CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
VALLEY VILLAGE
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Breice Reiner
VICE-PRESIDENT
Paul Hatfield
TREASURER
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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE
MEETING AGENDA

April 28, 2004
Colfax Elementary School Auditorium
11724 Addison Street
Valley Village, CA, 91607

The public is requested to fill out a "**Speaker Card**" to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Board. Agenda is posted for public review at: Beth Hillel Temple, 12326 Riverside Drive, Valley Village 91607, Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 12800 Chandler Blvd, Valley Village 91607, The Hemster, 5244 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village 91607, East Valley Senior Center, 5000 Colfax Ave., Valley Village 91601, Jons Market, 12122 Magnolia Blvd., Valley Village 91607, Stevens Nursery, 12000 Riverside Drive, Valley Village 91607, Valley Photo, 12466 Magnolia Blvd., Valley Village 91607, Marie et Cie, 11704 Riverside Drive, Valley Village 91607, Bank of America, 5201 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village 91607, Boutique Voila, 12500 Magnolia Blvd., Valley Village 91607. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Project Coordinator, Matthew Fitzgerald (818) 756-9421or via e-mail mfitzgerald@mailbox.lacity.org.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution, and Welcoming Remarks
2. Approval of March Minutes
3. Chairman's Comments, Introduction of Distinguished Guests
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (limited to 2 minutes, speakers must fill out speaker card)
5. Executive Committee Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Web-site Presentation – Chick Ciccarelli
8. Neighborhood Watch, Introduction of Block Captains Present
9. Car Wash Update – April 21 Planning Land Use Committee Meeting – Tom Paterson, Lori Dinkin
10. Orange Line Updates
    a. Adhoc Committee Report
        i. Three issues for NCVV to address
        ii. Plan to accomplish issues
    b. MTA/City Update
11. Logo for NCVV
12. Signature Event for NCVV
13. Board Liaison and Committee Reports
14. Follow-up Discussion Soundwalls – Chris Pechin
15. Other Items for Discussion per NCVV Board President
16. Future Agenda Items
17. Public Comments – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.
18. Chairman's Closing Comments
19. Adjournment

Next Meeting of NCVV Board May 26, 2004

Process for Reconsideration – *The Board may reconsider and amend its action on items listed on the agenda if that reconsideration takes place immediately following the original action or at the next regular meeting. The Board , on either of these two days, shall: (1) Make a Motion for Reconsideration and, if approved, (2) hear the matter and Take an Action. If the motion to reconsider an action is to be scheduled at the next meeting following the original action, then two items shall be placed on the agenda for that meeting: (1) A Motion for Reconsideration on the described matter and (2) a [Proposed] Action should the motion to reconsider be approved. A motion for reconsideration can only be made by a Board member who has previously voted on the prevailing side of the original action taken. If a motion for reconsideration is not made on the date the action was taken, then a Board member on the prevailing side of the action must submit a memorandum to the Secretary identifying the matter to be reconsidered and a brief description of the reason(s) for requesting reconsideration at the next regular meeting. The aforesaid shall all be in compliance with the Brown Act.*

Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
04-28-04

Draft

Meeting was called to order by NCVV Board President Peter Sanchez at 6:41 pm.

Mr. Sanchez welcomed all in attendance to the meeting, noting that the size of the crowd was unprecedented for the few months that NCVV had been in existence. Mr. Sanchez apologized for the late start, explaining that the by-laws of the organization require that a quorum include three officers. For those new to the process, Mr. Sanchez explained the history of Neighborhood Councils, the purpose of the elected bodies, their role in the community and city government, and the importance of the community's involvement as volunteers and advisors. Mr. Sanchez explained the definition of stakeholders and their importance to the NC process, and then stated the goal of NCVV, to be one of the top ten NC's in the city of Los Angeles.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcoming Remarks. Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to call roll. Board members in attendance were: Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Ms. Debra (D.J.) Harner (cultural organization), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (community senior organization), Ms. Jody Hidey (residential homeowner), Mr. Walter Katz (residential renter), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Mr. Tom Paterson (residential renter), Mr. Nick Pool (business), Ms. Breice Reiner (community service organization), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Dr. Daniel Wiseman (faith based). Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large) arrived at 6:50. Board members excused absent were Mr. Chris Pechin (residential homeowner), Ms. Ann Hull (business). Ms. Reiner noted that Ms. Hull was out of town competing in The Boston Marathon.

Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to call the agenda posting roll for the April meeting. Beth Hillel Temple, (Mr. Simen), yes; Shaarey Zedek Congregation, (Dr. Wiseman), yes; The Hemster, (Ms. Hidey), yes; East Valley Senior Center, (Ms. Hatfield), yes; Jon's Market, (Mr. O'Connor), no; Steven's Nursery, (Mr. Simen), yes; Valley Photo, (Ms. Hull), absent; Marie et Cie, (Mr. O'Connor), yes; Bank of America, (Mr. Braswell), yes; Botique Voila, (Ms. Hull), absent; 7-11, (Mr. Pool), yes; Newspapers, (Ms. Reiner), yes.

Mr. Sanchez thanked the Board members for their help distributing the agendas. He then reviewed the agenda for the community members present and commented that anyone desiring to speak to an agenda item must complete a speaker card. Given the unusually high attendance, the secretary asked that those wishing to speak sign one of three "sign-in" sheets at the entrance to the room.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the March meeting were sent by email to the Board, and copies were available for the public at the meeting. *A motion was made by Mr. Simen to accept the minutes and seconded by Ms. Hidey. The minutes were approved by a vote of 12-0.*

Agenda Item 3 – President's Comments, Introduction of Distinguished Guests. Fortuna Ipolita was recognized from Councilman Jack Weiss' office, and she thanked all in attendance and reminded the Board that she attempts to attend Board meetings every second month. Mr. Sanchez recognized Mr. Dale Thrush from the City of Los Angeles Planning Department.

Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment on Agenda Items. Mr. Sanchez thanked the large number of persons present for their attendance, and explained that anyone who signed the speaker's cards (or the speaker's list) would be given 2 minutes to address the Board. Given the time constraints of the meeting, Mr. Sanchez asked that 10 persons speak at the present point in the agenda, and that anyone else who was not able to speak at that time would be allowed to speak at the conclusion of the agenda.

Noting that most of the speakers were there to speak on behalf of Kulak's Woodshed, Mr. Sanchez asked that Paul Kulak speak first, and then designate nine others who would have 2 minutes each to speak. Mr. Kulak addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to speak, and expressed his appreciation to those in the audience who were there to support Kulak's Woodshed. He stated that he has been asked by the city to get a zoning variance to continue to operate the business. The main issue is that he has been told that Kulak's Woodshed does not have sufficient parking for the current business. The venue can accommodate 50 persons, and average attendance is 25 to 30 per night. The space is 1700 square feet, and 1000 square feet is used for concert space. The City of Los Angeles requires 30 – 40 spaces for the type of licensing currently required. His question was "is it 'ok' to continue what we're (Kulak's Woodshed) is doing?" He said the city has taken a position against Kulak's Woodshed. A packet explaining the business was distributed to the Board. Mr. Kulak stated that he was told by The City that he needs the approval of NCVV to continue his business.

Mr. Sanchez explained to the Board and audience that NCVV customarily would entertain a request for support of only those projects that have paperwork filed at the appropriate city agency and for which endorsement of the Board was being requested, and only after the paperwork was in place. Mr. Kulak stated that he was instructed differently, and Mr. Sanchez stated that there were city officials in the audience who could help explain the process more clearly. He thanked Mr. Kulak for his presentation and then asked that he identify nine speakers for the issue.

