

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village  
Board Meeting  
11-28-07**

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

**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 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.

The roll was called. Board members present were: Ms. Dorothy Apple (residential homeowner), Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Mr. Yacov Freedman (cultural representative), Mr. Fritz Friedman (business), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (senior based), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), 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. Yoni Kahn-Rose (residential renter), Mr. Ben Lautman (business), Mr. Beni Warshawsky (residential homeowner). The Posting Roll was called – posting requirements were met (6).

**Agenda Item 3 - President's Comments and Introduction of Guests.** Mr. Wiener introduced Mr. Evan Roosevelt from Councilwoman Greuel's office. Mr. Roosevelt thanked the Board for their service, and reminded the audience of the role the NC Board plays to support the relationship between city government and stakeholders.

Referencing the Stuntacular show, he expressed appreciation that the issue would be studied by committee and acknowledged there were difficult steps that should be carefully analyzed before the event is repeated. Mr. Roosevelt reiterated that this was a trial and that it was never intended that this would be a permanent decision for Valley Village. He commended the leadership of NCVV for how the event was conducted.

Mr. Wiener introduced officer Solano, Senior Lead for General Services Police. They are the policing body for Los Angeles City Parks. Within their jurisdiction are parks, convention center, and the zoo among others. She opened the floor for questions about policing parks. Mr. Hatfield asked how the General Service police report within the system? They are a unique department. All officers are trained in the police academy. Ms. Hatfield asked for more information on permitting for events, and how can NCVV have a say in park permits considered? Recreation and Parks Department owns the land and sets the rules on what can/can't be done in a specific park. Recreation and Parks can come and meet with NCVV Board to discuss Valley Village park specifically. Permits depend on what type of activity is being planned. Officer Solano was asked specifically about "jumpers" for children's parties. Those are not allowed in Valley Village park.

On December 8 there will be a meeting "Community Needs Assessment Program" which is open to the public. It's a great opportunity for the community to voice their opinions about how the parks are utilized. One ongoing concern is enforcement in the parks. There is no law that permits enforcement, so officers use creative ways to help people adhere to rules. The LA code that allows for enforcement is currently suspended.

Mr. Wiener asked about liability for activities that are not permitted. Signs at the entrance to the park explain the limited liability of the City. Mr. Hatfield raised two issues about the moonbounce activities – they are often close to the curb and dangerous for children and the power source could be dangerous. How can we get them further into the park? Dearborne Park was cited as an example of how this issue has been addressed. Ms. Hatfield asked if there is an example of a park that has adopted rules for their area? These are best conveyed in signs, which are available and can be installed by Recreation and Parks. Bill North stated that he injured himself in Valley village park and tried to get legal help. He was told that the Park is bound by the information that is posted at the entrance and in any activity you assume your own liability. He also stated that he witnessed the North Hollywood Security Ambassadors beating up a homeless man and asked if that was permitted? No. Officer Solano gave her number and encouraged stakeholders to call if there are problems like the ones mentioned in the meeting. 213-305-9223.

Mr. Sacher stated there are “no soccer” signs in the park, but there is lots of soccer being played. He also asked if people who rent the park for an activity have to get a permit? Yes. The city does have some specific activities that are authorized for certain locations. Mr. Wiener asked that the issue of Valley Village park and the activities that are appropriate be delegated to the projects committee. He thanked officer Solano for taking time to present to the Board.

**Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment on Agenda Items.** No public comment.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of October Minutes.** A motion was made by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Ms. Hatfield to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved 9-0-0.

**Agenda Item 5 – SB1818.** Mr. O’Connor asked that the discussion on SB1818 be carried over to the December meeting.

Ms. Hatfield and Mr. Hatfield attended a Valley Alliance meeting where a representative of Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) explained that the city’s version of SB1818 is still being developed.

Mr. Wiener expressed concern about a 45 unit condominium of 45 feet in height that is being planned on Corteen. It seems there are no grounds to deny until the city resolved its interpretation of SB1818.

**Agenda Item 6 – Finance Report.** Mr. Hatfield distributed the financial report. NCVV is still spending on target for \$30,000 for calendar year 2007. Still one remaining invoice for the mansionization survey. The election cost \$4313 this year, due to postage not incurred in 2006. This year NCVV did not have the ability to take the special edition of The Bridge to the postal distribution center in Torrance. That resulted in a variance of \$2813 in this year’s election expense. Mr. Hatfield motioned that \$2813 be moved from Board discretionary funds to election expenses to cover the variance. Dr. Levy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 9-0-0.

Mr. Hatfield also noted that the city expects to have a budget crisis in the coming year, requiring major cutbacks in funding. It will probably require that NCVV accelerate the electronic distribution of The Bridge.

