

## **Neighborhood Council Valley Village Board Meeting**

**February 27, 2013**

### **Approved**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution, Welcoming Remarks and approval of June and July Minutes** - Mr. Tony Braswell called the meeting to order at 6:30 and thanked everyone for coming out to attend our meeting. He asked speakers to fill out a speaker card and please limit their comments to two minutes. He reminded the audience that the meeting will be conducted under the Brown Act and within the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order.

The roll was called. Board members present were Dorothy Apple, residential homeowner; Dave Bate, business owner; Tony Braswell, residential renter; Cathy Flynn, education; Ginny Hatfield, residential homeowner; Suzanne Lewis, residential renter; Paulette Stokes, Residential Renter; Charles Sulahian, business owner; Jeff Walker, Homeowner; Marc Woersching, community based.

Board members arriving late were Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, at-large; Sandy Hubbard, residential homeowner; Steven Stokes, residential renter.

Board members excused were Paul Hatfield, at large; Dr. Joshua Levy, faith based.

Mr. Bate proposed a motion to the agenda. *Motion: to add discussion regarding helicopter noise; add discussion regarding business sign on Magnolia Blvd and Whitsett Avenue; discussion regarding installation of cell phone towers on Riverside Drive between Beck Avenue and Farmdale Avenue, add discussion regarding constitutional amendment regarding May ballot measure to overturn Supreme Court limitations on campaign spending.* The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

**Agenda Item 2 - Approval of January Minutes – Ms. Apple** - The January minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment on Agenda Items (limited to two (2) minutes per speaker, and must fill out a speaker card) –**

**Agenda Item 4 – Finance Report, Ms. Hatfield** – Ms. Hatfield gave an update on the financial report and submitted a copy for the record.

**Agenda Item 5 – Executive Committee Report – Mr. Braswell, Ms. Hatfield –**

*Motion: amend NCVV bylaws to establish Valley Village Vision Committee as a board committee. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.*

*Motion: amend NCVV bylaws to update Committees – rename Elections & Outreach to now be called Elections Committee. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.*

*Motion: amend NCVV bylaws to update Committees – rename Projects to now be called Events & Outreach Committee. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.*

Mr. Braswell and Ms. Lewis informed us that they are trying to arrange a debate with the two top vote candidates for the 2013 citywide election for Los Angeles City Attorney.

**Agenda Item 6 – Metro Presentation on Soundwalls – Mark Dierking** – Mr. Dierking & Ms. Saadatnejadi with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority gave an update on the installation of the sound wall along the 170 Freeway. Measure R and Proposition C will be collecting funds over the

next thirty-five (35) years to subsidize to soundwall installation. Element E: Soundwall Package 10 & Soundwall Package 11 are the next projects in line to be funded. The design for soundwall 11 is almost complete and requires only one additional signature for final approval. Metro is proposing an accelerated schedule to procure a private partner contract for installation of the soundwalls. Metro will request qualifications to assure that companies submitting proposals are qualified to build the soundwall. Soundwall Package 11 will take approximately eighteen (18) months to complete and should be completed by the year 2016.

Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia made a motion and Ms. Hatfield seconded the motion. *Motion: Approve Metro's plan for accelerating the P3 Procurement Schedule to procure the private partner contract for installation of Soundwall Package 11.* The motion was approved by a vote of 12-0-0. Mr. Braswell asked that the Metro and California Transportation Committee inform us of all meetings regarding the construction of Soundwall Package 11. NCVV would like to be present for all follow up meetings with the Metro Board.

Robert Rhine, a resident in Valley Village, wants to know if construction of the soundwall was delayed because of plans to expand the 170 Freeway. Mr. Dierking responded that he is not aware of any plans to expand the 170 Freeway.

Mr. Raymond Tyler, a resident in Valley Village, asked how they prioritize construction of one soundwall over another. Mr. Dierking responded that it is a joint decision between Metro and Cal Trans.

Mr. Robert Wilhelm, a resident in Valley Village, asked if there is a performance bounty incentive in the contract and how can they predict that the project will only take eighteen (18) months. He also wanted to know what the gas tax revenue has been spent on. Ms. Saadatnejadi let him know that she is basing the eighteen (18) month completion date on previous soundwalls that have been built. At this point, there are no performance bounty incentives. The gas tax pays for 3.5% of the cost to maintain our roads.

Mr. Stuart Simen, a resident of Valley Village, asked if both sides of the 170 Freeway were presently planned to be done at the same time. Ms. Saadatnejadi let us know that both sides will be built.

**Agenda Item 7 – Update on Road Closure at Coldwater Canyon –** Mr. Todd Le and Mr. Juan Guzman from the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power gave a brief update on the Coldwater Canyon Closure. The closure is scheduled from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 25<sup>th</sup>. Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Coldwater Canyon will be open on Sundays, and residents will have special access passes.

Magnolia Boulevard will also have road closures in 2015. We will have more information on this project as it becomes available.

Gary, a resident in North Hollywood, asked if Metro has considered making Laurel Canyon a one way street during peak traffic hours. Mr. Guzman informed him that is not possible for several reasons.

