

## Minutes - Neighborhood Council, Valley Village

8-26-20

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. 13 Board members were in attendance. Dorothy Apple and Maribel Ulloa-Garcia were absent.

2. Board Meeting Minutes

Lisa Miller moved and Suzanne Lewis seconded to approve the minutes for June 14. The motion was approved.

Lisa Miller moved and Suzanne Lewis seconded to approve the minutes for July 14. The motion was approved.

3. Public Comment

Desmond Faison objected to language in a flyer apparently put out by the Neighborhood Council. While he supported the intent of the flyer, to oppose proposed State legislation what would undermine single family home neighborhoods, he thought the language about the State Legislature being poised to “destroy single family home neighborhoods in California” was inflammatory. In its discussion the Board concluded that it did not send out the flyer and that it may have been sent out by the homeowners association.

4. Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield

Today is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution that gave woman the right to vote. Ginny Hatfield presented a proclamation commemorating the anniversary and noted that other groups of woman were still denied the right to vote after 1920. Ginny moved and Suzanne Lewis seconded for the Board to adopt the proclamation. The motion was approved 13-0-2.

The Board approved, by a vote of 13-0-2, a motion to approve \$100 to support an October 8 town hall by the League of Woman Voters to review the State ballot measures on the November ballot.

The Board approved, by a vote of 12-1-2, a motion to support a Valley Village Homeowner Association request for bus shelters over bus benches at the four corners of Magnolia and Laurel Canyon Boulevards.

5. Update on the S-170 Sound Walls

Wilbur Babb and Joe Wright of the MTA gave an update on the sound walls. Construction started in March, 2018 and was scheduled for completion in December, 2020 but the new completion date is June, 2021. The sound walls are being built along S-170 south of Roscoe Boulevard and along a section of I-405. The cost is \$89 million. Joe Wright reported that the project is proceeding quite well. The homeless can be an obstacle when starting construction. Installation of the landscaping will start in a month to a month and a half. They are also widening the Laurel Canyon and Riverside bridges. A sewer line under Riverside Drive is being relocated.

Ginny Hatfield asked what the landscaping consists of? It will be vines with trees and shrubs next to the bridges and water lines for irrigation. Will the slope of the freeway next to Valley Village Park be landscaped? No, a portion of it is to be a pathway for Caltrans maintenance workers. The seismic retrofit coverings of the bridge pillars are being replaced. Will the median of Riverside Drive east and west of the 170 freeway be rebuilt? Suzanne Lewis asked whether the median will be landscaped? No, it will be restored to where it was before the project.

6. LADWP Stormwater Parks Capture Program.

Anthony Sarsessian of DWP described the program, that it is to build stormwater capture facilities under public parks. 100 projects are to be completed by 2035. 150,000 acre feet is to be captured per year by 2035. Flood waters will go into the ground rather than the ocean. Also, a part of the infrastructure is to be improved with 750 jobs to be created. The program is located in the East San Fernando Valley where the soils are good for water filtration. Nine parks will be part of the program. The project will not be visible. Underground chambers will store water for percolation into the soil. The watershed will be 455 acres and 100,000 acre feet per year. Improvements for Valley Village Park were discussed. A community outreach meeting will be held this Saturday. The CEQA document will be released in October. Construction will be from June, 2022 to November, 2023.

Tony Braswell asked whether Valley Village Park is to be a passive, walking park, not a sports park or a fitness park? Anthony replied that they would like to hear our comments, to know what the community wants. Suzanne Lewis asked what will the new jobs be? Anthony responded that they will be in engineering and construction. Ginny Hatfield asked will the community have some input? What will the improvements look like? Covers should be added to the structures. Anthony replied that the community will be involved. There is a public meeting on Saturday. He welcomes our comments.

7. Treasurer's Report - Tony Braswell for Dorothy Apple

There was \$32,000 allocated to us at the start of the 2020-21 fiscal year. \$155 was spent in July and \$5,000 was allocated to the arts project to paint the utility boxes. With \$9,802 carried over to Fiscal Year 2020-21, \$34,000 is remaining for the rest of the fiscal year.

