

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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Marc Woerschling
Eileen Garcia, Student Member

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE

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MINUTES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 22, 2018

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Fellowship Hall - Faith Presbyterian Church
5000 Colfax Avenue, Valley Village, CA, 91607

The meeting was called to order by Tony Braswell at 7:01 pm. Board members present were Dorothy Apple, Daryl Baskin, Glenn Block, Tony Braswell, Richard Davies, Alice Hart, Ginny Hatfield, Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, Suzanne Lewis-Gregory, Lisa Miller, Pastor Richard Poole, Paulette Stokes, Jeff Walker and Marc Woerschling. Glenn Block represented NCVV at the South Valley Community Plan meeting and joined the Board meeting at 8pm. Student Representatives Cole Walker and Zack Cruz were present. Steven Stokes was excused absent. The quorum for NCVV Board meetings is 8, which must include 3 members of the Executive Committee. No Board members stated a conflict of interest with any item on the meeting agenda. The agenda was approved 12-0-0. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

The minutes of the July 2018 NCVV Board meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of 12-0-0. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

Public comment. Diana Lesmez discussed speeding on Magnolia, particularly along the recently repaved sections between Laurel Canyon and Coldwater, especially near Whitsett. She reported that there have been 2 very serious accidents in recent weeks. Ms. Lesmez asked that the Board support a request for additional traffic signals on the east and west sides of Whitsett to help reduce speeding. The Board will forward the request to DOT and CD2.

Raven Turner asked the Board to support a smoking ban in apartments and condominiums. She relayed stories of persons in her building who have concerns about smoking in nearby units and that they may be forced to move because it is so bad. She referenced bans in Burbank and Glendale. Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia suggested that anyone experiencing this in a condo should work through their association Board. The matter will be referred to CD2. Ms. Turner was encouraged to also attend an LA City Council meeting and convey her concerns.

Shani Grafman from The Village Family Services asked for support for the 2019 Take On The Streets race. Ms. Lewis-Gregory reminded the Board that NCVV supported the race last year and volunteers were organized by our student Board members Zack Cruz and Cole Walker. Ms. Hatfield asked that Ms. Grafman organize a tour of a VFS facility for our NCVV Board members.

Student Board members Cole Walker and Zack Cruz addressed the Board members, thanking them for support during their term of Board service. Mr. Walker will be attending Emerson College in Boston, and Mr. Cruz will be attending Cal Berkeley in northern CA. The Board expressed great appreciation for the commitment and dedication of Mr. Walker and Mr. Cruz. A group photo will be sent to DONE for publication in a future newsletter.

Ms. Hatfield presented the Executive Committee report. The July VANC meeting was focused on proposed changes to DONE, and to NC charter including election procedures, definition of a community interest stakeholder and "equity" in NC funding. Ms. Hatfield also advised the Board that Code of Conduct training that is due in 2018 will be "waived" until after the 2019 elections. Newly elected Boards will be required to take the training after their election is certified.

The Election and Bylaws committee forwarded the nomination of Ms. Eileen Garcia to fill one of the two Student Board seats on NCVV. Ms. Garcia, a rising Junior at North Hollywood High School, was introduced by Ms. Hatfield, Chair of the Committee. Ms. Garcia expressed her interest in joining the Board, and read her essay that was submitted to the Committee. Ms. Hatfield, reminded the Board that Ms. Garcia was a leader in the school's effort to stop the addition of a Charter School on the North Hollywood High campus. The Board supported the students in this effort. Ms. Hatfield informed the Board that the nomination was forwarded with unanimous support from the Committee. Ms. Garcia was elected to the Board of NCVV by a vote of 13-0-0. Ms. Hatfield administered the oath of office to the newly elected Board member and Ms. Garcia was seated immediately.

Mr. Braswell presented the Finance Committee report for Mr. Stokes. The FY2018 expenditure report was postponed until August. Mr. Braswell reviewed the NCVV equipment/hard asset inventory list for FY2018. The list includes our printer and the recently acquired outdoor griddle for special events. Ms. Apple and Mr. Walker asked that the 4 unit 2-way radio system for emergencies be added to the list. The inventory list was amended to add the radio system. *A motion to approve the NCVV 2018 inventory list with the addition of the radio system was approved 12-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote. A motion to approve up to \$2500 for National Night Out as an official sponsored event was approved 12-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote. A motion to approve payment of \$200.00 to Faith Presbyterian Church for meeting space and storage was approved 11-0-2. Reverend Poole and Ms. Hatfield abstained. Miss Garcia voted yes. A motion to approve a payment of \$15.26 to AT&T for phone messaging was approved 12-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote. A motion to approve a payment of \$318.27 to Moore Business Systems for June web and internet services was approved 12-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote. A motion to approve a payment of \$90.70 to Merritt Zalon for post card production related to outreach for our Valley Village Arts event was approved 12-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote. A motion to approve a payment of \$135.00 to the City of Los Angeles for park services related to National Night Out was approved 12-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote. A motion to approve a payment of \$400.00 to Jimmy Dale for entertainment at National Night Out was approved 12-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote.*

A question was asked by Mr. Davies about the difference between the motion to approve \$2500 for the event and the other motions to approve event related expenses. It was clarified that the motion to approve up to \$2500 is the overall event request, and that per policy of the City Clerk the Board will now need to approve each line item expense that is incurred related to the event. Some of the expenses related to NNO have already been encumbered.

