

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PRESIDENT: Ann Job
VICE-PRESIDENTS:
Administration: Diane Valencia
Communications: Kathy Grubert
TREASURER: Patricia Rau
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Maria Silva



13517 Hubbard St., Sylmar, CA 91342
Telephone: (818) 833-8737
Fax: (818) 833-8707
E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org
Website: www.SylmarNC.org
Office Administrator: David Levin

**Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 24, 2014**

at Concordia Jr./Sr. High School, Auditorium, 13570 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

SNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Ann Job called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Thirteen of the 19 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Kathy Bloom, Peggy Courtney, Carlos Gonzalez, Kathy Grubert, Ann Job, Carlos Lara, Jackie Mata, Patricia Rau, Brenda Resendis, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Diane Valencia. Cheri Blose, Laurie Fadness and Lucille Floresta arrived later. Board Members absent: Derek Martin, Jeh Meher and Maria Silva. The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11 (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Sylmar-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled. Two Board Seats (Faith-Based Organizations and one of the four Home/Condo Owners) were vacant. Also attending: 31 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Ms. Valencia explained this and requested that Speakers wait to be recognized by the Presiding Officer.

4. Secretary’s Report

The Secretary described some of the work completed and in progress, including handling and/or forwarding emails and phone calls from and assisting Stakeholders, organizations and Board vacancy Candidates; and more.

Board Member Lucille Floresta arrived at this time, making 14 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

5. Welcome and Announcements by Board Meeting facility Host

Meeting Host Barbara Winslow [818.362.5861;
Barbara.Winslow@concordiaschoolsla.org; <http://www.ConcordiaHigh.com>]
welcomed everyone and described school programs.

6. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 26, 2014 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

7. Public Official and Community Representative announcements and presentations.

Ms. Job read the emailed reply of Melvin Canas, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; Melvin.Canas@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), to a filing by Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez; Mr. Canas replied “This is not a valid Grievance . . . does not rise to the level of a Grievance.” Jacqueline Serrano, Field Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (818-504-3911; Jacqueline.Serrano@asm.ca.gov), reported that they are accepting applications . . .

Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time, making 15 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

. . . for the Junior Legislators Program for high school students.

Alonzo Menchaca, LAPD Mission Division (north/east of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0619; office 818-838-9846; 36178@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), reported that “crime keep going down.” The City is closing some illegal medical marijuana shops. He reminded to “close your windows” and “lock your doors” to help prevent burglaries. He described efforts to reduce the increasing problem of street racing; people from “through Southern California are meeting here.”

8. Board Member community announcements.

There were no announcements at this time.

9. Committee Reports

Executive – Ms. Valencia reported that Board Members Wally Aguilar and Silverio Pelayo resigned; the Seat availabilities are posted. The SNC still is searching for permanent office space; she described current options and that subleases “are permissible under certain conditions.”

Budget – Ms. Rau reported that training on the new checking account system will be available for all Board Members.

Outreach – Ms. Silva was not present and there was no report.

Equestrian -- Ms. Blose reported that the Committee did not meet last month.

Bylaws -- Mr. Smith deferred to below Item #12.

Planning and Land Use – Interim Chair Cheri Blose reported that the Committee is “in the process of finding out how we can submit an objection to this project” at 12359-61 San Fernando Rd.

Government Affairs & City Services – Mr. Rubalcava reported on street repairs accomplished through the City.

Ad Hoc Sediment Removal – Ms. Grubert deferred to below Item #24.

Ms. Job added that there will be a Board Retreat on August 23rd or in the first half of September.

Board Member Carlos Lara had to leave at this time, making 14 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

10. Public Comments

Stakeholder Sherry Lincoln reminded that National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 5th at Brand Park. There will be an Emergency Preparedness Faire September 27th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; \$500 funding is requested; the SNC would get an outreach booth. Mr. Hernandez requested to Agendize an immigration discussion. Stakeholder John Holmes reported that surveyors are “doing a topographical profile of” El Cariso Park because some parts are not ADA-compliant, including some “sidewalks,” “parking areas” and more “that would need to be modified.” Stakeholder Katherine Fiori, Santiago Estates Manager, was concerned about and described many speeding incidents on Harding St. and is working to help slow driving speeds. Stakeholder Les Aisenman requested to Agendize “the overuse of antibiotics on factory farms.”