**Agenda Item 9 – Telephone Utility Tax.** Mr. Hatfield reviewed the history of the telephone tax, which has been in place for some time. In May 2006 the tax was ruled illegal. All appeals of the

ruling have been exhausted and the city will realize a loss of \$270 million in the next year. That equates to a 6.5% decrease in the budget. The city has been aware of this loss for several years. It is referenced in a letter from Laura Chick's office in September 2006. It is now being placed on the ballot for voters to consider and being called an "emergency". The leadership of Los Angeles has had it's head-in-the-sand regarding this issue. There has been no leadership at the mayoral or city council level. Mr. Hatfield presented data that showed an increase in 8% spending in operating expenses over the last year. Of that number, just 6% was in services to residents. Over 10% increase in administrative expenses. There is no tough management of the city finances. Mr. Hatfield will arrange a presentation to the Board and plan to introduce a motion that NCVV disagrees with this ballot initiative.

**Agenda Item 7 – Presentation on DWP Rate Increase.** Mr. Richard Gauthier presented an overview of the proposed DWP rate increases for water and power. He mentioned that the increases are very complicated. In 2005 and MOU was signed and extended this year for five more years. The MOU requires notification of significant events in rate changes of at least 120 days. An oversite committee has been established consisting of over 60 NC's. The group meets quarterly. They are volunteers who are trying to monitor a huge organization with 8072 employees and over \$3 billion in plant and equipment. A presentation from Mr. Gauthier is attached.

Mr. Wiener asked how individuals are able to track this activity and hold DWP accountable? It's hard to answer as it is difficult to get information from DWP. Ms. Hatfield asked if the LA City Council has to approve this increase? Yes. The CFO has already recommended the increase. Two council committees have to sign off on it and then it goes to the mayor. Mr. Friedman asked if there is any connection between the lost revenue from the telephone tax and the new revenue that will be generated by this rate increase? Yes, to some degree. Mr. Wiener thanked Mr. Gauthier for his presentation.

Mr. Wiener acknowledged the newly elected Board members who were present in the audience.

**Agenda Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports, Projects.** Mr. Freedman reported a very successful first meeting, held at his home. A list of all current, and proposed projects was compiled and the committee is prioritizing their work. The next meeting will be December 3. The next meeting will discuss the Halloween Stuntacular event. There have been concerns expressed about the event. He hoped that there would be stakeholders who will speak to the issue.

**Agenda Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports, Planning and Land Use.** Mr. O'Connor had motions to consider. He mentioned there would be a meeting Thursday night at CBS Annex 1, hosted by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky to discuss SB1818.

**Agenda Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports, Communications.** Mr. Braswell reported that there was no meeting, but that the website will be live on December 1.

**Agenda Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports, Elections.** Ms. Hatfield introduced Phillip Schaeffer who is attending the November NCVV meeting. He will be applying for the Student seat.

**Agenda Item 10 – Major Recommendations from the 912 Commission.** Ms. Hatfield reported that the major recommendations of the 912 Commission have been published and encouraged everyone to read them on the DONE website. Among the recommendations:

- NC's shall remain advisory
- Any motion filed by 3 or more councils would be moved to the City Council agenda
- Structural changes are planned to make offices work more closely together
- Designation of 1 person contact per city department for NCs
- DONE will support NCVV staffing
- Role of BONC will be clarified
- New peer grievance process will be implemented with BONC as final arbiter
- New look at sunshine law and Brown Act for NCs
- Definition of Stakeholder will be revised to state lives, works or owns property, or affirms a stake in the neighborhood
- City Clerk shall authorize and run all elections
- Outreach will be shared between City Council and NCs
- Translation services will be provided at no cost
- Each NC will receive funding and all unused funding will return to BONC

Mr. Richard Alarcon is the city council member responsible for Neighborhood Councils and he will be hosting hearings across the city related to the report.

Agenda Item 11 – Update on the 30' Huston lot. Mr. O'Connor had no updated information.

Agenda Item 12 – Board Liaison Reports, other items for discussion. There were none.

Agenda Item 13 – Future Agenda Items. Proposed Telephone Tax, Mr. Hatfield. SB1818, Mr. O'Connor.

Agenda Item 14 – Public Comment. Mr. Andrew Sacher spoke regarding the Halloween Stutacular held on October 31. He expressed his concern that the event sets a bad precedent for such a small park. He stated that in his opinion we do not want to make this an annual destination for all of the south San Fernando Valley. Parking was very bad, there was not control, and the goal of people walking to the event was not met. He felt that organizers breeched their city permit as the were in the park for 8.5 days. Mr. Wiener thanked Mr. Sacher for his comments and asked that the entire issue be taken to Projects committee.

Another stakeholder stated that he is strongly opposed to the event and had never experienced such a disaster in Valley Village. The Board was lied to and he could not imagine that the Board would approve the event for such a small park. He stated that the persons who petitioned him lied to him about what he was signing. Mr. Hatfield thanked the gentleman for his comments and explained the role of the Board in both facilitating this year's event and also reviewing the appropriateness of the event for the future.

Agenda Item 15 – President's Closing Comments. Mr. Wiener thanked the audience for their participation in the evening's meeting. He reminded the Board and audience that the newly elected Board will be seated in December, and thanked the current Board for allowing him to serve for the past 12 months as President. It was the realization of a lifelong dream to run for elected office and serve the community. It was full of highs and lows but has been a most educational ride. He thanked his colleagues for their support and pledged his support in the coming year. He also congratulated the new Board and acknowledged them as they begin their new service.

**Agenda Item 16** – the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.