

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting**

September 21, 2011

Approved

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution, Approval of August Minutes, Introduction of

Guests – Mr. Braswell and Ms. Apple -

Mr. Tony Braswell called the meeting to order at 6:30. Mr. Braswell thanked everyone for coming out to attend our meeting. He asked speakers to fill out a speaker card and please limit their comments to two minutes. He reminded the audience that the meeting will be conducted under the Brown Act and within the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order.

The roll was called. Board members present were Dorothy Apple, residential homeowner; Tony Braswell, residential renter; Cathy Flynn, residential homeowner; Ginny Hatfield, residential homeowner; Sandy Hubbard, residential homeowner; Dr. Joshua Levy, faith based; Suzanne Lewis, residential renter; Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, at-large; Steven Stokes, residential renter; Charles Sulahian, business owner; Jeff Walker, business owner; Marc Woerschling, community based.

Board members excused were Dave Bate, business owner; Paul Hatfield, at large; Suzanne Lauer, residential renter.

Motion: to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved by a vote of 11-0-0

Mr. Wesley Hernandez, Field Deputy from Councilmember Paul Koretz's office informed us that Operation Pothole is coming up in October. He encouraged everyone in attendance to report potholes using the 311 telephone system or online through the Los Angeles Department of Public Works website.

Pat's Cocktail on Riverside Drive has been violating their Conditional Use Permit and LAPD Vice Division is investigating the problem. He will keep us updated on the investigation. The proposed Administrative Code Enforcement Regulations are with the Finance Committee for approval. This program would enforce low level quality of life violations in various categories with immediate fines issued for violations.

If you need to report a problem with a Medical Marijuana Dispensary, you can email asha.greenberg@lacity.org. The Mobile Billboard Ordinance has been amended and is waiting for Governor Brown to sign the ordinance.

Motion: to approve the Agenda as presented. The Motion was approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

Ms. Pat Davenport, a representative from Councilmember Paul Kerkorian's office let us know that a citation has been given to the owners of the property on Albers Street east of Laurel Canyon Boulevard to cut the weeds and maintain the property.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment on Agenda Items (limited to two (2) minutes per speaker, and must fill out a speaker card) –

Agenda Item 3 – Finance Report, Mr. Hatfield - Mr. Braswell gave an update on the financial report and submitted a copy for the record. The financial report was approved by a vote of 11-0-0. The Mayor's Budget Conference is October 29th; NCVV needs to have two (2) representatives at the conference.

Agenda Item 4 – Department of Sanitation, Infrastructure Repair – Ms. Lisa Mowery, Acting CFO of Financial Management – Mr. C. Bryan Trussell, P.E., Civil Engineer Associate and Ms. Deborah L. Neves, Management Analyst for the Los Angeles Department of Sanitation gave a brief presentation on the duties of the Department of Sanitation. They also gave a video presentation on clean water, healthy neighborhoods and a sustainable city. They informed us of the ten (10) year financial plan for our wastewater system. To support this investment, this ten (10) year financial plan has been prepared with a proposed sewer fee increase of \$28 per year for each of the next ten (10) years for the average Los Angeles family. There will be public hearings regarding the proposed sewer fee increase. We will be informed of the public hearing dates once they have been confirmed.

Agenda Item 5 – LADWP Ratepayer Advocate Update – Jack Humphreville, Chair of Advocacy Committee for LADWP NC Committees - Jack Humphreville writes LA Watchdog for CityWatch. He is the President of the DWP Advocacy Committee and the Ratepayer Advocate for the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council. Mr. Humphreville informed us of the proposed LADWP rate increases over the next three (3) to five (5) years. These funds from the proposed rate increases will be used to make necessary upgrades to the LADPW infrastructure and to perform a number of environmental mandates.

Mr. Humphreville gave us several reasons why he feels it is very important that the residents of Los Angeles have a very strong representative in the position of ratepayer advocate. A strong ratepayer advocate will make certain that Los Angeles stakeholders have strong representation ensuring that any changes the LADWP makes are in their best interests. The Citizens Committee for the Appointment of the Executive Director of the Office of Public Accountability of the LADWP met today for the first time. Mayor Villaraigosa formed this committee to guarantee that the LADWP practices responsible spending while also upholding its commitment to cost-effective, environmentally responsible and reliable energy. Mr. Humphreville will keep us up to date on the actions of this new Citizens Committee.

Agenda Item 6 – Colfax School Boundaries – update from LAUSD – Mr. Braswell gave an explanation as to why the Colfax Charter school boundaries were changed. Colfax Charter was over capacity during last year's school session. Therefore, the boundaries needed to be restricted. However, any student or sibling of a student currently enrolled would be able to stay in Colfax Charter.

Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia stressed the importance of lower density in Valley Village. The construction of new apartment and condominium buildings in Valley Village not only affects the infrastructure in our community, but the education of our children. She urged everyone in attendance to contact their City Councilmember to voice their opposition to allowing developers to build large developments in Valley Village that will have such a negative effect in our neighborhood.

Ms. Hako Maekawa, a resident in Valley Village is opposed to the new boundary restrictions. Ms. Lisa Jacobs and Mr. Scott Jacobs, residents in Valley Village and parents of Colfax Charter students are opposed to the new boundary restrictions.

Agenda Item 7 - Standing Committee Reports – Communications – Mr. Stokes – Mr. Stokes informed us that he is working on the problem with the calendar updates and should have it repaired soon.

Agenda Item 7- Standing Committee Reports – Elections, Bylaws and Outreach – Ms. Hatfield – Ms. Hatfield informed us that DONE may delay the 2012 elections for Neighborhood Councils

until 2014 in order to save money. DONE is polling Neighborhood Councils to get feedback on this proposal.

Agenda Item 7 – Standing Committee Reports – City Services – Mr. Walker – Motion: NCVV supports the current enactment of the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 62.104 and opposes repealing or amending the ordinance (as proposed in Council File #05-1853) to shift financial responsibility for sidewalk repairs to the adjacent property owners. The motion was approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

Ms. Susan Arnout, a resident in Valley Village asked how she could get the sidewalk repaired near her residence and is opposed to shifting the financial responsibility to the property owner.

Agenda Item 7 – Standing Committee Reports – Projects – Ms. Lewis – Motion: Approve \$140 for the ½ page advertisement in the PALS (Police Activity League Supporters) Luncheon Journal November 10, 2011.
The motion was approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

Ms. Lewis reminded us that the Great California Shakeout is October 20th at 10:20am.

Agenda Item 7 – Standing Committee Reports – Planning and Land Use – Mr. Woerschling – Motion: NCVV opposes changes to the proposed Citywide Sign Ordinance recommended by the Planning Department July 22, 2011 and supports the Ordinance as originally recommended in 2009 by the City Planning Commission.

Mr. Stuart Simen, a resident in Valley Village and NCVV Parliamentarian, expressed his opinion that the changes to the motion out of order due to insufficient posting of the motion. Mr. Braswell noted Mr. Simen's concern, and Mr. Braswell advised the board that he felt the motion should be considered. Mr. Braswell moved the motion to a vote, and he assured Mr. Simen and the board that he would confer with DONE on Mr. Simen's concern. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-2.

Agenda Item 8 - Valley Village Park Renovations – Mr. Braswell – Mr. Braswell gave us a brief update on Valley Village Park renovations. A ground breaking date will be announced as soon as it is available.

Ms. Pat Davenport, a representative from Councilmember Paul Kerkorian's office gave us some options for different signs that we could have posted in Valley Village Park.

Agenda Item 9 – Street Safety – Magnolia Boulevard between Colfax Avenue and Laurel Canyon Boulevard – Mr. Braswell and Mr. Walker – This item has been carried over until our October meeting.

Agenda Item 10 – Valley Vision Task Force – Survey LA – Ms. Hatfield – Ms. Hatfield mailed in all of the information collected to Survey LA last week. She will continue to update us on the progress of Survey LA.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment – Public Comment from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction – There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items – President's Closing Comments and Adjournment Mr. Braswell thanked everyone in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.