

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
2-22-06**

Approved 3-22-06, 11-0-0

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order by Peter Sanchez at 6:34 pm.

Mr. Sanchez welcomed the Board and stakeholders in attendance. It was noted that the meeting would be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and within the guidelines of The Brown Act. Anyone wishing to speak to any issue was invited to complete a public comment card.

The roll was called. Board members present were: Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Dr. Alan Brody (residential homeowner), Mr. Fritz Friedman (business), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (senior based organization), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at-large), Mr. Yoni Kahn-Rose (residential renter), Mr. Ben Lautman (business), Ms. Harriet Newton (faith based), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Ms. Breice Reiner (community service), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Bill Santoro (residential homeowner), Mr. Paul Weiner (residential renter), Dr. Dan Wiseman (Cultural). Absent was Mr. Stuart Simen (business).

The Posting Roll was called – posting requirements for the meeting were met (6).

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes. *Ms. Newton motioned to approve the November minutes, and Ms. Reiner seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 11-0-0.*

Agenda Item 3 – President's Comments, Introduction of Guests. Mr. Sanchez introduced Joan Pellico from Jack Weiss' office.

Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment. Mr. Friedman asked that all public speakers please identify how they found out about the February Board meeting.

David Gruner, Magnolia Boulevard, expressed concern about development that will take away affordable rental housing in Valley Village. The development is being done for profit, and without concern to the impact on the community. Asked for the NCVV Board's help, stating that the Board represents community justice. Mr. Gruner submitted his written comments, which are attached to the minutes. (newsletter)

Emil Lin, Magnolia Boulevard, also spoke out against development of apartment buildings in Valley Village into condominiums. She specifically referenced 11922 Magnolia. There needs to be an effort to help maintain affordable housing and to stabilize rent, and stop developers from circumventing rent control. (newsletter)

Donna Gooley. Expressed concern about bus ridership. There is a bus rider's union and they are asking for support of renewal of a consent decree from MTA, which expires in October of this year. She asked that the Board contact the Mayor and the MTA to support her position. (newsletter)

Chuck Tennin, 11927 Magnolia Boulevard. (newsletter) Stated his concerns of the sale of his building to a developer, and that the tenants of his building represent the true face of Valley Village. A 28 year resident, specifically asked about the impact of continued building on schools, traffic and state of life. He expressed his opinion that developers will ruin Valley Village. He asked the Board to advise him on his rights as a tenant.

Dana Eagle, 11927 Magnolia Boulevard, (newsletter) stated that she has been informed that 2 buildings on the corner of her block have been sold and eviction notices have been given to residents. Asked for the Board's help on what she and her neighbors could do to stop this action? She stated that there is a small window of time to act, and that the \$3200 relocation assistance that has been offered to the tenants is not appropriate.

Brook Edney, 11927 Magnolia Boulevard, stated that the structure of Valley Village is going to change, and in her opinion it will change for the worse. She is a property manager at the apartment, and her tenants will be losing their housing. She asked the Board's advice on how to help her residents not lose their affordable housing.

Mary Preston asked to address Mr. O'Connor directly. She stated that traffic should be added to considerations for planning and land use approval of these properties. She stated that there has not been an environment impact study on these sites, and there has not been one done on the Steven's Nursery property. In her opinion the increased traffic will paralyze the area.

Ruth Engelking has been a resident since 1988, and has never witnessed so much traffic. She feels the building is too much for the area. She mentioned streets that include Huston, Laurel Canyon, Wittsett, LaMeida, Hartsook and Colfax. She expressed concern that traffic will congest the areas and there will not be sufficient parking for the area.

Mr. Dennis Piscuskas and Mr. Devan Piscuskas, residents of 11927, expressed in writing their concern about the eviction of residents at their apartment building.

Mr. Sanchez thanked the public for their comment on the issues.

Dr. Wiseman stated this is a city-wide issue and suggested that NCVV join with other NC's on the issue. 4 million people are living in a 400 square mile area, and that is a challenge. He also suggested the issue be taken to the Neighborhood Congress.

Mr. Hatfield asked if the property mentioned was in escrow? Yes. He asked that Mr. O'Connor advise if the developer could file plans before escrow closes? He asked how many stories the building would be? Two stories.

Dr. Brody asked if there is one developer for all the properties? No.

Mr. Friedman suggested that representatives from the group contact the City of Los Angeles to see if eviction for rehabilitation is allowed. He wanted to confirm his thought that there might be a moratorium on evictions. He suggested the residents contact the city Housing office, at lacity.org

Ms. Newton stated the building is unique and suggested that the group contact the LA Conservancy. The group is credited with helping to save Chase Nolan.

Ms. Hatfield suggested that the group work closely with the City Council members offices and also suggested they go to the rent control Board.

Ms. Reiner reminded the group that volume helps to make an impact when contact any elected official, and that this group should engage as many residents as possible to help make their statement.

Mr. Santoro also reminded the group that they should be calling the Council member's offices as often as possible. There are laws and rules in place that help them on this issue.

Mr. Lautman asked if Joan Pellico would help the group access Mr. Weiss.

Agenda Item 6 – Committee Assignments Follow-up. Mr. Sanchez reviewed the committee assignments for Board members, and encouraged the stakeholders present to get involved with committees that represent issues of importance to them.

