her grass roots effort to make our community more livable. She asked that NCVV encourage neighborhoods to be involved and neighbors to be active. She walks the streets with city employees often, and they do not know the area like those who live there.

A specific proposal on which Councilwoman Greuel has asked for assistance is related to sidewalk repair. Her daily experience is that many constituents do know and fully understand who is responsible for sidewalk maintenance. Sidewalks in any area are the responsibility of the homeowner. This year the city will repair 32 miles of sidewalks. At the current rate, it will take 80 years to repair all Los Angeles sidewalks. She feels this is not acceptable. She has proposed a 50/50 program where the homeowner and city split the costs equally. If everyone in Valley Village took advantage of the program sidewalk repair would increase by 25% each year. She pointed out that low income areas can still participate in the program by accessing community development dollars. She also encouraged the Board to attend quarterly meetings sponsored by her office, and shared a story about dining at Art’s Deli where a child asked her to sign a petition about the proposed Laurel Canyon car wash. When she queried him about the project, it became clear that he was simply being paid to get signatures and did not have knowledge of the project. She used the story to demonstrate how “support” can sometimes be misrepresented, and thanked the Board for their diligence in investigating the car wash and supporting the new outcome on the issue.

Ms. Greuel mentioned Kulak’s Woodshed, and assured the Board that as the approval process for permits and possibly a variance proceeds, her office will work to ensure that all parties abide by the rules.

Ms. Greuel presented proclamations to Mr. Sanchez, Ms. Reiner and Mr. Pechin recognizing their attendance at USC Neighborhood Participation Project. Mr. Sanchez recognized the Board to ask questions.

Ms. Hatfield asked Ms. Greuel to comment on the proposed one-half cent sales tax increase. Ms. Greuel reminded those at the meeting that there is a proposed one-half cent sales tax increase to support an increase police presence in Los Angeles. New York City has 38,000 police officers, Los Angeles has just under 9000. She supports the sales tax increase, and shared news on recent legislation that allowed police response time to improve by almost 50%.

Mr. Pechin applauded the 50/50 sidewalk program and reminded the Board that we need that type of partnership with the soundwall Project. Mr. Pool stated that he is very supportive of the LAPD but has concerns about the new tax. He added that taxes continue to increase but the resulting city revenue never seems to get to the stated effort. He asked her assistance in getting the assigned officers for our community back and creating the same police ratio “equal to the other side of the hill.” Ms. Greuel thanked Mr. Pool for his comments and shared two examples of positive financial projects – the recent library bond and the first police bond.

Mr. Simen asked if the North Hills police station is the “new one?” Yes. Ms. Harner read a question posed by a Valley Village stakeholder, who stated she (the constituent) is very concerned about traffic at Laurel Canyon and Riverside. The author stated that many cars speed through the intersection, pedestrians are at risk, many accidents occur and there are not enough traffic officers. Ms. Greuel asked Ms. Harner to advise the constituent to contact her office directly.

Dr. Wiseman asked Ms. Greuel to comment on the Inclusionary Zoning ordinance. She explained to the Board that an ordinance has been introduced by Council Members Reyes and Garcetti to require inclusionary zoning in the city. She explained that the ordinance is very early in the process, and a 90 extension has been granted to allow for public comment due in large part to neighborhood council and homeowner association feedback.

She agrees that there is an affordable housing crisis in the city, where average rents are now \$1200 and average home sales prices are \$400,000. Yet she has concerns that this proposal supercedes the specific plan process, will be a disincentive for new construction in the city, and could produce unknown hardship on buildings with association fees (e.g. if a condo fee is spread equally and the low income units cannot afford to participate how do you fairly allocate fees?)

Her final concern related to who or which department would manage the program. That issue has not been addressed by the city. Mr. Pechin stated that Ms. Greuel should advise Mr. Weiss on how to more appropriately address this issue with the public.

Mr. Brittany (public participant) asked if a homeowner participates in the 50/50 program would their project be completed faster? Yes, it would be moved up in priority. She stated the program doesn't differentiate on "fault" for the sidewalk's need of repair.

Mr. Sanchez then opened the floor to public comment for Ms. Greuel. Ms. Stephanie de Prume, student body president of Fullerton College, asked why the fiscal year for Neighborhood Council's was changed. Mr. Hatfield elaborated that he is supportive of the change, and that in the end it will be a good change for NCVV and all other Neighborhood Councils. His only concern was the lack of notice to NCVV. Ms. de Prume asked if there would be more money for NCVV. No.

Mr. Greuel again thanked the Board for their hard work, and stated "it does not go unnoticed."

### **Agenda Item 3 – Chairman's comments, Introduction of Distinguished Guests.**

Mr. Sanchez introduced Deanna Stevenson, the new Project Coordinator for DONE. She distributed her contact information and encouraged the Board to call if they have questions.

**Agenda Item 8 – Web Site.** The website is operational, and Board members were encouraged to log onto myvalleyvillage.com to see more. The content is still being finalized, and a list of specific needs was distributed for discussion. Mr. Sanchez distributed a list of issues on which Mr. Ciccarelli needs NCVV input. Mr. Braswell asked if the list could be reviewed and assignments made. Mr. Sanchez reviewed the list and assigned tasks. Ms. Hull reminded the Board of the previous discussion related to privacy issues and the proposed "community forum". Ms. Harner suggested that NCVV minutes be posted. Mr. Sanchez will speak with Mr. Ciccarelli to see how that can be done without expanding the site. Ms. Hatfield asked if there would be a completion date for the project. Mr. Sanchez will follow up – important to get information back to him as soon as possible. Mr. Sanchez has asked Mr. Ciccarelli to be present at the June meeting.

