

Minutes - Neighborhood Council, Valley Village

7-28-21

1. Recognition of Student Board Members

Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian recognized Tiffany Mar, Justin Berkowitz, Gabriela Goldberg, Alysha Iqbal and Luke Simon for their accomplishments on the Student Committee and as future leaders.

2. Rob Benavidez - Senior Lead Officer

Officer Benavidez reported that our crime statistics are down compared to last year due to drops in aggravated assaults, burglaries and grand theft auto due to a drop in transients in Valley Village. He is now focusing on illegal party houses that are disrupting neighborhoods. The Pool House Restaurant on Riverside Drive is generating noise complaints. To get police dispatched do not call the local desk but call 911. Crimes can be reported online. In response to shoppers at Gelsons being accosted, more police are monitoring the store and the parking lot. The Magnolia/Tujunga intersection in North Hollywood has been a hot spot for crime activity. Tony Braswell asked whether there has been any increase in crime from the tiny home village? Officer Benavidez responded that because the tiny home villages are drawing other homeless who camp eight next to them there have been accompanying increases in crime.

3. Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield

At this month's Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting Mike Feuer was the speaker. He was able to sue the FAA to change the flight patterns at LAX and is also suing the FAA over the flight patterns from Burbank Airport. He is preparing the ordinance to make homeless encampments off limits in certain locations. School Board member Scott Schmerlson also attended. Police presence on campuses has been cut 30% with control over the number of officers left to each school. CityWatch is a good source of information on local affairs, including the new head of DONE having the authority to suspend neighborhood council board members that violate DONE's code of conduct. The division of responsibility for the 170 Freeway tunnel has been resolved between the City and Caltrans. The City is responsible for the tunnels and Caltrans is in charge of the rest of the Freeway right-of-way. \$3 million will be spent by Caltrans to seal off the entrances to the tunnels.

4. 2022 Financial and Administrative Packet.

The packet has been prepared and sent to DONE and the funds for fiscal year 2021-22 have been released.

5. Reports from Elected Officials and DONE

Ryan Ahari - Assemblyman Nazarian's office. The Assembly is in recess. \$5.7 million was approved for Jewish Family Services for their building, food bank and other services. School savings accounts have been established for college expenses. \$11 million was allocated to Armenian related programs. \$1.5 billion was approved for small business assistance during the pandemic. The MTA has assisted in getting Caltrans to seal off the entrances to the tunnels under the 170 Freeway.

Tammy Ramirez - Scott Schmerlson's Office. His office has been advising students and parents on

school reopenings, including masking requirements. There is additional instruction and mental health services to offset the pandemic. Carol Convey asked when will the parents have access to the parent's centers? Tammy responded that use of the parent's centers is conditioned on wearing masks indoors or meeting outside.

Mario Hernandez - DONE. Civic View Training will be done in September. There is a new policy for Boards holding virtual, online meetings. The deadline for bylaws amendments is April 22. A motion to facilitate financial transfers to boards is being drafted. The funding for public meetings and events is to be provided on a case by case basis.

Jessica Fulgate, C.D. 2. A revised ordinance regulating camping on public property was approved by the City Council today, in response to several lawsuits. Enough housing will be built by next year to house all the homeless in C.D. 2.

6. Committee Reports

City Services - Suzanne Lewis. The utility box painting will resume tomorrow and on Friday. Homeowners should be on the lookout for coyotes that have come down from the hills in search of food. Pets and little children are in danger.

Communications - Tony Braswell. A committee chair will be appointed next month. There has been good outreach on social media during the past two weeks.

Planning & Land Use - Tony Braswell. Sandy Hubbard will be the new committee chair. There was no meeting this month due to no projects to review.

Vision - On April 15 the Cultural Heritage Commission recommended approval of an historic designation for the Magnolia Boulevard Oak trees. It is waiting to be scheduled to go before the City Council for final approval. It has the support of Councilman Krekorian.

Events & Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia. There have been none this year due to the coronavirus. They will try to do an event and determine the amount of public response to it. Paulette Stokes reported on the recent July 24 Neighborhood Council Disaster Response Conference and has sent out an E mail about the conference. More support from DONE is needed.

Elections & Bylaws - Ginny Hatfield. Instead of the Annual Night Out event in August concerning reducing crime put a porch light on instead. DONE is preparing a neighborhood council bylaws template which will require amending our bylaws.

Student Committee - The Committee did a good job on preparing for the Board election in May. A new student representative is needed, to replace Tiffany Mar.

7. Board Retreat

The retreat will be next month, in August, in lieu of a regular Board meeting. It is to set goals, committee assignments and the structure of the committees. After discussion of alternative dates the Board decided to have the retreat on August 25.

Special Board Meeting

1. Financial Report - Dorothy Apple

\$1,841.56 was spent in June with a balance of \$4,554.61 for the remainder of the 2020-21 fiscal year. \$32,000 is allocated for the new 2021-22 fiscal year. A motion to approve the June financial report was passed by a vote of 13-0-2 and 5-0 by the Student Committee.

A motion to re-approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant payment to Muralism for utility box painting was passed by a vote of 13-0-2 and 5-0 by the Student Committee.

A motion to approve up to \$25 per month for AT&T phone expenses in fiscal year 2021-22 was passed by a vote of 13-0-2 and 5-0 by the Student Committee.

A motion to approve up to \$300 per month for office/storage/meeting space at the Faith Presbyterian Church was passed by a vote of 13-0-2 and 5-0 by the Student Committee.

An allocation of \$750 for the Hope for the Valley shelter cannot be voted on until it is changed to a Neighborhood Purpose Grant.

2. Committee Report - City Services

A motion to approve up to \$150 for a freeway cleanup sign from Staples was passed by a vote of 13-0-2 and 4-0-1 by the Student Committee.

3. Board Retreat

Carol Convey moved and Darryl Baskin seconded to set a date of August 25 for the Board retreat. The motion was passed by a vote of 12-1-2.

4. Future Agenda Items

Allocate \$750 for dog and cat food. Use the pet store in Valley Village.

Have a presentation by Senior Lead Officer Benavidez on the noisy Riverside Drive restaurant in lieu of putting it on the agenda at the next Board meeting.

Suzanne Lewis will call City Attorney Mike Feuer to request a new neighborhood prosecutor for our section of the Valley.