

Minutes - Board Meeting, Neighborhood Council - Valley Village

6-25-2025

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 Woersching, Jake Yocham.

2. Approval of Minutes

The April minutes were approved with changes requested by Suzanne Lewis and Ginny Hatfield.

3. Election Update -Jake Yocham

Jake Yocham gave the election results. The number of those voting increased from 81 in 2023 to 104 this year. Only about a third of the ballots requested were returned. Ginny Hatfield will be asking VANC to investigate. Tony Braswell commented that the voter registration requirements are onerous and that the turnout was worse in other neighborhood councils.

4. Financial Report - Dorothy Apple

For May a total of \$2,618.93 was spent with a remaining balance of \$8,454.95, an outstanding balance of \$2,063.85 and a net available balance of \$4191.10. Ginny Hatfield noted that the Rec & Parks fee has not been paid. It has not been deducted. Dorothy replied that she will contact Rec & Parks regarding what happened. A neighborhood purposes grant of \$1,000 for Burbank Elementary School was disapproved by a voice vote. A neighborhood purposes grant of \$1,200 for Colfax Elementary School was approved by a voice vote.

The May Financial Report was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 and 2-0-7 by the Student Committee. A motion to approve the FY 2026 Administrative Packet & Budget was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 and 2-0-7 by the Student Committee. Our budget has been reduced to \$29,000 due to the need to eliminate the City's budget deficit.

An invoice for \$220 for candle lights will be paid for by the NCVV credit card. Ginny Harfield thought that a special meeting may be needed to approve a transfer of \$4,200 to us from the Council office.

5. Reports from City, County and State officials

Benjamin Kwok from C.D. 2 reported that the Magnolia Ave. light repairs have been approved. In the budget proposed by the Mayor 1,600 City employees were to be laid off. Now, the City Council's budget reduces the number of City employee layoffs to 1,000. City services will be cut. LAPD staff jobs will be cut. There will also be slowdowns in City services. Requests for additional services will likely be denied. Tony Braswell was optimistic that we can get through our reduced budget of \$29,000.

Victor Reyes with Assemblyman Nick Schultz's office reported that there was a large turnout at the virtual town hall on June 11, which they appreciate. The next event is a Coffee with Nick on Saturday,

July 12. Please send your ideas for bills to their office. Several of Nick's bills are being considered by the Legislature. Alice Hart mentioned Laura Friedman's bill for light cameras. Victor replied that they will contact the staff in their Sacramento office to check on the status of the bill. The Legislature will be in recess from July 17 to August 18. S.B. 79, which would allow large multifamily buildings in single family home zones, has been assigned to the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee. Their office is aware of the concerns of the Valley communities about S.B. 79. It will be one of the last bills to get to the Assembly floor for debate and a vote.

6. Executive Committee Report - Tony Braswell

The July Board meeting will recognize and thank outgoing Board members. Tim Thornton with the Residents Association noted that the annual parade and pancake breakfast will take place on July 4.

7. Committee Reports

Community Improvement Committee - Ginny Hatfield

The City Council has approved a new permit for our existing banners and the 20th Anniversary banners will be retired.

Events & Outreach - Suzanne Lewis

Volunteers are needed for the pancake breakfast on July 4. Food donations to the Pantry are needed as well. National Night Out about combatting crime is on August 5. Donations for items to raffle off are needed for National Night Out. Three volunteers are also needed. A motion to spend up to \$4,500 for outreach and refreshments for National Night Out was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 and 2-0-7 by the Student Committee.

Student Committee - Carol Convey

They have been getting the word out regarding applications for the Student Committee, which are due by July 8.

City Services - Suzanne Lewis

The 30 lights on Magnolia are back on. The homeless encampment at Riverside and Whitsett will be cleared. Coyotes are now jumping fences. Keep your pets inside.

Planning & Land Use - Sandy Hubbard

The illegal billboard recently erected at the Chevron Station at Laurel Canyon and Riverside has been removed. On S.B. 79, elected officials are aware of our concerns. There is no funding for infrastructure improvements needed to accommodate the higher densities that would be permitted by S.B. 79. They will be having a Zoom call about S.B. 79 with Victor Reyes of Nick Schultz's office. Tony Braswell, Sandy Hubbard and Tim Thornton will be on the call. The Rite Aid drugstore will be closing on January 1, 2026. The Committee has prepared a letter regarding future development on the Rite Aid and the Pizza Hut property, which is also closed. The letter to Councilman Nazarian recommends that new development on the two sites be consistent with the other building frontages at Magnolia & Whitsett and include housing. The new buildings should be walkable and inviting with similar building materials and architectural styles. Tony Braswell favored having it be a joint letter with the Residents Association. A motion to approve the letter and add a joint letter with VVRA was approved by a voice vote.

Emergency Preparedness - Paulette Stokes

Paulette spoke with Christy Adair regarding their monthly meetings. We need to keep up with Fire Dept. Batallien 14's CERT trainings with are on Saturdays from 10-12 pm at the CBS studios. Paulette listed several dates on the fourth Saturday of each month, for the rest of the year, for the CERT trainings. The Committee will be sending out notices of the CERT trainings. Randell Oberman schedules the trainings. They need to be scheduled four to five months ahead of time. It has been interesting during the past several years learning the City's procedures. Paulette will be back to doing artwork after her term on the Board ends.

8. VANC Report - Ginny Hatfield.

Maria Kalban with United Neighbors gave an update on S.B. 79. It is out of the State Senate and will be voted on in the State Assembly in August. A coalition of 92 organizations in opposition to it has been assembled. The coalition is requesting a amendment to exempt cities with State approved housing elements from S.B. 79. A motion, CF-25-0002-S19, that the City oppose S.B. 79 has been introduced.

A charter reform committee is being appointed. Presently, there is no representation of the neighborhood councils on the reform committee.

Rick Cole represented the City Controller's Office at Budget Day and was the most engaging speaker in Ginny's opinion. He addressed the structure of City government, which was designed for a City government of 100 years ago. Ginny recommended inviting Rick Cole to a future Board meeting. Tony Braswell agreed that Rick should be invited and that he can attend via a Zoom meeting.

Empower L.A. has a meet and greet on Monday, June 30. New Board members should attend.

Neighborhood councils can donate to Budget Advocates. Take a government reform survey that is requesting the public's views on reforming and reorganizing County government.

9. Closing Comments

Dorothy Apple has a second car that can be part of the July 4 parade if there are Board members who would like to ride in the car. Tony Braswell requested that Board members volunteer for the July 4 parade.

Second Agenda

10. Finance Report

Motion - Approve a payment of \$400 per month to Faith Presbyterian Church for meetings and storage space. The motion was approved by a vote of 12-0-3 and 2-0-7 by the Student Committee.

Motion - Approve a payment of up to \$25 per month to AT&T for the NCVV phone line. Tony Braswell commented that the phone is not needed. Most of the calls received are junk calls, which are a demand on his time. In response, the motion was denied by a vote of 13-0-2 and 1-0-8 by the Student Committee.

Motion - Approve a payment of up to \$700 per month to Moore Business Results for the website and maintenance of the site. The motion was approved by a vote of 13-0-2 and 2-0-7 by the Student Committee.