

Minutes - Board Meeting, Neighborhood Council - Valley Village

4-23-2025

1. Roll Call

Twelve Board Members were in attendance: Tony Braswell, Dorothy Apple, Carol Convey, Alice Hart, Ginny Hatfield, Sandy Hubbard, Suzanne Lewis, Ernie Merlan, John Moser, Paulette Stokes, Maribel Ulloa-Garcia, Marc Woersching,

2. Approval of Minutes

The March minutes were unanimously approved with changes from Susan Lewis.

3. Special Guest - Councilman Adrin Nazarian

Councilman Nazarian began by saying that he loves public service and that this is the part of the Valley where he is raising his family. The last three months have been a strange time due to the fires, floods and resulting mudslides. The Mayor and City Council are facing a 2025-26 budget with a deficit of close to a \$1 billion. 85% of the budget is labor costs but he also wants to pay City employees well. The City needs financial assistance from the State and Federal governments and the County needs assistance for County services. While he was one vote against increasing the trash fee he favors increasing the fee if it is done the right way, with more transparency and public participation. Also, the trash fee should be increased gradually over the years rather than with one large increase. We are one of the best neighborhood councils. Our advocacy helps him to know what our community wants. Other neighborhood councils have difficulty obtaining a quorum. Adrin introduced his deputy, Ben Kroc. Dorothy Apple asked what is the status of the new crosswalk on Colfax next to the school? Adrin responded that we can assist by writing letters in support to our new Congresswoman, Laura Friedman. A member of the public asked why does the City have to obtain money for the sidewalk from a Federal grant? Adrin replied that the City does not have much left over after funding basic, essential services.

4. Financial Reports - Dorothy Apple

For March a total of \$112.53 was spent with a remaining balance of \$14,182.02 and a net available balance of \$13,192.08.02. The March Financial Report was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 and 3-0-6 by the Student Committee.

A motion to approve \$600 for a neighborhood purposes grant to Colfax Charter School for the Colfax World Fair was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 and 3-0-6 by the Student Committee.

A motion to approve \$500 for a neighborhood purposes grant to Burbank Elementary School to support the school's garden program was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 and 3-0-6 by the Student Committee.

Tony Braswell gave an update on the FY 2024-25 budget, noting that they will try to carry over as much as possible into the next fiscal year, in view of next year's budget which will likely be reduced from \$32,000 to \$25,000. Also the amount for a major event may have to be cut.

5. Committee Reports

Student Committee - Carol Convey

Wyatt Wade is going to the University of Oregon. Nathan Minton is going to study engineering at UCSD and

Alina Laaly will be majoring in biology after graduation. Carol Convey noted that starting at age 16 students can be on the Student Committee.

City Services - Suzanne Lewis. There was no meeting this month.

Planning Committee - Sandy Hubbard.

Sandy discussed the Valley Glenn radio tower property at Bellaire and Burbank. The 20 acre property is for sale for a very high price. It will probably require an upzoning of the R1 zoned homes in order for a new development to afford such a high price. No specific project is proposed at this time. The Committee favors a mixed use project on the property with an upzone to allow ground floor commercial uses. The Tree Committee reported that more trees are needed in parts of the Valley. There is a need to encourage tree preservation as part of development projects. Trees are continuing to be cut down for new projects. The Zoning Administrator's determination letter has been issued for the Full House Restaurant with 43 conditions of approval. The owner is appealing three of the conditions regarding operating hours, the music at the patio and that a guard be hired. The plaza park on the west side of Lankershim in downtown North Hollywood only has painted dots rather than any landscaping. The Committee will propose standards requiring landscaping for pocket parks.

Emergency Preparedness - Paulette Stokes

Paulette presented the CERT training graduates and handed them their certificates for completion of the training. She explained how to apply for CERT training and praised the instructors from the Fire Dept. who took time off from fighting the January 7 fires in order to do the training. Information materials about the CERT training are on the table.

Community Improvement - Ginny Hatfield There is not much to report this month.

Business Committee - Ernie Merlan & John Moser

They are continuing to organize an effort to contact Valley Village businesses.

Events and Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia

Earth Day was a success with a good turnout. The spending on Earth Day was about \$300 under budget. All the 50 donated trees were taken. The Coffee With a Cop event was postponed a week due to a burglary.

6. VANC Report - Ginny Hatfield

Budget Advocates has made seven proposals to address the City's 2026-26 budget deficit of almost \$1 billion. Budget Advocates is having an impact. They interview department heads as part of preparing their recommendations. May 21 is the deadline for the budget to be sent to the City Council. A Council motion, CF-25-0002-S19, against S.B. 79 has been introduced by Councilman Lee. S.B. 79 overrides local control and has no funding for affordable housing. The Mayor and Councilmembers are advocating for State assistance for Los Angeles due in part because of the damage to Pacific Palisades by the firestorm. Our State legislators are Harry Stern and Nick Schultz. A charter reform commission is being established. We should try to get a seat on the commission. A.B. 427 extends the authorization for our on line meetings to 2-31. Scott Schmerlson is trying to get the school board approval for the police to return to the schools.

7. Public Comment

A question was asked by a member of the public about the need to repair the lights out on Magnolia. Ben Kwok with C.D. 2 replied that he has requested expedited repairs for the lights that are out due to copper wire thefts. Alice Hart added a circuit for the lights located downtown has been cut. A service request for lighting repairs takes at least 30 days. If the request is forwarded to Ben he can expedite the repairs. Ginny Hatfield noted that Councilman Krekorian got two companies that received stolen copper wiring fined.

8. Election of New Board Members

The ballots will be sent out until May 26. The deadline to mail in one's ballot is June 2. The election will be on June 10. Ballot boxes will be located in the Van Nuys and North Hollywood libraries.