

Minutes - Board Meeting, Neighborhood Council - Valley Village

10-22-2025

1. Roll Call

Fifteen Board Members were in attendance: Tony Braswell, Carol Convey, Donald Grant, Alice Hart, Ginny Hatfield, Sandy Hubbard, Danny Jordan, Suzanne Lewis, John Moser, Diana Salman, Christyn Saracino, Deepak Singh Sahni, Natalie Svider, Maribel Ulloa-Garcia and Marc Woersching.

2. Approval of Board Minutes

The Board approved the minutes for the September 17, 2025 meeting without objection and with two changes.

3. Financial Report - Tony Braswell

For September a total of \$975 was spent with a remaining balance of \$19,065.90, an outstanding balance of \$1,556.87 and a net available balance of \$17,509.03. The September Financial Report was approved by a vote of 15-0 and 2-0-3 by the Student Committee.

4. Executive Committee Report

On the Board taking positions on State legislation, we cannot take a position on S.B. 79 even if the City Council opposes it. We should form a subcommittee to determine exactly what we can do or not. Jose Galdemez noted that the City is to speak with one voice. Neighborhood councils fall under the City Charter. Only the Mayor and City Council speak for the City. The Charter Reform Committee is an opportunity for neighborhood councils to advocate to take a position on what the City's position should be. The Board cannot comment on issues outside of Los Angeles, such as to the State Legislature or to the Governor. The Board can alert Los Angeles residents to communicate their position to the Legislature and the Governor. Ginny Hatfield thought that there was no need for a subcommittee. We should provide input to the Charter Reform Committee. The head of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council verified that "we can only talk down, not talk up" to a higher level of government. Tony Braswell and Ginny agreed that we should submit our recommendations to the Charter Reform Committee. There is a provision in S.B. 79 that allows local housing elements to substitute for S.B. 79. Tony Braswell referred the S.B. 79 substitution procedure to the Planning Committee.

Tony Braswell moved and Sandy Hubbard seconded to form a subcommittee to submit charter reform proposals to the Charter Reform Committee. The motion was approved by a voice vote. The committee members are Ginny Hatfield, Sandy Hubbard, Marc Woersching - Chair, Suzanne Lewis and Sylvie Maltby of the Student Committee. The subcommittee's recommendations are due by January 7.

5. Report from DONE & Elected Officials

Ben Kwok of C.D.2 announced that 900 turkeys will be given away along with toys for disadvantaged children and a snow machine. Ben thanked Suzanne Lewis for bringing the missing traffic signs to his attention. Maribel Ulloa-Garcia agreed that additional traffic signs are needed.

The Fire Department representative discussed recent vehicle accidents and fire hazards.

Jose Galdemez with DONE listed several workshops and events. The City Clerk's roundtable on contracts

and leases is tomorrow, on October 23. There are also brownbag lunches on Roberts Rules of Order. On October 29 there will be a briefing on the Paralympic games. And there is a workshop on collaborations with the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

Amy, an intern with Assemblyman Nick Schultz's office, indicated that eight bills authored by Nick Schultz were signed into law and two were vetoed. A.B. 43 protects 2,500 miles of wild and scenic rivers. A.B. 306 addresses the housing crisis by prohibiting making changes to State building standards for residential units unless a specified condition is met. A.B. 370 strengthens laws against human trafficking. Sandy Hubbard noted the potential impact of S.B. 79 on the infrastructure of Los Angeles. Victor Rivas with Schultz's office, who will soon be the deputy director of external affairs for the Governor, responded that Nick Schultz will be preparing cleanup legislation for S.B. 79.

#### 6. Congress of Neighborhood Councils

Howard Katchen, President of NC Sherman Oaks and Budget Advocates that serve as budget watchdogs, will be meeting with City Department heads. Budget Advocates will be preparing a white paper with a list of budget recommendations. Their board meetings are on the second Mondays of the month at 6:30 pm at 5056 Van Nuys Blvd. Their next meeting is on November 8. Assemblyman Howard Schultz will be the speaker. Howard Katchen expressed his approval of the Student Committee. Tony Braswell and Carol Convey described the activities and benefits of the Committee.

#### 7. Paralympic Games

There will be a briefing on the Olympic & Paralympic games on October 29, 6-8 pm with registration required. Tony Braswell will be resending his E mail on this to us.