Mr. John McEuen identified himself as a lead singer of The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and customer of Kulak's Woodshed. He stated that without a business like this, there would be no venue to develop artists like Jackson Browne or Linda Rondstat. There are few places that allow artists to develop their act and "what it brings to the community can only be done in a place like that".

Mr. Jay Sloat, stated he has been a customer of Kulak's Woodshed for several years, and asked for the Board's support of the business. There is no real parking problem and most customers are there between 8 pm and 10 pm. The business is a cultural asset to the community, "a passionate hobby that is operated by love." There are few businesses that host music and are not connected to a bar or restaurant. He is able to bring his 5 year old daughter to performances. He also noted that the business raises funds for charities in the Valley Village area.

Derek Sivers operates CD Baby record store, and currently lives in Portland Oregon. He said it is hard to know how significant something is when it's in your backyard. Many people around the world tune into the webcasts from Kulak's Woodshed. The business is very important to the independent music scene.

Freebo has been playing Kulak's Woodshed for 3 and one half years. He has never had a problem with parking, which he finds very convenient and safe. The business is a treasure to the community, and the webcasts are available worldwide. "It is about the music, not the money". The venue is very safe, acoustic and artistic. "The venue should not be allowed to sink into the wilderness. We're begging you to please help us out."

Mike Gormley is an artist manager, and former Vice President of a record company. Kulak's Woodshed is something very special and positive, nothing negative about it. There has never been a parking problem, the business is attractive and good for Valley Village. It is too positive to let go over a couple of parking spaces.

Julie Chadwick stated that Kulak's Woodshed brings the beauty of reaching out through music, and also Paul's vision was to reach out to and support 501(c)(3) (non profit) organizations. Kulak's Woodshed has helped to save hundreds of dogs by reaching out in very positive ways and asked that the Board help to keep it open.

Jerry Day is a television producer who has filmed several documentaries on emerging artists. His first documentary followed Kulak's Woodshed and won an Emmy award. He has never had a problem with parking and never heard a complaint from the community. He asked if there was anyone in the room that was present to complain against the business. Mr. Sanchez stated that was an inappropriate comment and that his statements should be directed to the Board. Mr. Day asked that there be a note in the minutes that no one answered his request, and Mr. Sanchez said there could be a note in the minutes that no one spoke when Mr. Day asked if anyone was at the meeting to speak against Kulak's Woodshed.

Morgan Ames stated that in the current environment of budget cuts, especially for the Arts, programs like Kulak's Woodshed are drying up. Kulak's Woodshed is part of a free arts program for children and adults.

Tommy Luna is a teacher at LA City College and also teaches Jazz Orchestra. Many students go to Kulak's Woodshed for music research, and it is a very positive influence for the area. He lived on Corteen Place for many years and there was always plenty of parking on the street and at neighboring businesses for customers of Kulak's Woodshed. The bottom line, he said, is that it would be a shame over bureaucratic process that something so positive with no alcohol would be shut down.

Mr. Sanchez thanked all who spoke, and again thanked the community for their attendance at the meeting. He restated that due to time constraints, the Board would only be able to take ten public comments at this point but would remain at the end of the meeting for anyone else who wished to speak. He then asked Dale Thrush from City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel's office to address the issue. Mr. Paterson asked that Mr. Thrush also address the variance process.

Mr. Thrush introduced himself, and stated he did not have a definitive response to the specific zone variance for parking required by Kulak's Woodshed. He said there may be some need for consistency for use between the site plan and the business. The city has land use control documents that constitute the policy of land use for an area. If any business is inconsistent with the policy, the business must get around that or close. For a variance there would be a hearing with zoning administration and ability of the public to comment. A specific plan exception could also be required. A variance is "not a small thing". It's a big deal. Councilwoman Greuel's office has been impressed with Kulak's Woodshed and agrees the business is very unique. In order to move forward, there needs to be strong community support. It was recommended to the group (Kulak's Woodshed) that they go to NCVV and ask for support.

Mr. Paterson stated that the Board needed clarification. First, does Mr. Kulak need a variance? Second, if yes, a variance from what? He asked for an administrative opinion on both questions. Mr. Thrush stated that it was important to get some community feedback first. The next step is to meet with city officials to get an idea of what is really needed.

Mr. Sanchez asked for Board comment. Mr. Hatfield stated that his last visit to Kulak's Woodshed was a recent Saturday night and there was no parking problem. He added his compliments to the business and stated that parking is never a real issue.

Ms. Harner stated as cultural representative to the Board, she was excited to see the turnout of support for Kulak's Woodshed. She is affiliated with Eclectic Theater Company (nearby business) and that parking has never been an issue for her or neighboring businesses. She is appalled that this is happening.

Mr. Katz asked if there is any provision for non-profit request for a variance that would reduce the high associated costs? Yes there is. He understands that Kulak's Woodshed is asking that we do more than approve their request, and that this might be an opportunity to partner with one of our neighbors.

Mr. Pool stated that five of his grandchildren are in a bluegrass band, and doesn't understand why parking should be an issue for this business. He operates a business in the area and has never had a problem with parking for Kulak's Woodshed. We should find a way to help, parking is not an issue.

Mr. Braswell stated that community involvement is very important and encouraged all present to send their comments by fax or phone to their elected officials.

Ms. Reiner stated that she felt it was not a "given" that a variance was needed. It behooves the group to find out how they can proceed within the planning rules that are now in place.

Ms. Hidey stated that she felt the passion of the group. She extended her appreciation for the time all took to attend the meeting and voice their support.

Ms. Hatfield stated for the audience the phone number to Councilwoman Wendy Greuel's office, 818-755-7676. She stated that she is a patron of Kulak's Woodshed and that it is a very unique cultural opportunity in Valley Village and recommended that the Board visit the business.

Dr. Wiseman thanked the audience for their attendance, and stated that they are what neighborhood councils are all about. "You are empowered, and your presence here is what Valley Village is about. This is what a neighborhood council should do. I can't imagine that the Board is opposed to what you're after, but it has to be kept alive and function but within the rules of the city."

Mr. O'Connor asked for permission to meet with Mr. Kulak after the meeting to discuss permitting needs and legal needs related to permitting.

Mr. Paterson stated that his role is to be "devil's advocate" and that no matter how tough they are, the rules must be followed. One route is to go without a variance, and if a variance is required, it is expensive and it just has to be done.

A member of the community (unidentified) asked who is opposed to this? Dr. Wiseman asked for a point of order and that the process for consideration not be circumvented. The audience member stated that the Board didn't fill out speaker's cards so that they (Board members) could speak. Mr. Sanchez replied that the Board did not need speaker's cards to speak to an issue. Mr. Kulak made less than positive comments regarding his opinion of the Board's process and directed them to Mr. Paterson's comment, to which Mr. Sanchez replied that he felt there was support from the Board on this issue, and that Mr. Paterson's comments were in support of the project but only through adherance to the city's process.

Mr. Sanchez closed the Board and public comment on the issue, and again thanked all in attendance. He expressed his regret that all could not speak at this time, and that the Board would remain at the end of the meeting for anyone who wished to speak to this issue but had not yet had the opportunity.

Agenda Item 9 – Car Wash Update. Mr. Sanchez asked that the Board move to agenda item 9 as Mr. Thrush was already before the Board. Mr. Thrush gave an overview of events at the last City Council meeting related to the proposed car wash on Laurel Canyon. A week prior to the NCVV Board meeting the PLUM committee met to hear the appeal of the owners of the property related to the car wash. The owner has considered withdrawing the appeal in order to open a storage facility on the property. Mr. Thrush spoke with the attorneys and the committee and the hearing was continued from April 21 to June 9 to consider this action.

