

Minutes - Neighborhood Council, Valley Village

5-19-21

1. Approval of Minutes

2. NCVV Election Results - Ginny Hatfield

The deadline to register to vote was May 8. The results were out on May 15. Those elected to the Board of Directors are:

Carol Convey - Education Representative

Jake Yochum - At Large Representative

John Thyne - Business Representative

Dorothy Apple - Homeowner Representative

Sandy Hubbard - Homeowner Representative.

Paulette Stokes - Renter Representative

Paul Vitello - Renter Representative

Suzanne Lewis - Renter Representative

The new Board will be seated on June 23. 273 residents/owners/stakeholders registered and around 200 voted. Ginny received a number of compliments on our high turnout. However, there is a need to identify improvements. The video on the election rules was good. The City Clerk's staff was accessible. Most of the problems were with the online registration computer program. Several tries were needed. The forms were not clear that documentation is needed. The ballots did not arrive on time. Send any comments to Ginny at NCVVelections@gmail.com. The \$6,500 budget for the election paid for 12,000 mailers, posters, social media ads and E mail blasts. The cost ended up being \$6,000. The number of voters over the years has been between 200 and 300. John Thyne favored spending the money on other means of communications besides direct mailings. Suzanne Lewis observed that the web site was down for awhile with no communications from the City Clerk. A greater outreach to the apartment buildings is needed. They are not aware of us, what we do. They think we are a homeowners association. Tony Braswell cited the very good work done by the Student Committee. Carol Lynne thought that the City Clerk should have done a test run on their computer program beforehand.

3. S-170 Freeway Sound Wall

Tony Braswell announced that the sound wall is almost completed. Ayda Safaei, Metro Construction Division, reported that the sound wall has been installed on the freeway bridges over Riverside Dr., Burbank Blvd. and Oxnard St. There are a few remaining sections that the wall will be added to. The irrigation pipes for the landscaping are being installed. The sound walls will be completed this fall. Tony Braswell noted that the graffiti is being removed from the wall the next day. Belal Lababidi, Project Supervisor, responded that the gates that were left open have been closed, deterring graffiti vandals. Tony Braswell asked whether Creeping Fig will be installed to cover the walls and prevent graffiti? Belal Labadidi replied that Creeping Fig, vines and ivy for the slopes will be planted. Dorothy Apple asked whether the sound wall will be extended to the S-170 exit at Riverside Drive. Belal Labadidi responded that the sound wall will not be extended to the exit ramp, that the main

sound walls next to the exit ramps will be sufficient along with lower exit speeds to reduce the noise level. Ginny Hatfield asked whether the sound walls will have a consistent height? Belal Labadidi replied that their height varies from 10 to 16 feet.

4. Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield

At this month's Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting the main guest speaker was Kevin James who is running for City Attorney. The West Valley Animal Shelter is now back open thanks to an outpouring of concern and support from the surrounding communities.

5. Financial Report - Dorothy Apple

\$1,815 was spent in April with a remaining balance of \$13,052.76 for the remainder of the 2020-21 fiscal year. The financial report was approved by a vote of 11-4-0 and 4-1-0 by the Student Committee.

6. 2021-22 Budget - Dorothy Apple

Dorothy listed the amounts in the proposed 2021-22 budget. The carryover from last year's budget for the Magnolia Blvd. Oak trees was added. The budget is the same as last year's except for \$8,500 for the gateway banners. The budget was approved by a vote of 11-4-0 and 4-1-0 by the Student Committee.

7. Reports from Elected Officials and DONE

Tammy Ramirez - Scott Schmerlson's Office. If a graduation is in person, limited attendance and Covid protocols will be required. Tammy listed summer school programs that are available. Credits can be earned during the summer. She listed the schedules for the summer and the fall. An on line option is available. Mobile vaccine teams will visit the schools. Parent permission and an adult present will be required. She will send the information to Tony Braswell. Maribel Ulloa-Garcia asks why there are three days of graduation for small schools and only one day for large schools? Tammy replied that it depends on the needs of individual schools.

Ryan Ahari - Assemblyman Nazarian's Office. The \$2 million to be pledged for college education will be for 28 low income students. Their budget requests will be included in the State budget. Assemblyman Nazarian has met with the Director of the Employment Development Department and has prepared nine bills to revamp and improve the functioning of the EDD. Their office is there to help unemployment assistance requests. Alice Hart asked what about robocalls? What can be done about them? Ryan said they will look into it.

Jessica Fulgate, C.D. 2. Jessica complimented our elections. We are a model for the City. On homelessness, the new tiny homes in the eastern end of the Chandler Boulevard median have been open for three months. Two homeless persons have been housed and three will be housed in the near future. There has been controversy for and against the tiny houses. Their office is focused on reviving laws on loitering and sleeping under bridges. Permit parking applications are not being

processed by DOT due to the pandemic. Suzanne Lewis noted that the Small Streets signs are being moved to the curb and then removed. The Legislature is working on the law for the slow streets program, to provide for better, sturdier signs. It is difficult to get mentally ill people removed from the streets. Council District 2 has had the most homeless housing built in it. Council District 5 has built none. C.D. 2 will exceed its quota next year. Maribel Ulloa-Garcia asked who determines the colors for the tiny homes? Jessica replied she is not sure but they support the varied colors. Maribel then asked who gets in? Jessica responded that those who live here get in first.

8. Committee Reports

Student Committee - Gabriella Goldenberg thanked those who came to the voter registration drive on Saturday. It increased the registration from 140 to 200.

City Services - Suzanne Lewis. The Committee appreciates the funding provided for the second phase of painting the utility boxes. There is an emergency preparedness meeting this Saturday from 10-12. The coyote alert is continuing. The coyotes are very brazen and pets are in danger. Alice Hart reported that the Live Oak Trees on Magnolia Boulevard will be fed on June 7.

Communications - Tony Braswell. There was a lower bill for the web site due to the Board election. E blasts and mailings were sent out to encourage registration for the election. Wendy did a good job in assisting with the communications.

Vision - On April 15 the Cultural Heritage Commission recommended approval of an historic designation for the Magnolia Boulevard Oak trees. The historic designation will then go to the City Council for final approval. It has the support of Councilman Krekorian.

Planning & Land Use - Glenn Block. There was no meeting this month but five new projects have been received for the next month's meeting.

Events & Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia. There is nothing to report.

Elections & Bylaws - Ginny Hatfield. A Council motion is directing DONE to survey the election rules for the 99 neighborhood councils with an intent to standardize the rules and streamline procedures to reduce costs. It is uncertain whether the City Council has the authority to standardize and streamline election rules. The City Attorney may advise on this.

John Thyne moved and Daryl Baskin seconded to oppose the Council motion. Tony Braswell noted that each neighborhood council is unique. This is an overreach. It will stifle the neighborhood councils. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 12-3-0 and 4-1-0 by the Student Committee.

9. June Board Meeting - The new Board will be sworn in and officers elected.

10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.