

Minutes - Board Meeting, Neighborhood Council - Valley Village

7-23-2025

1. Roll Call

Fourteen 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, Natalie Svider, Maribel Ulloa-Garcia and Marc Woerschling.

2. Introduction of New Board Members.

Jose Galdamez introduced the new Board members. They are Donald Grant, Danny Jordan, Diana Salman & Natalie Svider.

3. Outgoing Board Members - Tony Braswell

Jake Yocham has been an NCVV Board member for five years, and was elected as a residential renter. In 2023 Jake was voted to the position of Vice President which he held for two years. He is Chair of our Elections and Bylaws Committee, member of the Executive Committee, and has been an advocate for renter rights and responsible development in our community. Jake is a field attorney for the National Labor Relations Board.

Dorothy Apple was first elected to NCVV's Board in 2006 and has served on our Planning and Land Use Committee since 2007. She has also chaired our Events and Outreach Committee. In 2007 Dorothy was elected Secretary of the Board and served in that role through 2013. In 2018 Dorothy was elected Treasurer for our Board, a role that she remained in through 2025. She has Chaired our Finance Committee, and served on City Services and our Executive Committees. Dorothy also chaired our CERT training for many years in partnership with the Valley Village Residents Association where she continues to serve as a Board member. Dorothy is a residential homeowner on the Board and a fixture of success in the southeast San Fernando real estate market. She is a passionate advocate for animals, responsible development, and strong neighborhoods. She commits hundreds of hours per year to Children's Hospital Los Angeles in their Pet Therapy program.

Ernie Merlan was elected to NCVV's Board in 2022 in one of our two Business seats. He is CEO of a Valley Village based business, Muralism, helping artists with special needs find success in the world of art. Using his extensive background in the entertainment industry Ernie's company has helped develop and install murals across Los Angeles. He spearheaded an effort to custom paint all of the utility boxes in Valley Village. Along with fellow Business seat holder John Moser he helped develop an outreach plan for Valley Village based businesses.

Jenna Powers was elected to NCVV's Board in 2023 and was a member of our Events and Outreach Committee. She held one of the residential renter seats for three years. Jenna also works in Valley Village, and has been a committee volunteer at many of our NCVV events including Light Up Valley Village and National Night Out.

Paulette Stokes was first elected to NCVV's Board of Directors in 2010. She has served on several committees, but her passion for emergency preparedness eventually led her to Chair NCVV's Emergency Preparedness Committee. Over her time in this position she re-invigorated CERT training in Valley Village, with multiple full six week courses to her credit and more than 200 graduates during her tenure. Valley Village is proud that close to 500 people have been trained by CERT since our Board began in 2003. Paulette was also our Board liaison to the City on emergency preparedness. She also served on City Services and on Events and Outreach Committees. Her deep artistic talents also helped support our marketing, advertising and graphic needs. Paulette is a passionate advocate for renters and renter's rights in Valley Village.

4. Election of Board Officers

Tony Braswell was nominated for President. The Board unanimously approved Tony continuing as President.

Suzanne Lewis and Sandy Hubbard were nominated for Vice President. The vote was a tie with both Suzanne and Sandy receiving six votes each with two abstentions. The tie was resolved by a coin toss, resulting in Suzanne Lewis being selected to be Vice President.

Marc Woersching was nominated to be Secretary. The Board unanimously approved Marc continuing as Secretary.

Sandy Hubbard declined the nomination to be Treasurer. Tony Braswell recommended that the election of a Treasurer be held over for one month in order for him to contact individual Board members to find a candidate for Treasurer. The Board agreed to this approach with the Treasurer to be voted on in August. The outgoing Treasurer Dorothy Apple will be training her successor.

5. Financial Report - Tony Braswell

For June a total of \$2,046.08 was spent with a remaining balance of \$6,408.87, an outstanding balance of \$1,425 and a net available balance of \$4758.87. The June Financial Report was approved by a vote of 13-0-1.

