

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Tony Braswell, President
Ginny Hatfield, Vice-President
Steven Stokes, Treasurer
Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, Secretary
Dorothy Apple
Daryl Baskin
Glenn Block
Richard Davies
Alice Hart
Suzanne Lewis
Lisa Miller
Richard Poole
Paulette Stokes
Jeff Walker
Marc Woersching
Cole Walker, Student Representative



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Minutes of the
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE (NCVV)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING Wednesday, November 16, 2016
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, Conflict of Interest Statement, Approval of August 2016 Minutes – Mr. Braswell

President Tony Braswell introduced himself, called the Meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Six of the 15 Board Members and the Student Representative (Cole Walker) were present at the Roll Call, which is not a quorum, including two Executive Committee Members: Tony Braswell (President), Ginny Hatfield (Vice-President), Daryl Baskin, Glenn Block, Alice Hart and Jeff Walker. Paulette Stokes, Steven Stokes (Treasurer) and Marc Woersching arrived later. Six Board Members were absent: Dale Liebowitz-Neglia (Secretary), Dorothy Apple, Richard Davies, Suzanne Lewis, Lisa Miller and Richard Poole. The NCVV quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is eight including at least three Executive Committee Members (see <https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bj3apxsp3?a=q&qid=32&qskip=0&qrppg=1000&dlt=su46~>), so at this time the Board could only take public comments and could not have any official discussions, and could not make any Motions or take any votes. All 15 of the 15 Board Seats were filled (by election). No Board Seats were vacant. Also attended: 18 Stakeholders and Guests. Mr. Braswell explained procedures. The Agenda was approved.

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were no comments at this time.

3. Executive Committee Report – Ms. Hatfield

Board meeting start time.

Ms. Hatfield and Mr. Block reported on the November 10th VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils] Planning Forum. She reported that the Oakwood School bridge will be built by early December. Courtney Hamilton, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Two Councilman Paul Krekorian (818-352-3287; Courtney.Hamilton@LACity.org; <http://CD2.LACity.org>), explained about facilitating the work. Ms. Hatfield suggested changing the meeting start time from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

[This Agenda Item was continued after Item #4.]

MOTION (by the Executive Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village moves its Board Meeting start time to 7:00 p.m.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

4. Finance Report – Mr. Stokes

Motion to approve October 2016 financial report.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6 City Services Committee report.]

Board Members Paulette Stokes and Marc Woerschling had arrived by this time, making at least nine Board (including three Executive Committee) Members present (the NCVV quorum is eight including at least three Executive Committee Members).

FUNDING MOTION (by the Finance Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village approves its October 2016 financial report.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Baskin, Block, Braswell, Hart, Hatfield, Paulette Stokes, Steven Stokes, Jeff Walker and Woerschling); zero opposed; zero abstained.

5. Report from City Council Office, State Offices

Ms. Hamilton announced the December 8th Holiday Food and Toy Drive; donations are sought. She explained a new City law that no one can sleep in their vehicle within one block of schools, religious facilities or residential neighborhoods; it is allowed between 9:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. in industrial or commercial zones. Violators would be ticketed, not jailed. She described homeless services provided. “Signs are up . . . there still just needs to be enforcement” at Valley Village Park on Westpark Drive, west of the 170 Freeway; adjustments will be made. Mr. Braswell explained that the NCVV is working with the Police to have a period of education through early next year, then start enforcement. Stakeholder Paul Hatfield requested more enforcement regarding trash dumping on Westpark Drive and an alley. Ms. Hamilton requested photos and information regarding illegal massage parlors.

6. Committee Reports

Elections and Bylaws – Ms. Hatfield

Motion: to amend the name of the “Elections Committee” to be known as “Elections and Bylaws Committee”

MOTION (by the Elections and Bylaws Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village amends the name of the “Elections Committee” to be known as “Elections and Bylaws Committee.”

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Howard Katchen, Budget Advocate [www.ncbala.com], described their work and effectiveness with the City. They meet semi-monthly on first Mondays at City Hall and third Saturdays in the Valley. The BA’s will recommend to the City Council “to reinstate the \$50,000 per year” allocation for each Neighborhood Council and for the City Council to allow NC’s to accept “earmarked” funds. Mr. Katchen reported that “funding staff that was at DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment; 818-522-7175; www.EmpowerLA.org] has transferred” to the City Clerk’s Office.

Student Representative Cole Walker left at this time (8:37). Mr. Walker does not vote, so this did not affect the quorum.

Planning and Land Use – Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia

Motion – 5133 Whitsett Avenue, approve as presented with 32’11” height, with no roof deck on rear R-1 facing units (2), more subdued color palate for external walls, and 2’11” roof deck border must be minimized visually with no solid wall.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the below Weddington Golf and Tennis property Motion.]