#### 8. Coyote Presentation

Natalie Svider reported on a possible presentation on coyotes by Los Angeles Animal Services. Young Coyotes in our area are less afraid of humans. There are hazing techniques that cause them to flee. Tony Braswell mentioned an E mail with the techniques for dealing with coyotes. Try to avoid walking in evenings and early mornings. Animal Services is trapping and removing the coyotes. Young coyotes are looking for dens.

#### 9. Committee Reports

City Services - Suzanne Lewis

Fifty people volunteered for the recent Mayor Bass LASHine Cleanup. The Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, High School Students and their parents worked hard. Marvin at Joe Peep's Pizza provided Pizza for all the volunteers. pizza for them. The food vendors have moved back next to Jon's Market. The vendors are set up on the Magnolia, blocking the sidewalk and blocking traffic. Their food is unsafe and their operations are unsanitary. The food trucks are licensed while the vendors are not. The food trucks are parking for 24 hours in spaces limited to two hours. Alice Hart observed that the vendors are violating the rules, which are not being enforced per the Mayor's directive. They don't pay taxes and they have no permits. Our hands are tied, we cannot make a difference. Danny Jordan reported that the County Dept. of Health Care Services is investigating the sober living facility that has abusive residents. Donald Grant observed that the facility will cooperate with the investigation if their license is threatened to be revoked. The lot next to Magnolia and Colfax and next to the "while whale" apartments just to the north has been cleaned up and fenced. It has been sold and resold several times.

Another lot on Ben will also be cleaned up. Homeless camps have been removed and then they reappear.

#### Planning & Land Use - Sandy Hubbard

The Committee received a Council motion to release a report on streamlining nuisance abatement procedures. After our meeting the City Council approved the release of the report, which resolves the issue. Tony Braswell favored having a community impact statement so that we will be on record as supporting the release of the report.

#### Community Improvement - Ginny Hatfield

After the August meeting with Supervisor Barger's office about landscaping the sides of the Tujunga Wash Committee members have been looking into obtaining funding sources. Dan Caplan has been examining Troller Meyer's landscape plan in order to reduce the cost of the landscaping. Ginny has been working with Audi Lieberman that she met with in 2023. A sponsor for our project is needed. If there are budget constraints the project may have to be done in phases. Should the first phase be on the east side of the channel between Burbank and Chandler or just north of Riverside & Whitsett?

The \$50,000 from Jiffy Lube in 2007 may be used to refurbish the gateway sign on Laurel Canyon and the 101 freeway and add a plaque. Ginny is working with the C.D. 2 Council office on allocating the \$50,000. An estimate cannot be obtained for adding street signs due to inadequate staffing.

#### Business Committee - John Moser

The Committee is reaching out to businesses via Light Up Valley Village in order to prepare a list of Valley Village businesses. Ginny has a list from 2020-21 which she will send to John Moser. The list will be used to provide information on events and activities in Valley Village. The Chamber of Commerce can help with contacting the businesses.

#### Events and Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia

The next big event is Light Up Valley Village which will have a farmer's market, a food drive and will be located at Magnolia and Whitsett. This event will be done with a much lower budget. Its purpose is to help the merchants promote their businesses. Christyn Saracino suggested asking the Post Office manager to leave their lights on. However, they often forget to do that. Suzanne Lewis noted that homeowners should send in pictures of their Christmas lights. The motion to allocate up to \$3,500 to Light Up Valley Village was approved by a vote of 14-0-1 and 3-0-6 by the Student Committee.

#### Student Committee - Carol Convey

Sylvie Maltby attended the recent Congress of Neighborhood Councils and was able to meet the Mayor. She also attended some of the workshops. Truman King has been elected President of the Student Council and is working on student tours and ice cream Mondays. He is also involved with an exchange program with students in Japan. Madeline Hookom has been involved with the Girl Scouts. A toy drive is being organized by the Committee. They will be asking for businesses to participate.

#### 10. VANC Report - Ginny Hatfield

Dennis Zine was the speaker for the meeting. He discussed numerous items. He was a member of the late 1990s Charter Reform Committee that established the neighborhood councils. He was critical of the City's government, that is not run well with chronic budget deficits, inadequate efforts to reduce homelessness and an insufficient number of police officers, well below 10,000.

11. Future Agenda Items, Closing Comments.

Our next Board meeting will be on November 19.