**Agenda Item 8 – Update – Fund to Assist Magnolia Avenue Traffic Accident Victims –** Ms. Hatfield informed us the victims need to submit out of pocket receipts for expenses not covered by their insurance. This information will be sent to the committee and they will decide which expenses will be paid with the leftover funds.

**Agenda Item 9 – Bike Lanes on Lankershim Blvd – Request by MNHNC to Collaborate on Position –** Mr. Kevin Hopps, a resident in Valley Village and representative with the Los Angeles County Bike Coalition,

gave a brief update on the proposed bike lane on Lankershim Blvd. This item has been referred to the City Services Committee.

**Agenda Item 10 - Standing Committee Reports – Communications – Mr. Stokes** – Mr. Stokes informed us that he has a meeting scheduled for next week with the company that manages our website. One of the main items to correct at this meeting is the Neighborhood Watch map.

**Agenda Item 10 - Standing Committee Reports – Elections – Ms. Hatfield** – Ms. Hatfield had no news to report.

**Agenda Item 10 - Standing Committee Reports – City Services – Mr. Walker** – Parking Restriction for Four 'n Twenty Restaurant on Laurel Canyon Blvd. Mr. Walker proposed a motion and Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia seconded the motion. *Motion: NCVV supports parking on Laurel Canyon in front of Four 'n Twenty Restaurant during non-peak traffic hours and weekends.* Mr. Walker withdrew the motion and this item has been referred back to the City Services Committee and will urge the city to perform a traffic study regarding this item.

Mr. Walker gave a brief update on the Mobile Digital Traffic Sign we would like to purchase and donate to the LAPD North Hollywood Division. Mr. Walker and Ms. Apple will be meeting with Midtown North Hollywood Neighborhood Council, Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council and Studio City Neighborhood Council in the next few weeks and will report back at the March board meeting.

Mr. Walker also gave a brief update on the Emergency Preparedness meeting that was held last month.

**Agenda Item 10 – Standing Committee Reports – Events and Outreach – Ms. Lewis** – Ms. Lewis is organizing the City Attorney debate and will report back when a date has been confirmed. The blood drive for Children's Hospital Los Angeles is April 17<sup>th</sup> at Colfax Charter between 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Lewis met with Mr. Leon Boroditsky with City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Forestry Division. Mr. Boroditsky confirmed that The Tree People will be donating fifteen (15) trees for the Earth Day event. Family Movie Night has been confirmed for June 15<sup>th</sup> at North Hollywood High School.

**Agenda Item 10 – Standing Committee Reports – Planning and Land Use – Mr. Bate** – Mr. Bate had no update to report on the proposed Starbucks at the corner of Burbank Blvd. and Laurel Canyon.

The floor area ratio meeting was postponed and there is no news to report on this item.

NCVV urged the planning commission to approve the proposed project on Riverside Drive between Ben Avenue and Gentry Avenue as presented.

Mr. Robert Rhine, a resident in Valley Village, expressed his concern and opposition to a cellular phone tower that is being installed on top of the apartment building at 11505 Riverside Drive. Mr. Rhine said that no one in the immediate area was notified of this cell tower installation and submitted photos for the record. Mr. Bate and Mr. Woerschling will look into this matter and report back to the board and Mr. Rhine.

Ms. Idrea Lippman, a business owner in Valley Village at 12441 Magnolia Blvd, expressed her concerns regarding a letter she received from the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety. The letter states that the signage on her property is out of compliance and she must pay a fee of \$356.16. A copy of the letter was submitted for the record. Ms. Lippman stated that many businesses in Valley Village have received notices of signage violation. Failure to pay the fine will result in further monetary penalties.

Mr. Rhine, a resident in Valley Village, suggested that Ms. Lippman gets other businesses involved in fighting the fines and permit violations that the city is assessing.

Mr. Bate proposed a motion and Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia seconded the motion. *Motion: to support resolution proposed by Councilmember Paul Krekorian and Paul Koretz to support Federal Legistration Program S. 208, which would require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to control flight paths and require minimum altitudes for helicopter operations in Los Angeles County.* The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0.

**Agenda Item 11 – FY 2014 Mayor’s Budget Survey** – Mr. Braswell reminded us that there is still time to take the Mayor’s Budget Survey. The cut-off date to take the survey is March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Agenda Item 12 – Neighborhood Council Plan Review and Reform Initiative** – Ms. Hatfield gave a brief update on this item and reviewed the proposed changes for factual basis, stakeholder and at-large neighborhood council elected seats. Each Neighborhood Council will determine their definition of factual basis seat. It is still to be determined if the Los Angeles City Clerk will be involved in the Neighborhood Council elections next year. Mr. Bate believes that Neighborhood Council members should be treated with more respect at City meetings, as we are elected officials.

**Agenda Item 13 – Public Comment – Public Comment from the public on non-agenda items within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction** – Mr. Woersching would like discussion on Citizen’s United corporate donations for candidates running for election.

**Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items, President’s Closing Comments and Adjournment** – Mr. Braswell thanked everyone in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.