

Minutes - Neighborhood Council, Valley Village

4-28-21

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. 13 Board members with two absences and four student members were in attendance.
2. Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield

Ginny described the procedures to register for the Board election and how to fill out the form. The drop down list for online registration had us listed as Neighborhood Council, Valley Village rather than Valley Village Neighborhood Council, which made us more difficult to find.

3. Meet and Greet the Candidates

Carol Convey – She has been a resident of Valley Village for 25 years. In 2005 she became aware of the volunteer activities in support of the schools, with volunteers from the entertainment industry and the business community.

Jake Yochum, At Large - He moved to Los Angeles 10 years ago and found what he wanted in Valley Village and has bought a home. He is an attorney working for the Federal Government and a union leader supporting labor protections. We have a very good neighborhood council for our community.

John Thyne, Business Representative - He is running for reelection. He has lived in Valley Village for 15 years and has six children. This is a good community for children. He owns the Angelice Fitness Center at Magnolia and Whitsett and would like to increase opportunities for small businesses.

Chris Yuseppi, Business Representative - He has lived here since 2002. He has spoken with numerous business owners and wants our business owners to thrive.

J.B. Schiller, Homeowner - He was born and raised in San Diego, moved to Santa Barbara, then to San Francisco, rented downtown for several years and then moved to Valley Village. He wants Valley Village to remain an exceptional community. He can work with others and has a legal background.

Gary Brown, Homeowner - He has lived here for 30 years and has an entertainment industry background. He has worked with mayors and Council offices to get things done and make Valley Village a better place.

Dorothy Apple, Homeowner - She grew up in Toluca Lake and has been on the Board since 2007 as Secretary and then Treasurer. She has been involved in many volunteer activities. She is a realtor.

Sandy Hubbard, Homeowner - She is passionate about the Neighborhood Council. She has been on the Neighborhood Council and is on the Board of the Valley Village Residents Association. She is concerned about planning and proposed State laws that would harm single family home neighborhoods.

John Kirkman, Renter - He moved to Valley Village in 2013 and likes our community very much. He is concerned about noise levels in Valley Village and noted that the law banning leaf blowers is not being enforced. A gas powered leaf blower emits more pollution in one hour than a car idling for

eight hours. The ban on leaf blowers should be enforced.

Paulette Stokes, Renter - She is a resident of Valley Village for 36 years and is an environmental artist. She is on the Neighborhood Council City Services and Outreach Committees. She supports sustainability and the Green New Deal and also has been assisting renters in fighting landlords with the Coalition for Economic Survival. Her art has been exhibited at art gallery shows.

Paul Vitello, Renter – He has been in Valley Village since 1958 when he was two years old. He was Dorothy Apple’s neighbor for several years. He has worked in the entertainment industry for many years and is an entrepreneur with his own company. He is concerned about helping the homeless and being a good Samaritan. Children should be able to walk the streets safety again.

Mitchel Fiberman, Renter - Rent relief after Covid 19 is needed. His issues are public transit, parks and assisting the homeless.

Suzanne Lewis, Renter - She is the chair of City Services, Communications and other committees involved in painting utilities, food drives and aiding the homeless.

4. 20th Anniversary - Tony Braswell

The 20th anniversary of the Neighborhood Council, Valley Village will occur in 2023. Significant accomplishments are the renovation of Valley Village Park, landscaping the Chandler median of the Orange Line busway, planting 200 trees along the sidewalks and obtaining the sound walls for the S-170 Freeway.

5. Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield

The Valley Alliance of neighborhood Councils, with representatives from 34 neighborhood councils, consists of monthly meetings with speakers. This month’s speaker was Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez. She is working to stop illegal fireworks. The City will be establishing a Youth Development Council. The City Council is opposing S.B. 9 & 10. On the contentious issue of the east and west Valley animal shelters, there have been protests against closing the West Valley Shelter. The shelter has been reopened and the general manager for the department has resigned.

Paster Poole of the Faith Presbyterian Church discussed the January 6 insurrection, the inauguration of President Biden which featured the poet Amanda Gorman.

On Sunday, May 2, 5-7 pm, there will be a voter registration event at Faith Presbyterian Church. Ginny Hatfield noted that only 142 people have registered so far.

