

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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Ginny Hatfield, Vice-President
Steven Stokes, Treasurer
Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, Secretary
Daryl Baskin
Daniel Brady
Richard Davies
Alice Hart
Sandy Hubbard
Suzanne Lewis
Richard Poole
Paulette Stokes
Charles Sulahian
Jeff Walker
Marc Woersching
Alex Rostad, Student Representative



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Minutes of the NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE (NCVV) GENERAL BOARD MEETING Wednesday, August 26, 2015

Faith Presbyterian Church – 5000 Colfax Ave., Valley Village, CA 91601

NCVV (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary; Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript or comprehensive record of what was said at a Meeting. Exceptions: Motion(s) (included as stated at the Meeting, or, if not stated, as written on the Agenda); quotes (words that have quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and Agenda wording copied into the Minutes.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution – Mr. Braswell

President Tony Braswell introduced himself and called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Eleven of the 16 Board Members were present at the Roll Call, including all four Executive Committee Members: Tony Braswell, President; Ginny Hatfield, Vice-President; Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, Secretary; Steven Stokes, Treasurer; Daryl Baskin; Daniel Brady; Richard Davies; Suzanne Lewis; Alex Rostad; Paulette Stokes; and Charles Sulahian. Richard Poole, Jeff Walker and Marc Woersching arrived later. Two Board Members were absent: Alice Hart and Sandy Hubbard (both excused). The NCVV quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is nine including at least three Executive Committee Members (see <http://69.89.31.152/~myvalle7/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/NCVV-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. All 16 of the 16 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seats were vacant. Also attending: approximately 44 Stakeholders and Guests.

2. Approval of July 2015 Minutes

The Board approved the Minutes of its July 22, 2015 General Board Meeting as written.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were no comments at this time.

[The following comments were made after the Item #7 Planning and Land Use Committee report.] Courtney Hamilton, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Two Councilman Paul Krekorian (818-352-3287; Courtney.Hamilton@LACity.org; <http://CD2.LACity.org>), reported that the Councilman supports the Mobility Plan, though “each project has to be totally vetted . . . they’re just suggestions.”

4. Special Guest Colfax Principal Robyn Friedman

Ms. Friedman reported that they “have almost 700 kids . . . the most we’ve ever had . . . at capacity grades K through three . . . we still have a couple of spaces in fourth and fifth grade.”

Board Members Richard Poole and Jeff Walker arrived at this time, making 13 Board (including at least three Executive Committee) Members present (the NCVV quorum is nine including at least three Executive Committee Members).

5. Executive Committee Report – Ms. Hatfield

Board Member Marc Woersching arrived at this time, making 14 Board Members present.

Mr. Braswell reported that the Executive Committee unanimously voted to support its colleagues on the Midtown North Hollywood NC and oppose the State’s effort to auction the property adjacent to Pitfire Pizza. The NCVV will file a Community Impact Statement regarding the proposed sale of that small piece of land, supporting the City’s effort to change the zoning.

Mr. Braswell reported that the Executive Committee unanimously approved 4-0 and forwarded to the full Board a Motion to support City Council File 15-0937, an effort to update the zoning for 5203-5205 Lankershim Boulevard. Mr. Braswell and Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia reviewed the background on the property and the Motion. He noted that it was not known whether the zoning change would impact property values of adjoining lots, but it was safe to assume it would not. They explained that the property auction is a “blind” auction and sale would be to the highest bidder.

MOTION (by the Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village will support Council File #15-0937 (proposed zoning change to 5203 – 5205 Lankershim Blvd.)

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Baskin, Brady, Braswell, Davies, Hatfield, Lewis, Liebowitz-Neglia, Poole, Rostad, Paulette Stokes, Steven Stokes, Sulahian, Walker and Woersching); zero opposed; zero abstained.

MOTION PASSED with no opposition.

[*This Agenda Item was continued after Item #6.*] Ms. Hatfield noted that VANC [the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils] passed a Motion recommending that the City Council allow Neighborhood Council Board Members to speak for up to five minutes on a topic. The Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be at City Hall September 26th. The November 12th Valley Resource Forum is open to all.

FUNDING MOTION (by the Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village will allocate \$200, \$100 each for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 events.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Baskin, Brady, Braswell, Davies, Hatfield, Lewis, Liebowitz-Neglia, Poole, Rostad, Paulette Stokes, Steven Stokes, Sulahian, Walker and Woersching); zero opposed; zero abstained.

6. Finance Report – Mr. Stokes

Monthly Financial Report, Motion: approve July 2015 financial report
FY2016 Funding update

Mr. Stokes reviewed and explained recent expenditures. He said that \$6,490 was spent; “over 50% was for the printing and production of the postcard . . . that went to 13,000 addresses.” The balance was \$30,509.90.

FUNDING MOTION (by the Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village approves its July 2015 financial report.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Baskin, Brady, Braswell, Davies, Hatfield, Lewis, Liebowitz-Neglia, Poole, Rostad, Paulette Stokes, Steven Stokes, Sulahian, Walker and Woersching); zero opposed; zero abstained.

7. Committee Reports

Planning and Land Use – Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia

Motion: [see the below Motion].