MOTION (by the Planning and Land Use Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village approves as presented the project at 5133 Whitsett Avenue with 32’11” height, with no roof deck on rear R-1 facing units (2), more subdued color palate for external walls, and 2’11” roof deck border must be minimized visually with no solid wall.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Braswell reported that the Committee approved the proposed Motion. Representative Joe Burkstein, and the architect and the owner, displayed a rendering, site plan and photos. They explained that the six-unit small log subdivision project is just south of Magnolia and just west of Whitsett. It was said that “the proposed use is consistent with that zoning pattern.” They are asking for a less-than-10% height increase from 30 feet. They have revised the project based upon community input. Roof decks “are toward the center of the site.” Colors are “toned down.” Parking is “per Code . . . two per unit . . . side-by-side in a garage.” “There’s a single-family home currently on the site . . . the zoning is all multi-family zoning.” There was discussion of various roof structures and heights, neighbors’

privacy, and City and State laws and practices. Mr. Block believed the extra height to be unnecessary. Mr. Braswell supported the project while opposing the increased height request.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Walker); zero opposed or abstained.

MOTION FAILED by a hand vote with one in favor; five opposed; three abstained.

MOTION (by Mr. Woerschling, seconded by Ms. Hatfield): Neighborhood Council Valley Village approves the project at 5133 Whitsett Avenue as presented to its Planning and Land Use Committee, without the developer's height adjustment request, with no roof deck on rear R-1 facing units (2), more subdued color palate for external walls, and 2'11" roof deck border must be minimized visually with no solid wall.

MOTION FAILED by a hand vote with four in favor; four opposed; one abstained.

Motion – to request that NoHo West be given no variance for parking, and incorporate more green space in project (use last motion)

Mr. Braswell explained the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Woerschling, seconded by Ms. Hatfield): Neighborhood Council Valley Village approves the NoHo West project as presented to its Planning and Land Use Committee, but requests that NoHo West be given no variance for parking, and incorporate more green space in the project.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Motion – to oppose any change to the agricultural zoning for Weddington Golf and Tennis property

[DISCUSSION:] Nearby resident Laurie Cohn indicated this is the Weddington family's eighth attempt to change the zoning. They own the land and the club is open to the public. They have tried to sell but cannot because of the A-1 agricultural zoning. There was a DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) two years ago. The Weddingtons want to build 200 apartments; "they're proposed to be built as condos" with "642 parking spaces . . . they will be removing approximately 205 trees . . . we're against building on open space . . . this is the last 16 acres of open space along the L.A. River in the San Fernando Valley." She referred to www.SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org. Ms. Cohn said "they never responded" to comments to the previous DEIR and that the Weddingtons said there will be a new

DEIR in one year. She said they keep changing plans and going door-to-door, calling their plan a “preservation plan,” and that their online survey is “misleading . . . nowhere does it say 200 apartments or condos.”

Board (and Executive Committee) Member Steven Stokes arrived at this time (7:20), making three Executive Committee among the eight Board Members present, one short of the NCVV quorum of at least three Executive Committee Members among at least nine Board Members present.

Ms. Cohn continued that “once they get a zone change on that property, it’s all over.” She said the City says “they don’t have the money” to buy the property; “we don’t know the actual price,” which is estimated in the tens of millions of dollars. She is working with non-profit organizations to have one of them buy the property. She said the City has considered the site as part of the L.A. River Master Plan. Lisa Sarkin believed the project would have to have expensive underground parking.

MOTION (by the Planning and Land Use Committee): Neighborhood Council Valley Village opposes any change to the agricultural zoning for Weddington Golf and Tennis property.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of amending the Motion wording as follows.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Woersching, seconded by Mr. Walker): Neighborhood Council Valley Village opposes any change to the agricultural zoning to any higher density zone for Weddington Golf and Tennis property.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Events & Outreach - Ms. Hatfield

Ms. Hatfield reported that Halloween “was a successful event.” She “filed all the paperwork” and described Light Up Valley Village volunteer needs, outreach and preparations. Final City cost estimates are awaited.

Valley Village Vision Committee – Mr. Woersching

Mr. Woersching reported that the Committee met in September and October and discussed possible density reduction areas; possible Specific Plan amendments; Laurel Canyon Blvd. landscaping; and billboard removal.

City Services – Mr. Walker

Mr. Walker reported that the Committee will recommend moving signs closer to the Valley Village park curbs. They are working on having a DAC (Disaster Awareness Course) in March. The emergency radios were checked on October 30th; the Committee is working to increase the radios’ low power clarity. They are working on getting quotes for landscaping at the entryway of Laurel Canyon Blvd. and the 101 Freeway. The Laurel Grove stoplight was installed and needs to be “powered up.”

There was discussion of safety problems at a small area adjacent to Valley Village Park.

Communications – Ms. Lewis

Discussion on Communications presence.

Ms. Lewis was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken.

7. Board Retreat follow up – Pastor Poole

Pastor Poole was not present; no report was made.

8. December Board meeting date

Mr. Braswell requested and it was agreed to have the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 21st. [Starting at 7:00 p.m. – see Item #3].

9. Public Comment

Mr. Braswell reported that the yoga store at the Dutton property had to close; so will Popeye's.

10. Future Agenda Items, Closing Comments

Mr. Braswell declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:22 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, possibly 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>.