Mr. Sanchez asked if there was public comment. Mr. Robert Lamishaw with JPL Zoning services asked to address the Board on the issue. His company has been retained by the owners to propose an alternative use for the property. They are suggesting a low traffic alternative use with low parking demand. They are looking for feedback from the community and want this to be an interactive process, to find a compromise that pleases everyone. He distributed pictorial examples of a similar facility on Ventura Boulevard.

The property on Laurel Canyon is really four separate lots, 2 zoned commercial and 2 parking lots. There is a defined setback for the property, and they are proposing parking on two sides and traffic circulation behind the building. The ultimate solution to meet the owner's economic needs would require some below grade storage to make the project economically feasible.

Mr. Sanchez asked the Board for comment. Ms. Hatfield asked if the company was a consultant on the original project? No. Does the new plan require a traffic light? No.

Mr. Simen sated that the specific plan for Valley Village does not address the limits of underground use. Mr. Lamishaw said that was being done only for economic reasons. Mr. Sanchez asked if there were any other comments, and hearing none closed discussion.

Mr. Sanchez asked what variances would be needed. Mr. Lamishaw said to meet the specific plan there would need to be a variance for storage of household goods, land use other than C-4, and insufficient parking. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that the primary opposition has been to the visual spirit of the plan and issues related to traffic. Mr. Hatfield commented that this was a much better concept for the space. Mr. Pool asked if the Homeowners Association has been consulted? Ms. Dinkin said the concept would not be opposed. She was not certain what restrictions needed variances, but the one that was absolutely not breakable was the limit of 36' height. "We don't want to open Pandora's Box on exceeding the construction height restriction. And no dead bodies in storage." She has lost many night's sleep on this issue. She is hoping that the fat lady will sing regarding the storage facility. We have been fortunate to have the support of Wendy Greuel's office behind us.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Committee Report. In the interest of time, as Executive Committee issues were covered in other parts of the agenda, Mr. Sanchez asked that Ms. Ipolita be recognized to speak at this point on the agenda. She mentioned there would be a coffee with Councilman Jack Weiss May 23 at 6:00 pm at the home of Ms. Breice Reiner. She also asked to address the board with clarification regarding a letter to the editor of The Daily News from a resident of Valley Village regarding Earth Day Clean-Up activities in another area sponsored by the Councilman's office. The letter was very critical that a similar activity was not held for Valley Village. Ms. Ipolita contacted the author of the letter who stated she only wanted to get attention for Valley Village. Ms. Ipolita explained to the Board that the Councilman's office is committed to offering a similar activity within Valley Village, that the Board just needs to ask and it will be done. She mentioned the broad commitment of volunteers from the city and youth groups who support this effort.

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer's Report. The first quarter's funding has been received by Mr. Hatfield and deposited into the NCVV account. Mr. Hatfield reminded the Board that the fiscal year is April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005. There is $12,500 currently in the account. He is in possession of the NCVV debit card. He also reminded the Board that there is discount pricing for office supplies through a city relationship with Office Depot. Mr. Hatfield encouraged the Board to present ideas for uses of the funding.

Ms. Hatfield asked if a form was needed for reimbursement of expenses. Mr. Hatfield stated that an explanation would need to be submitted to him with an appropriate receipt. The debit card should only be used for expenditures for Board related activities. Any project that would be undertaken by the Board or a Board member would need to be approved in advance and have an approved budget. Also a spending plan would be required, stating the resources the project would require. Mr. Hatfield will track the expenses of any approved project against the budget.

Agenda Item 7 – Web-Site Presentation. Due to illness of Mr. Ciccarelli this was postponed until the May meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Neighborhood Watch, Introduction of Block Captains. Mr. Sanchez thanked all in attendance from the Valley Village neighborhood watch program, and asked that all block captains introduce themselves. He briefly stated the purpose of neighborhood watch, and that he desired the Valley Village neighborhood watch program be one of the top ten in the city. He then asked for public comment from those in attendance.

Mr. Hatfield reminded the Board of the discussion that brought this item to the agenda, stating that there had been interest in organizing an informal patrol for the neighborhood, encouraging reporting of crime and enlisting extra sets of "eyes" for our area. He mentioned his personal effort to try to look for any criminal activity on his drive home from work each evening.

Ms. Harner asked if we could use our NCVV website to post information on criminal activity in the area.

Mimi O'Keefe, Morrison Street Block Captain, was recognized to speak. She stated that her conversations with the North Hollywood Police Department revealed that most criminal activity occurs in the "graveyard" hours, which would be the most useful time to have a citizen patrol.

Ms. Briena Lameda invited all of the Board to attend the Valley Village neighborhood watch meetings. Mr. Sanchez asked when and where the meetings are held? Meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at Victory Elementary School on Radford Street.

Mr. Paterson asked if a criminal activity map is still being distributed? Yes.

Mr. Sanchez noted that Manny Arreygue, Senior Lead Officer, had planned to attend the April NCVV meeting but had a last minute family emergency that kept him from joining the meeting.

It was stated that every quarter, a Police Community Representative (PCR) meeting was held with all Senior Lead Officers. The next meeting is May 18.

Mr. Steve Simon stated that the median age of the neighborhood watch groups "is around 70" and up. He said we need younger people in the group.

Ms. Ipolita said that she had found success in other NC's that made their meetings more social, and encouraged food as a way to bring more people to the meetings.

Mr. Katz said that one of our NCVV Board members should attend a neighborhood watch meeting in another neighborhood and report back to the full Board. Mr. Sanchez agreed and asked the Board members who are block captains coordinate such attendance and a report back to NCVV's Board.

Ms. Reiner motioned that a committee be formed to figure out what the neighborhood needs to do to have a more viable neighborhood watch program for Valley Village. Ms. Hidey seconded the motion.

Mr. Pool asked if the North Hollywood police station supplied the resources necessary to create and sustain such a program? No.

Ms. Hatfield asked if the website should have a section on neighborhood watch? This might be tough politically, as many people do not want their personal information revealed.

Dr. Wiseman stated that whether the committee is named, or a natural committee made up of existing Board members who are block captains, the issue should not be micromanaged by the NCVV Board. We should use the four Board members who are active block captains to build our committee and our plan. They should identify what elements are in place, what might be missing, and how the gaps can be filled in. Apathy is the biggest challenge and we need to find an effective way to reach out to the community and allow ourselves to "be reached back to".

Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board there was a motion and a second. Mr. Pool asked for further clarification on the support of the North Hollywood Police Department. Ms. O'Keefe stated that if there are specific requests made of them, they are quick to help, such as copying, and mailing. Mr. Pool offered to be a Board liaison to the Police Department.

With no further discussion, the vote was held approving the motion 13-0.

Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Pechin, Ms. Hatfield, Mr. Pool and Ms. Hidey to meet to present a strategy for the May NCVV Board meeting.

Ms. O'Keefe asked if it were possible to have a formal event in the park to celebrate neighborhood watch and help recruit new block captains? Could there be funding to help pay for food? Yes. Can we buy neighborhood watch signs for the community? That could be considered. Mr. Sanchez stated that there should not be limits for the committee when they "brainstorm" on how to make the neighborhood watch program more effective.

Agenda Item 10 – Orange Line Update. Dr. Wiseman reviewed the background of events to date related to The Orange Line. The ad-hoc committee met, and has been in contact with MTA officials and with Supervisor Zeb Yaroslavsky's office. The committee recommends action on three items, with no specific plan of attack. The items are:

1. Beautification of the street: including landscaping, type of plants used, abatement of lead and arsenic in the areas, with the goal that we should support the concept that beautification of Valley Village (Lankersham to Ethel) be as attractive as Ethel to Van Nuys Boulevard.