The July financial report was approved by a vote of 13-0-2.

The contract with Moore Business Results was renewed by a vote of 13-0-2.

A correction to the 2020-21 administrative category to include \$8,500 for Light Up Valley Village was approved by a vote of 13-0-2.

A transfer of \$5,000 from the City Services Committee to the NPG budget for the utility box artwork was approved by a vote of 13-0-2.

A rollover of \$9,802.94 from Fiscal Year 2020 to Fiscal Year 2021 was approved by a vote of 13-0-1.

A reapproval is needed for a prior approval of a \$1,000 payment for an emergency allocation for (add what this was for). A motion by Ginny Hatfield and seconded by Suzanne Lewis to add this item to the agenda was approved by a vote of 13-0-2. A motion to approve the transfer of this payment to the current fiscal year was approved by a vote of 13-0-2.

8. State Legislation Affecting Planning and Land Use - Glenn Block

The State legislative process on housing is complex, with the legislature attempting to override local single family home zoning to bring about the construction of more housing. Beth Fulton briefed the Board. After S.B. 50 was defeated last year, nine successor bills were introduced to take its place. Four of the nine bills were killed in committee. The bill that would have the most negative impact is S.B. 1120 which would allow for two duplexes totaling four units to replace one single family home. The increased height allowed would override the Specific Plan. A hearing may be held on S.B. 1120 next week. It is not an affordable housing bill. The other bills, 998, 1085, 724 and 2345, also do not require affordable housing but instead allow increased density. Sandy Hubbard asked why is there so little affordable housing? Market rate housing is not affordable. A major precedent for S.B. 1120 is Portland, Oregon's legislation allowing for more units in single family home zones.

Glenn Block urged that phone calls be made to Senator Hertzberg and Assemblyman Nazarian. Livable California is the lead organization in opposition to the nine bills. There is a coalition with other organizations, including in South Central Los Angeles. The Board can take a position on the bills through community impact statements. Glenn Block read a Council motion, CF-20-0002-S1, opposing S.B. 1120. Other neighborhood councils have filed statements in support of CF-20-0002-S1. After discussion Glenn Block moved and Suzanne Lewis seconded to support CF-20-0002-S1. It was noted that Mayor Garcetti does not support S.B. 1120. The motion was approved unanimously, by acclamation. Ginny Hatfield observed that rather than just opposing State legislation we should advocate for affordable housing. There is another Council motion, CF-20-0002-S107, that supports S.B. 1120. Glenn Block moved and John Thyne seconded to oppose CF-20-0002-S107. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Affordable Housing - Homeless Palate Housing and District No Ho Project - Glenn Block

Glenn Block described the palate homes as part of the bridge housing project for the homeless. Unused sections of two parks are to be used for palate homes. These are 90 day temporary homes before the transition to permanent housing. The site is a triangle shaped area on the north side of the south roadway of Chandler Boulevard west of Tujunga Avenue. The other site is Alexander Park further north along the 170 freeway.

Desmond Faison stated that the District No Ho project at the North Hollywood Red Line subway Station has 1,300 apartments with 300 affordable units. The 300 units will be segregated into two buildings at the edges of the No Ho Project. Residents will be separated from each other and have little contact. Tony Braswell urged that we be leaders on this issue. Glenn Block noted that

that the MTA's guidelines require that 35% of the units be affordable housing, not the 25% proposed. Desmond Faison moved and Jeff Walker seconded to urge that the project follow the MTA's 35% guideline with no segregation of the affordable housing into two buildings. The motion was approved 13-0-2.

Ginny Hatfield asked whether the homeless to be sheltered will come from the immediate area? Glenn Block replied that they will come from the immediate surrounding area. Residents must comply with the rules. Glenn Block moved to support the palate houses at No Ho and Alexander Parks. The motion was approved 12-1-2.

10. West Valley Animal Shelter.

The motion to support the continued operation of the West Valley Animal Shelter was approved by a voice vote.

