

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
2-28-07**

Draft

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order by Paul Wiener at 6:50 pm.

Mr. Wiener welcomed the audience to the meeting. Mr. Wiener 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: Ms. Dorothy Apple (residential homeowner), Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Mr. Yacov Freedman (residential homeowner), Mr. Fritz Friedman (business), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (senior based), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), Mr. Ben Lautman (business), Dr. Joshua Levy (faith based), Dr. Eliezer Jones (community based organization), Mr. Greg O'Connor (residential homeowner), Mrs. Mona Riss (education), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Mr. Beni Warshawsky (residential homeowner), Mr. Paul Wiener (residential renter). Absent was Mr. Yoni Kahn-Rose (residential renter). The Posting Roll was called – posting requirements were met (7).

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of January Minutes. *Mr. Braswell explained that he was having difficulty transcribing the tape from the January meeting and planned to have the minutes prepared prior to the March meeting.*

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

Agenda Item 3 - President's Comments, Introduction of Guests. Mr. Wiener thanked the audience members in attendance and asked that they consider membership with the four NCVV standing committees.

Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment on Agenda Items. Mr. Judd Bernard of Agnes asked that the NCVV Board help in permanently removing the fortune teller signs from 5017 Laurel Canyon Boulevard. There is another sign on Riverside that needs to be removed as well. He was encouraged to call 311 to report the inappropriate signage. Ms. Hatfield also suggested he contact the Senior Lead officer.

Mr. Ron Stein, Voletta Place, expressed concern about the quality of his street, which is in need of repair. He pointed specifically to the portion between Whitsett and Belair. Mr. Stein was advised that the Board passes the information on to the City, but that it is more effective for him and his neighbors to contact the city department of streets directly. Mr. Braswell provided the name of the representatives from streets who came in September 2006 to make a presentation regarding street repaving.

Mr. Friedman asked if the Board was aware that DONE has appointed a General Manager. Her name is Carole Baker Tharp. He also shared that there is a 2nd public hearing regarding the Neighborhood Character Study which will be held at the Braude Center, City Planning Department, March 21, 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Agenda Item 6 – Projects Committee. Dr. Jones presented the report from the Projects Committee (this committee is the combination of the Long Term and Short Term Projects Committees). The committee presented four motions for consideration.

NCVV supports the Mayor’s Big Sunday event on April 29 and will participate by creating 250 emergency earthquake supply “kits” and provide emergency preparedness training to the first 250 households to register for the event. The Board allocates up to \$8000 to support this activity. Mr. Warshawsky asked if there would be bidding for the kits? A city approved vendor is being used and the “kit” is actually a combination of items from the CERT training. Mr. Simen amended the motion to add “to the first 250 households to register”. The motion was approved 10-1-0.

A motion was made that NCVV approves \$800 to sponsor a table for 10 people at the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the East Valley Senior Center on April 28. The dinner will be held at the Porter Valley Country Club. Mr. Warshawsky asked if it was appropriate to give donations to organizations and sponsor events such as this. Mr. Lautman suggested that the Board adopt a structure for donating to organizations and establish a way of determining the value for the investment of the donation. Mr. Braswell advised the Board that NCVV has a long standing relationship with the Senior Center. Mr. Friedman suggested that synergy could be created by giving the 10 seats to other organizations to use. The motion was approved 10-1-0.

A motion was to be made regarding NCVV support for the LAPD police shed for the North Hollywood station, but the motion was removed from consideration by Dr. Jones. Subsequent to their meeting the committee received information that the involvement of the committee was not needed and the issue has been resolved.

A motion was made to extend the NCVV banner project by one (1) year and add the seal for the city of Los Angeles as directed by DONE. Mr. Simen expressed concern that there was no dollar figure attached to the motion; Ms. Hatfield explained that the project must be approved at the February Board meeting to extend the project. If the approval was held until the March meeting, the permits for the banners would expire and the banners would be removed. Mr. Wiener explained that the 2007 budget has discretionary dollars and remaining Outreach dollars that the Executive Committee could use to pay for the cost of attaching the city seal. The motion was approved 10-1-0.

Mr. Freedman arrived at 8:15.

Dr. Jones updated the Board on the issue of the “smart car” funding. This issue was brought before the NCVV Board in 2006, and the Board approved \$4000 to help purchase a camera for use on and LAPD car that would track license plates as it drove around the area. Since the request, the city and LAPD have been successful in securing additional funding including grants from other NCs, and the \$4000 approved by NCVV was not needed. Mr. Hatfield later advised he will note this in the NCVV budget.

Dr. Jones provided advised that soundwalls remain on the list of action items for the Projects Committee. Mr. Friedman asked if the intention to send a letter has been abandoned? Ms. Hatfield informed the committee that the budget for next year's soundwall construction has been approved and the three parts of the budget that belong to Valley Village are not on the list. They are the very next three priorities. Mr. Friedman stated that timeliness is important and that a letter could still be helpful, and the Board should try to move this issue forward in whatever way it can. The question raised by Ms. Hatfield is to whom would the letter be sent? It was agreed that the MTA and CalTrans would be invited to speak to the full Board in the April Board meeting. The public would be invited to attend.

Agenda Item 6 – Communications Committee. Mr. Braswell reminded the Board that this committee represents the former Outreach Committee. The committee is working on updating the outreach plan to be more comprehensive of all communications, and seeking to update the website, The Bridge, and prepare for the 2007 election.

Agenda Item 6 – Planning and Land Use Committee. Mr. O'Connor reported that the meeting was held last Tuesday evening, and that the Committee was looking for the most convenient time to meet. The next meeting is to be held March 14. The Committee reminded the Board of the upcoming town hall meeting on March 21 at the Braude Center on the Neighborhood Character Study. This is related to the city proposal under consideration by the City Council to establish a floor area ratio for residence construction. There are two vacancies on the committee. They will attempt to fill the vacancies at the next meeting. Mr. Simen asked if Mr. O'Connor has spoken to the owner of Marie et Cie, (who is an architect)? He asked who is presently on the committee – Greg O'Connor (chair), Tony Braswell, Yoni Kahn-Rose, Bill Santoro, Beth Fulton, Dan Kaplan, Mark Woersching.

Agenda Item 6 – Elections. Ms. Hatfield reported that the committee will begin meeting in March.

Agenda Item 7 – NCVV Birthday Party. The event is March 11. The purpose is to bring the community together, and the event is jointly sponsored with the Valley Village Homeowner's Association. Gelson's has not responded but Mr. Wiener thinks they will be involved.

Agenda Item 8 – Soundwall Update. Reported earlier in the meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Board Liaison Report. Mr. Wiener is still working on the reporting for liaisons to the full Board.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items. Mr. Friedman asked for an update on the open house. A request was made to explore better seating for the Board members for the meeting. Dr. Levy asked if a schedule could be provided to the Board for all of the dates and locations of monthly meetings. Mr. O'Connor asked for updated contact information for Board members. Ms. Hatfield (and Mr. Friedman) asked that soundwalls be a presentation for the April meeting.

Mrs. Riss asked that the calendar be clarified for May and September so that they do not conflict with holidays/holy days. The meetings will be moved up one week, to May 16 and September 19.

Mr. Hatfield arrived at 8:15 pm.

It was reported that there has been a crime incident in Valley Village park with graffiti painted on the restrooms and some of the playground equipment. The Board requested that there be a presentation on crime in Valley Village at the March meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Finance Report. Mr. Hatfield reported that spending picked up in February and that \$10,600 has been committed for the Valley Village gateway sign (\$7000) and The Bridge (\$3600). The \$4000 allocation for the police car camera will be moved back into the budget. Mr. Hatfield will be working on the 2007-2008 budget and will have a draft for the March meeting. He advised the Board that NCVV should be concerned and not support the position from Lisa Sarno that defines how much a NC budget can be designated for specific uses. NCVV uses almost 90% of our budget on outreach and community activities.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment. Ms. Mary Preston did not speak. She advised she will write and submit her comments on Agenda Item 6. Mr. Michael McCue stated he is a renter’s rights advocate and addressed the Board on four proposals sent by housing advocates regarding enhanced tenant protection. The city proposals, numbers 12952, 4706, 15109 and 16105, would raise the financial support for relocation assistance, establish fees on landlords, place a moratorium on condo conversions and establish a monitoring program that for compliance on buildings that are to be demolished. There is a meeting at City Hall March 28 regarding these issues proposed by Councilman Wesson.

Mr. Braswell suggested a post card that informed NCVV residents of the March and April Board meetings, and if there is room we could add information on this meeting as well.

Mr. Gary Bregman, Babcock Street, asked for assistance on getting his street repaved. He was advised to call 311, and was given the contact information for the Streets department. Mr. Dan Caplan asked about agenda posting, stating that he has not seen the agenda posted at the locations that are in the minutes. Mr. Braswell explained that there has been some problems with posting signs and that many are not keeping the agendas up for the required amount of time. The Executive Committee will bring a revised posting list for approval to the March meeting.

There was no further public comment.

Agenda Item 12 – President’s Closing Comments. There were no further comments.

Agenda Item 13 – the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.