2. Safety: with a specific focus on street crossings (there are six crossings). The MTA says there is no specific plan, and there are no visible materials for us to review. But what we are seeing now is not promising. Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office will be at the next committee meeting, and we will expect specific recommendations from them at that time.

3. Comfort Stations: at this time there are no plans for comfort stations in any areas of Valley Village. Viacom Decaux is offering to place pay toilets in our stations. They are very attractive. The details, however, are still not complete. Do we want to support the idea and move forward?

Overriding goal for the committee is that The Orange Line be attractive, safe and convenient for our community.

Mr. Sanchez asked if the committee had received the requested information from Mr. Gonzalez with Viacom Decaux? No. Mr. Sanchez conveyed concern about the tone of the March presentation from Mr. Gonzalez to the NCVV Board.

Mr. Katz expressed his support for two of the three proposals, but stated the Board should be careful what they asked for, that toilets would be a problem.

Ms. Harner stated that were she a resident of Chandler, she would not want to look out from her home onto a public toilet.

Mr. Pool stated he was originally in favor of public toilets but after talking with other people in the community, he felt the opportunity was too great that they could become a hangout for criminal activity and vagrants. Also he stated there is no "escape" clause, that if we make a bad decision we can't forego it.

Ms. Reiner added that it is very hard to get the toilets removed once they are installed. She stated that beautification is still most dear to our hearts, and that it seems there may have been some underestimation of the limitations of space in the planting plans. She mentioned the disappointing appearance of the island at the entrance to Valley Village on Laurel Canyon as an example of the need to be very involved in beautification.

Mr. Paterson restated his support for a restroom and encouraged that it continue to be considered, possibly at the Red Line station. (Clarification submitted by Mr. Paterson. There should be restrooms at main transit portals like the NOHO red line station, where multiple bus lines converge at the station site. Mr. Paterson does not support a restroom at the planned Laurel Canyon station).

Mr. Sanchez stated that the Homeowners Association voted to oppose restrooms in Valley Village. He also stated that the Mayor's office is allowing input on the naming of stations, so the Laurel Canyon station could be named in honor of Valley Village.

Dr. Wiseman added that there would be opportunity in the near future to see a restroom that was opened and in use, and that we can wait to see how they work.

Mr. Sanchez reviewed the committee's recommendations. They are focused on three areas, beautification, safety and comfort stations.

Mr. Pool motioned that there be no restrooms at Laurel Canyon. Dr. Wiseman asked if that should be and amendment to the action items moved forward as motions from his committee. Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Pool for clarification and he restated the motion as opposition to any bathrooms in the Valley Village portion of The Orange Line.

Mr. Sanchez then asked that each recommendation from the Committee be considered separately. That along with the other issues raised brought five issues to the Board for action.

Issue 1 - Beautification, including encouraging proper landscaping and selection of plants/trees, abatement of lead/arsenic, and support of the concept that Lankershim to Ethel should look just like Ethel to Van Nuys Blvd.

approved 13-0

Issue 2 - Safety, to encourage a focus on street crossings and making them safe, to act quickly on the recommendations from the next committee meeting. Particular focus on six crosswalks in Valley Village.

approved 13-0

Issue 3 - Comfort stations, no plans at this time but Viacom-Decaux is offering to install toilets – request of NCVV Board to support this idea.

denied 12-1

Issue 4 - Develop a specific information program to inform the community regarding the final product we call the Orange Line.

denied 2 yes, 4 no, 7 abstain

Issue 5 - oppose toilets on the Orange line within Valley Village

approved 10 - 2

Mr. Sanchez offered additional comment, specifically related to issue four. The NCVV Board is the mechanism through which much of this information should be given to the community. Dr. Wiseman and his committee work to gather the information, and our job is to get the information out to the community. Mr. O'Connor asked if The Orange Line was consistent with the specific plan for Valley Village. Dr. Wiseman stated that there are some inconsistencies and problems with the existing plans of MTA, and that his committee and NCVV want to push hard on the concept, not specifics.

Ms. Hatfield encouraged a joint effort between NCVV and The Homeowners Association.

Agenda Item 11 – NCVV Logo. Ms. Reiner reminded the board of the previous discussion on this issue, and distributed two examples of logos that had been refined since the March meeting. Mr. Sanchez sent around an NC business card, as an example of how the logo might be used publicly. Mr. Sanchez asked that the Board move to agenda item 12 so that all had time to look at the logo examples. As each Board member is looking, they should prepare to vote yes on example one, or yes on example two, or no on both. Each Board member may only vote one time.

Agenda Item 12 – Signature Event. Ms. Reiner stated there are two possibilities that have been brought forward for consideration. First is a neighborhood watch party, and second is an outreach party (fall Olympic tie-in). Mr. Braswell suggested that the event should be used to draw much needed attention to the neighborhood watch program. *He motioned that the signature event be in the park and used to organize neighborhood watch. Ms. Hidey seconded.* A suggestion was made to use the space of The Celtic Arts Center. Mr. O'Connor mentioned that there is a spring fair at Colfax School May 22 and we should have a representative there.

Mr. Katz asked that a committee be formed for the event. Ms. Harner stated that the Celtic Arts Center was a small venue and might not be a good venue for the event. *An amendment was offered by Mr. Braswell to ask that the committee bring back a recommendation by May and was seconded by Mr. Katz.* Ms. Harner agreed to head the committee and Mr. Braswell agreed to serve. *The motion and amendment were approved 11-0.*

Agenda Item 11 – Logo for NCVV. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that they must vote yes for example one, or yes for example two, or yes for a "no" choice that neither design is appropriate. *Design 1, 8 yes votes. Design 2, 3 yes votes. Neither design, 2 yes votes.* The first design was selected as the logo for NCVV. Ms. Reiner thanked Mr. Pechin as well as her daughter Ellen for their hard work on this difficult task.

Agenda Item 13 – Board Liaison and Committee Reports. Ms. Hatfield stated that Bella Vista Senior Group meeting (senior housing) would host an event October 3 at Fashion Square.

Agenda Item 3 – Introduction of Distinguished Guests. Mr. Sanchez introduced John Bwarie from Mayor Hahn's office. He invited the Board to "Your Street & The Budget," a meeting about street paving and maintenance issues, May 4 at 7:00 pm at Walter Reed Middle School. Bill Robertson from the City would host the meeting. At this meeting attendees would learn how decisions on street resurfacing and repaving are made.

Mr. Bwarie thanked NCVV Board for their hard work and commended their commitment to the community.

Mr. Sanchez added that he recently attended a DWP meeting where "Navigate LA" was reviewed, a software program that shows all projects in progress in the city.

Agenda Item 14 – Follow-up on Soundwalls. This was postponed until the May meeting.

Agenda Item 15 – Other Items. There were no other items for discussion.

Agenda Item 16 – Future Agenda Items. These were referenced earlier in the minutes.

Agenda Item 17 – Public Comments. Mr. Steve Simon stated that he felt there should be opportunity for the public to speak to any issue as it comes up before the Board for review. Mr. Stuart Simen reviewed the guidelines of Roberts Rules of Order and of the Brown Act under which NCVV meetings are conducted that clearly call for agenda items that specify when public comment on any issue is entertained. Mr. Sanchez explained that he had expanded on that opportunity by placing opportunity for public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda. Mr. Steve Simon said he did not get an agenda and asked how could he know when he is to speak. Ms. Reiner stated that the agenda is posted at city approved locations and published in the newspaper. Mr. Braswell added that at all times there are 25 agendas for the public at the meeting but the unusually large turnout tonight meant not everyone could have their own agenda. Mr. Simon stated "you're supposed to represent the people but why can't the people talk to you". Mr. Sanchez again explained Roberts Rules and how the meetings must be conducted and thanked Mr. Simon for his attendance.

