

Minutes - Board Meeting, Neighborhood Council - Valley Village

2-26-2025

1. Roll Call

Twelve Board Members were in attendance: Tony Braswell, Dorothy Apple, Carol Convey, Alice Hart, Ginny Hatfield, Sandy Hubbard, Suzanne Lewis, Christyn Saracino, Paulette Stokes, Maribel Ulloa-Garcia, Marc Woerschling, Jake Yocham.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for December, 2024 and January, 2025 were unanimously approved.

3. Financial Reports - Dorothy Apple

For January a total of \$749.01 was spent with an outstanding balance of \$2,272.92 and a net available balance of \$14,265.79. The Financial Report for January was approved by a note of 12-0-3 and 3-0-4 by the Student Committee.

4. Guest - Assemblyman Nick Schultz, 31<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Nick Schultz noted that he is the successor to Assemblywoman Laura Friedman who was elected to Congress. Dianne Rana continues as part of his staff. He chairs the Assembly Public Safety Committee which is an assignment that helps him provide constituent services. He joined with several colleagues to introduce A.B. 1138 to increase the California film tax credit to \$750 million to encourage the retention of film industry jobs in California. He attended the "fantastic" Light Up Valley Village event in December. Suzanne Lewis invited Nick Schultz to attend our upcoming Earth Day event in April.

5. Reports from Elected Officials & DONE

Benjamin Kwok with C.D. 2 announced that there will be a planning roundtable meeting with Councilman Nazarian next week. Councilman Nazarian has been assigned to the Public Facilities, Transportation and Housing Committees.

Mario Hernandez of DONE noted that Zoom licenses are up for renewal by April. The renewal fee is \$200. Five candidates have filed to run for the Neighborhood Council Board. Sandy Hubbard favors in person rather than mail in voting that is being done this year. Paulette Stokes stated that she will not be running for the Board due to moving out of Valley Village to focus on doing the CERT trainings. She has been on the Board from 2012 to this year.

6. Committee Reports

City Services - Suzanne Lewis

Laurel Canyon will finally be swept from Riverside to Burbank. They are also working on graffiti removal. The street vendors are in danger of being hit by traffic and Laurel Canyon and Magnolia. Alice Hart and Suzanne assisted with the annual homeless count.

Planning & Land Use - Sandy Hubbard

Action on a motion regarding the Oakwood School practice field project was postponed to the March Board meeting.

Jeff Kalvan presented the plans for the proposed expansion of the Ner Aryeh Hebrew School at 12500 Burbank Boulevard. This is an Orthodox Jewish High School for Boys, where students mostly walk to the school. There are currently 60 students which would be expanded to 80 students at the school. The two story addition would be at the back of the existing two story building located at the front of the lot. The entrance to the school building would be moved to Whitsett. The ground floor is to be remodeled. Class rooms and a science center would be on the second floor and a lunch area and sports courts would be on the top of the second floor.

Sandy Hubbard noted that parking is an issue but that the Committee did not think that the additional parking will have an impact on the community. Alice Hart asked whether a school for boys only is legal? Jeff Kalvan replied that it is legal and other religions, such as Catholics, have all boys and all girls schools. The Board approved the expansion project by a vote of 12-0-3.

The case against the restaurant at 12001 Magnolia that was closed is now being reopened.

Marc Woersching presented a motion on fire prevention, in response to the January 7 firestorms at Pacific Palisades and Altadena caused by hurricane force Santa Ana winds that spread burning embers over long distances in short periods of time. The winds were made more intense by global warming. The motion contains ten suggestions to the elected officials regarding relief and recovery and planning for fire prevention. Of the ten suggestions, the most significant are: the establishment of one stop recovery centers, compiling lists of available housing, lobbying Congress for financial assistance, studying the feasibility of upgrading the capacity of the pumping stations and establishing a program to underground the utilities in the hillsides where most brushfires start.

Christyn Saracino asked who would pay for the ember resistant mesh? Probably the homeowners. Ginny Hatfield noted the suggestion regarding amending the building codes to require fire resistant buildings and questioned whether the houses should be rebuilt in fire prone locations.

Tony Braswell indicated that the motion would be sent to the offices of the City Council, the Mayor, County Supervisors, State Senators and Assembly persons and Steve Soboroff.

