

Tony Braswell, President
Ginny Hatfield, Vice President
Dorothy Apple, Treasurer
Marc Woerschling, Secretary
Daryl Baskin
Glenn Block
Desmond Faison
Alice Hart
Suzanne Lewis
Lisa Miller
Paulette Stokes
Erin Stover
John Thyne
Maribel Ulloa-Garcia
Jeff Walker



**NEIGHBORHOOD
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VILLAGE**

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**MINUTES
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

July 22, 2020
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Meeting held electronically on ZOOM

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. All 15 Board members were in attendance. Ginny Hatfield advised the Board that she has a conflict of interest as a Board member of Faith Presbyterian Church and will recuse herself from voting on any matters related to the church.

Public comment included Michael Marcosa who is interested in pursuing an historic preservation overlay zone (HPOZ) in his neighborhood. Mr. Braswell asked Mr. Block to agendize the matter for a future PLU meeting. The area to be discussed is Simpson, Morella, Carpenter and Radford. Also asked that \$300 not be paid to the church if it is not being used for meeting. Nadia Thomas would like to make her neighborhood part of the Slow Streets program. She was advised to follow up with CD2 for more information.

Mr. Braswell thanked retiring Student Board Members Jake Kovinsky and Eileen Garcia for their service on the Board. There are gifts for them that they can pick up. Jake is going to UCLA, Eileen to Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Ms. Hatfield presented the Executive Committee report. The gateway sign at Laurel Canyon Boulevard has been repaired with funds from the settlement of an insurance claim. Poles have been added to protect the sign from cars coming from the off ramp and hitting the sign again. This is the third time that the sign has been repaired. The cost was around \$12,000. The median has been cleaned up and the shrubs trimmed. Two tunnels under S-170 from the park that were closed off due to crime problems have been opened by vandals. Caltrans will be contacted and asked to seal the tunnels with cinderblock rather than flimsy plywood. Emma Taylor from Assemblyman Nazarian's office will ask the MTA to give us the status of the construction of the sound walls, including whether they will be planting a ground cover, e.g. Creeping Fig, at the base of the wall. The meetings of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils may continue on Zoom for another year.

Ms. Apple presented the Treasurer's Report. Total spending for May was \$4,393.87, leaving a remaining balance of \$16,490.60 for FY2020. The May report was approved 14-0-1. The June spending totaled \$6,149.38, leaving just over \$10,000 for FY2020. The June report was approved 14-0-1. It was also reported that \$702 is owed to NCVV by the Bureau of Street Services for a reduced

use of the street services staff during Light Up Valley Village. With anticipated expenses for June still to be deducted Ms. Apple estimates that \$9,802 will be carried over to Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Ms. Hatfield left the meeting. Ms. Apple presented the FY2021 budget. After the presentation the Board discussed questions. A discussion was held regarding FY2021 budgeting for meeting space. It was decided that the monthly charge for space includes office/storage space for NCVV and posting of agendas for monthly meetings. The Board felt that this line item should remain in the FY2021 budget.

Also in the FY2021 budget, Ms. Lewis moved and Mr. Thyne seconded to shift \$2,500 from National Night Out to City Services to repaint the utility boxes. Ms. Ulloa-Garcia asked what about other events? If the events are cancelled can the money be repurposed? Mr. Braswell responded that periodic changes are made in budgets after they are approved so any cancelled events can be repurposed. Ms. Miller asked whether we have a contract the church? Tony Braswell replied that there is an agreement with the church that was approved by the City.

The budget was presented as a motion from the Finance Committee. A motion to amend the budget to shift \$2,500 from Events and Outreach to City Services for painting the utility boxes was made by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Thyne. That motion was approved by a vote of 13-0-1-1.

The amended FY2021 budget was approved by a vote of 13-0-1-1. Monthly expenses were also approved. A motion to approve a \$300 payment to Faith Presbyterian Church for office/storage space and meeting facilities was approved by a vote of 13-0-1-1. Ms. Hatfield was asked to return to the meeting. A motion to approve \$20 per month phone bill payments to AT&T was approved by a vote of 14-0-1. A motion to approve a \$750 payment for web service was approved by a vote of 14-0-1.

On behalf of the City Services Committee Ms. Lewis presented the Utility Box Artwork project. The request is for \$5000 to be directed to the project with that amount to be matched with an additional \$5,000 contribution from Councilman Krekorian's office. 12 utility boxes will be painted by volunteers. The paint is to be graffiti resistant. The group Muralism.org will maintain the painted boxes as well as help with the painting. They have also painted murals in other parts of North Hollywood. Ms. Wong-Oyama recommended that the motion be amended to name Muralism.org in the motion. Glenn Block moved to add Muralism.org to the motion. Erin Stover seconded. The amendment was approved unanimously. Sarah Cohen, a member of the public, commented that she will send us an E mail with samples of artwork from Muralism.org. The amended motion to direct \$5000 from NCVV to Muralism for decorating utility boxes in Valley Village was approved by a vote of 14-0-1. Mr. Braswell asked that anyone wishing to help with the project attend the next meeting of City Services Committee.

Osvaldo Ramirez from Congressman Tony Cardenas' office noted that the around one million persons have not received the \$1,200 stimulus checks authorized by the CARE Act. Their office can help persons who have not received their checks connect with the IRS.

Emma Taylor from Adrin Nazarian's office thanked Tony Braswell, Desmond Faison and Glenn Block for the town hall last month on renter's rights. Caltrans has had a moratorium on moving persons off the street due to a lack of protective equipment for COVID-19. They will be getting the tunnels under the 170 freeway sealed. The homeless are being relocated from under the freeways. More virtual events are being planned. They are working with constituents to get their unemployment claims paid. Glenn Block was concerned about small businesses not being allowed to operate even though they have ongoing expenses. Emma responded that they have been assisting them in accessing the Federal Paycheck Protection Program to assist businesses and help them renegotiate leases with landlords.