Ms. Harner asked that there be two calendars – one internal for the Board and one for the community.

**Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports.** Mr. Sanchez noted the limited time remaining, and stated that deference would be given to land use issues.

Mr. Paterson asked to defer his committee comments to the June meeting. Within the next three weeks he will send to the full Board a critique on Inclusionary Zoning.

The Riverside Condo project has been stalled again, and for nine weeks we have been put off by the city for approval of the alley vacation request. Both NCVV and the Homeowners Association have worked with the developer to present a "win-win"

situation for all parties. Mr. Paterson has asked for a meeting with Wendy Greuel, and will present to her tomorrow (Thursday) evening at the Homeowners Association.

The Condo development at Whitsett and Otsego. The developer will make a presentation to the city in June. Some concern has been expressed about the design of the building and the landscaping. Both NCVV and VVHA have asked for improvements from the developer.

Ms. Hidey asked for information related to the demolition of the house at Colfax and Hesby. Ms. Dinkin explained that 5 condos will be built on the site. She stated that Dale Thrush from Wendy Greuel's office has been very unresponsive to requests for information or assistance. Mr. Paterson asked that Council members Weiss and Greuel be formally requested to send any and all construction projects to NCVV. Ms. Hatfield stated this should be a citywide issue for all Neighborhood Councils. Dr. Wiseman stated that it is, as part of the specific plan process. Mr. Paterson stated that unfortunately we are "left out of the loop, and with little or no knowledge of proposed projects."

Dr. Wiseman stated this is part of a citywide policy, and we need to send our request to the Council member's offices to receive all information on proposed projects before they are presented for approval to City Council.

Ms. Deanna Stevenson (DONE) asked if NCVV gets ENS (Early Notification System)? Mr. Sanchez said that more information was received by Valley Village before the Board was elected than is received now. Mr. Sanchez reintroduced Ms. Lori Dinkin, president of Valley Village Homeowners Association and reminded the Board of the VVHA meeting Thursday night at 7:30. Ms. Dinkin stated that the inclusionary zoning ordinance would invalidate the specific plan. She and others had met personally with Mayor Hahn and he stated the importance of the specific plan and encouraged us to "stick to it". Ms. Dinkin reminded the Board that the specific plan is the strength of Valley Village and one of the reasons our area looks so good.

Regarding The Orange Line, Dr. Wiseman will send a written communication to the Board regarding safety, sidewalks and crosswalks. His committee has again been assured that irrigation and landscaping for the project will be acceptable. He mentioned the urgency of the naming of the station at Laurel Canyon and Chandler. The NCVV Board needs to take a specific action to address this opportunity.

*Dr. Wiseman made a motion to name the station Valley Village at Laurel Canyon stop. Jody Hidey seconded. The motion passed 13-0.*

Dr. Wiseman will draft a letter to the MTA Board to convey this formal action.

Mr. Paterson stated that there is a serious gas "odor" on the north side of Laurel Canyon at Chandler. He will call the gas company.

Ms. Harner detailed the NCVV signature event, the Valley Village Summer Movie Festival. The event will take place on the last Friday in June, July and August. A proposed budget was detailed. Participants would be encouraged to BYOB (bring your own basket), and water would be provided. This would be a part of NCVV outreach as the opportunity would be used to communicate NCVV business such as Neighborhood Watch and soundwalls. Ms. Hull asked how big is the screen? 10 feet by 14 feet. Mr. Paterson asked how traffic would be addressed? We would encourage people to walk, and attempt to partner with the Senior Center, the church and Colfax Elementary school for parking. Ms. Hull suggested that there be personal visits from Board members to neighbors on the street adjacent to the part to explain the activity. Mr. Pechin endorsed the idea of using parking at the church or school to keep cars off the streets.

*Ms. Hatfield motioned to approve the movie festival as the signature event of NCVV. Ms. Hidey seconded. The motion was approved 7 –0 –4.*

Ms. Hidey reported on Neighborhood Watch. A meeting was held to coordinate how to use National Night Out as a partner to raise awareness of Neighborhood Watch. She will be bringing a specific plan back to the Board.

Mr. Pechin reported on the soundwall Project. He reminded the Board of the lack of “immediate” return on investment in the soundwall Project. He also recalled Mr. Kulak’s success in getting city offices to move by using the power of email, phone calls and faxes to Wendy Greuel’s office. The program needs that type of enthusiasm to raise awareness to the urgency to get Valley Village walls completed. He asked that the Board commit funds to make this happen.

**Agenda Item 10 - Board Liaison Reports.** There were no immediate reports.

**Agenda Item 13 – Public comment.** Mr. Sanchez recognized Daniel Pastor, who completed a speaker’s card. He was not present to speak.

Ms. Stephanie de Prume stated that the neighborhood needs more street lights, and that without lights Neighborhood Watch signs would not be as effective.

**Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items.** Ms. Hatfield asked that the one-half cent sales tax increase be added. Mr. Paterson asked that a discussion be held about the positioning of public comment on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 14 – Chairman’s Closing Comments.** Mr. Sanchez thanked all for their comments, and reminded the Board and public that the meeting must end at 9:00 pm due to the schedule of the school custodian. The meeting room at Colfax Elementary School will not be available during the summer months. Mr. O’Connor agreed to speak with the principal to see if that could be changed. Mr. Sanchez is exploring other meeting sites.

**Agenda Item 15 – Adjournment.** *A motion was made by Mr. Pool to adjourn, and seconded by Ms. Hidey. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.*