

Minutes - Board Meeting, Neighborhood Council - Valley Village

3-26-2025

1. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The February minutes were unanimously approved with changes from Ginny Hatfield.

3. Financial Reports - Dorothy Apple

For February a total of \$2,243.16 was spent with a remaining balance of \$11,667.02 and a net available balance of \$11,432.02. The February Financial Report was approved by a vote of 10-0-5 and 1-0-8 by the Student Committee.

A motion to approve up to \$250 to renew the Canva license was approved by a vote of 11-0-4 and 2-0-7 by the Student Committee. Canva is a good program to use for preparing flyers.

A motion to approve up to \$250 to resume the Zoom account was approved by a vote of 11-0-4 and 2-0-7 by the Student Committee.

4. Report from Elected Officials and DONE

Diana Rana with Assemblyman Nick Schultz's office indicated that the Assemblyman will meet with the Residents Association on April 15. He has been meeting with multiple associations. Councilman Nazarian has been lobbying Sacramento on behalf of the City. Ginny Hatfield observed that there is still graffiti along the 170 freeway next to Valley Village Park. Diana will add removal of the graffiti to Caltrans' list of maintenance projects. Tony Braswell asked what is the situation with the State budget? Diana responded that it may be balanced with increased revenue expected, included Federal assistance of up to \$120 billion.

Betsaira Aguilera with the Mayor's Office noted that the Mayor and several Councilpersons went up to Sacramento to request State assistance for Los Angeles. Three upcoming events are youth job fairs at Valley College, L.A. Southwest College, and L.A. Trade Tech. The Mayor is sponsoring a clean up day on April 26.

5. Executive Committee Report

A.B. 427 would extend by five years, until 2031, existing legislation that allows Zoom meetings in lieu of in person meetings. Tony Braswell noted that more meeting locations for our committees are needed. Mario Hernandez mentioned that Councilwoman Padilla filed a motion in support of A.B. 427. A motion to support A.B. 427 was seconded by Sandy Hubbard and approved by a voice vote. Tony will send out letters supporting A.B. 427.

6. Committee Reports

Planning Committee - Sandy Hubbard.

There was no meeting of the Committee this month due to a technical problem involving a meeting conflict. The Oakwood School has proposed conditions resulting from an agreement reached with the neighbors.

Alan Repputo representing Oakwood announced that they are applying for amendments to the existing conditional use permit with no zone change requested and have submitted their application. He described the project that is to be a practice field on the east side of Lemp. The lighting will be shielded to eliminate spillover light on to the adjacent neighborhood. The two Oak trees to be removed will be replaced by eight trees, a 4:1 ratio. Screening with vegetation and netting will be installed along the east side of Lemp. The offices will be moved to the north side. Three single family homes will be removed for the playing field. The proposed conditions for construction involve dust mitigation and security mitigations. Sandy Hubbard thought that the Planning Committee did not take a position on the project. Carol Convey asked whether there were multiple opportunities for the neighbors to be involved? Sandy replied that there were multiple meetings, including with the Planning Committee. John Moser asked whether there was any discussion of opening up the practice field to the public? Evan Schlossburg was opposed due to the seven story light towers, the noise of baseball practice and the trees being removed. Steve Palmer also opposed the project due to the light towers, and the houses being removed. McMansions would be better than the practice field. Jaime Dominguez, a representative from Oakwood, responded to John Moser's question stating that Oakwood is open to the field being used for neighborhood events. Jaime also recalled that the Planning Committee did recommend approval of the project. Marc Woerschling verified that the Committee did approve the practice field by a 4-0-1 vote. Michael Goodman added that the children will get to the practice field more safely because it will be closer. The children will not have to cross the freeway off ramp, which resulted in a severe accident several years ago.

A motion to approve with the voluntary conditions and noting the need for the need to be sensitive to the Neighbors with respect to light, sound security and tree replacements was not approved by a vote of 4-2-3 with six abstentions and with one Student Committee member abstaining.

Suzanne Lewis moved and Alice Hart seconded to take no position on the project. Carol Convey asked whether enough neighbors have been notified? Tony Braswell responded that there have been multiple meetings already. Sandy Hubbard noted Oakwood's outreach effort but was not sure that Oakwood has listened to the neighbor's key points. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-4-3 with the Student Committee voting 1-0-8. Tony and Sandy will work together to prepare a position paper.

