Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
December 17, 2008

Draft

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution and Welcoming Remarks.
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 would 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; Beth Fulton, Education; Richard Gauthier, business owner; Ginny Hatfield, senior based; Paul Hatfield, at large; Joshua Levy, faith based; Suzanne Lewis, residential renter; Lory Oberg, residential homeowner; Tom Paterson, residential renter; Andrew Sacher, business owner; Mark Woersching, community based.
Board members excused were: Greg O'Connor, residential homeowner; Dave Bate, at large; Steven Stokes, residential renter; Philip Schaffer, student representative.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of December Minutes – Ms. Apple - The November minutes were approved by a vote of 11-0-0, with the following change from Mr. Hatfield to the motion on Agenda Item 7 from the November meeting, Ms. Apple seconded the motion; *Motion: I move that NCVV inform BONC that we are against their requirement for the following reasons: 1, as citizen volunteers in a non-law making capacity we are already required to disclose any conflict of interest on any motion before us, and therefore we should be exempt from the filling out of any financial disclosure forms. 2, all board members are required to take and pass mandatory ethics training with reasonable sanctions. Motion: Minutes will be sent out via email. Approval and changes will be made through email communication. If a board member is unable to print the minutes, let the secretary know and we will print them for you.* Motion approved 11-0-0.

Agenda Item 3 – Introduction of Guests – A representative from Jack Weiss's office, Matthew Schupbach and Wendy Grueul's office, Evan Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt gave an update on cleaning up abandoned properties in the area, mainly the properties on Riverside Drive and Ben Avenue. The building on Hortense Street has some graffiti that should be cleaned up in the next few days. He reported the super graphic sign on the side of the building on Riverside Drive and the Kling Street intersection; code enforcement should be out by the end of the week. He encouraged people to engage
Ms. Grueul's office if they are encountering any problems that we could assist you with.
Ms. Oberg asked if there has been any progress on getting the red curb painted at Valley Village Park. Mr. Roosevelt said it is underway and he would follow up with the Traffic Department, it usually takes about sixty (60) days to get this done. Ms. Lewis asked if there is any possibility of getting a traffic light at Radford Avenue and Riverside Drive.
Mr. Roosevelt let her know that will probably not happen and that the Traffic Department is proposing a speed limit increase on Riverside Drive from thirty-five (35) MPH to forty-five (45) MPH. Ms. Grueul's' office has been having conversations with the DOT to see if there is any way to slow down the traffic on Riverside Drive. The DOT would like to increase the speed limit on Riverside Drive to help facilitate traffic on the street. Ms. Apple asked if we could get additional radar enforcement on Riverside Drive. Mr. Roosevelt said they would request additional enforcement. Mr. Braswell stated that one of the other problems on Riverside Drive is pedestrian traffic. It is especially dangerous at Laurelgrove Avenue and Colfax Avenue. Mr. Roosevelt said he would look into getting some smart crosswalks before they increase the speed limit. He will