The motion was approved by a vote of 12-0-3, with changes to add three additional suggestions proposed by Wendy Moore of Porter Ranch, modify suggestion No. 7 from a crash program to upgrade the capacity of the pumping stations to studying the feasibility of upgrading the pumping stations and adding a sentence that the recovery centers are based on the City's one stop public counters for building projects.

#### Emergency Preparedness - Paulette Stokes

The CERT training classes were completed after a one week delay due to the January 7 firestorms. The fire fighters first had to do the CERT training and then leave to fight the fires. The Emergency Preparedness Alliance meeting this Saturday will take place but without Commissioner Shaffer. Paulette noted the good experiences she had while being on the Board.

#### Community Improvement - Ginny Hatfield

Ginny looks forward to working with the C.D. 2 office. The obstacle of the MTA's apparent plan to place crossing arms in the Chandler Boulevard at major street crossings has delayed the placement of the second welcome sign at Chandler and Coldwater.

#### Business- Ernie Merlan

The Committee is preparing a list of businesses in order to send out flyers and E mails.

#### Elections and Bylaws - Jake Yocham

Candidate filing for the election of the Board is open and ends on March 24. The open positions on the Board are 2 homeowner seats, 2 renter seats, 1 business seat 1 education seat and 1 at large seat. Jake listed the requirements for the different seats. Currently we are in Phase 1, the recruitment of candidates. The period to request a mail in ballot is April 11 to June 2. June 10 is the deadline to mail in a ballot. Carol Convey will have the student representatives get the word out on the election, to make it easy to vote in the election. Jake welcomed the students' help. Ginny Hatfield favored encouraging the students to run for the Board as well since the eligibility to run starts at age 16. Ginny asked what is the best way to get the election information to the students? Carol Convey said that she will check with the students as to the best way to reach them. Miran K. noted that outreach can be done through the School Board or the school principals.

The motion to approve up to \$1,000 for election outreach was approved by a vote of 13-0-2 and 2-0-5 by the Student Committee.

The candidate forum will be in April.

#### Events & Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia

The March 15 Coffee with a Cop event will be from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the farmer's market.

The motion to spend up to \$200 for outreach and refreshments for this event was approved by a vote of 13-0-2 and 2-0-5 by the Student Committee. Christyn Saracino asked why there is an increase from \$120 to \$200? The increase to up to \$200 was done in order to have a high enough margin to cover unexpected cost increases.

Earth Day will be on April 19. It will include a shredding truck for papers, a food drive and 50 trees to be given away.

The motion to spend up to \$2,000 for Earth Day, for the shredding truck, curb closure and refreshments, was approved by a vote of 13-0-2 and 2-0-5 by the Student Committee. The C.D. 2 office may cover part of the cost of this event.

#### Student Committee - Carol Convey

The Committee is a way for students to have a voice and to get involved. It is training the students, through their government and history classes, on how to run for the Board. They are eager to become involved. Ginny Hatfield asked how many schools are represented on the Student Committee? Carol replied that there are more than six schools involved. The students will help with getting the information out.

#### 7. VANC Report - Ginny Hatfield

Four of the five alternatives for the Sepulveda Blvd. Transit Corridor project will have a station at UCLA. Ginny Hatfield and Suzanne Lewis moved to support having a station at UCLA for all of the six alternatives being considered for the Sepulveda Corridor transit line. The motion of approved by a vote of 13-0-2 and 2-0-7 by the Student Committee.

Ginny reported that Scott Munson, a retired DWP administrator, has an extensive knowledge of the water System. He listed the multiple sources of our water, including groundwater and the MWD. There was not enough pressure for fighting the fires. Also, water pipes in the burning homes were destroyed, gushing water and contributing to the low water pressure.

For City Council meetings, Ginny favored restoring public contact by phone. It took us a long time to get phone testimony set up. Suzanne Lewis commented that the public comment periods were being abused by gadflies using foul language. Ginny moved and Sandy Hubbard seconded to request that the City Council reinstate public comments by phone. The motion was approved 12-2-1.

8. Future Agenda Items

Suzanne Lewis requested that a motion to allocate \$500 for graffiti removal be added to the March agenda. Ginny mentioned that she had our vender replace the two banners previously on the church parking lot with two existing banners along Riverside Drive.

9. Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items

Lionel Mares commended Paulette Stokes for running the CERT training programs. Also, Budget Advocates has training on the City's Budget.