

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
4-26-06**

Approved 5-24-06 10-0-0

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order by Peter Sanchez at 6:45 pm.

Mr. Sanchez welcomed the Board and stakeholders in attendance. He reminded the Board that there was to be a special election at the meeting for the unexpired term of the Cultural Seat. There was not, however, time to review the one application that was submitted and received just prior to the meeting. The application did have a postmark that met the deadline for submission. Mr. Sanchez advised that Ms. Hatfield would review the special election later in the meeting. Mr. Sanchez asked that any who wished to speak should complete a speaker's card. It was noted that the meeting would be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and within the guidelines of The Brown Act.

The roll was called. Board members present were: Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), 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. Vanessa Lopez (Student), Ms. Harriet Newton (faith based), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Ms. Breice Reiner (community service), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Paul Weiner (residential renter). Absent was Mr. Bill Santoro (residential homeowner), Dr. Alan Brody (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business).

The Posting Roll was called – posting requirements for the meeting were met (8).

Agenda Item 2 – Cultural Seat Election – postponed.

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Minutes. *Mr. Lautman motioned to approve the February minutes, and Ms. Reiner seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 10-0-0.*

Agenda Item 4 – President's Comments, Introduction of Guests. Mr. Sanchez introduced Matthew Fitzgerald from Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). He also introduced Nancy Hernandez from Wendy Greuel's office. Mr. Fitzgerald reminded the Board of the Mayor's Day of Service, Sunday May 7 at LA Valley College. June 17 is the Congress of Neighborhood Councils.

Ms. Hatfield asked if there were a replacement named for Greg Nelson? No. Is there another Empowerment Academy scheduled? It will be a part of the Congress this time and will focus on Emergency Preparedness.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment. Mr. Tom Paterson asked to wait until agenda items 9 and 14.

Agenda Item 5 – Finance Report. Mr. Hatfield gave the Finance report (attached). There has been only one significant change – the accrual of the Valley Village banner expense and the NCVV portion of the bill for the Valley Village birthday party. Year to date there has been \$19,400 spent on business for NCVV. There is also a change that will impact future funding – funding will be allocated/accrued over a 3 year period. Mr. Hatfield mentioned he was quoted in the Los Angeles Times. Mr. Friedman asked if the article was quoting Mr. Hatfield as a Board member or citizen? Mr. Hatfield replied as a citizen.

Agenda Item 6 – Bus Rider’s Union. Ms. Donna Gooley present an overview of the Bus Rider’s Union, and spoke regarding three issues – the Consent Decree, service on the 156 Line, and the condition of buses. She asked that the Board support the Consent Decree with the MTA, that the Board support the full route for the 156 Bus Line, and that the Board address the issue of Bus maintenance. She formally requested that the Board take vote to approve support for the Consent Decree, and vote against truncation of the 156 Bus Line. Mr. Sanchez asked specific questions about the two requests for action from NCVV’ Board – when does the current Consent Decree expire? October. And you want us to support renewal? Yes. Ms. Hatfield asked if the Consent Decree addresses ridership numbers/bus? Yes. Mr. Friedman expressed concern that the terms of the Consent Decree had never been applied appropriately, and cautioned that support from NCVV may not have effect.

Mr. Friedman also asked detailed questions about the route changes to the 156 Bus Line. Where is the truncation in service? Burbank at Chadler. Is this because of the Orange Line? It is believe that the changes in numbers of stops and distance of the line are due to the Orange Line.

Mr. Hatfield asked if there has been maintenance problems on the Orange Line? A few.

Mr. Braswell asked if it is appropriate for the Board to vote on these issues without more information, and in light of the fact that action was taken on the 156 Bus Line in January 2005.

The motion to be considered should include - support for continuing the consent decree past October, and opposition to the truncation of Bus Line 156 and a request that the line run from Panorama to City College.

Mr. Lautman asked how many riders are impacted by this? Approximately 10,000 annually. Mr. Paterson stated that 8 local stops have been lost due to this change.

Mr. Friedman asked if the service has been truncated on both ends? Yes. Are there fewer buses? Yes.

Ms. Hatfield asked if the MTA doesn't renew the Consent Decree, doesn't it automatically renew? No. Mr. Kahn-Rose asked for further explanation of the Consent Decree. The Consent Decree sets rules related to ridership that MTA has to follow, and includes guidelines for minimum levels of service. Mr. Hatfield asked if this has been reviewed with Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office? Yes

Mr. Sanchez advised the Board they have three options – make a motion, ask for more information, or do nothing. Mr. Braswell pointed out that action has already been taken on Route 156. Mr. Sanchez suggested that the issue be delegated to the Long Term Projects Committee. He reminded Mr. Friedman, Chair, that there has been action on this issue and Dr. Wiseman sent a letter detailing the NCVV position on the bus route.

The website for the bus rider's union is busridersunion.org.