11. Reports from DONE and the Offices of Elected Officials

Betty of DONE reported that, in accordance with Council motion CF-20-0963, Neighborhood Council elections will be conducted by mail due to the coronavirus. Procedures are being developed for the mail in voting. The voting age has been reduced to 16 years old. There will be an information session on August 31. Council motion CF-20-0990 is proposing that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training be made mandatory for all Board members. The Code of Conduct for Board members must be renewed every two years.

Jessica Fulgate from C.D. 2 reported that the majority of the calls she receives are about homeless issues. LADOT has not been enforcing various regulations such as for abandoned vehicles, the 72 hour towaway and the renewal of permit parking due to the coronavirus. An RV has been parking in front of the Country School. Five virtual events have been hosted by Councilman Krekorian. Requests for asphalt repair will depend on the size of the repair. There have been complaints about party houses due to the coronavirus. Suzanne Lewis reported that the Radford median is not being cut due to the coronavirus. A new crew has been hired. Paulette Stokes asked whether the mosquitos in her area can be sprayed. Yes, spraying can be directed to her neighborhood.

Emma Taylor from Adrin Nazarian's office was recently briefed on the new landscaping accompanying the soundwall project. The barriers to the tunnels under the 170 freeway have been breached. Caltrans has been contacted on the need to re-seal the openings to the tunnel. The lack of personal protective equipment for the coronavirus has slowed down government services. There has been an increase in anxiety and depression from the coronavirus, from 7% to 30%. On S.B. 1120 E mails should be sent directly to Hertzberg's and Nazarian's offices with one's name and address.

Caroline from the Mayor's office said that her focus has been on the 2020 census. The response rate for the City is 55%, our rate is 65%. The West Valley has a 70% response rate. A pop up coronavirus testing site will be open on Saturday. The City continues to have a moratorium on evictions even after the State moratorium expires. Applications for naturalization should be submitted before the fee increase from \$700 to \$1,000. A program of assistance for homeowners

with accessory dwelling units has been established.

Tammy with Scott Schmerlson's office at the LAUSD Board announced that there is a December 10 deadline for applications for Schmerlson's Student Advisory Council.

12. MTA Next Gen Bus Plan – John Thyne

This is a complex plan. The deadline for comments is tomorrow. The changes to the five routes will affect Valley Village. Sandy Hubard and Donna Gooley are good resource persons for this issue. Suzanne Lewis moved and Darryl Baskin seconded to approve the draft comment letter on the changes to the bus routes. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

13. Committee Reports

Events and Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia

Nothing reported.

City Services - Suzanne Lewis

The designs for the utility box painting project will be presented at the next committee meeting. Suzanne Lewis moved that there be presentations to two Board meetings, with one for the Ryland Project. The motion was approved.

A motion to allocate \$3,465 to Bartlett Tree Experts to trim the 15 trees along Magnolia Boulevard was approved by a vote of 12-0-3. This is the right time to do the trimming.

A motion to allocate \$1,200 for Mook's Arbor Systems for tree maintenance was approved by a vote of 12-0-3. The City's Urban Forestry Division of Public Works supports this.

A motion to close a portion of the north side of Magnolia Boulevard west of Colfax to parking for the tree maintenance was approved by a vote of 12-0-3.

Communications - Erin Stover

There has been steady growth on all internet platforms. There is a need to change Tony Braswell's Zoom account to a Neighborhood Council account at myvalleyvillage.com.

Vision - Marc Woerschling

There is a need to verify whether Melissa Jones of the Office of Historic Resources has received the supplemental report prepared by Charles Fisher and what is her schedule for processing the application for an historic designation for the Magnolia Boulevard trees. Tony Braswell will contact the C.D. 2 Council Office and request that they contact the Office of Historic Resources about this.

Planning and Land Use - Glenn Block

Nothing more to report.

Elections and Bylaws - Ginny Hatfield

Ginny Hatfield moved to approve Tiffany Mar for the Neighborhood Council's Student Committee. She is a senior at Notre Dame High School active in the climate/global warming issue and has participated in the Leadership Academy. Her involvement in the Neighborhood Council will allow for more youth participation. The motion was approved 11-0-4.

Community Plan Restudy - Glenn Block

Nothing more to report.

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:23 pm.