Mr. Rick Taylor asked to speak in favor of Kulak's Woodshed. He stated that the business is very special and unique, and commended the Board for their support. He stated "the behavior of Paul Kulak can be explained by his lack of social skills, but he has a strong passion for this business". He again commended the Board for their support.

Mr. John Gleiter asked if a future agenda item could be public utilities. Mr. Sanchez said there should be a specific reason for the item to be added or it could come under a committee report.

Dr. Wiseman asked that announcements be added to the agenda in the future. Dr. Wiseman also asked if the Board needs a legislative committee to consider position on pending political issues.

Ms. Hatfield stated that we need an agenda item for proposed specific uses of NCVV funds.

Mr. Paterson asked that an agenda item be added to consider all development projects within Valley Village and that they be submitted to NCVV for approval. Mr. Sanchez asked that this be an agenda item for discussion at the May meeting.

Mr. Sanchez stated that the meeting with Councilman Weiss at the home of Ms. Reiner is for Board members only.

Mr. Pool asked what had happened to the office space for NCVV? Mr. Sanchez said that the office space at CBS is a "go," and that we should have much more information in the very near future.

Agenda Item 19 – Adjournment. There being no further meeting items, a motion was made by Mr. Pool and seconded by Ms. Hidey to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE OFFICERS

Peter Sanchez
PRESIDENT
Breice Reiner
VICE-PRESIDENT
Paul Hatfield
TREASURER
Tony Braswell
SECRETARY

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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE
MEETING AGENDA

May 26, 2004
Colfax Elementary School Auditorium
11724 Addison Street
Valley Village, CA, 91607

The public is requested to fill out a "**Speaker Card**" to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Board. Agenda is posted for public review at: Beth Hillel Temple, 12326 Riverside Drive, Valley Village 91607, Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 12800 Chandler Blvd, Valley Village 91607, The Hemster, 5244 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village 91607, East Valley Senior Center, 5000 Colfax Ave., Valley Village 91601, Jons Market, 12122 Magnolia Blvd., Valley Village 91607, Stevens Nursery, 12000 Riverside Drive, Valley Village 91607, Valley Photo, 12466 Magnolia Blvd., Valley Village 91607, Marie et Cie, 11704 Riverside Drive, Valley Village 91607, Bank of America, 5201 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village 91607, Boutique Voila, 12500 Magnolia Blvd., Valley Village 91607. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Project Coordinator, Matthew Fitzgerald (818) 756-9421or via e-mail mfitzgerald@mailbox.lacity.org.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution, and Welcoming Remarks
2. Approval of April Minutes
3. Chairman's Comments, Introduction of Distinguished Guests
4. Wendy Greuel, Los Angeles City Councilwoman District 2
5. Public Comment on Agenda Items (limited to 2 minutes, speakers must fill out speaker card)
6. Executive Committee Report
   a. Office Space
7. Treasurer's Report
   a. Proposing projects for funding – Ms. Hatfield
8. Web-site Presentation – Chick Ciccarelli (postponed from April meeting)
9. Committee Reports –
   a. Planning and Land Use – Mr. Paterson
      i. Approval of development projects within Valley Village
   b. Orange Line/MTA Update – Dr. Wiseman
   c. Signature Event – Ms. Harner
   d. Neighborhood Watch
   e. Soundwalls – Mr. Pechin
10. Board Liaison Reports
11. Other Items for Discussion per NCVV Board President
12. Future Agenda Items
13. Public Comment – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.
14. Chairman's Closing Comments
15. Adjournment

Next Meeting of NCVV Board June 23, 2004

Process for Reconsideration – *The Board may reconsider and amend its action on items listed on the agenda if that reconsideration takes place immediately following the original action or at the next regular meeting. The Board , on either of these two days, shall: (1) Make a Motion for Reconsideration and, if approved, (2) hear the matter and Take an Action. If the motion to reconsider an action is to be scheduled at the next meeting following the original action, then two items shall be placed on the agenda for that meeting: (1) A Motion for Reconsideration on the described matter and (2) a [Proposed] Action should the motion to reconsider be approved. A motion for reconsideration can only be made by a Board member who has previously voted on the prevailing side of the original action taken. If a motion for reconsideration is not made on the date the action was taken, then a Board member on the prevailing side of the action must submit a memorandum to the Secretary identifying the matter to be reconsidered and a brief description of the reason(s) for requesting reconsideration at the next regular meeting. The aforesaid shall all be in compliance with the Brown Act.*

Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
05-26-04

Approved 12-0, June 23, 2004

The meeting was called to order by NCVV President Peter Sanchez at 6:31 pm.

Mr. Sanchez thanked all of those in attendance, and explained to function of Neighborhood Council and how the program benefits the community. Mr. Sanchez noted that the agenda for the evening is full, and expressed his desire to spend considerable time on the budget, the issue of inclusionary zoning, and a visit from Wendy Greuel.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcoming Remarks. Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to call roll. Board members in attendance were: Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Ms. Debra (D.J.) Harner (cultural organization), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (community senior organization), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), Ms. Jody Hidey (residential homeowner), Ms. Ann Hull (business), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Mr. Tom Paterson (residential renter)(arrived at 6:46 pm), Mr. Chris Pechin (residential homeowner), Mr. Nick Pool (business), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Dr. Daniel Wiseman (faith based). Board member excused absent was Ms. Breice Reiner (community service organization). Board member absent was Mr. Walter Katz (residential renter).

Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to call the agenda posting roll for the May meeting. Beth Hillel Temple, (Mr. Simen), yes; Shaarey Zedek Congregation, (Dr. Wiseman), yes; The Hemster, (Ms. Hidey), yes; East Valley Senior Center, (Ms. Hatfield), yes; Jon's Market, (Mr. O'Connor), no; Steven's Nursery, (Mr. Simen), yes; Valley Photo, (Ms. Hull), no; Marie et Cie, (Mr. O'Connor), yes; Bank of America, (Mr. Braswell), yes; Botique Voila, (Ms. Hull), no; 7-11, (Mr. Pool), no; Newspapers, (Ms. Reiner), yes.

Mr. O'Connor asked about the actual location for posting agendas, stating he was not sure where the agenda was posted at Jons. Mr. Sanchez explained that all posting locations have community boards, which is where the agenda should be placed.

Mr. Sanchez stated that a member of the community, Mr. Charles Peyton, had requested to videotape the evening's meeting. The request seemed to have conflicting information to assist in deciding if it should be allowed – under The Brown Act there was wording that seemed to endorse the request, but under the California Privacy Act there is wording that might supercede The Brown Act in directing that taping not be allowed. A discussion was held among Board members with questions such as what will be the use of the video (personal use), should a 30 day notice be given so that all in attendance are aware they are being taped (Mr. Sanchez will follow up), and a request for clarification from the City related to such requests (Mr. Sanchez will follow up).

After lengthy discussion and review of materials available at the meeting, Mr. Peyton retracted his request. Mr. Sanchez promised the Board that he would investigate the issues related to videotaping any of the NCVV meetings and report back to the Board at the June meeting.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the April meeting were sent by email to the Board, and copies were available for the public at the meeting. *A motion was made by Mr. Simen to accept the minutes and seconded by Ms. Hidey. The minutes were approved by a vote of 12-0.*

Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment. Mr. Sanchez invited those in attendance to complete a speaker's card and to speak to any issue on the agenda, reminding them that every speaker is limited to 2 minutes.