6. Finance Report - Dorothy Apple

\$6,822.60 was spent in March with \$ in outstanding expenditures. There is a remaining balance of \$ and the net available amount is \$9,867.98. \$1,200 for tree feeding may be shifted to the next fiscal year.

7. Committee Reports

Elections and Bylaws - Ginny Hatfield

A decision is needed on weather to seat the newly elected Board in July verses retaining the existing policy that would allow seating the new Board in June. Tony Braswell favored keeping the June date for seating the new Board. A motion to approve seating the new Board in June was approved by a vote of 13-2-0.

Student Committee

Gabriela Goldenberg is organizing a voter registration drive which will be held on Saturday, May 2, 5-7 pm at Faith Presbyterian Church. Marissa Tendel of LAUSD advised that Gabriela should contact her regarding registering students for NCVV elections.

Alysa Iqbal is on the Mayor's Youth Council. Covid cases are up 42%. A \$10,000 grant is available for small businesses impacted by the coronavirus. The 101 freeway downtown will be closed for construction of the 6th Street bridge. There are vaccine sites available for anyone 16 or older.

City Services - Suzanne Lewis

Councilman Krekorian has introduced a motion to support State legislation to enable the City to have the authority to enforce the Slow Streets program. The coyotes are out in force. Pets should be kept Indoors. Six of the fifteen Oak trees on the north side of Magnolia Boulevard will be pruned on May 26. A permit fee will be paid. The trees will be fed on June 6. Paulette Stokes reported that An L.A. Fire Dept. captain spoke at an on line CERT training session on Saturday. An emergency preparedness booklet has been prepared. A dead Pine tree was finally cut down. Chris Yseppi cited an increased danger from speeding motorists. Ben Creed supported the Slow Streets program. A community survey should be done about which streets are dangerous. Gary Brown asked why it took so long to get the trees pruned.

A motion by the Committee to approve an application pursuant to the Adopt a Highway Program for the northbound 101 Freeway ramps at Laurel Canyon in order to remove trash was unanimously approved

Communications - Tony Braswell

Almost 1,500 people are on our list for E mail blasts. Our social media site is doing well and is sending out information.

Vision Committee - Marc Woerschling

At its April 15 the Cultural Heritage Commission approved the staff recommendation that the 15 Magnolia Boulevard Oak trees next to North Hollywood High School be designated an historic/cultural monument. The Commission's recommendation will then be sent to the City Council for final approval, which is likely because the nomination for an historic designation is supported by Councilman Krekorian. Previously, the Cultural Heritage Commission had an on-site visit on February 25 to view the trees and discuss the nomination with Board members and our consultant, Charlie Fisher.

Planning and Land Use - Glenn Block

At its recent meeting the Committee discussed affordable housing, including how to encourage affordable housing in a thoughtful way instead of more market rate housing. Also discussed were S.B. 9 & 10. Ginny Hatfield noted that there is now a new 3-D printer for houses, that can create a house in 48 hours. Parking is a major component of the cost of housing so there is a drive to eliminate parking requirements. There are ten pre-approved designs for accessory dwelling units so a permit for ADUs will be automatically approved.

Events and Outreach - Dorothy Apple

There will be a food drive this year in lieu of the July 4 parade.

8. Reports from DONE & Elected Officials

Ryan Ahari, deputy in Assemblyman Nazarian's office, reported that there was a recent Saturday celebration of President Biden recognizing the Armenian genocide which took place in the early 20th century around the time of World War 1. Assemblyman Nazarian is now on the Appropriations Committee as well is on the Budget Committee. Significant bills introduced by Nazarian are a bill to make the Slow Streets program permanent and A.B. 558 to fund more healthy food options in schools. A Caltrans representative will be giving us an update on the soundwalls. Caltrans will also send staff to determine the condition of the tunnel under the S-170 freeway. The Assemblyman's office has been assisting 1,100 applicants to obtain their unemployment compensation from EDD, which is difficult to contact due to being understaffed and overwhelmed by claims due to the pandemic.

Mario Hernandez of DONE noted that the February financial report was not received until now and that up to \$10,000 of unspent funds can be rolled over into the next fiscal year.

9. Public Comment

Rudy Melendrez noted that State Senator Hertzberg voted for S.B. 9. Michael and Chris commended Tony and the Board. He cited his complaint letter to the Board. He sent out a second letter. Mario Hernandez observed that the letter is public comment.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.