keep us posted on their office's attempt to stop the proposed speed limit increase. Ms. Hatfield asked about the lights at the storage unit on Laurel Canyon. Mr. Roosevelt let her know that Building and Safety went out the property and the lights were in fact out of compliance with the city code. They have been issued a thirty (30) day order to comply with the light ordinance. He is also looking into getting some additional free trees from the city to add to the existing trees that they have planted. Ms. Fulton asked about the sign at the storage facility, she believes that was not on the original plans for the facility and is not allowed by the Valley Village Specific Plan. Mr. Roosevelt said he would look into it and get back to her. Ms. Lewis made a motion regarding the speed limit on Riverside Drive, Ms. Apple seconded the motion. *Motion: NCVV opposes raising the speed limit on Riverside Drive.* The motion is approved 11-0-0. Dr. Levy asked if we could have the traffic lights on Riverside Drive synchronized. Mr. Roosevelt let him know that all of the traffic lights in the valley are already synchronized and that they would look into getting signs posted stating that the lights are synchronized for the speed limit. Mr. Gauthier asked if we could get a smart walk on Riverside Drive at Laurelgrove Avenue. Mr. Roosevelt said that the DOT needs to do a pedestrian study to see if it is warranted for that intersection. Mr. Paterson asked if Ms. Grueul's office has received any complaints about the office building on Chandler Blvd. and Ben Avenue, it has become a gathering spot for the homeless. Mr. Roosevelt said that they have been in conversation with LAPD Senior Lead Officer DuValley in trying to get the problem resolved. Ms. Oberg asked about the Infrastructure Package from the Federal Government, if there is any time to give our input on the proposed projects.
Mr. Roosevelt said he was not sure about the timing on the projects and would get back to her. He also said that they would welcome any input from NCVV. Mr. Schupbach gave an update on the billboards. Today the city council unanimously approved an interim control ordinance (ICO) to stop the installation of new off-site signs in the City, including billboards, super graphics and any outdoor advertising for the next three (3) months, with the option to extend the ICO for an additional three (3) months. The city council is working on gathering a database for all of the permitted billboards in the city. This will make it easier to enforce any billboard violations. Mr. Paterson asked if the moratorium applies to super graphic billboards. Mr. Schupbach said that super graphic billboards are prohibited, period. Mr. Schupbach said that Mr. Weiss's office has been receiving complaints about a medicinal marijuana store on Burbank Blvd. and that they are looking into the complaints. Mr. Woersching asked how many extensions there are in the new citywide ban on billboards. Mr. Braswell let him know that the law will ban any new signs for three (3) months while the City Attorney and the Planning Department draft permanent changes to the City's sign ordinance to better regulate advertising in the City. There is only one (1) three (3) month extension allowed under the ICO.

ICO

Agenda Item 4 –Public Comment on Agenda Items – Stuart Simen a resident on Kling Street asked Mr. Roosevelt questions regarding traffic around Temple Beth Hillel and stated that the congregants park illegally. The police do not come out to ticket cars, parked in front of fire hydrants and emergency vehicles cannot get in and out of the area. This problem happens mainly on the weekends. Mr. Roosevelt said he would look into the problem with the DOT and he would also engage the Temple in conversation to try to get their congregation to obey parking restrictions in the area.

Agenda Item 5 – Finance Report – Mr. Hatfield – We have reached $25,000 spending mark for the year, which is roughly half of our annual spending allocation for the year, with the carryover from the previous we have just under $70,000 left in our budget. I am in the process of working with the North Hollywood Library on the purchase of the books that we agreed to buy for the library. We are having special book plates made to insert in the books stating they were purchased by NCVV. We still have several large events remaining this year; the Colfax World's Fair and a few more issues of The Bridge to be published and mailed out.

Agenda Item 8 – Request for Permit, Agualina Restaurant – per Ms. Hatfield – Ms. Fulton said that representatives from the restaurant came before Planning and Land Use. They were not on the agenda, so there is not a motion regarding this issue. However, we did have an extensive conversation regarding their application for a liquor license to serve beer and wine during the lunch and dinner hours. PLU feels that we should support their application for a number of reasons, mainly which they are next door to a liquor store.
Mr. Hatfield said that he and his wife have dined at the restaurant on a number of occasions and they seem to be very responsible business owners. Mr. Paterson asked how many people the restaurant seats and what the hours of operation are. They seat forty-six (46) people and are open between the hours of 11:00am to 10:00pm. Their request for a liquor license would state that they serve liquor only between the stated hours of operation. *Motion: Approve Agualina Restaurant's application for a liquor license to serve beer and wine between the hours of 11:00am to 10:00pm.* Motion is approved 11-0-0.