Mr. Paul Kulak, owner of Kulak's Woodshed, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He apologized for his comments at the April meeting, explaining that he did not expect the large number of supporters to attend the meeting. While very gratifying, it was also very stressful. Regardless, he expressed regret for the "circus" that transpired, and individually apologized to Tom Paterson for his comments directed to him. Mr. Kulak reported that the city had closed Kulak's Woodshed for 24 hours after the meeting, but they are re-opened under temporary permit and working with Wendy Greuel's office to go through the appropriate channels to get permanent permitting. Mr. Kulak gave a brief history of the growth of the business and his decisions related to permitting, and restated they have been a good part of the community and have had no complaints except for those from one neighbor. He invited the Board to visit Kulak's Woodshed.

Mr. Jim Brittany, owner of Brittany floor covering on Laurel Canyon, was there to speak against Kulak's Woodshed. He claimed that Mr. Kulak maintains an email list of over 5000 people, most of whom don't reside or work in Valley

Village. He felt that they constituted the presence of so many at the April meeting, and that these were the source of many of the calls and emails that followed. These contacts had a powerful impact on the decision to allow Kulak's Woodshed to continue to operate. He stated "it appears he has your endorsement." After 200 plus calls to Wendy Greuel's office, they worked their way through city hall and "the powers that be" to get the business open again.

Tom Patterson arrived at 6:46 pm.

Mr. Brittany stated he has issues with tax dollars used for supporting someone who by his own admission illegally operated a business for over 4 years, during which time violations were pointed out but permits were not required.

Mr. Brittany read from an email sent out by Mr. Kulak that stated "in January 2000 he set out to do something everyone said he couldn't do, and he tried to get permits but there wasn't a clear category for his business. So he had three choices, a long permit process or to operate under the city's radar, or to close." Mr. Brittany said Mr. Kulak made the wrong choice. He asked that NCVV seek out the opinions of those in the 2 block surrounding area that are affected by this business.

Mr. Charles Peyton, business owner on Laurel Canyon, stated "I have been made out to be a monster. I have been asked to put up with loud music, and when I tried to turn mine up, complaints were made against me. He (pointing at Mr. Kulak) has operated illegally from the beginning and has made \$100k to \$150k per year tax-free. He was illegally granted a temporary permit at my expense." Mr. Peyton stated there are no handicap accessible facilities, people openly drink alcohol on site, and the business violates the zoning for the space.

A verbal confrontation between Mr. Kulak and Mr. Peyton ensued, during which Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Kulak to cease speaking and come to order, or he would be asked to leave the meeting. Mr. Peyton stated that in the interest of his personal safety and the safety of others, he would leave the meeting at this time. Mr. Peyton left the building.

Mr. Sanchez asked that the Board refocus on the agenda, and reminded the public participant that NCVV Board has no authority to issue permits or advise or approve/deny on issues that have not been properly submitted to the appropriate city departments. Proper paperwork for a variance for Mr. Kulak or any other business must first be submitted to the city before NCVV can give a recommendation. It is unfortunate that Mr. Peyton and Mr. Brittany were under the impression of the NCVV approval of Kulak's Woodshed, when it has been very clear from the beginning NCVV has not taken an official position on this issue, and could not.

Mr. Hatfield commented that both parties are making personal observations about the other and we have no opportunity to verify this information. We should find some way to head off the misinformation that brought these parties to our meeting.

Mr. Paterson stated that he is very troubled that Wendy Greuel's office has "bent over backward" to support this business. His committee has been trying for 7 months to get attention on another zoning issue that requires similar clarification.

Ms. Hatfield advised that "as someone who has been on the elected official side of this type of situation", we should learn from Mr. Kulak's effort. He is working the system to be heard. Elected officials respond to email, phone calls and faxes.

Ms. Hull stated that situations like Mr. Kulak's are unusual. Studios for rehearsal or recording don't fit "neatly" into zoning. This is a very grey area.

Mr. Pechin echoed the importance of public input on an issue like this, and stated that we could learn from Mr. Kulak's actions.

Agenda Item 6 – Executive Committee Report. Mr. Sanchez reported that the Executive Committee met on May 22 and reviewed several items that will be covered later in the agenda. He advised that office space for NCVV is coming along and there should be a decision and final determination of plans before the June meeting. He reminded the Board that the commitment of space has been made by CBS, and adjoining Neighborhood Councils will be partnering with NCVV to take advantage of the offer.

Agenda Item 7 – Treasurer's Report. Mr. Hatfield reported on a decision by the city to move all Neighborhood Council fiscal years to coincide with the city fiscal year. NCVV funding initiated in April 2004. Our current fiscal year is April 1 to March 30. The city's new guideline will require that we move our year to July 1 to June 30. This will leave us with one quarter of funding that must be spent in the new year. The new guideline would require that we encumber our first quarter funding into the next fiscal year. To date we have spent $70, and have a remaining $12,425 to spend from the current quarter.

Our current funding must be encumbered to the new fiscal year before June 16. This will require two resolutions from NCVV:

1. Budget for current quarter's allocations
2. Request to encumber the funding into the new fiscal year.

The Executive Committee has approved that funding may be spent in three specific areas:

Beautification, Outreach, Office/Administrative

Within these three categories, Ms. Hatfield requested earlier in May that Board members submit spending requests to her for the current allocation of funding. She presented the replies to the Board.

Mr. Sanchez explained to the public participant the funding process of Neighborhood Council's and examples of projects that the Board is seeking to financially support.

Mr. Pechin asked for clarification on "encumbrance," and asked to present an outreach program related to the soundwall on the 170 freeway for consideration of funding.

Mr. Hatfield defined "encumbrance," and explained that all encumbered funds must be spent by 12-31-04. Mr. Sanchez asked if there were other restrictions? Mr. Hatfield stated that the budget has to be specific for encumbered funding request. Mr. O'Connor asked how much we are encumbering? $12,430.00. Dr. Wiseman reminded the Board that even with an approved budget, we do not have an approved allocation specific to the funding. Mr. Hatfield stated again the deadline of June 16 to encumber funds, and that the Board must approve an action at this meeting since we would not meet again prior to the deadline. He also stated that he will submit a second request for next quarter's allocation on July 1. Mr. Pool asked if the funding could be placed into a "reserve?" No. Do we have to seek bids? No, we just need a budget plan for the use of the expenditures.

Ms. Harner asked if there was a difference between what was budgeted and what was spent, would we be okay? Yes, if it's over, we will draw from the next quarter funding.

Ms. Hatfield distributed the summary of responses to her email requesting potential projects to be funded. All projects submitted are listed according to the three categories approved by the Executive Committee. Ms. Hatfield will add the soundwall on the 170 freeway to the list under Outreach.

Some members of the Board asked to personally explain their requests. Mr. Paterson detailed his project that would permit a rubberized embossed wall with a patterned design that would be used in areas of heavy graffiti and could easily be cleaned/replaced. Ms. Hatfield reviewed her request for more neighborhood watch signs in the community. She has spoken directly with our Sr. Lead Officer and he is forwarding costs to her. A request was also made for an event specific to National Night Out (August 6).

Dr. Wiseman spoke regarding his request that NCVV spend, before to June 30th, all the unspent funds on office equipment and supplies. He forwarded this in the form of an email to Ms. Hatfield listing items and approximate costs totaling over the $12,730 in remaining funds. He stated the unusual costs associated with starting up a business, and referenced his list of proposed items for the office that could be purchased. He reminded the Board that City, County and State budgets are often not finalized until months after the start of the fiscal year and that may make receiving and spending "our" funds difficult if not impossible. He suggested we might pre-purchase goods and services. Mr. Hatfield advised that encumbrance funding cannot be used for any prepaid services.

Mr. Paterson asked the Board to consider assisting the Homeowners Association in their payment for graffiti removal in Valley Village. Mr. Hatfield said that would be an appropriate use of funding.

Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that specific goals should be attached to any project, and that all projects should fall into the three categories approved by The Executive Committee. He stated that he expected much of the office supplies and furniture could be donated. Mr. O'Connor asked if the Board is having a difficult time spending the funding? No. Mr. Sanchez explained that as a new Board, we were establishing our infrastructure simultaneous to our first funding opportunities, so we are being more deliberate in our decision making.

Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Hatfield to restate the resolutions he needs.

1. Approve a budget for our first fiscal quarter;
2. Approve an encumbrance of the funding into the new fiscal year.

Mr. O'Connor reminded the Board of the needs of our public schools. Mr. Pechin asked for three additional days to present his project. Mr. Hatfield advised the Board that whatever motion is passed at the meeting, he could retain the flexibility allocated at a later date with Board approval. In effect the Board would be approving the funding to be spent in the three categories and giving the treasurer discretion to specify individual projects that would be funded. These projects could be approved at the next Board meeting. The important point is approving the allocation of the funds to the budget categories.

Mr. Pechin motioned that $12,430 be approved to be spent within the three target categories approved by The Executive Committee, and that the funds be allocated specifically at the discretion of The Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Hatfield asked that any requests for specific funding from the first quarter allocation have a detailed budget attached and sent to him by June 5.
The motion was passed 12-1.

Ms. Hatfield made a motion to approve the three categories for Board funding, with specific opportunities under each category. Those are:

Office Expense
Outreach
  Neighborhood Watch
  Valley Village Summer Movie Festival
  National Night Out
Beautification
  Gateway sign at 101 and Laurel Canyon
  Beautification plan

Mr. Braswell asked if the motion could be amended to add graffiti removal. Ms. Lori Dinkin stated that the program no longer exists. Mr. Braswell withdrew the amendment.

Mr. Pechin asked that the soundwall be added to Outreach. Agreed.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Pechin. Ms. Hull asked that the Board be diligent about focusing the attention received from funded efforts onto Valley Village and NCVV. We need better recognition for our community efforts. Mr. Sanchez agreed and stated that it is important to distribute information about NCVV at all events.

Mr. Pool asked if this would help Mr. Hatfield in his job as Treasurer? Yes.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel arrived at 7:30. Mr. Sanchez introduced her, and asked that the Board move to agenda item 4 and allow Ms. Greuel to address the Board. Mr. Sanchez then asked that discussion on the pending motion be ended and a vote conducted. Mr. Simen mentioned that there was a member of the public who wished to speak to the pending motion. Mr. Sanchez recognized the public participant, who stated that the city will provide graffiti removal and that it did not need to be paid out of funds (provided for NCVV). Mr. Sanchez thanked the public participant for the input, and clarified that graffiti removal was not a part of the motion.

The motion was approved 12 – 0 – 1.

Mr. Sanchez then moved to the issue of encumbering funds. *A motion was made by Dr. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Pool to encumber the first quarter funding to the new fiscal year. The motion passed 13 – 0.*

Agenda Item 4 – Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel. Mr. Sanchez reintroduced Councilwoman Wendy Greuel. She apologized for coming after the start of the meeting, but explained that she was also committed to an event at Wadsworth Theatre earlier in the evening promoting anti-smoking messages in schools. She reminisced about participating in the first organizing meetings for NCVV, and expressed appreciation to all who worked so hard to bring the process forward. She also thanked the Board for "all you do and the time you spend on issues of such importance." She stated that Neighborhood Councils have been a strong voice on many important issues recently or currently before the city. Examples given were the proposed DWP rate increase which failed, recent activity that influenced the city's bond rating, and recent denial of a request for police departments to not respond to home alarm systems. All were carefully coordinated with Neighborhood Councils and Homeowners Associations. "You have a big impact on city hall. We are starting an army for change."

She has worked hard to sponsor more activism in neighborhoods. She reminded all in attendance that a simple call to 311 would get help for most city services. She is proud to be called the "pothole Queen", and proud of her grass roots effort to make our community more livable. She asked that NCVV encourage neighborhoods to be involved and neighbors to be active. She walks the streets with city employees often, and they do not know the area like those who live there.

A specific proposal on which Councilwoman Greuel has asked for assistance is related to sidewalk repair. Her daily experience is that many constituents do know and fully understand who is responsible for sidewalk maintenance. Sidewalks in any area are the responsibility of the homeowner. This year the city will repair 32 miles of sidewalks. At the current rate, it will take 80 years to repair all Los Angeles sidewalks. She feels this is not acceptable. She has proposed a 50/50 program where the homeowner and city split the costs equally. If everyone in Valley Village took advantage of the program sidewalk repair would increase by 25% each year. She pointed out that low income areas can still participate in the program by accessing community development dollars. She also encouraged the Board to attend quarterly meetings sponsored by her office, and shared a story about dining at Art's Deli where a child asked her to sign a petition about the proposed Laurel Canyon car wash. When she queried him about the project, it became clear that he was simply being paid to get signatures and did not have knowledge of the project. She used the story to demontrate how "support" can sometimes be misrepresented, and thanked the Board for their diligence in investigating the car wash and supporting the new outcome on the issue.

Ms. Greuel mentioned Kulak's Woodshed, and assured the Board that as the approval process for permits and possibly a variance proceeds, her office will work to ensure that all parties abide by the rules.

Ms. Greuel presented proclamations to Mr. Sanchez, Ms. Reiner and Mr. Pechin recognizing their attendance at USC Neighborhood Participation Project. Mr. Sanchez recognized the Board to ask questions.

Ms. Hatfield asked Ms. Greuel to comment on the proposed one-half cent sales tax increase. Ms. Greuel reminded those at the meeting that there is a proposed one-half cent sales tax increase to support an increase police presence in Los Angeles. New York City has 38,000 police officers, Los Angeles has just under 9000. She supports the sales tax increase, and shared news on recent legislation that allowed police response time to improve by almost 50%.

Mr. Pechin applauded the 50/50 sidewalk program and reminded the Board that we need that type of partnership with the soundwall Project. Mr. Pool stated that he is very supportive of the LAPD but has concerns about the new tax. He added that taxes continue to increase but the resulting city revenue never seems to get to the stated effort. He asked her assistance in getting the assigned officers for our community back and creating the same police ratio "equal to the other side of the hill." Ms. Greuel thanked Mr. Pool for his comments and shared two examples of positive financial projects – the recent library bond and the first police bond.

Mr. Simen asked if the North Hills police station is the "new one?" Yes. Ms. Harner read a question posed by a Valley Village stakeholder, who stated she (the constituent) is very concerned about traffic at Laurel Canyon and Riverside. The author stated that many cars speed through the intersection, pedestrians are at risk, many accidents occur and there are not enough traffic officers. Ms. Greuel asked Ms. Harner to advise the constituent to contact her office directly.

Dr. Wiseman asked Ms. Greuel to comment on the Inclusionary Zoning ordinance. She explained to the Board that an ordinance has been introduced by Council Members Reyes and Garcetti to require inclusionary zoning in the city. She explained that the ordinance is very early in the process, and a 90 extension has been granted to allow for public comment due in large part to neighborhood council and homeowner association feedback.

