

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
11-29-06**

Approved 7-0-0

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order by Peter Sanchez at 6:35 pm.

Mr. Sanchez welcomed the audience to the meeting, and reminded those in attendance who wished to speak to any issue on the agenda must first complete a speaker 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), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), Mr. Yoni Kahn-Rose (renter), Mr. Ben Lautman (business), Ms. Harriet Newton (faith based), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Ms. Breice Reiner (residential homeowner), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Bill Santoro (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Mr. Paul Wiener (residential renter). Absent was Dr. Alan Brody (residential homeowner). The Posting Roll was called – posting requirements were met (7).

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of September Minutes. *Mr. Stuart Simen motioned to approve the minutes with corrections. Ms. Reiner seconded the motion. The October minutes were approved 7-0-2.*

Agenda Item 3 - President's Comments, Introduction of Guests. Mr. Sanchez introduced Roger Medanich, Battalion 14 CERT Coordinator. He addressed the Board along with Bill North. He thanked the Board and Valley Village community for their involvement with CERT, reminding the Board that there were 30 recent graduates from the CERT training sponsored by NCVV. He expressed interest in expanding the number of CERT qualified persons in Valley Village. Mr. Lautman asked for clarification on the role of CERT. They are first responders during an emergency situation. Ms. Hatfield asked what areas the battalion covers? Valley Village, North Hollywood, Studio City and Toluca Lake; headquartered out of the North Hollywood fire department. Mr. Medanich stated he would like to use the Bridge to raise awareness of Valley Village CERT activities. Ms. Reiner agreed to contact him. The website for CERT is www.lafd-cert.org. Ms. Reiner asked if the abbreviated CERT training be available in the near future? Mr. North noted that there will be a more condensed course offered.

Ms. Nancy Hernandez asked to speak on behalf of Councilwoman Greuel's office. She presented a proclamation to Peter Sanchez in recognition of his service as President of the NCVV Board.

Ms. Hernandez also gave an update on the Valley Village gateway sign. Street Services is scheduling the installation, a motion to approve the sign has been submitted, and the money is in the correct account. As soon as she has a date she will send it to the Board. Regarding the request for assistance with crosswalks from Harriet Newton on behalf of the Board, the crosswalk renovation at McCormick and Colfax has been approved for a signal. The crosswalk at Riverside and Laurelgrove is “in study”.

Mr. Santoro asked if there could be a presentation from street services and possibly a meeting on dangerous crosswalks in Valley Village? That would fall under Transportation. Mr. Hatfield asked if NCVV needs to submit payment for our portion of the expense for the replacement sign? Yes. Mr. Hatfield reminded the Board that we need a second signatory for NCVV.

Agenda Item 8 – Election. Mr. Sanchez asked to move to the Elections report and introduce the newly elected Board members attending the meeting. Mr. Braswell thanked the Board for their support of the election and announced that the election was certified (final report attached). The newly elected Board members in attendance at the meeting were Beni Warshwsky, Joshua Levy, Eliezer Jones, and Yacov Freedman

Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment on Agenda Items. No comment cards from the public were submitted.

Agenda Item 6 – Presentation by Ken Bernstein. Mr. Santoro introduced Ken Bernstein, Manager of the Office of Historic Resources for the city of Los Angeles. He gave a brief overview of his background and current work as first head of the office of Historic Resources. His staff is working to build a new historic preservation program for the city. The cultural heritage ordinance allows for designated cultural monuments in the city. Currently there are 800 such sites. There are a disproportionate number in the San Fernando Valley. There are also 22 HPOZ’s (Historic Preservation Overlay Zones).

Another effort is the first citywide historic resources survey. Los Angeles does not have a solid inventory of historic structures. The county is 466 square miles and contains 880,000 parcels. Unfortunately most calls for assistance come because of demolition or development. A coordinated effort would allow the city to be proactive on preservation. The effort is funded in part by a grant from The Getty Trust. (\$2.5 million) This will not happen overnight; but will be a determined process. Meetings with NC’s will be part of the process.

Ms. Hatfield asked how the Board could find out what properties are already declared historic? Go to the website www.planning.lacity.org, click on historic preservation. Valley Village is part of the North Hollywood community plan. There are no HPOZ’s in our area. The structures of significance in the area include Adat Ari El, Chase Nolls, and the NoHo Train Depot. Stakeholder Dan Caplan asked if there is any plan to evaluate the viability of Magnolia between Laurel Canyon and 134 Freeway? Yes – and public input on that issue is being solicited.

Mr. Friedman asked if the office conducts evaluations of the financial impact on the property owner when this designation is made? Yes – there have been financial incentives extended to the owners of historic properties, including lowered property taxes (Mills Act) and federal tax credits. There is also a 20% income tax credit on any project of federal significance. National trends have also shown that historic tracts increase in value over time.

Mr. Lautman asked how an HPOZ would affect a request to alter the exterior of a home? Local HPOZ board reviews such requests and makes recommendations to the full city. Mr. Simen stated that the Valley Village Homeowners Association lists three architecturally unique homes in Valley Village.