Ms. L-N explained and read aloud the above Motions. Mr. Braswell explained that the NCVV cannot force the City to build sidewalks. NCVV Planning and Land Use Committee Member Dan Caplan said he has not been able to get information from the owners or the City.

MOTION (by the Committee): Given the danger of lack of sidewalks on the east side of Colfax Avenue between Riverside and Addison, Neighborhood Council Valley Village requests support from the City of Los Angeles BOS, CD2, BOE and BOSS to implement a policy of improving pedestrian access on this thoroughfare at the occasion of any new construction on properties adjacent to this area.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

MOTION (by the Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village moves that, in any incidence where small lot subdivision regulations are considered vs the Specific Plan, the stricter guideline shall prevail with an eye towards protecting the character of the community related to the immediately adjacent properties.

Mr. Braswell explained that it would not be good to amend the Valley Village Specific Plan now. There was extensive discussion of current land uses in regard to the Plan.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Events & Outreach – Ms. Lewis

Ms. Lewis reported that the Committee is working with businesses on a September 30th reception at Shakey's. Ms. Lewis would like the NCVV to sponsor a September 19th Movie Night.

Motion: approve \$2852 for production of 2016 NCVV Calendar to be used as outreach

The above Agendized Motion was withdrawn by Ms. Lewis; more bids will be sought.

FUNDING MOTION (by the Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village will allocate \$575 for Movie Night expenses; the screening rights to the movie "Paddington" are secured.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Poole explained the event.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Baskin, Brady, Braswell, Davies, Hatfield, Lewis, Liebowitz-Neglia, Rostad, Paulette Stokes, Steven Stokes, Sulahian, Walker and Woersching); zero opposed; zero abstained. Pastor Poole did not vote.

Ms. Lewis announced upcoming events.

Motion: request the Board and Executive Committee work with CD2 to secure funding for improved lighting in Valley Village park as well as a protected power source at the patio area

FUNDING MOTION (by the Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village will work with CD2 to secure funding for improved lighting in Valley Village park as well as a protected power source at the patio area.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Baskin, Brady, Braswell, Davies, Hatfield, Lewis, Liebowitz-Neglia, Poole, Rostad, Paulette Stokes, Steven Stokes, Sulahian, Walker and Woersching); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Valley Village Vision Task Force – Ms. Hubbard

Ms. Hubbard was not present and there was no report.

Mobility Plan

There was no report.

City Services – Mr. Walker

Mr. Walker reported that the LAPD increased patrols on Colfax during school hours. The Committee discussed with the City traffic “calming measures” on Colfax. The East Valley PALS will meet September 10th. Copies were distributed of an “LAFD Auxiliary Communications Service” proposal.

Motion: NCVV approves a donation of \$500 to LAFD Auxiliary Communication Service to purchase items to support their communication network

FUNDING MOTION (by the Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village approves a donation of \$500 to LAFD Auxiliary Communication Service to purchase items to support their communication network.

DISCUSSION: Jonathan Zimmerman, Communications Leader, Battalion 14, explained the need and that, currently, personal equipment is used for backup emergency communications. Mr. Walker reported that the Service requested \$1,500; the Committee recommended \$500-\$750.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Walker); there was no opposition.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Baskin, Brady, Braswell, Davies, Hatfield, Lewis, Liebowitz-Neglia, Poole, Rostad, Paulette Stokes, Steven Stokes, Sulahian, Walker and Woersching); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Communications – Mr. Brady

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.*] Mr. Brady reported that last month the website had 6,763 page views; 2,939 Stakeholders used the website, the most ever. There are 1,045 subscribers. The Newsletter has a 32.4% openings rate. The NCVV has more than 200 Twitter followers and 306 Facebook likes.

Elections and Bylaws – Ms. Hatfield

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.*] Ms. Hatfield reported that NCVV elections probably will be held in March.

8. **Special presentation** – proposed rate DWP rate increase to fund infrastructure/system improvements, presentation plus time for questions and answers from NCVV Board and stakeholders. Jeff Peltola, Chief Financial Officer, and David H. Wright, Chief Administrative Officer and Customer Service Oversight

Copies were distributed of the “2015 Briefing Book” and “Water and Power Rates Request 2016-2020 Fact Sheet.” Greg Bartz, Community Liaison, DWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) (213-367-2800, Greg.Bartz@ladwp.com; www.ladwp.com), introduced Mr. Peltola and Mr. Wright, who reported that 99% of bills are being sent on time. Mr. Peltola explained financial challenges. Much energy-efficient equipment has been installed. Increased water main replacement has resulted in reduced leaks. They are working to cut the amount of water bought from the MWD from 53% to 24% by increasing storm water capture and other methods. Coal use has been lowered from 42% to 23% and eventually will be reduced to zero. He explained proposed tiered pricing and effects on bills. By 2016, “level pay” and “budget billing” options will be available. A \$1,000 pool rebate is available to replace “single-speed pool pumps” with “variable-speed pool pumps.” Mr. Braswell noted that the NCVV website has water conservation tips.

9. **Public Comment**

There were no comments at this time.

10. **Future Agenda Items, Closing Comments**

There were no Items or comments at this time.

Mr. Braswell declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, edited by NCVV. *The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda.* The NCVV Minutes page is <http://www.myvalleyvillage.com/agendas-minutes>.