

Board Meeting - Neighborhood Council, Valley Village

February 23, 2022

1. **Presentation of Whitsett Trunk Water Line Project**

Eric Kim of LADWP discussed the project and reported that the work will be finished in June. The project will be finished further north at Oxnard Street in November. The work on the Valley Village portion of the line was delayed four months due to the construction of an underground parking structure for the apartment building under construction on the site of the Galaxy Car Wash which obstructed the use of the tunneling machine. The tie back anchors got in the way. The tunneling work has been done. The remaining work is installing the pipe in the tunnel. Is there any penalty for the apartment project causing the tie back problem? There is a lack of coordination between the project and DWP. Permits were issued for both at the same time. Sandy Hubbard noted that there will be more growth per S.B. 9. Will this project accommodate the growth? Yes, it will double the capacity of the trunk line.

2. **Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield**

At this month's VANC meeting there was a presentation on water supplies for the Valley. Conservation and more water storage is needed. Also discussed was the proposed Code of Conduct for neighborhood council board members. There are concerns about the neighborhood councils being included in the Code, which is for City employees. Neighborhood council members are not City employees. Commissioner Glenn Schaeffer, as part of an ad hoc committee of BONC, is working on a revised Code for neighborhood council members. Our neighborhood council has had very few problems with abusive audience members and Board members. About 10% of the neighborhood councils have real problems that prevent them from functioning normally. The new Code language will require that Board members do the mandatory training courses within 90 days or otherwise neighborhood council board members can be suspended or even removed.

Ginny Hatfield moved and Carol Convey seconded to support the effort of the ad hoc committee to prepare a new Code of Conduct that takes into account the unique status of neighborhood councils. The motion was approved 10-0-5.

Should committee members who are not Board members be required to be trained as well?

3. **Officer Felipe Benvidez, Valley Traffic Enforcement**

Tony Braswell introduced Officer Benvidez, noting that we have a cut through traffic problem and also that a new State law allows for lowering speed limits. Officer Benvidez said that he is familiar with our area, having worked in North Hollywood for eight years. There have been 3,075 citations issued, 130 DUI arrests and 761 traffic accidents with 12 of them fatal in 2021. He is the only traffic officer for Valley Village. Most of the traffic problems are with motorists rolling through stop signs. Traffic officers have been shifted to patrol. Traffic officers have been understaffed by 25-35 officers. Officer Benvidez asked Valley Village residents to tell him where they would like traffic enforcement to concentrate on. Tony Braswell asked can radar be used to measure speed? It can be used but vehicle specific laser devices are being used instead, to focus on the license plate. Surveys of streets are needed

in order to lower the speed limits. Suzanne Lewis observed that each time the speed limits are raised there is no increase in enforcement. How can we get our major streets on the list for enforcement? Officer Benvidez replied that they respond to citizen complaints. Tony Braswell offered to send him a list of intersections for increased enforcement. Officer Benvidez welcomed the list. Ginny Hatfield asked what about returning radar trainers that show average speeds? Officer Benvidez asked that he be sent locations to put the trailers, to be added to the list of intersections. Tony Braswell asked about how to report illegal street racing or intersection take overs? Officer Benvidez said call 911. There is a special street racing unit in LAPD. The E mail address utdsafe@lapdonline.

4. **Financial Report - Dorothy Apple**

Spending in January consisted of \$305.26. The \$378.42 credit has still not been received. The remaining balance of unspent funds is \$29,062.54. What is the \$378.42 credit for? Dorothy will check on the credit. The financial report was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 and 3-0-2 by the Student Committee. The banners need to be replaced at a cost of \$11,000 to \$13,000. Tony Braswell listed various expenses for the rest of the year, to spend the \$29,062.

5. **Committee Reports**

Elections & Bylaws - Ginny Hatfield

The amendments to the Bylaws approved last month were sent out to the public. There was one Comment from the public, why was the Business Committee not listed in the amended Bylaws? It was not listed because it is an ad hoc and not a permanent standing committee. Ginny went through the new Bylaws and pointed out the changes. The descriptions of the standing committees have been shifted to the Standing Rules. **The motion to approve the amended Bylaws passed by a vote of 12-0-3 and 3-0-2 by the Student Committee.** Ginny then discussed the Standing Rules with its detailed descriptions of the functions of the committees. A new provision regarding enforcement of the training requirements for Board members was added to the description of the Executive Committee. **The motion to approve the revised Standing Rules passed by a vote of 12-0-3 and 3-0-2 by the Student Committee.**

Student Committee - Carol Convey

Communications with local schools are underway. Activities, such as Earth Day, are being planned to involve the students.