Agenda Item 7 – Committee Reports – Planning and Land Use. Mr. O'Connor reported that PLU has been conducting meetings and working on broader issues such as rental rights. PLU has formed a Tenant's Subcommittee that will help ensure that all sides on the issue are heard. He reminded the Board and the audience that the PLU is advisory only, and it is more beneficial to all parties if issues progress to far. He asked that stakeholders present sign up to be a part of the Tenant's Subcommittee.

Most of the recent meetings held by PLU have been structure related. Mr. Patterson is researching the appropriate response to 11476 Huston request.

Ms. Pellico stated to the audience that the feedback they have received for the evening is good and valuable, and that they should try to use that to help them in their next steps. As the property is in Wendy Greuel's office, she gave the phone number to contact that office directly.

Agenda Item 5 – Finance Report. Year to date the Board has spent \$14,300. There has been more money allocated that has not yet been spent. Mr. Hatfield advised the Board that over half of the current expenditures have been on The Bridge. A financial report is attached.

Agenda Item 7 – Committee Reports – Outreach. Ms. Reiner reminded the audience that The Bridge is the primary communication tool for NCVV. She also reviewed plans for the Valley Village Birthday Party to be held later in February, at St. David’s Church on Magnolia.

Agenda Item 7 – Committee Reports – Elections. Ms. Hatfield reported on the recent meeting with the City Attorney’s office related to elections procedures. She will be forwarding to the full Board a copy of the questions presented to the City Attorney and the answers given.

Mr. Sanchez asked that an ad hoc committee be established to review the NCVV Bylaws. Mr. Simen, Ms. Hatfield, Mr. Braswell, Mr. Friedman and Mr. Weiner agreed to serve. Ms. Hatfield will chair the ad hoc committee.

Agenda Item 7 – Committee Reports – Short Term Projects. Mr. Santoro reported that he has resigned as chair, and that Mr. Weiner has assumed the chair of this committee. He will remain involved to be sure that the banner project is completed.

A motion was forwarded to sponsor the Culture of Peace Event for \$1000, to be held May 7. Ms. Hatfield advised the Board that the event would coincide with the Mayor’s Big Sunday Event. Mr. Lautman asked if the Culture of Peace Event was in any way involved with the United Nations? Ms. Hatfield replied that the New Millenium was designated the “Culture of Peace”, but that this event has been sponsored by the Southern California Council of Organizations for the past five years. The motion was approved 12-0-0.

Agenda Item 7 – Committee Reports – Long Term Projects. Dr. Wiseman submitted the structure and committee membership information for his committee. He also submitted a report that stated the budget to complete the sidewalks on the Chandler corridor is \$140,837.00. The update on Soundwalls comes back to funding, and a lack of financial support for our section of the freeway.

Dr. Wiseman gave an update on the Neighborhood Congress, the 912 Commission, and the Mayor’s Budget Hearings.

Mr. Sanchez thanked Dr. Wiseman, a founding member of the Board, for his service to the City and the NCVV.

Dr. Wiseman advised the Board that he is resigning his Board seat and committee chair.

Mr. Sanchez thanked Dr. Wiseman, a founding member of the Board, for his service to the City and the NCVV.

Agenda Item 8 – February Valley Village Birthday Party. Mr. Weiner reported that the event is sold out. There have been donations from Gelsons, and the committee is anticipating an successful event. Ms. Reiner noted that the Valley Village Homeowners Association has been a helpful part of the planning. Mr. Hatfield noted for the record that Valley Village is 75 years old.

Agenda Item 9 – Crosswalk on Magnolia and Bluebell. Mr. Friedman reported that there is a dangerous situation at this intersection, and there is a similar situation at Coldwater 1 block east. Persons who walk do not have the ability to cross the street without danger to themselves. Mr. Sanchez noted the concern and advised that it be referred to the Long Term Projects Committee. This is also a DOT issue, and that Liaison should assist in advising on this issue. DOT can do a diagnostic assessment of the intersection once the concern is raised.

Agenda Item 10 – Street Repaving. Mr. Kahn-Rose noted there are many stretches of streets in Valley Village that are in desperate need of repaving due to potholes. He particularly noted Whitsett and Magnolia. Also stretches of Laurel Canyon. He felt that there has been a lack of input from the stakeholders in the area. There have been many quotes from Wendy Greuel that there is improvement on this issue, but that does not seem to have reached Valley Village. We should be more active on the issue. Mr. Santoro and Mr. Sanchez advised all stakeholders present that any pothole should be reported to 311.

Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that former Mayor Hahn pledged \$100,000 per Neighborhood Council for street repaving. At the time NCVV gave a priority list to the Mayor's office and decisions were based on that list.

Agenda Item 12 – Other Items. Ms. Hatfield mentioned the Valley Village article in the Real Estate section of the LA Times.

Agenda Item 11 – Liaison Reports and Material Distribution. Mail was distributed.

Agenda Item 14 – Public Comment. Stephanie Vanez, a resident and renter in Valley Village, stated that she chose the community and that her rent is \$1.13 per square foot. She cannot afford to move, and will be hurt by the sale of her building. She belongs to the Jaycees, and has invited the Board to be a part of their meetings at Tula's. The next meeting is March 12. They are interested in participating in the July 4 parade.

Agenda Item 13 – Future Agenda Items. Ms. Hatfield asked that the NoHo Arts Festival be considered for support. Mr. Kahn-Rose asked that discussion be held related to buses, RV's and moving vans parking on weekends on streets in Valley Village.

Agenda Item 15 – President's Closing Comments. Mr. Sanchez noted that his mother, Mary Sanchez, was present for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.