Agenda Item 6 – Save LA River/Studio City Open Space (formerly Save Studio City Golf & Tennis) – Kathy Haslett per Ms. Apple – Alan Dymond, President of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) introduced the other SCRA members in attendance at the meeting tonight. He explained that the Save LA River/Studio City Open Space is a tax exempt 501c3 organization which is trying to save the property from the development of condominiums. This vision is on the forefront of the idea of "green streets". Most of the water runoff from the streets of Los Angeles goes straight into the LA River, which sends pollutants directly to the ocean. The idea of 'green streets" is to have the water go through a filtration system that cleans the water before it gets to the Santa Monica Bay and the ocean. There are two such streets already in Los Angeles. The River Improvement Overlay will be coming before the city council, which would provide for "green streets" throughout the city. Ms. Hatfield asked what the overlay area covers. Mr. Dymond said that it is an overlay district of about one thousand (1,000) on both sides of the river. The idea is to establish bike and walking paths all the way through to the ocean. Mr. Dymond introduced Ms. Haslett who gave a presentation on their proposed vision and concept design. The Studio City Residents Association polled their members, and forty (40) percent of the members returned the poll with a resounding response that they want to keep the open space and not have it turned into the proposed Studio City Senior Living Center. The proposed Senior Living Center would have five (5) rectangular and one (1) polygonal-shaped, four (4) story building, reaching a maximum height of forty-five (45) feet. The proposed site is the last sixteen (16) acres of contiguous privately owned open space on the LA River from the Sepulveda Basin to the 170 Freeway. The site concept design for the Save LA River/Studio City Open Space is a vision to create four (4) key elements: 1 - Water Quality and Conservation; 2 – Native Habitat Restoration; 3 – L.A. River Regional Public Access and Staging Area; 4 – Regional Rivers and Trails Connection Hub. Dr. Levy asked if the SCRA has tried to work with the developers to obtain their vision and also build the condominiums. Ms. Hassett responded that they have tried to engage them in conversation regarding this but have had no response. This is an area of regional significance that has attracted the attention of many organizations, such as the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Community Conservancy International and BlueGreen Consulting. Dr. Levy asked if during the planning and zoning process there may be opportunities for developers to make some compromises to obtain both the condominium project and the Save LA/River Vision. Ms. Hassett said they would be required as part of the process to present a no development alternative. Ms. Fulton asked what the terms of the economic and physical feasibility study are. Ms. Hassett
said it starts with a soils test. Since there was a fire station built on the proposed site we already have the soils test. We will study the soils and geological reports, see how the storm drains empty into the property. At this point it is just a concept and a vision; there is not a price tag on developing the concept. First we will need to see if we can obtain funds to purchase the property and then proceed from that point. Ms. Fulton made a motion, Ms. Apple seconded the

motion. *Motion: NCVV supports the Save LA River/Studio City Open Space site concept design as presented by SCRA.* Mr. Paterson said that we should hear from the developers on this project and asked that we withdraw the motion until we hear from the developers or anyone opposed to this site design project. Ms. Fulton declined to withdraw her motion. Mr. Paterson made a motion, Mr. Hatfield seconded the motion. *Motion: NCVV will not vote on the proposed SCRA Save LA River/Studio City Open Space site concept design until January.* Motion passed 7-4-0.

Agenda Item 7 – Crime Prevention Update – Tim Saito/Mike Lewis per Ms. Apple – Tim Saito, our neighborhood prosecutor introduced Mike Lewis, the Senior Lead Officer, standing in for Manny Arreygue while he is out on medical leave. He gave a presentation on Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Watch. He gave us some very good tips such as having an alarm sign in front of your house, a barking dog, leave a pair of large men's boots on your front porch. Always answer the door when someone knocks, you don't have to open it, but at least say hello and let them know that someone is home. Most burglaries are committed during the day and car break-ins are committed at night. He reminded us to take all valuables out of our cars and to not leave them parked on the street at night, if possible. WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG click on crime maps to find out recent crime in your neighborhood. Dr. Levy asked about the problem of people rummaging through our recycle bins. There are stickers that you can place on your trash that state that it is illegal to rummage through other people's trashcans. We will try to get some to pass out at our next meeting. Richard Davies, a resident at 12400 Hesby Street, said he phoned in a potential robbery to the dispatch number and it took two and a half (2 ½) hours to send out a patrol car. Officer Lewis said you have to articulate the urgency of the problem in order to get them to respond more quickly. Bill North, a resident on Chandler Blvd., asked about a problem with graffiti taggers in the area writing WTW on walls and cars. Officer Lewis said he would look into this problem and gave Mr. North his card so he could call him for follow up on this problem.