Mr. Bernstein stated that his office is also working on the “mansionization” issue, specifically from the perspective of neighborhood character. Public workshops are being held on the issue. This is different from HPOZ’s.

Mr. Lautman asked what specific criteria was used to determine if a property has historic value? There are accepted criteria on national, state and local levels. Also a historic district can be made up of the sum of significant parts. Mr. Friedman asked if Mr. Bernstein’s office works with contractors/developers before they build so that projects might have significance in the future? No.

Ms. Newton asked for an update on the train station on Chandler. The MTA promised funds to renovate/restore the depot. Is there a timetable? MTA and CRA have been pointing back at each other as to why this hasn’t been done. The structure dates from the 1890’s and is one of the most significant properties in the SFV.

Mr. Sanchez thanked Mr. Bernstein for his report.

Agenda Item 5 – Finance Report. The financial report was distributed. There is approximately \$100,000 left in the NCVV budget. Year-to-dates \$7500 has been spent; there are still invoices pending. Mr. Hatfield also mentioned the audit by Laura Chick’s office, stating that he continues to be very disappointed by the financial support from DONE. Mr. Sanchez needs to sign the last quarterly report.

Finally Mr. Hatfield reviewed the Bank of America account problems. The account statement is incorrect, and BofA staff has not been responsive in correcting. He has not been sent a reconciliation for the account, although he now feels that the balance is correct.

Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board of required city ethics training that must be completed by December 31. Mr. Wiener asked if a form 700 is required of Board members? No, and the ethics training is separate from that.

Agenda Item 8 – Planning and Land Use. Mr. Sanchez reported for Mr. O’ Connor that Marianne King’s office and she will present at the January or February Board

meeting, to review the Valley Village Specific Plan. There is a training class next week on the ZEMAS map system, the computer system that allows users to use the internet to access city construction/development information. There are 3 vacancies on PLU and the committee is working to come up with criteria for new members of the committee. The next meeting is December 13. A brief overview of Kulak's Woodshed was provided the Board. Mr. Sanchez stated he will follow up with Wendy Greuel's office regarding this issue – an email has been send requesting feedback.

There was also a review of the status of the EZ Lube project at Laurel Canyon and Burbank, as well as an update on the mansionization and specific plan amendments discussions at the committee. Ms. Hatfield, Mr. Santoro, Mr. Wiener and Mr. Friedman attended the city-sponsored meeting on mansionization.

Ms. Newton asked about a possible ICO for Valley Village, noting the Wendy Greuel's office sponsored one for Sunland Tujunga. Ms. Hatfield stated that there is no indication that this will be implemented citywide.

Mr. Dan Caplan asked if the PLU has addressed the issue of frontage size of lots? It is still a part of the PLU agenda.

Agenda Item 8 – Short Term Projects and Long Term Projects. The next meeting is December 12. Mr. Friedman reported that there has been progress regarding the request for information on the crosswalk at Bluebell. Mr. Braswell agreed to go with Mr. Friedman to Mike Feuer and request help for funding soundwalls in Valley Village.

Agenda Item 8 – Outreach. Ms. Reiner reported that the website is being updated. She is very excited about the revitalized design. December 3 is the deadline for the next issue of The Bridge. She needs more submissions from the Board. Mr. Santoro and Ms. Reiner hope to do a complete database for Valley Village. Mr. Reiner reminded the Board of the effectiveness of The Bridge as an outreach tool.

Agenda Item 10 – Current Board Liaison Reports and Materials Distribution. Mr. Sanchez distributed mail to appropriate Board members.

Agenda Item 11 – Redline Priorities. Mr. Hatfield stated that there is a vision to extend the Redline down Wilshire Boulevard. Before any decision is made, there are some unresolved issue on current redline stations/use. Parking, cleanliness, and behavior on the Redline is not acceptable. He stated that security is questionable. He rides the redline regularly for work and feels that there is not enough attention given to these issues, and wants these addressed before the service is expanded further. He suggested plain-clothes officers to help enforce existing rules and regulations. He will draft a statement for the Board to consider in the January meeting. He will also request other NC's to sign on. Can this be placed on the January agenda? Mr. Sanchez asked that if be referred to short-term projects.

Mr. Beni Warshawsky expressed concern that this was not an issue that should be taken up by NCVV. Mr. Simen agreed. Others stated that this falls within the “compass” of services that are used by stakeholders and should be part of our concern.

Agenda Item 12 – Crosswalks. This issue was reviewed earlier in the meeting

Agenda Item 14 – Other Items for Discussion Per President. There were no other items for discussion.

Agenda Item 15 – Future Agenda Items. Mr. Lautman asked that a citywide children’s art project, a salute to troops, and sidewalks be agendized. Ms. Hatfield requested the Board consider a retreat. Ms. Reiner asked that the Valley Village birthday party be discussed. Ms. Hatfield asked that Beverly Yachzel be recognized for her teaching award from the Milken Family Foundation.

Agenda Item 16 – Public Comment. There was no further public comment.

Agenda Item 17 – President’s Closing Comments. There were no further comments.

Agenda Item 18 – the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.