

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village  
Board Meeting**

**February 26, 2014**

**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; Tony Braswell, residential renter; Cathy Flynn, education; Ginny Hatfield, residential homeowner; Suzanne Lewis, residential renter; Djaq Morris, student seat; Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, at-large; Steven Stokes, residential renter; Paulette Stokes, residential renter; Charles Sulahian, business owner; Jeff Walker, residential homeowner; Marc Woersching, community based.

Board members excused were Dave Bate, business owner; Sandy Hubbard, residential homeowner; Dr. Joshua Levy, faith based.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of January Minutes – Ms. Apple** - *The January minutes were approved by a vote of 11-0-0.*

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment on Agenda Items (limited to two (2) minutes per speaker, and must fill out a speaker card)** – Ms. Jeanne Rankin, from the North Hollywood Regional Public Library, gave an update on the upcoming activities and changes at the library. The library is now open seven (7) days a week, more staff has been hired, and every Saturday in March volunteers will be providing Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. A calendar of events can be found at [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org).

Mr. Stuart Simen, a resident in Valley Village, informed us that Jim Stevens, owner the Steven's Nursery passed away three (3) weeks ago. Steven's Nursery is now closed, but while it was open it was a landmark business in Valley Village.

Ms. Nikki Ezhari, Field Deputy for Councilmember Krekorian, informed us that the monies that were set aside by NCVV, SCNC, Midtown NoHo NC, NoHo West and Greater Toluca Lake NC to purchase the mobile digital sign for the North Hollywood LAPD Station. She also informed us that she located a second sign that will be sent to the North Hollywood station for their use. Mr. Walker gave an update on what the trailer can do and the different ways that it will be utilized by the LAPD NoHo station. Ms. Freddie Goldberg, a resident in Valley Village, asked if there would be anything on the sign notifying residents that the sign was provided by the above NC's. Mr. Walker informed her that a decal will be installed on the sign with that information.

Ms. Ezhari informed us that the nine (9) stop signs the NCVV City Services approved and requested from LADOT have been approved and will be installed within the next 30-180 days. There are five (5) stop sign locations that are still under investigation by LADOT and they will be doing site visits in the near future to determine if the locations warrant the installation of a stop sign.

Mr. Walker informed us of the approved intersections for all-way stop signs. They are Ben Avenue & Hartsook Street, Ben Avenue & Otsego Street, Morella Avenue & Hartsook Street, Hesby Street & Westpark Drive, Addison Street & Westpark Drive, Carpenter Avenue & Huston Street, Morella Avenue & Otego Street, and Gentry Avenue & Huston Street.

Ms. Ezhari gave an update hearing for the owner of 4725 Morella Avenue. The owner of the property received thirty-six (36) months' probation. He has been ordered by the Los Angeles Building and Safety Department to clean up the property and bring the property up to current code by May 22<sup>nd</sup>, vacate illegal tenants by 5:00pm on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. He also received twenty (20) days community service and will be participating in highway clean-up.

Cultural Affairs has approved having the mural under the Colfax Bridge to be either restored by the original artist or painted over to remove the graffiti. Mr. Daniel Thomas Brady, a resident of Valley Village asked if there is anything that can be done to protect the mural in the future. Ms. Ezhari informed him that a protective coating will be applied to the mural to protect it from graffiti in the future.

**Agenda Item 4 – 2014 Election Update – Ms. Hatfield** – Ms. Hatfield attended the Empower LA meeting and informed us that they have assigned an independent election administrator to each Neighborhood Council. NCVV's election will be held on March 20 from 4:00pm-8:00pm and we need volunteers to help run the election. Ms. Lewis will be coordinating the volunteers and taking over the duties for Ms. Hatfield on election day. Ms. Hatfield is running for re-election and will not be able to volunteer the day of the election. Ms. Hatfield reminded those in attendance to bring their I.D. to the election. If you forget to bring I.D. you can vote on a provisional ballot and will have seventy-two (72) hours to provide verification to have your vote count. If you are voting as a member of a place of worship, you will need to bring a copy of the membership roster confirming your affiliation with your place of worship. The definition of a stakeholder can be found on the sample ballot provided at today's meeting.

**Agenda Item 5 – Finance Report, Mr. Stokes** - Mr. Stokes gave an update on the financial report and submitted a copy for the record. The transaction register for the fiscal year has been submitted to DONE. NCVV has a balance of approximately \$18,000 for the remainder of the year. The majority of this balance has been earmarked for elections and events.

**Motion** – *The board of NCVV has reviewed the Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2014 and hereby accepts and approves them.* **The motion was approved by a vote of 11-0-0.**

**Agenda Item 6 – Standing Committee Reports – Valley Village Vision Task Force** – VVVF's next meeting is February 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 at Oakwood School.