Board Member Laurie Fadness arrived at this time, making 15 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

Unfinished Business

11. Discussion of possible future appointments of Board Members to City liaison

appointments: Budget; Department of Water and Power; Department of Public Works; Planning; Transportation; Public Safety; and Parks.

Ms. Job relayed that Ms. Silva volunteered to be a Budget Representative; Ms. Rau also volunteered. Ms. Bloom volunteered to be the Parks Representative to the City.

12. Discussion and possible Board action to approve the proposed amendments to the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Bylaws dated January 26, 2014, as recommended to date by the Bylaws Committee. (Article II – Introduction, section A; Article V – Introduction, Section 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) – Roy Smith
Mr. Smith reported that the Committee met twice since the last Board Meeting. He described the effort “to bring a completed project before the Board . . . The Minutes are on the website . . . I want everybody’s input.” He wants to avoid bringing Committee discussion to Board Meetings.

MOTION to TABLE (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bloom).

DISCUSSION: Ms. Valencia encouraged all Board Members to read Bylaws Committee documents.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

13. Discussion and possible Board action [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bloom): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council re-affirms the March 27, 2014 election of Patricia Rau as Treasurer for Sylmar Neighborhood Council funding matters.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Job explained the Motion.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bloom): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council re-affirms the March 27, 2014 appointment of Patricia Rau as card holder/primary signatory for Sylmar Neighborhood Council funding matters.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bloom): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council re-affirms the March 27, 2014 appointment of Ann Job as second signatory for Sylmar Neighborhood Council funding matters.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

14. Recess. There was a recess at this time.

15. Discussion and possible Board action [see the below Motion]. Presentation by Jordan Greenslade.

Mr. Greenslade of RaiseLA and Rachel Torres of LAANE presented. Mr. Greenslade described the Ordinance and its possible effect on Sylmar. He indicated that higher wages do not result in layoffs. There are three affected hotels in the City Council District Seven area, though none in Sylmar. He said “the average wage for hotel workers now is \$10 an hour”; the Ordinance “would increase [it] to \$15.37 per hour.” There was discussion of the merits and concerns.

MOTION (by Ms. Fadness, seconded by Ms. Grubert): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will send a letter to Council Member Fuentes requesting his support of City Ordinance 14-0223 in support of a minimum wage for Los Angeles hotel workers.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there was no objection.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rubalcava and Shows); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Blose, Smith and Valencia); three abstained (Floresta, Rau and Resendis).

16. Discussion and possible Board action [see the below Motion]. Presentation by Alexandra Nagy of Food & Water Watch.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #20.*] Alexandra Nagy, Organizer, Food & Water Watch (323.843.8451; ANagy@FWWatch.org; www.FoodAndWaterWatch.org), described fracking and concerns about it. The Moratorium would “include a ban on . . . injection wells.” She described fracking that has been done in Los Angeles and not subject to a number of federal environmental laws. Ms. Valencia noted that six Neighborhood Councils have filed Community Impact Statements opposing fracking. There was discussion of what the SNC can or should do.

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will send a letter to Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Fuentes to request the passage of the “LA Fracking Moratorium” Council File 13-1152-S1, to prohibit fracking within the City of Los Angeles.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there was no objection.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job,

Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava and Valencia); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Floresta, Shows and Smith); one abstained (Powell).

Ms. Valencia reminded speakers of the SNC Code of Conduct, including Board Members and Stakeholders, and to be respectful; she said “we should consider removal” if needed.

17. Discussion and possible Board action [see the below Motion]. Presentation by Alexandra Nagy of Food & Water Watch.

Ms. Nagy described the issue and project. She said it is “two 40-mile long pipelines . . . that would divert” water “under the Delta “at a cost of \$67 billion . . . no cost-benefit analysis has been done . . . the State has refused to do one.” She described concerns including financial, environmental, water supply and earthquake. Ms. Soto indicated that “the Councilman is interested” in repairing all water resources. She said “the City is still reviewing it” and “taking community input.”

MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will write a letter to Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Fuentes asking for their opposition to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. And further to oppose using rate payer money to pay for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Nagy invited everyone to an August 9th 10:00-1:00 p.m. presentation at Kaiser Permanente by various groups.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia); one abstained (Floresta).

18. Discussion and possible Board action to appoint a new Board Member to the vacant Retail Representative seat.

Ms. Job wanted to appoint Stakeholder and former Board Member Chardell Powell to the vacant third Retail Seat on the Board. Mr. Powell spoke of his community interests, including in outreach.

MOTION (by Ms. Rau, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council appoints Stakeholder Chardell Powell to the vacant third Retail Seat on the Board.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

19. Discussion and possible Board action to appoint a new Board Member to the vacant At Large Representative seat.

MOTION to TABLE (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Smith).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), led Mr. Powell in reading aloud the Oath of Office. Mr. Powell was Seated with the Board, making 16 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

20. Discussion and possible Board action [see the below Motion].

Ms. Rau reviewed recent expenditures.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Rau, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its monthly expenditure report (MER) for July 2014

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

21. Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Rau reported that she awaits information from DONE to complete paperwork.

22. Discussion and possible Board action to create additional Committee(s).

MOTION to TABLE (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Fadness).

MOTION to TABLE PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

23. Appointment by the President of Chair(s) for additional Committee(s) created, and possible Board Action to approve any such appointments.

MOTION to TABLE (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Fadness).

MOTION to TABLE PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith and Valencia).

24. Discussion and possible Board action to approve the selection of a web services provider for the creation of a new Sylmar Neighborhood Council website and ongoing website/internet maintenance and related services for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Presentation by Kathy Grubert.

Ms. Grubert distributed a comparison chart and said she “talked with seven vendors.” She reviewed services offered by four vendors, including current Webmaster Wendy Moore of Moore Business Results. Ms. Grubert indicated that the City has not developed an approved webmaster vendor list. She recommended vendor Web Corner and described her reasons. Ms. Job clarified that “we own our current website . . . and the domain name.”

Board Member Laurie Fadness had to leave at this time, making 15 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

Ms. Grubert said Neighborhood Council websites being administered by Web Corner include Sunland-Tujunga, Tarzana, Encino, Valley Village, Sherman Oaks and West Hills.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the selection of Web Corner as website designer and web services provider for the creation of a new Sylmar Neighborhood Council website and ongoing website/internet maintenance and related services for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there was no objection.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Floresta, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava and Valencia); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Shows and Smith).

25. Discussion and possible Board action [see the below Motion]. Presentation by Kathy Grubert.

Ms. Grubert reviewed the Statement.

MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Bloom): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Ad Hoc Sediment Removal Committee’s Position Statement, including granting permission for the Committee to use the document to gather local support and enable education and advocacy.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Holmes requested that revisions to the Statement be made. Ms. Valencia believed that the SNC needed to “work with the City first” and described that the SNC can submit a Community Impact Statement. Ms. Grubert described the Committee’s purpose. There was discussion of merits and concerns with the Motion.

AMENDED MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Ad Hoc Sediment Removal Committee’s Position Statement, for it to be sent to City Councilman Felipe Fuentes and other public officials, *[amended Motion starts at 3:17:55; Kathy says “include John Holmes’ revisions on page four . . . reference #3 . . . and changing “wrecked” to “wrecked” (she pronounced it REEKed); I don’t know what spelling to which Kathy*

was referring], including granting permission for the Committee to use the document to gather local support and enable education and advocacy.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rau, Resendis and Rubalcava); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Courtney, Shows and Valencia); three abstained (Floresta, Powell and Smith).

There was extensive discussion of the Committee’s authorization status and scope of authority.

26. Board Member Comments

Ms. Rau encouraged submitting needed receipts.

27. Future Agenda item suggestions from public and Board Members. Write to Executive Board by email at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org or mail Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, 13517 Hubbard St., Sylmar, CA 91342. The next General Board Meeting will be August 28, 2014 at Sylmar High School – Spartan Hall.

28. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Smith).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED with no objection.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:03 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, edited by SNC Board.