Ms. Emma Taylor from the office of Adrin Nazarian presented a report from the State Assembly. She thanked the Board for participating in a tour of LA Family Housing. She let us know that the Member will be at National Night Out, and also presented dates of several upcoming events.

Ms. Jaqueline Serrano representing the office of The Mayor provided an update to the Board. She will be attending future Board meetings on behalf of Mr. Garcetti, and gave her contact info (jaqueline.serrano@lacity.org and 213-910-9104).

Ms. Betty Wong Oyama gave a report to the Board from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. She provided updates on BONC discussions regarding funding, and upcoming elections. The NCVV election will be May 16, 2019. She also reminded the Board that the deadline for NCVV inventory is August 1. Board member Code of Ethics training will be "grandfathered" to FY2019. Neighborhood Congress is September 22, registration opens in August.

Mr. Braswell provided an update on the effort to collect signatures for restricted parking at the intersection of Chandler Boulevard and Laurel Canyon. A group of stakeholders has completed the work to gather signatures and the report is being prepared for submission to DOT and CD2. The office of Mr. Krekorian has expressed their support for the request. Mr. Michael Marcosa provided updates to the ongoing problems caused by RVs parking at the intersection and along adjacent side streets, especially Albers and Ben at Chandler. There has been little support from the City for ticketing or enforcing existing traffic laws. This has become a big frustration given the commitments of support from those officials who participated in the June NCVV Town Hall Forum on Homelessness. *A motion was made by the Executive Committee to support the efforts of stakeholders who are requesting 2-hour parking at the intersection of Laurel Canyon and Chandler. The Board voted 13-0-0 to support this motion. Student Board member Eileen Garcia voted yes.*

Mr. Walker reported from City Services Committee that SoCalGas is installing an above ground electrical cabinet on Agnes north of Riverside (in the parkway next to the Starbucks strip mall. By policy this can be done without input or

approval of local and/or city authorities. CSC is also reviewing proposals for tree watering, to help the 120+ trees planted by NCVV 3 years ago. Members of the committee will continue to put up the new NW signs over the next several months. The Committee will explore whether we can purchase more signs before the end of the year.

Ms. Lewis reviewed statistics from social media and other outreach. The NCVV email list is now over 1200 addresses. Ms. Hatfield presented the details of the 2019 Election Worksheet. The 2019 Election will be held on May 16, and the proposed location will be Faith Presbyterian Church. The secondary (back-up) location is Oakwood School. The poll will be open from 4pm to 8pm. NCVV's election requires one form of documentation for stakeholder status, in person voting only, and voting age of 18 years old. A motion came forward from the Election and Bylaws Committee to approve the Election Worksheet as presented. Ms. Miller asked what interpretation services will be available – Mr. Braswell reminded the Board that in the 16-year history of the Board there have been no requests for interpreter services but there is a policy that would guide us should such a request be made. The second predominant language in Valley Village is Russian. Ms. Miller pointed out that NCVV can have one free interpreter for the election, and there are also telephone services that exist to provide on demand speakerphone interpreting for all languages (except American Sign Language). Mr. Braswell asked that the Election Committee discuss this further at the next committee meeting to ensure that we make the election available to all who wish to participate. The motion to approve the 2019 Election Worksheet was approved 11-0-2, Pastor Poole and Ms. Hatfield abstained.

Mr. Woersching presented an update on the Tujunga Wash landscape plan. In 2015 Mr. Woersching, Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia and Mr. Braswell met with the office of LA Supervisor Sheila Kuehl to discuss our request to landscape the Valley Village portion of the Wash. While supportive of the effort, the office laid out the challenges related to funding which they estimated could require over \$10 million in funds. Mr. Woersching advised the Board that recent meetings with the City have identified Proposition A funds that the Committee believes could be used to support his effort. Mr. Woersching will help to obtain a follow up meeting with the County.

Mr. Block provided an update on the proposed September start to the Community Plan process. He attended a meeting focused on this earlier in the evening. The principal players now are Blake Lamb, who will be the first-line contact, Julia Hartman who will supervise the NoHo/Valley Village planning process, and Andy Rodriguez who is the lead on the overall planning process for the Southeast San Fernando Valley. Mr. Block will facilitate a meeting with CP leadership in the next month.