She agrees that there is an affordable housing crisis in the city, where average rents are now $1200 and average home sales prices are $400,000. Yet she has concerns that this proposal supercedes the specific plan process, will be a disincentive for new construction in the city, and could produce unknown hardship on buildings with association fees (e.g. if a condo fee is spread equally and the low income units cannot afford to participate how do you fairly allocate fees?)

Her final concern related to who or which department would manage the program. That issue has not been addressed by the city. Mr. Pechin stated that Ms. Greuel should advise Mr. Weiss on how to more appropriately address this issue with the public.

Mr. Brittany (public participant) asked if a homeowner participates in the 50/50 program would their project be completed faster? Yes, it would be moved up in priority. She stated the program doesn't differentiate on "fault" for the sidewalk's need of repair.

Mr. Sanchez then opened the floor to public comment for Ms. Greuel. Ms. Stephanie de Prume, student body president of Fullerton College, asked why the fiscal year for Neighborhood Council's was changed. Mr. Hatfield elaborated that he is supportive of the change, and that in the end it will be a good change for NCVV and all other Neighborhood Councils. His only concern was the lack of notice to NCVV. Ms. de Prume asked if there would be more money for NCVV. No.

Mr. Greuel again thanked the Board for their hard work, and stated "it does not go unnoticed."

Agenda Item 3 – Chairman's comments, Introduction of Distinguished Guests.

Mr. Sanchez introduced Deanna Stevenson, the new Project Coordinator for DONE. She distributed her contact information and encouraged the Board to call if they have questions.

Agenda Item 8 – Web Site. The website is operational, and Board members were encouraged to log onto myvalleyvillage.com to see more. The content is still being finalized, and a list of specific needs was distributed for discussion. Mr. Sanchez distributed a list of issues on which Mr. Ciccarelli needs NCVV input. Mr. Braswell asked if the list could be reviewed and assignments made. Mr. Sanchez reviewed the list and assigned tasks. Ms. Hull reminded the Board of the previous discussion related to privacy issues and the proposed "community forum". Ms. Harner suggested that NCVV minutes be posted. Mr. Sanchez will speak with Mr. Ciccarelli to see how that can be done without expanding the site. Ms. Hatfield asked if there would be a completion date for the project. Mr. Sanchez will follow up – important to get information back to him as soon as possible. Mr. Sanchez has asked Mr. Ciccarelli to be present at the June meeting.

Ms. Harner asked that there be two calendars – one internal for the Board and one for the community.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports. Mr. Sanchez noted the limited time remaining, and stated that deference would be given to land use issues.

Mr. Paterson asked to defer his committee comments to the June meeting. Within the next three weeks he will send to the full Board a critique on Inclusionary Zoning.

The Riverside Condo project has been stalled again, and for nine weeks we have been put off by the city for approval of the alley vacation request. Both NCVV and the Homeowners Association have worked with the developer to present a "win-win" situation for all parties. Mr. Paterson has asked for a meeting with Wendy Greuel, and will present to her tomorrow (Thursday) evening at the Homeowners Association.

The Condo development at Whitsett and Otsego. The developer will make a presentation to the city in June. Some concern has been expressed about the design of the building and the landscaping. Both NCVV and VVHA have asked for improvements from the developer.

Ms. Hidey asked for information related to the demolition of the house at Colfax and Hesby. Ms. Dinkin explained that 5 condos will be built on the site. She stated that Dale Thrush from Wendy Greuel's office has been very unresponsive to requests for information or assistance. Mr. Paterson asked that Council members Weiss and Greuel be formally requested to send any and all construction projects to NCVV. Ms. Hatfield stated this should be a citywide issue for all Neighborhood Councils. Dr. Wiseman stated that it is, as part of the specific plan process. Mr. Paterson stated that unfortunately we are "left out of the loop, and with little or no knowledge of proposed projects."

Dr. Wiseman stated this is part of a citywide policy, and we need to send our request to the Council member's offices to receive all information on proposed projects before they are presented for approval to City Council.

Ms. Deanna Stevenson (DONE) asked if NCVV gets ENS (Early Notification System)? Mr. Sanchez said that more information was received by Valley Village before the Board was elected than is received now. Mr. Sanchez reintroduced Ms. Lori Dinkin, president of Valley Village Homeowners Association and reminded the Board of the VVHA meeting Thursday night at 7:30. Ms. Dinkin stated that the inclusionary zoning ordinance would invalidate the specific plan. She and others had met personally with Mayor Hahn and he stated the importance of the specific plan and encouraged us to "stick to it". Ms. Dinkin reminded the Board that the specific plan is the strength of Valley Village and one of the reasons our area looks so good.

Regarding The Orange Line, Dr. Wiseman will send a written communication to the Board regarding safety, sidewalks and crosswalks. His committee has again been assured that irrigation and landscaping for the project will be acceptable. He mentioned the urgency of the naming of the station at Laurel Canyon and Chandler. The NCVV Board needs to take a specific action to address this opportunity.

Dr. Wiseman made a motion to name the station Valley Village at Laurel Canyon stop. Jody Hidey seconded. The motion passed 13-0.

Dr. Wiseman will draft a letter to the MTA Board to convey this formal action.

Mr. Paterson stated that there is a serious gas "odor" on the north side of Laurel Canyon at Chandler. He will call the gas company.

Ms. Harner detailed the NCVV signature event, the Valley Village Summer Movie Festival. The event will take place on the last Friday in June, July and August. A proposed budget was detailed. Participants would be encouraged to BYOB (bring your own basket), and water would be provided. This would be a part of NCVV outreach as the opportunity would be used to communicate NCVV business such as Neighborhood Watch and soundwalls. Ms. Hull asked how big is the screen? 10 feet by 14 feet. Mr. Paterson asked how traffic would be addressed? We would encourage people to walk, and attempt to partner with the Senior Center, the church and Colfax Elementary school for parking. Ms. Hull suggested that there be personal visits from Board members to neighbors on the street adjacent to the part to explain the activity. Mr. Pechin endorsed the idea of using parking at the church or school to keep cars off the streets.

Ms. Hatfield motioned to approve the movie festival as the signature event of NCVV. Ms. Hidey seconded. The motion was approved 7 –0 –4.

Ms. Hidey reported on Neighborhood Watch. A meeting was held to coordinate how to use National Night Out as a partner to raise awareness of Neighborhood Watch. She will be bringing a specific plan back to the Board.

Mr. Pechin reported on the soundwall Project. He reminded the Board of the lack of "immediate" return on investment in the soundwall Project. He also recalled Mr. Kulak's success in getting city offices to move by using the power of email, phone calls and faxes to Wendy Greuel's office. The program needs that type of enthusiasm to raise awareness to the urgency to get Valley Village walls completed. He asked that the Board commit funds to make this happen.

Agenda Item 10 - Board Liaison Reports. There were no immediate reports.

Agenda Item 13 – Public comment. Mr. Sanchez recognized Daniel Pastor, who completed a speaker's card. He was not present to speak.

Ms. Stephanie de Prume stated that the neighborhood needs more street lights, and that without lights Neighborhood Watch signs would not be as effective.

Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items. Ms. Hatfield asked that the one-half cent sales tax increase be added. Mr. Paterson asked that a discussion be held about the positioning of public comment on the agenda.

Agenda Item 14 – Chairman's Closing Comments. Mr. Sanchez thanked all for their comments, and reminded the Board and public that the meeting must end at 9:00 pm due to the schedule of the school custodian. The meeting room at Colfax Elementary School will not be available during the summer months. Mr. O'Connor agreed to speak with the principal to see if that could be changed. Mr. Sanchez is exploring other meeting sites.

Agenda Item 15 – Adjournment. *A motion was made by Mr. Pool to adjourn, and seconded by Ms. Hidey.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.