City Services - Suzanne Lewis

Suzanne Lewis thanked Officer Benvidez for attending this meeting. A plaque recognizing the recent historic designation for the Magnolia Boulevard trees will be placed in the Kennedy Building at North Hollywood High School. Suzanne report that they are still waiting for action on getting the Magnolia Boulevard street lights reconnected. The manager at the Bureau of Street Lighting that Councilman Krekorian spoke to has refused to reconnect the lights. The Committee will assist with the homeless that resumed this year.

Business Committee

John Thyne is out due to health issues.

Emergency Preparedness - Paulette Stokes

18" by 24" posters are being prepared along with flyers for Earth Day. Put CERT training on the other side of the flyers. Paulette needs help. The town hall can be held after Paulette's surgery. The next event is National Night Out.

Planning & Land Use - Sandy Hubbard

There are no new projects this month. The focus at this month's meeting was on projects from prior months. There is also an ongoing discussion of affordable housing. There is not enough time to gather signatures for Our Neighborhood Voices initiative.

Events & Outreach – Maribel Ulloa-Garcia

The first event will be Earth Day on April 23. Sandwich boards will be prepared. A web site will be created to register for the event. There will also be games and bird feeders will be hung from roofs. There will be information on composting and environmentally friendly activities. Permits will be obtained from L.A. Unified School District. Assemblyman Nazarian and his family will attend. Parking will be provided. Flyers will be printed and distributed. Insurance may be needed. The cost will be \$3,000 to \$3,500. **A motion to approved up to \$3,500 for the Earth Day event was approved by a vote of 11-0-4 and 3-0-2 by the Student Committee.**

Community Improvement Committee - Ginny Hatfield

A \$5 million grant to complete the mural along the Tujunga Wash flood channel might provide money for landscaping the sides of the channel in Valley Village. Marc Woerschling discussed the previous work done starting in 2011 to landscape the channel. (Add from Planning Committee minutes). Tony Braswell noted that our function is not to find the money to landscape the channel but rather to bring a proposal to the elected officials.

Ginny Hatfield reported on the status of a second gateway sign for Valley Village. An attempt was made in 2008 to get a sign at the Burbank/Laurel Canyon intersection. The money from the proposed Jiffy Lube project is still there. The City Attorney approved the use of the funds for a different location. The Adopt a Median program might be utilized. The Chandler median on the east side of Coldwater Canyon is now proposed as an alternative location for the second sign. There are trees in the median. It would be the same sign as the one at Laurel Canyon and the 101 Freeway. The cost is \$15,000. There is enough money in the escrow account for the sign. The Riverside Drive alternative is more difficult. The location is split between the City and the County.

The banners need to be replaced every three years. The cost for the banners is about \$11,000. The existing banners are torn. A local company makes the banners. City Council approval is needed by June. Ideas for the graphics design are needed. Keep "Valley Village, a great place to call home". Also, show the Magnolia/Whitsett buildings and the Magnolia Blvd. trees. Funding for the banners needs to be approved by the City Council.

6. **Reports from Elected Officials**

Jeff Camp - C.D. 2

Ten or eleven streets are proposed for speed reductions in Valley Village. Send him any other streets that you think need reductions. Jeff is also in charge of street lights that are out. The average time to repair a light is 57 days. About 300 lights are out in C.D. 2. The payment of overtime for staff in the Bureau of Street Lighting is being looked into. A grant for new street trees, including concrete cuts, is available. The design and locations for new banners are needed for City Council approval. Jeff has met with DWP regarding the stormwater capture project in Valley Village Park. Tony Braswell asked for three additional items, which are not being done. Suzanne Lewis asked for street trees, for upcoming events. Finally, Jeff described the expansion of the mural, to be on the east side of Tujunga Wash.

Ryan Ahari – Assemblyman Nazarian.

A town hall on mortgage relief was recently held. Relief is available for up to \$8,000. A rent stabilization bill for adults with disabilities is being worked on. 800 households got EDD work. This is Ryan's last week on the job. He starts with his new job on Monday. Contact Emma Taylor instead in Nazarian's office. Marc Woerschling's proposal for a bill regarding utility undergrounding will be carried over to the next year.