

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village  
Board Meeting  
6-27-07**

**Approved September 19, 2007 10-0-0**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution and Welcoming Remarks.** The meeting was called to order by Paul Wiener at 6:45 pm. Mr. Wiener noted that there was no quorum present. No action items would be undertaken before a quorum was reached. Mr. Wiener thanked those in attendance for their involvement, and reminded the audience that the meeting would be conducted under the Brown Act and within the guidelines of Roberts Rules of Order.

**Agenda Item 3 – President’s Comments and Introduction of Guests.** Mr. Wiener introduced Taneda Larios from The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and Evan Roosevelt from Councilwoman Greuel’s office, and Mr. Greenberg from the Senior Center.

Mr. Roosevelt informed the Board that Councilwoman Greuel would be sponsoring a graffiti clean up day. There is also an ordinance against graffiti that she is a co-sponsor of. Ms. Greuel is putting together a coalition to help including 311, LAPD, and community groups. She encouraged NCVV to participate. (flyer attached). Mr. Braswell asked if someone could approach North Hollywood High School about removing the blue fence slats on the Chandler side of the fence? Mr. Wiener stated that alleyways tend to get plastered more often with graffiti, and asked if some priority could be given to alleyways? Mr. Roosevelt stated that the city is using a climbing vine program to help deter graffiti on walls and fences. He encouraged the audience not to lose their sense of enthusiasm. 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.

Ms. Larios advised the Board that the NC Review Commission is holding a meeting June 30 at 10am. Information on the meeting is at [ncrcla.org](http://ncrcla.org). The meeting will have several sub-meetings, including self assessment of NC process, recent recommendations regarding Planning and Land Use issues, Translation issues, Board structure, Bylaws and Brown Act training.

Question from the audience – what power does the Board have? (Mr. Hannock) The Board is advisory and while it does not have authority to make many decisions it does play an important advisory role to the city and in fact speaks on behalf of the community of Valley Village. It is a very good form of participatory democracy.

The same audience member asked why there is no accountability for Brown Act violations? There is accountability and the community helps by holding all parties to appropriate standards.

The same audience member asked why can you talk about advisory capacity when there was a vote and the board voted without the community knowing? Ms. Larios offered to speak with the stakeholder after the meeting to ensure that the questions were properly addressed.

Ms. Danielle Ariano presented Relay for Life to the Board. This is an American Cancer Society event that raises money for the organization and awareness about programs. It will be held at

Walter Reed Middle School and is a 24 hour event with food and entertainment. The Board was asked to donate power generators and tents. The event is August 11 and 12. Greg O'Connor suggested that Ms. Ariano contact CBS Radford – they have done this before. The request was sent to the Projects Committee.

Mr. Howard Greenberg works for the Valley Interfaith Council and his group sponsors 11 Senior meal programs from Van Nuys to Picoima. The program is 47 years old. They are looking to increase the number of people who come out for the subsidized lunch. They also provide meals for shut-ins. A small donation is requested. They work with the LA Department of Aging. Mr. Greenberg asked if NCVV could help inform the community about this program.

Mr. Lautman asked about advertising/marketing? Most of it is word of mouth, and there are some flyers. Mr. Lautman asked that the program be highlighted in The Bridge. Mr. Braswell will also note it on the website. Ms. Riss stated that she has personal knowledge of the group and that they are exceptional, and we should support their activities.

A quorum was reached at 7:20.

The roll was called. Board members present were: Ms. Dorothy Apple (residential homeowner), Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Mr. Fritz Friedman (business), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (senior based), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), Mr. Ben Lautman (business), Dr. Joshua Levy (faith based), Mr. Greg O'Connor (residential homeowner), Ms. Mona Riss (education), Mr. Paul Wiener (residential renter). Board members absent were Mr. Yacov Freedman (residential homeowner), Mr. Yoni Kahn-Rose (residential renter), Dr. Eliezer Jones (community service organization), Mr. Benny Warshawsky (homeowner). The Posting Roll was called – posting requirements were met (5).

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of May Minutes.** The minutes were approved 9-0-1.

**Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment on Agenda Items.** Mr. Hannock deferred his time stating that two minutes is not sufficient for him to express his point. Ms. Lisa Jesky stated that she recently moved to Valley Village from Belgium and asked the Board to help with truck traffic in the neighborhood, especially early in the morning. She asked if there is a noise ordinance? Her concern focused on deliveries to Jon's Market.

Bill North stated that he has a background in statistical work and he commented on the poll conducted by the Valley Village Homeowners Association. He stated that there was a 34% response rate and 99.75% were in opposed to a motion passed at a prior meeting. He expressed his frustration with a lack of support for emergency response effort he was asked to chair.

Bill Canterbury stated there has been an increase in drug activity near his home, Addison at Ben.

Andrew Sacher stated that there is too much activity on weekends in Valley Village park, including inflatable jumping apparatus for children and illegal fireworks, cookouts and parties. He is concerned for children running out into the busy street and alarmed that none of the persons using the park have permits. This is much worse on holidays. He stated there has been no enforcement by the Parks office or the Park Rangers.

Mr. Sacher was advised to contact the North Hollywood Police Department. If drugs are suspected get a license plate number, and call Tony Meneti in the Narcotics division of the NoHo Police Department.

**Agenda Item 5 – Finance Report.** Mr. Hatfield thanked Ms. Larios for her support pushing through an invoice for Colfax World Fair. Year to date NCVV has spent \$40,223 and there will be \$117,877 carried over to the new year’s budget. Mr. Friedman asked about discretionary funding and what abilities does the Board have to spend outside of the committee process? It would depend on the nature of the request. An example of such an expenditure would be expenses related to a “called” Board meeting.

**Agenda Item 6 – Standing Committee Reports, Elections.** Ms. Hatfield gave an update on preparations for the 2007 elections. The Election Procedures have been approved with two changes. The election will be October 17, and the candidate filing period opens August 16. Ms. Hatfield reviewed the elections procedures and encouraged those in the audience who might qualify to run for the NCVV Board.

**Agenda Item 6 – Standing Committee Reports, Projects.** Dr. Jones reviewed the Community Grants Project structure he presented at the April meeting. A motion came from the committee to approve the grant structure pending City approval. The motion was approved 10-0-0.

**Agenda Item 6 – Standing Committee Reports, Communications.** Mr. Braswell advised that the committee is working on the website, and working on outreach related to the Election, National Night Out and July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

**Agenda Item 6 – Standing Committee Reports, Planning and Land Use.** Mr. O’Connor stated there has been an additional vacancy on the committee. The PLU committee will select a new member at the next meeting. Mr. Friedman and Mr. Braswell are co-chairing an ad hoc subcommittee to develop a survey related to mansionization opinions in Valley Village.

**Agenda Item 7 – Sidewalks in Valley Village.** Mr. Lautman discussed the lack of uniformity of sidewalks in Valley Village, expressing concern that in some places they don’t even exist. He reminded the Board that much work has been done on this by Dr. Dan Wiseman, targeting heavy pedestrian areas along Chandler, Magnolia and Riverside. Mr. O’Connor thanked Mr. Lautman for keeping this issue on the agenda, and stated that a great place to start focusing would be on Chandler. Mr. Friedman reminded the Board that the property owner shares much of the financial burden of installing sidewalks. Mr. Braswell agreed and stated that Dr. Wiseman’s cost estimates were in the range of \$5000 per foot.

Mr. Braswell and Dr. Jones commented that some consideration must be given to residents who do not want sidewalks, or may not currently have sidewalks. Dr. Jones, Ms. Riss and Mr. Braswell agreed that a grid should be constructed showing major thoroughfares and the sidewalks that are missing, focusing on Chandler, Riverside, Magnolia, Laurel Canyon and Whitsett.

**Agenda Item 9 – Board Liaison Reports and Material Distribution.**

**Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items.** The Valley Village Entry sign. Mr. Lautman asked that sidewalks be maintained on the agenda. Mr. Friedman asked if the Board could explore the concept of Pedestrian Community.

**Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment.** None.

**Agenda Item 12 – President’s Closing Comments.** Mr. Wiener thanked all in attendance for their comments, and specifically thanked the Board members for their continued hard work and dedication.

**Agenda Item 13** – the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.