**Agenda Item 6 - Standing Committee Reports – City Services – Mr. Walker** – See Agenda item 3 regarding stop sign and the mobile digital sign.

Mr. Walker reported that Street Services was proposing, in the interest of safety, to relocate the bus stop at the Northwest corner of Riverside Drive and Laurel Canyon Boulevard from between the driveways of the Mobil gas station to a location several yards further west in front of the dry cleaners. Street Services requested input from NCVV as to whether the council had any objection to such relocation, and none was expressed by the board.

Ms. JoAnn Erickson, a resident in Valley Village, asked that NCVV approve the relocation of the bus stop on Riverside Drive west of Laurel Canyon Boulevard from the Mobile Gas Station to Dry Cleaners a few feet away. LADOT has already approved the relocation of the bus bench.

**Agenda Item 6 - Standing Committee Reports – Communications – Mr. Stokes** – The new webhost has been great and will be working with NCVV to revamp the website after the election. The minutes have been posted on the website under resources. Mr. Brady informed us that he would be happy to volunteer his services to help maintain the website.

**Agenda Item 6 - Standing Committee Reports – Elections – Ms. Hatfield** – The revised NCVV Bylaws have been posted on our website. Ms. Hatfield has asked Empower LA to replace our bylaws with our revised and approved bylaws on their website.

**Agenda Item 6 – Standing Committee Reports – Planning and Land Use – Mr. Woersching – Mr.**

Woersching and Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia gave an update on the proposed project at Riverside Drive and Carpenter Avenue. PLU will be pursuing the Residential Floor Area downsize after the election. The owner of 12640 Addison Street will be pursuing a flag lot split. Verizon is still pursuing the installation of a forty-five (45) foot cell phone tower that NCVV disapproved at 5255 Bellingham Avenue. Councilmember Krekorian introduced a motion that was cosigned by Councilmember Tom LaBonge to down zone three (3) of the four (4) remaining R4 properties in Valley Village to R3.

**Agenda Item 6 – Standing Committee Reports – Events and Outreach – Ms. Lewis –** NCVV third annual blood drive for Children's Hospital Los Angeles is March 18<sup>th</sup> at Colfax Charter from 8:00-1:30. Please contact Suzanne Lewis if you are able to volunteer to help with the NCVV elections on March 20<sup>nd</sup>.

**Agenda Item 7 – 2013 Project Follow Up -** Stop Sign Request, Traffic Control Sign, 2013 Crime Report NoHo PD, Bike Lanes, Marijuana Retail Outlets, Street Tree Project, VV Design Book, Tujunga Wash Landscape Plan, Street Repair Project, RFA, R-4 Downzone Request, Freeway Tunnel – Ms. Apple gave a brief presentation on the crime report provided by LAPD Senior Lead Officer Manny Arreygue. Overall crime is down in Valley Village over the last year; however car break-ins continue to rise. Please lock your cars and remove any items of value. Daytime house break-ins were up the last week, most likely due to the warm weather and residents leaving their windows open. Mr. Braswell and Mr. Walker gave an update on the proposed Lankershim bike lanes. No decisions have been made regarding the proposed bike lanes and Councilmember Krekorian is still accepting input on the bike lanes from the public. Mr. Walker forwarded a list of the marijuana shops in Valley Village to the LAPF and the Los Angeles City Attorney. We are waiting for a report from them regarding the legality of the shops and if any of them will be subject to closure. Mr. Braswell informed us that eleven (11) trees have been planted to date utilizing the Los Angeles Street Tree Project. Mr. Sulahian requested a tree and was denied. Mr. Braswell reminded us that there will be a joint meeting of the VVTF and the Million Tree LA project tomorrow night at Oakwood School. NCVV is still working with the designer preparing the landscape plan for the Valley Village side of the Tujunga Wash. Los Angeles City Street Repair Division has been working on the areas that NCVV reported to be in need of repairs. CHP and CalTrans have repaired the damaged chain fence in Valley Village Park that was allowing transients to inhabit the tunnel under the 170 Freeway.

**Agenda Item 8 – Public Comment – Public Comment from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction –** Mr. Hatfield, a resident in Valley Village, has concerns regarding the sidewalk ordinance. He feels that Valley Village should have exemptions on sidewalks for residents that have landscaping on their property that would be negatively affected by the ordinance. Ms. Stokes would like to have the parking signs in her neighborhood updated. Ms. Ezhari is preparing a list of parking signs that need to be replaced. Mr. Woersching would like the potholes on Magnolia Boulevard between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Whitsett Avenue repaired. Mr. Jim Britten, a resident in Valley Village, asked if NCVV would consider a grant for the North Hollywood High School Choir. The NCVV board agreed to allow the executive committee the authority to approve a grant for the choir.

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