

Board Meeting - Neighborhood, Council, Valley Village
April 27, 2022

1. **Presentation - Habitat for Humanity.** Chris Untiet, who has a Master's degree in political science, gave a presentation on the homebuilding projects of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat has been in greater Los Angeles since the 1990s. Their first projects were in the Valley. Housing is a top local priority. Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based community encompassing many faiths. It is working in 70 countries. Habitat has 130 staff persons in Los Angeles County. There are other chapters in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys and in Riverside County. 35 million families have been helped. The Affordable First Buyer Program pays up to 35% of an interest free mortgage for 30 years, to help people of color. Habitat for Humanity has programs for new home construction, home repair, neighborhood revitalization, Covid 19 relief, disaster relief, Re Stores and Pathways to Home Ownership. New home construction is being done on larger lots, older homes, including senior's homes, are being repaired and repainted, neighborhood revitalization is being done on a larger scale, aid is being provided to those impacted by Covid 19, disaster assistance is being provided, there are REstores with furniture and other items and programs for home ownership. There is a housing continuum from homelessness to market rate home ownership. The ways to support Habitat's programs are to volunteer, fundraise, lead, find families in need, find land for new homes, be an advocate, form coalitions and interfaith prayer. Their recent projects are 36 new homes in Long Beach, eight homes in South Los Angeles, home repairs for seniors, veterans and low income Homeowners and community cleanups.

Tony Braswell asked how do families in need request assistance, contact Habitat? Chris replied That they should call the phone number or E mail Habitat for an application.

Tony then asked has Habitat partnered with cities to build at reduced costs, less than \$700,000 to \$800,000? Chris replied that they have, with Long Beach.

Carol Convey asked how does one volunteer and is there a minimum age requirement? Chris responded that to volunteer go to habitat.org and that the age requirement is 16 and up and 14 for youth.

Desmond Faison strongly complemented the work of Habitat.

Sandy Hubbard asked whether Habitat is purchasing apartments and converting them to units for Homeownership, to help revitalize neighborhoods and could Habitat be involved with the No Ho West project? Chris replied that they are willing to help to make a project happen.

2. **Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield** Albert Schwartz of LAUSD was the main speaker of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting this month. Low Income students were impacted by the pandemic. State legislation has been introduced to hire more counsellors to help students. Books for students and for mentoring can now be downloaded. Tony Covello and Michelle Beltran were at the meeting. Anti-bias training is now mandatory and will be approved by the City Council. Some Board members have already had the training. An anti-bias policy has been adopted. Virtual Board meetings will continue. The mandate for virtual meetings

gets renewed every month. Hybrid Board meets, both virtual and actual meetings, are problematic. The public would have to be allowed in Board members' homes. There are three options for the 2023 elections: (1) vote in person, (2) vote by mail and (3) a hybrid of voting in person and by mail.

A motion to approve \$200 for a Zoom license was approved by a vote of 13-0-2 and 2-0-3 by the Student Committee

3. **Financial Report – Dorothy Apple**

Spending in March consisted of \$815.26. The remaining balance of unspent funds is \$27, 461.63. The financial report was approved by a vote of 13-0-2 and 2-0-3 by the Student Committee. The Board agrees to add Earth Day as a budget category.

4. **Committee Reports**

City Services - Suzanne Lewis The Board discussed a motion to support a community impact statement for increased funding for the Emergency Management Department, including life saving equipment. Suzanne Lewis noted that we are not prepared for a disaster. Tony Braswell thought that the community impact statement is too long and has no figure for the amount of the budget increase. Paul Vitello asked where does the money come from? It comes from the general fund and from other funds. The community impact statement will be re-written to reduce its length to 500 characters. Two pages in the budget also need to be reduced in length to 500 characters. The revised community impact statement was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 with one abstention.

The Board then discussed a second motion to reduce Riverside Drive speed limits from 40 to 35 mph. A recent State law allows cities to reduce their speed limits. A member of the public, Debbie D., cited a sinking road patch which is causing vibrations that shake her house. Suzanne Lewis experienced the same vibrations on her side of Riverside about a year ago. The motion to reduce the speed limits to 35 mph was approved by a vote of 13-0-2 and 2-0-3 by the Student Committee.

Jeff Camp of C.D. 2 helped to clean up and remove the van for a deceased homeless person. Five properties next to Carter-Sexton on the east side of Laurel Canyon will be renovated rather than redeveloped. A homeless encampment has been cleaned up.

Community Improvement - Ginny Hatfield. The designs for the new banners have been reviewed and a final design will be selected. The cost for 124 banners is \$14,500. A motion to approve up to \$15,000 for the banners was approved by a vote of 12-0-3.

The director for the Upper Valley Watershed Area will attend next month's committee meeting and advise us on funding sources for landscaping the Tujunga Wash.

An application to the Adopt a Median program will be submitted in May for funding to place a second Valley Village welcome sign in the Chandler Boulevard median on the east side of Coldwater Canyon. It will be like the welcome sign at Laurel Canyon and the 101 freeway.

Planning & Land Use - Sandy Hubbard A demolition permit was applied for during the past month. There is no word on District No Ho, whether it is proceeding. Was there a vote in support of more

affordable units? Find out from the MTA the status of No HO West. We should support the position of the neighborhood council that No Ho West is in. Tony Braswell will be putting No Ho West on the May agenda.

Events and Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia Maribel thanked the Board for their attendance at Earth Day. 95 packets with conservation materials were passed out. Trees were ordered for later delivery. \$2,577.85 was spent, less than the \$3,500 budget. The pancake breakfast and National Night Out are the next events. Volunteers are needed for the Colfax World's Fair.

Elections and Bylaws - Ginny Hatfield The Bylaws were submitted to DONE on time in March. Some word changes are needed due to an updated template.

Student Committee - Carol Convey Several students on the committee will be graduating this spring.

A letter requesting student volunteers for the committee will be sent out. New students for the committee will be proposed in late July. Tony Braswell stated that the students leaving the committee will be honored.

5. **Reports from DONE & Elected Officials**

Mario Hernandez- DONE City Hall will be opened on May 5. A proof of vaccination will be needed to enter. The Covid protocols will be revised, refined. Outreach groups will be established for the 2023 elections. Turning on cameras is not required or recommended for Board members. The Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be in September. The dates for event approvals and funding are listed by DONE. DONE cannot provide technical support for Zoom accounts. Tony Braswell noted that DONE took over his account. The Board has 30 days to review the Code of Conduct from May 5.

Jeff Camp - C.D. 2 Jeff complemented the Board. Meeting everyone in person on Earth Day was a pleasure. Jeff will be on vacation next week. Any project with Ginny and Suzanne needs to be submitted to him before he leaves on his vacation.

Elena Schwartz - Assemblyman Nazarian's Office The rent relief program is difficult to access. Their office will be helping renters in applying for the rental assistance.

6. **Next Board Meeting** The next Board meeting will be on May 18.

