Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting

Date February 23, 2011

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 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; Dave Bate, at-large; Tony Braswell, residential renter; Cathy Flynn, residential homeowner; Ginny Hatfield, residential homeowner; Paul Hatfield, at large; Dr. Joshua Levy, faith based; Suzanne Lewis, residential renter; Steven Stokes, residential renter; Charles Sulahian, business owner; Jeff Walker, business owner; Marc Woersching, community based.

Board members excused were Sandy Hubbard, residential homeowner; Suzanne Lauer, residential renter; Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, at-large.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

The amended agenda was approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

Agenda Item 2 – Introduction of Guests – Mr. Braswell – Ms. Jennifer Brogin, District Director from Ms. Tamar Galatzan, Board of Education, District 3 LAUSD. Ms. Brogin gave an update on spending allocations from Bond monies being spent on improvements to North Hollywood High School.

Mr. Kevin James from KRLA radio gave a presentation on his radio program, which primarily covers local issues and events. Mr. James has been on a circuit of attending Neighborhood Council meetings to get in touch with current issues in our local communities. He has committed to go to three (3) Neighborhood Council meetings in every Neighborhood Council district for a total of forty-five (45) meetings. He is at the halfway point of his tour and has realized how important Neighborhood Councils are to our city. He has been broadcasting the issues that Neighborhood Councils are tackling in hopes of getting more residents involved in neighborhood issues and giving Neighborhood Councils a consistent voice on his radio program.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment on Agenda Items (limited to two (2) minutes per speaker, and must fill out a speaker card) – Margaret Trinison and Teni Bedrosian from the Los Angeles Public Library in Studio City expressed their opinion to vote yes on Measure L.

Agenda Item 4 – Finance Report, Mr. Hatfield - Mr. Hatfield gave an update on the financial report and submitted a copy for the record.

Agenda Item 5 – Planning Department Cuts – Mr. Woersching – *Motion:* *The Neighborhood Council Valley Village, urges that the City Council amend the ordinances allocating case processing fee revenues to permit up to thirty-five (35)% of those revenues to be allocated to Planning Department staff who are doing planning projects with the remaining sixty-five (65)% for the Planning staff who are doing case processing. In addition, the Neighborhood Council Valley Village urges that the exact allocation be determined by the City Council after receipt of the results of an independent audit that*

would advise the City Council and Planning Department management (1) whether there is a sufficient case load compared to 2004-2007 to justify the allocation of an substantial majority of the Planning staff to case processing and (2) if there is not, the Neighborhood Council Valley Village, requests that a sufficient amount of staff be transferred to doing community planning and citywide studies. Mr. Woersching approved the change to the amendment. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0.

Agenda Item 6 – Presentation of 2011 Ballot Initiatives, City of Los Angeles – Mary Nelligan, League of Women Voters – Ms. Nelligan from the league of Women Voters gave a presentation on the Los Angeles City ballot measures. The League of Women Voters, is a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Agenda Item 7 – Valley Village Park Update – Mr. Walker – Mr. Sacher for Mr. Walker gave an update on the Valley Village Park improvements that are being made with the use of Quimby Funds. He has had meetings with the park improvement ad hoc committee and the plans should be finalized within the next month and improvements made this year.

Agenda Item 8 – Planning Department Public Hearing – Ms. Liebowitz-Neglia – There were five (5) board members and three (3) stakeholders present at the hearing. They worked together to convince the consultants to focus on the need for a stronger general plan, community plan, and support of the Valley Village Specific Plan.

Agenda Item 9 – Valley Village Vision Task Force – The task force has been formed and will be holding their first meeting February 24 at Oakwood School Library.

Agenda Item 10 - Standing Committee Reports – Communications – Mr. Stokes – Mr. Stokes let us know that the glitches in the website should be corrected very soon and will stay on top of the web host to be sure that the problems are corrected.

Agenda Item 10 - Standing Committee Reports – Elections – Ms. Hatfield – Ms. Hatfield let us know that the Neighborhood Council Election Task Force completed their work on the election procedures. They are making four (4) recommendations for the next Neighborhood Council elections that will be in 2012 to the city. The first recommendation is to repeal the authority of the City Clerk to administer the NC elections and replace the current system with one that is flexible and cost effective. Second, they also indicated a preference for using an e-voting system if individual councils have the option to provide in person polling places or town hall type voting. A total cost cap of $800,000 for the e-voting was recommended. With regard to the issue of election challenges, the task force proposes that an independent entity be established to consider challenges and render decisions. In addition, the group advocated citywide and NC specific publicity and outreach campaigns to promote elections. This task force was created as a result of the hearings that our Councilmember Paul Krekorian, head of the Neighborhood and Education Committee, held last year after the NC elections reported several problems with the current system. This report will be presented to the Neighborhood and Education Committee, the Mayor's office and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

Mr. Stuart Simen let us know that our new bylaws are in the process of being approved by DONE and he should hear from them in the next day or two if they have been approved.

Agenda Item 10 - Standing Committee Reports – City Services – Mr. Walker – City Services did not meet in February due to the Planning Department Public hearing and there was no update to present.

Agenda Item 10 – Standing Committee Reports – Projects – Ms. Lewis – Ms. Lewis let us know that they are working on organizing the annual Valley Village Garden Tour. They are also planning a pet adoption

to be held in April, having a booth and presence at the Colfax Fair this June and National Night Out to be held in August.

Agenda Item 10 – Standing Committee Reports – Planning and Land Use – Mr. Bate – City Services did not meet in February due to the Planning Department Public hearing and there was no update to present.

Agenda Item 11 – Ethics Training - Mr. Braswell, Ms. Apple – Mr. Braswell let us know that all board members are in compliance with the required ethics training.

Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items – Mr. Woersching would like to present on the possibility of landscaping the Tujunga Wash.

Agenda Item 13 – Public Comment – Public Comment from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction – Mr. Augusto Biasini, a candidate for Council District 2 gave a presentation on his platform issues.

Mr. Erik Surber from the Los Angeles Public Library, North Hollywood introduced himself as the new branch manager for the library and gave a brief presentation on his duties.

Mr. Cliff Jacobs from Your Budget Advocate, NC Budget Advocates and Vice President of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, let us know that they will be meeting with the Mayor next month to go over areas they feel could be cut to help improve the deficit in the Los Angeles City budget. He also implored that everyone present fill out the budget survey online to help protect and save the services that are needed in your community.

Agenda Item 14 – President's Closing Comments and Adjournment – Mr. Braswell thanked everyone in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.