6. Reports from Elected Officials

Ben Kwok with C.D. 2 announced that No Ho Summer Nights is scheduled for July 26 and Movie Night will be on August 2. Sandy Hubbard commented that there is a homeless person at the Colfax & Magnolia intersection. In response Ben has started the procedure for the removal of encampments. The homeless person is residing within 500 feet of a school, which is not permitted, and his putting his items on a fire hydrant, which is not legal. However, he can only be cited, not arrested. Suzanne Lewis suggested removing the bus bench. Alice Hart is concerned about the food vendors. One is next to the corner of Laurel Canyon & Magnolia and the other may not be sanitary.

Victor Reyes of Assemblyman Schultz's Office announced that the next coffee meetings will be in August & September. The approved \$320 billion State budget has been signed, with no tax increases and only some loopholes closed. The State tax credit for movie production in California has been continued and increased. He has contacted Caltrans regarding removing homeless encampments and cleanup/maintenance along the 101 & 170 freeways. Suzanne Lewis noted that there is also a need for graffiti removal. Victor has also contacted Caltrans regarding graffiti removal. S.B. 79 will go before several committees when the Assembly reconvenes in August. Assemblyman Schultz is working on amendments to S.B. 79 to exempt cities and counties that have approved housing elements and change the locations covered by S.B. 79 from a half mile radius of a transit stop to along a commercial or multifamily residential corridor.

Valerie with Supervisor Barger's office noted the recent general meeting of the Resident's Association with questions about homelessness and Caltrans maintenance issues with monthly coordination meetings to address the issues. A new County Homelessness Department with a new director has been established to replace LAHSA, in order to have more accountability. Ben Kwok added that the City will be developing its own homelessness program in the Housing Department. Ms. Barger supports the increase in the tax credits for filming in California and streamlining the permit process for filming.

7. Committee Reports

Events & Outreach - Suzanne Lewis

National Night Out about combatting crime is on August 5. Maribel Ulloa-Garcia stated that volunteers are needed for setup, take down and foot service. Prizes are needed for the raffle contest for National Night Out. John Moser will assist with the E mail blast. Carol Convey and the Student Committee can help. The July 4th parade ran by the Residents Association went well.

Student Committee - Carol Convey

We are graduating six Seniors for this year: Nathan, Christian, Adrien, Maddy, Alina and Wyatt. Three current student members are staying on the Committee: Dillon Reaves, Beckett Block and Jerry Yang. Three new student applicants are being reviewed, with a potential of two more interested in joining the Committee. Applicants can live in Valley Village or go to school here. This helps students have a voice and participate. Tony Braswell commented that the Committee has been successful.

City Services - Suzanne Lewis

Suzanne listed the issues that the Committee has dealt with, for the new Board members. Beware of The coyotes that are jumping fences. They want to eat small pets.

Planning & Land Use - Sandy Hubbard

Sandy discussed our letter to Councilman Nazarian regarding redevelopment of the Rite Aid and Pizza Hut properties at Magnolia & Whitsett. The new development on the properties should be consistent with the traditional styled buildings at the intersection and be located next to the sidewalk. The historic preservation effort from a few years ago was not able have an historic designation applied to the traditional buildings at the intersection. Marc Woerschling noted the inadequacies of the current C2 zone for the intersection, that it does not regulate architecture and does not require that new buildings be located next to the sidewalk, consistent with the other buildings at the intersection.

Emergency Preparedness - Paulette Stokes

The training of the CERT trainers will be done on August 16. Paulette still has some of the flyers for the CERT training classes. She will be attending National Night Out. There is a meeting with the Mayor regarding art and artists tomorrow evening at the Theater. An RSVP for the event is needed. Security is a concern. The Mayor has a security detail.

Community Improvement - Ginny Hatfield

This is a fairly new committee. Its projects are the gateway signs and landscaping the sides of the Tujung Wash flood channel.

Business Committee - Ernie Merlan

We will start targeting the businesses in four quadrants and transmitting the information to Ernie's successor on the Committee.

Elections & Bylaws - Ginny Hatfield

Jenna Powers is resigning her position on the Board. She is one of the Renter A representatives and her term on the Board was to expire in 2027. The Renter stakeholder that replaces her will serve out the remainder of her term. The deadline to be a candidate for the vacant seat is Monday, August 18 and the Board will vote on a replacement for the seat on August 20. Ginny listed the qualifications for the

vacant position: (1) submit the application by the deadline, (2) be a stakeholder in Valley Village, (3) be age 18 or older, (4) be a resident or a renter within the boundaries of Valley Village, (5) provide documentation of identification and proof of rental status, if applicable, (6) submit applications online or to the NCVV P.O. Box. Candidates can make their presentations at the August Board meeting.