Unfortunately, most businesses' interruption insurance policies do not consider an epidemic to be an interruption and will not pay claims resulting from the pandemic. Assemblyman Nazarian is working on a bill to protect small businesses from evictions. Ginny Hatfield asked whether the opening of the Sylmar armory to the homeless was a project of Nazarian? Emma replied that no, it was not but it is an inspiration.

Jessica Fugate from CD2 reported that specific deputies are assigned to handle the homeless and described several projects for the homeless. Another homeless facility will be opened in August. A temporary shelter is still being operated in North Hollywood. While RVs were removed from the Laurel/Chandler intersection, they are still being parked in North Hollywood. Because of a lawsuit efforts are being made to move the homeless from under the freeway overpasses. Short term rentals are becoming a problem again.

Mr. Block asked about small business relief and that notices of development projects that are supposed to be sent to our neighborhood council are not being received. A recent example is the project at 11710 Hartsook. The hearing on the project should be continued. Jessica responded that the Mayor's Workforce Development Office is handling small business hardships involving COVID-19. She is in touch with that office. Most of its funding is from the State and the County. Adrienne is handling planning issues. Ms. Lewis asked about the Safe Parking Program in North Hollywood. Jessica provided phone numbers for the Safe Parking Program. Ms. Hatfield observed that we are getting notices for bed and breakfast applications. She was asked who enforces the regulations on them? Jessica replied that Building & Safety Dept. does enforcement.

Report from Election and Bylaws committee. Amendments to the Bylaws have been approved. The changes include Article 5, Sections 8 & 9 about the removal and censure of Board members that were added by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. A Student Committee is added to Article 7. The functions of the Student Committee were listed. The voting age for Board elections was changed to 16. Ms. Hatfield explained that all of these changes were made by DONE and the City.

Ms. Hatfield reported that four students have been approved by the Committee for positions on the newly established Student Committee. They are:

Justin Berkowitz - Has participated in student government and activities to help the homeless.
Gabriela Goldenberg- Has attended Valley Village community events and NCVV Board meetings. She would like to be on the Events and Outreach Committee and form a youth group for volunteers.

Aysha Iqbal - Has grown up with an interest in political issues. She has learned leadership and diplomacy and has a passion for politics.

Luke Simon - Has participated and volunteered in/at Valley Village events. He organized a cleanup in Valley Village and helped with the July 4 food drive. He is a musician.

Up to seven members allowed on the student committee.

Motions to approve the four recommended students.

Justin Berkowitz - Approved 13-1

Gabriela Goldenberg - Approved 14-0-1

Alysha Iqbal - Approved 13-1

Luke Simon - Approved 14-0-1

Ms. Lewis presented the City Services report. A motion was presented to approve \$750 for Neighborhood Congress. That motion was approved 13-0-2. A motion was presented to approve \$5000 for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant was approved 14-0-1 for the art project. The tree near Carter Sexton that was cut down is being replaced. Paulette Stokes reported that the trees removed at North Hollywood High School will be replaced, per the landscaping plan. The trees at the southwest corner are a particular concern. There are two abandoned houses on Agnes and Ben. Two people have been injured from rough sidewalks. Ms. Hart presented an update on the effort to feed and trim the historic trees on Magnolia at Colfax. Due to a lack of response from the vendor we will be reaching out to CD2 and Parks Department for more assistance.

Ms. Ulloa-Garcia presented the report from Events and Outreach Committee. An event is planned around the time of Halloween. Also, we will be working on an outreach effort to renters to provide assistance with eviction threats.

Ms. Stover presented the Communications report. The volume of E mail messages has increased four times after the Forum last month. Also, there has been marked increased web site, Facebook and Twitter traffic. All of these ways of reaching stakeholders will be important as COVID19 continues.

Mr. Worsching presented the report from Valley Village Vision Committee. A response has not been received from Melissa Jones to the supplemental report prepared by Charles Fisher in late April. She has not indicated whether the report is satisfactory and whether the application for a historic designation for the trees along Magnolia Boulevard next to North Hollywood High School can proceed. Alice Hart has obtained estimates for pruning, watering and other maintenance of the trees. The initial bids were too expensive and she is getting additional bids.

Planning and Land Use was presented by Mr. Block. The project at 11710 Hartsook Street has a number of impacts with the committee needing more time to comment on them. Because of the late notice received the public hearing should be continued to allow the committee and the Board to review and make a recommendation on the project. The project at 4930 Benn Avenue will remove several trees and replace them with four car parking spaces. The project should be modified to protect the neighborhood.

Paulette Stokes reported that a house at 5325 Benn Avenue on a narrow lot is to be replaced by two 36 foot tall duplexes with insufficient parking. The committee did not get a prompt notice. The architecture is unattractive.

The large District No Ho project at the North Hollywood Red Line station will have residential, office and retail uses. There is an inadequate amount of affordable housing. Only 20%, 300 out of the 1,500 units, are planned to be affordable. An EIR scoping meeting for the project will be held next week. Desmond Faison noted that the affordable units are to be in separate buildings rather than being mixed in with the market rate units. Construction of the project would be phased, starting in 2022 to finish in 2037. The project is under parked. An alliance should be formed with the North Hollywood Neighborhood Council. The project on Morella Avenue may be cancelled.

Public Comment from Paul Hatfield - The public meetings of the Task Force on Burbank Airport ended a month ago. The Federal Government's General Accounting Office is evaluating the FAA's proposal. The GAO should involve those living north of the 101 Freeway, not just those to the south.

The meeting adjourned at 10.07 pm.