Agenda Item 7 – Finance Report. Mr. Hatfield advised that NCVV Board has spent \$23,500 to date. There is still one payment due on the banner project. He will be working with Committee Chairs and the full Board to develop a budget for the new year. There will be a carry-over of \$70k to the next year. He suggests increasing the number of publications of The Bridge to 6 per year. He also reminded the Board that the entryway sign will cost \$10k. Please send to Mr. Hatfield any other suggestions about the new budget. Ms. Hatfield asked if the Board could resurrect the capital budget items in the last budget cycle? Ms. Reiner asked that more banners be put up in Valley Village. Mr. Lautman reminded the Board of the proposal to improve sidewalks along Chandler. Mr. Sanchez asked that the Short Term Projects committee consider additional banners for Valley Village. Mr. Braswell asked if NCVV Board could purchase trash cans similar to North Hollywood? They're \$900 each, and there needs to be clarification on who picks up the trash.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports – Planning and Land Use. Mr. O'Connor presented a motion from PLU – NCVV/LUC acknowledges the problems and issues associated with the expanding loss of rent controlled housing in Valley Village and supports the concept of an ICO within Valley Village to address Ellis Act eviction issues. The motion was approved by the committee 4-0-1. The Board was advised that the city attorney is trying to move something forward to address the implementation of The Ellis Act and will be taking this action to the Full Council from the Intergovernmental Committee. Mr. O'Connor reminded the Board of the public involvement on this issue at the last Board meeting. It was noted by Mr. Lautman that there were no property owners at the PLU meeting to speak on the issue. Mr. O'Connor advised that there has been some information related to this motion that has come from the City since the motion was approved. Mr. Friedman asked that the motion be carried back to the committee for further discussion.

Public comment on Agenda Item 9 – Mr. Tom Paterson. There is much misinformation going around. It is very clear that the city has the right to protect citizens who are being impacted by the Ellis Act. And ICO is a "time out" that will allow an opportunity for the city to deal with the issue of expanding loss of affordable housing. The city has a public

policy gap; a loophole that has been created using the Ellis Act. The city has enacted rules that help preserve some of the housing, but there is a complicated problem that some can't be protected through this loophole. Ms. Paterson said that his group is moving forward with the issue, and NCVV's Board is being asked to support this.

Several Board members expressed concern about the scope of the motion. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that this issue is similar to our ongoing work with single family housing, and we will need to take a position at some point.

The motion was denied 0-8-2.

A motion was reintroduced by Mr. Braswell and seconded by Ms. Newton that stated "NCVV acknowledges the problems and issues associated with the expanding loss of rent controlled housing in Valley Village and support actions to address affordable housing availability." The motion was discussed, and was denied 4-5-1. A stakeholder asked that a record vote be taken, and that Mr. O'Connor recuse himself as he is a developer in the area. The President allowed a re-vote and Mr. O'Connor recused himself from the vote. The vote was 4-4-1. Mr. Sanchez noted that he wanted to hear from the committee on the issue, and cast the deciding vote to send the motion back to the committee. The motion failed 4-5-0.

Other PLU issues. The property at the corner of Laurel Canyon and Burbank; the developer has requested several variances, including a waiver for a third story. The developer was advised at the city hearing that he must present to NCVV and ask for exceptions to the Specific Plan. The developer expressed a lack a familiarity with the process, and asked to withdraw the application. The hearing officer denied that request and referred them to NCVV.

The Bradley Landfill; Waste Management would like to present to NCVV on this issue.

Single family housing/mansionization will be on the PLU agenda next month. The meeting will be 6-10pm, to allow time to tackle several issues before the Committee.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports – Short Term Projects. Mr. Wiener is working on Neighborhood Night Out (August 06), and needs volunteers for the event, and for the Short Term Projects Committee.

Agenda Item 9 - Elections. Ms. Hatfield has received communications from DONE and is revising the election procedures for this year. They will be submitted by mid June. The Culture of Peace event will be at Valley College, beginning at noon on the Mayor's Day of Service. There will be entertainment and refreshments. Need volunteers for our booth.

Ms. Hatfield stated that she would review the application for election to the cultural seat and advise the Board prior to the May meeting. Mr. Friedman asked to clarify if the application were received by mail in time. Ms. Hatfield stated it was.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports – Long Term Projects. Mr. Friedman reported that he went to the Sherman Oaks NC meeting to propose a partnership to put in sidewalks on the median between Langhorn and Laurel Canyon. The reaction was mixed, and it was referred to a committee of their Board.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports – Outreach. Ms. Reiner reported that Shaarey Zedek congregation has offered space to host the Emergency Preparedness Training. Her committee will be participating in the Mayor’s Day of Service. The committee needs articles for the next Bridge, which will be published in June. Next meeting is May 9. Reminded the Board of the Mayor’s Day of Service (May 7) and Colfax Fair (June 3). Other dates are the July 4th parade, Neighborhood Night Out in August, a candidates forum in September and the October election.

Agenda Item 12 – Other Items. Mr. Sanchez introduced Scott Sorrento who is director of animal welfare for the Valley. Mr. Sorrento reported that a new director of animal welfare for Los Angeles County has been identified, and he will be pushing a no kill agenda for Los Angeles. This will ensure that the only animal killed are for humane reasons. He asked if the Board could add a pet lost and found on the website? Mr. Sanchez will check with the web-designer.

Agenda Item 10 – postponed.

Agenda Item 13 – Future Agenda Items. Bylaws adhoc meeting will be held in May. Colfax School sponsorship for World Fair. Waste Management presentation.

15 – President’s Closing Comments. Mr. Sanchez had no further comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.