8. VANC Report - Ginny Hatfield.

The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils has been around since 2010 and meets on the second Tuesday of the month. It is an opportunity for networking with the other Valley NC representatives. The July VANC meeting was dedicated to a review of the 2025 election cycle. The speakers for the meeting were Marilu Guevara, from DONE, and Michael Lektorich, from the City Clerk's office. Done's election campaign consisted of: (1) holding online training for candidates, (2) preparing templates for flyers, doorhangers and translation of materials upon request, (3) providing get-out-the-vote notices, (4) DONE's staff received training from the City Clerk's office & (5) streamlining messaging to voters and preparing a plan for future election cycles. The City Clerk's campaign had difficulties: (1) due to the City's budget problems they were not able to have on-site and online voting as with previous elections, (2) the registration process was a barrier due to having to open an account to register and receive a ballot and the required documentation was another obstacle, (3) most people are not aware of the neighborhood councils & (4) they did not see why they have to register to vote when a general election ballot is mailed to them automatically. For the NC elections in the Valley: (1) 50 elections were held in the Valley, (2) the City Clerk's website got 3,700 hits, (3) only 65 ballots were returned to the ballot boxes at the libraries, (4) 3,300 requests for documentation were sent out and only 1,200 stakeholders replied, (5) 61% of those who registered for a ballot were approved & (6) there were five election day challenges. The Valley Village election results were: (1) 294 stakeholders registered for a ballot, (2) of the 294, 197 qualified for a ballot, (3) of the 197, 110 voted and sent back a ballot & (4) in response to a survey, the reasons given for only 110 voting were that the registration process was too cumbersome, they did not provide the required documentation, they did not receive a ballot for some reason and those who did receive a ballot did not know any of the candidates and thus did not vote.

9. Closing Comments

Crystan Saracino cited the ICE raids by unmarked officers. We should rally around those who are falsely arrested. Ben Kwok of C.D. 2 responded that we can contact organizations to find attorneys to help those who are detained be released. Tony Braswell added that the Russian immigrants are well organized. There is a need to get information out regarding the rights of those detained and detention procedures. Tony also said that artwork on the rights and procedures will be added to the lost cards for National Night Out.

10. Public Comment

A member of the public commented that a street widening of the west side of Whitsett north of Chandler has not been done.

Lisa Ehrenberg noted that the E scooters are blocking the sidewalks. The sidewalks along Magnolia are too narrow with only grass that makes it difficult to navigate. Also, the sidewalks are narrow on Ben. Ben Kwok responded that sidewalks were not required when properties were subdivided and developed decades ago. Yariel Diaz has a company that surveys and monitors the condition of the sidewalks.

A member of the public was concerned about the RVs parked on Chandler. Ben Kwok replied that the Council office has only two enforcement actions allocated to it per year.

Second Agenda

11. Board Meeting Minutes

The June minutes with changes requested by Ginny Hatfield were approved without objection.

12. Finance Report

Motion - Approve a payment of \$100 for Movie Night. The motion was approved by a vote of 14-0.

Motion - Approve the National Night Out event. The motion was approved by a vote of 14-0.

Motion - Approve a payment of up to \$4,500 for National Night Out. The motion was approved by a vote of 14-0.

Motion - Approve the Neighborhood Council Funding Packet and the \$25,000 NCVV FY 2026 Budget. The motion was approved by a vote of 14-0.

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 14-0.

Motion - Approve a payment of up to \$25 per month for a phone line. Ginny Hatfield favored keeping the phone line for those who want to communicate with us and offered to monitor the phone. A motion to reconsider the disapproval of the up to \$25 per month for a phone line at the June Board meeting was disapproved by a vote of 3-11.

Motion - Approve a payment of \$400 per month to Faith Presbyterian Church for meeting & storage space with up to four meeting per month. The motion was approved by a vote of 14-0.