Agenda Item 10 – NBC Universal Town Hall Meeting Update – Mr. Sacher – this item will be postponed until our January meeting, we do not have the proper adapter to make the full presentation.

Agenda Item 11 – Valley Village Park – Mr. Sacher – all of the fifty-two (52) trees that have been planted have taken and are growing. A few of the trees are currently losing their leaves and a few others need to have their stakes moved. The Park Rangers are taking care of the stakes being moved to help with the growth of the trees. Ms. Hatfield asked if there are any Quimby funds available for putting in sidewalks in the park. Mr. Sacher said he is looking into the availability of using the funds to build sidewalks.

Agenda Item 9 – Ethics Training – per Mr. Braswell – Everyone on the board that has not taken the ethics training on-line test must do so before our January meeting.

Agenda Item 12 - Standing Committee Reports – Projects – Ms. Lewis – Ms. Lewis had nothing new to report.

Agenda Item 12 - Standing Committee Reports – Planning and Land Use – Mr. O'Connor and Ms. Fulton – Mr. Paterson asked if the gas station on Riverside and Laurel Canyon brought their project before PLU committee. Ms. Fulton said that they had and that the city had several items they want the owner to comply with. They are still in the planning stage as far as building a strip mall on the property. PLU did approve their project and asked to work with them on landscaping and the type stores that will occupy the space.

This is the gas station on the corner of Kling Street and Laurel Canyon. Mr. Paterson said he was asking about the Chevron station. He said that they are trying to put in a car wash on the premises which is not allowed according to the Valley Village Specific Plan and that they filed an environmental impact study about a month ago. Ms. Fulton replied that they have not made any contact with the PLU committee. Mr. Paterson asked about a Russian restaurant in the 5300 block of Laurel Canyon that has a sign in the window saying they would be opening in December of 2008. Ms. Fulton replied that they have not come before the PLU committee.

Agenda Item 12 - Standing Committee Reports – Communications – Mr. Stokes – Mr. Stokes is on vacation. Mr. Braswell let us know that the website company has been paid and all of the problems that we were encountering have been worked out.

Agenda Item 12 - Standing Committee Reports – Elections – Ms. Hatfield – Ms. Hatfield let us know about the new election procedures. They will run from March to June of 2010, a new Neighborhood Council election will be held every two weeks.

Agenda Item 12 - Standing Committee Reports – City Services – Mr. Gauthier – We are working on comprising an inventory of our infrastructure in Valley Village along the main corridors. We will be meeting again in January, 2009 and will have an update on our progress. Mr. Braswell asked Mr. Gauthier to look into taking a position on limiting solicitation in Los Angeles.

Agenda Item 13 - Future Agenda Items – Mr. Braswell would like to have an open forum in February to have candidates running for office come to our meeting to discuss their positions in the upcoming election. Mr. Simen let us know that all of the Mayoral candidates have been invited to speak at the Valley Village Homeowners on January 21, 2009. Dr. Levy asked if there is any update on the Valley Plaza project. Mr. Sacher said he would have information on that at the next meeting. Ms. Hatfield asked is we could get the intersection at Magnolia Blvd and the 170 Freeway cleaned up and landscaped. Ms. Fulton asked if we could discuss the motion regarding the height restrictions. PLU committee will take on the height restriction limitations. Mr. Woersching asked if we could discuss the ~~ban on~~ billboards to help maintain the current ban on billboards. Mr. Paterson asked if we could come up with some way to stop the graffiti at the underpass of the 170 Freeway.

Agenda Item 14 – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction -

Agenda Item 15 – President's Closing Comments and Adjournment – Mr. Braswell thanked everyone in attendance. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.