S.B. 79, a proposed bill being considered by the State Legislature, would allow apartment buildings up to seven stories to be located in single family neighborhoods if they are within a half mile of a transit station. The bill does not provide any funds for low income housing. These would be by right, ministerial projects without any public input. This is a further attempt to take away local control. Ginny Hatfield asked whether this would be a State mandate? Sandy Hubbard replied that yes, it would be. Carol Convey added that local residents should have a vote on such projects. Tony Braswell recommended that S.B. 79 be opposed as written. Tim Thornton, the new President of the Valley Village Residents Association, indicated that he will send Tony the Association's link in order to write to our State Senator Stern. Ginny Hatfield moved and Alice Hart seconded that the Board take a position in opposition to S.B. 79. The motion was approved unanimously.

by a voice vote.

Emergency Preparedness - Paulette Stokes

CERT training graduates can pick up their CERT certificates on March 29 from Christie Adain at the Encino CERT class, on April 19 at Pierce College or on April 22 at the Encino Neighborhood Council meeting. The next CERT training is on May 31 for the Hollywood Hills. Mr. Shaffer was at the Neighborhood Council Alliance meeting last Saturday. Go bags with emergency preparedness information are being assembled.

Community Improvement - Ginny Hatfield

Trash has accumulated and weeds are growing in the Laurel Canyon median. Volunteers are needed to pick up the trash. Ginny will be requesting a Council motion to authorize the trash removal. New planting in the median is also needed. Suzanne Lewis noted that more improvements are needed in the median. Councilman Nazarian is interested in beautification.

Business Committee - Ernie Merlan & John Moser

The Committee is compiling a list of businesses to contact to provide information on our neighborhood council and meet with the business people. The City has information to assist businesses.

Elections & Bylaws - Jake Yocham

Ballots for the election of new Board members can be requested starting April 11 until June 2. The ballots will be mailed out on May 6. There are seven open positions. Currently, 12 candidates are running for the positions. There are two categories of voters, Categories 1 & 2. For identification, a photo ID and proof that one qualifies for one of the categories are needed. Additional information on the election is available at empowerla.org/elections.

Events and Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia

The next Coffee With a Cop event will be on March 16? Also, the Committee will focus on getting people to vote in the Board election. National Night Out will be on August 5. A motion to spend up to \$200 on Coffee With a Cop was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 and 1-0-8 by the Student Committee.

Student Committee - Carol Convey

The Committee will be assisting the Business Committee in its outreach to Valley Village businesses. It is also reaching out to students to apply to be on the Committee. Applications will be available in May and June.

City Services - Suzanne Lewis

Several postal workers were robbed on March 10. Three individuals are wanted. A \$150 award has been offered to those with information on the three robbers. The Committee has made progress on their list of projects. Tony Braswell noted that E mails on coyote sitings were sent out.

7. VANC Report - Ginny Hatfield

At this month's meeting Gracie Lieu noted the time required to administer the City's civil service exams and get new staff onboard. Hiring is needed well in advance of the Olympics. A.B. 467 extends the now permitted Zoom meetings for neighborhood councils to 2031. An increase in the current term limits for City Council members has been introduced by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez. Data is being requested on the number of terms served by neighborhood council Board members. Our Board opposed term limits last

year. There was a presentation by Jeff Kelvan on S.B. 79, which would permit multifamily building with a height of up to seven stories within a half mile of transit stops. In the near future Paster Richard Pool will be leaving Faith Presbyterian Church for a new church in Newhall. A search will be conducted for a new paster. Tony Braswell moved and Alice Hart seconded to designate May 23 as Paster Pool Day. The motion was unanimously approved. A proclamation will be prepared.

8. Public Comment

Rosalba Gonzalez with the MTA discussed the improvements planned for the Orange Line busway in Van Nuys and North Hollywood. There will be bridges over Van Nuys and Sepulveda Boulevards and other improvements to the east. Sandy Hubbard asked whether there will be gate arms at the Laurel Canyon intersection of the Orange Line? Rosalba replied that there will be gates installed, for the safety of the Orange Line passengers. Tony Braswell asked for a presentation on the project at a future Board meeting.

Brad Low lives at Magnolia and Ben. He said there used to be street cleaning and then it was stopped. How do they get street cleaning reinstated and speed bumps added? He passed their requests on to the Council office and will contact them again. Also, illegal car repair work is being done in one of the adjacent houses. Suzanne Lewis cited budget constraints on street sweeping and speed bumps. Sandy Hubbard noted that no street sweeping has been done on Ben north of Magnolia where she lives. Brad will send two pieces of information to Tony Braswell.

9. Special Board Meeting

Recently the painted electrical boxes were vandalized. A motion to approve \$500 to repair the boxes and remove the graffiti was approved by a vote of 12-0-3. Suzanne Lewis observed that the boxes have been vandalized and the motion is needed.