Ms. Hatfield and Mr. Braswell reviewed the effort of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to more clearly define "Community Interest Stakeholder". The current action is CF 15-1022. Ms. Hatfield advised that there are regional hearings to discuss and collect input, and that efforts were focused on clarifying how a CIS would be defined and what constitutes community interest (the Starbucks example was used in discussion). After a lengthy discussion consensus was achieved that the definition of a CIS should reflect what is best for Valley Village. A motion was made to support the definition of a Community Interest Stakeholder as "someone who lives, works or owns real property" in Valley Village or has and presents evidence of an ongoing relationship with a Valley Village based organization such as a social service entity, a house of worship, a school, etc. The motion was made by Ms. Hart and seconded by Ms. Lewis-Gregory. The motion was approved 12-0-0. Ms. Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

Ms. Hatfield reviewed the Neighborhood Council Systems Reforms put forward by LA City Councilman David Ryu. The Councilman and Chair of the Health, Education and Neighborhood Councils Committee has asked for public comment on the proposed reforms. Ms. Hatfield suggested that the Board vote on each item individually.

Item one recommends that the City Charter be amended to change the name of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to Neighborhood Councils Department. The Board voted 12-0-0 to support changing the name to the *Department of Neighborhood Councils*. Ms. Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

Item two asks to amend the LA Administrative Code to remove Community Impact Stakeholder and recommend next steps for specific definitions to clarify the voters who would be eligible to participate as such. NCVV feels that the above referenced vote on the BONC request to define CIS clearly states our position.

Item three recommends amending the City Charter to remove selections as a means of electing a Board. After discussion it was moved that the Board not support this recommendation. The motion to not support this request was approved 11-1-0. Ms. Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

Ms. Apple left the meeting.

Item four requests a review process to evaluate NCs and provide information that would advise NCs on adjusting Board seats to increase stakeholder equity. Discussion uniformly conveyed this as an intrusion into Board governance. A motion was made to oppose this request, the motion to not support this was approved 11-0-0. Miss Garcia also voted to oppose.

Item five asked that a uniform minimum voting age for all elections be established. The Board felt that the voting age for NC elections should reflect the voting age for city-wide elections. A motion was made to adhere to a minimum age of 18 for NC elections, and that motion was approved 11-0-0. (I did not see how Eileen voted on this item)

The last request was to require formal training for all Chairs and Vice Chairs of NC Planning and Land Use Committees. A motion was made to oppose this request, and the motion to oppose was approved 10-1-0. Ms. Garcia voted to oppose.

The second set of requests asked for a report back in 60 days from various city Departments regarding the following:

Should NCs be able to roll over funds at a maximum of \$10,000 for any give fiscal year. A motion was made to allow a non-cumulative rollover of funds at year end with no maximum amount. The motion was approved 11-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

Mr. Davies left the meeting.

The second question was should LA Administrative Code be changed to allow NCs to accept donations (in-kind or monetary). A motion was made to oppose this request, and the motion to oppose was approved 6-3-0. Miss Garcia voted yes and Mr. Braswell did not vote.

The last request was to hold all elections on the same day, a motion was made to oppose this request and the motion to oppose was approved 10-0-0. Miss Garcia voted to support the motion as well, Mr. Braswell did not vote.

Finally DONE was instructed on several processes.

The first instruction is to develop a process to assist NCs with shared space at City Facilities. A motion was made to support this and the motion was approved 10-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

DONE was instructed to develop an ongoing compendium of best practices and share them on a periodic basis with all NCs in a "how to" guide. After discussion a motion was made to oppose this and the motion was approved 10-0-0. Miss Garcia voted to oppose. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

DONE is instructed to develop points of contacts for key city departments. A motion was made and approved 10-0-0 to support this. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

Ms. Hatfield reviewed the last topic on the agenda for updating the NC processes – NC Funding Equity Report. She reminded the Board that all NCs receive the same funding, regardless of size. This presents challenges for some larger NCs who have in excess of 50,000 stakeholders. A Task Force was appointed by DONE to study this. Ms. Hatfield and Mr. Braswell have attended meetings where reports from the Task Force were presented. In effect the Task Force could not agree on a solution, and four options were presented to BONC. Three of the four options would result in decreased funding for NCVV. After lengthy discussion the Board agreed that there should be some recognition of NC size in funding decisions, but no current funding amounts should decrease so that others could increase their annual funding allotment. With that in mind a motion was introduced that recommended funding based on NC size but that the minimum funding level for all NCs should be \$42,000 and that any allocations to increase support for larger NCs should come from the City or from unexpended prior year funding. The motion was approved 10-0-0. Miss Garcia voted yes. Mr. Braswell did not vote.

There were no other items and the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm.