

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California



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

Secretary: David Levin

Minutes of the SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SPECIAL BOARD MEETING Thursday, August 28, 2014

Sylmar High School/Spartan Hall, 13050 Borden Avenue, 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 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Peggy Courtney, Kathy Grubert, Ann Job, Carlos Lara, Derek Martin, Patricia Rau, Brenda Resendis, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, Maria Silva, Roy Smith. Since the SNC quorum is 11. A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Absent at the beginning of the Meeting: Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Laurie Fadness, Lucille Floresta, Carlos Gonzalez, Jackie Mata, Jeh Meher, Chardell Powell, Diane Valencia.

Arrived Later: Chardell Powell, Carlos Gozalez, and Jeh Meher.

Twenty of the 21 Board Seats were filled. One At-Large seat was vacant.

Also attending: 39 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Ms. Grubert explained this.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary described some of the work completed and in progress.

5. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

Meeting Host Derek Martin welcomed everyone noting that the school has 2100 students. Mr. Martin asked for a moment of silence for two students from Sylmar High School. Mariana Franco had died recently and another student is critically ill.

6. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Rau): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 24, 2014 General Board Meeting as written.

Chardell Powell arrived in time for this vote.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 members present: 9 in favor (Courtney, Grubert, Job, Lara, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, and Silva); 3 abstained (Martin, Powell, and Smith).

7. Public Official and Community Representative announcements and presentations.

Councilmember Felipe Fuentes said that he had asked Mission Station to contact him directly whenever someone is hit by gun shot. So early on Sunday, August 24th he was called to the LAPD Command Center for the Mission Division after the three shootings. He praised the Police's handling of this horrible event, whereupon those in attendance applauded the police. Further, Mr. Fuentes asked that we hold the victims and their families in our prayers.

Mr. Fuentes noted that the High-Speed Rail presentation is on tonight's agenda, and spoke on the importance of our staying engaged in the process as the study of the High-Speed Rail goes forward. He has submitted comments, without stating a preference since all alternatives have not yet been presented. He also noted the importance of the Health Fair that is also on tonight's agenda. He also spoke of actions being taken to deal with the mural at the Sylmar Park's Pool that is covered with graffiti.

We moved to item 13 at this time:

13. Discussion and possible Board action to appoint a new Board member to the vacant At-Large Seat. President Ann Job appointed Monique Simpson to the seat. Ms. Simpson addressed the board. By roll call vote of the 12 members present the vote was unanimous to approve the appointment: (Courtney, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, and Silva, and Smith). Monique Simpson was sworn in by Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, and she was seated on the board.

We returned to item 7 at this time:

7. (con't) Public Official and Community Representative announcements and presentations.

And finally Concilmember Fuentes told us that Mission and Foothill Divisions partnered on a task force against illegal street racing.

Alonzo Menchaca, LAPD Mission Division Senior Lead, reported on the apprehension of a suspect in the three murders on August 24th.

President Ann Job called for a standing ovation to our LAPD Mission Station officers for "a job well done." Councilman Fuentes added that the City Council put up a \$50,000 reward leading to the arrest or apprehension related to the killing at the Roxford off-ramp.

Amanda Mejia, who has replaced Aura Garcia as our representative from Mayor Garcetti, introduced herself.

Carlos Gonzalez arrived.

8. Board Member community announcements.

Everyone was urged to help with the Sylmar Olive Festival over the Labor Day Weekend. Councilman Fuentes was thanked for providing us with a mister for the Olive Festival. All were urged to 'save the date' of September 20th for The Congress of Neighborhoods. The SNC will be participating in the upcoming Health Fair at Sylmar Park on September 27th. Carlos Gonzalez spoke of the kick-off event at Mission College.

9. Committee Reports

Executive – Ms. Grubert announced that there is an Executive Board Meeting held monthly on the 3rd Wednesday. People wanting to put an item on the agenda are urged to attend.

Outreach – Ms. Silva reported that Committee will be working at the Olive Festival and the Health Fair. They are designing brochures, surveys, etc.

Equestrian – Ms. Blose was absent, so no report.

Bylaws -- Mr. Smith urged anyone interested to attend. It is "open to everyone."

Planning and Land Use – Interim Chair, Ms. Blose was absent, so no report.

Government Affairs & City Services – Mr. Rubalcava is laying the groundwork to launch his committee by contacting city officials.

Ad Hoc Sediment Removal – Ms. Grubert reported that the Committee has been meeting every two weeks, and the Sediment Removal committee will help at the SNC Olive Festival booth.

10. Reports by Liaisons to the City

Budget Representatives – Ms. Rau reported on the Budget Day at City Hall held on August 16, that she and Ms. Silva, our other Budget Representative attended. Ms. Job also went to Budget Day. Ms. Rau announced that the Budget Representatives from Region 1 elected our 3 Budget Advocates: Greg Wilkinson, Krystee Clark and Kevin Davis. Ms. Rau and Ms. Silva will stay in touch with our Budget Advocates and report back to the board.

11. Public Comments

Stakeholder Mack Hunter – noted LAPD Officer Appreciation Day would be held soon, and would need volunteers.

Bob Hertzberg – spoke on his own behalf as candidate for State Senate.

Stan Leandro – spoke on behalf of the Cesar Chavez monument

Bill Hopkins – from the Granada Hills North NC, Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee. The GHNNC is sponsoring a CERT class at Knollwood Country Club for seven weeks. And it is hosting the free Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair on Saturday, September 27th, 10:00-2:00 at Fire Station 87 [10124 Balboa Blvd., just south of Devonshire St., Granada Hills]. Ms. Grubert requested and Mr. Hopkins agreed to send information for the SNC website.

Unfinished Business

12. Appointments of Board members to City Liaison positions.

Department of Public Works Liaison – Ann Job

Public Safety Liaison – Chardell Powell and Carlos Lara

Legal Liaison – Diane Valencia and Ann Job

New Business

14. Discussion and possible Board action to create additional committee(s)

MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava) to create the **Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety Committee**.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by roll call vote of the 14 members present in favor: (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Simpson, and Smith).

MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava) to create the **Education Committee**.

MOTION PASSED by roll call vote of the 14 members present; 13 in favor (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, and Simpson) and 1 abstention (Smith).

There was much discussion among the board members and stakeholders acknowledging the need to create a committee regarding the homeless, senior citizens, the elderly, the underserved.....

MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Silva) to create the **Underserved Stakeholders Committee**. 13 in favor (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, and Simpson) and 1 abstention (Smith).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by roll call vote of the 14 members present; 14 in favor (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Simpson and Smith).

Ms. Job asserted that the three new committees were standing committees.

- 15. Appointment by the President of Chair(s)** for the additional committee(s) created, and possible Board Action to approve any such appointments.

The President asserted that she is not prepared to appoint a chair to the newly approved Education Committee nor to the newly approved the Underserved Stakeholders Committee. However she is prepared to appoint the Chair of the Emergency Preparedness & Safety Committee.

Ms. Job appointed Chardell Powell to be the Chair of the Emergency Preparedness & Safety Committee, and Mr. Powell accepted the appointment.

By roll call vote of the 14 members present, the board voted unanimously in the affirmative (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Simpson and Smith) to approve the appointment of **Chardell Powell as Chair of the Emergency Preparedness & Safety Committee.**

- 16. Discussion and possible Board action** to designate 2-3 Board members to be authorized to register with the City's online system so that SNC may submit Board-approved Community Impact Statements.

MOTION (by Ms. Job): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approved the appointment of Board Members Diane Valencia, Kathy Grubert and Ann Job as authorized SNC Community Impact Statement filers.

MOTION PASSED by a reverse roll call vote of the 14 voters present with 13 in favor (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Simpson); one abstention (Smith).

Recess

Jeh Meher arrived.

Item order changed:

- 19. Presentation and discussion** on the High-Speed Rail Project. The Scoping Meeting has been held, and the Public Comment period ends on August 31, 2014.

Presentation and Q&A by Juan-Carlos Velasquez, who provided board members and stakeholders with packets composed of color hard copies of the slides in his presentation. All were encouraged to provide written comments before August 31st in order to be made a part of the Draft Scoping Report. That report will be given to the board of directors, after which work on the EIR will start. There will be many other opportunities to hear more about and comment on this project as it moves forward.

11 stakeholders made comments: Eugene Hernandez, Les Aisenman, as well as others who came expressly for this item. Alex Reza, a government teacher, who remarked on how important to democracy it is to come to hearings. His concern is that this will adversely affect the improvements being made in Sylmar. Ruben Rodriguez another stakeholder expressed concerns about the sound walls. Mr. Velasquez noted that the noise of the freeways is greater than the high-speed trains. The greatest noise is wind noise created by the speed. The presenter noted that the train "would be in a completely sealed corridor . . . no street crossings . . . no need for whistles . . . bells . . . horns." Stan Leandro expressed concerned about its impact on the Cesar Chavez memorial. John Holmes expressed his concerned about it splitting communities. Stakeholder David Barron is opposed to the 'bullet train.' He asserted that only two of 99 high-speed rail trains in the world are self-supporting. Sherry Lincoln expressed concern about it going through the San Andreas Fault. To which Mr. Velasquez said at that point the train would be at ground level. Rosemary Jenkins urged us to read her article in City Watch. A woman who has been to several scoping meetings also expressed concern about the sound barriers, wanting to know how high they will have to be. There is no answer to that now, prior to the study. Another woman complained that there had not been enough notice during the scoping process. Mr. Velasquez clarified that they are here at the SNC to reach out to stakeholders, but that this is not an official part of the scoping process. The President asked Mr. Velasquez to speak outside to others who might have further questions.

- 17. Discussion and possible Board Action** for the addition of an Outreach Committee line item in the Operations Section of the budget in the amount of \$500 to be funded from the Outreach Section.

Ms. Rau described the Motion.

MOTION (by Mr. Rubalcava, seconded by Mr. Martin) to move \$500 within the Outreach Section to create a \$500 line for the Outreach Committee.

MOTION PASSED by roll call vote of the 15 members present; 13 in favor (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Meher, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva, and Simpson) 1 against (Smith); 1 abstention (Shows).

18. **Discussion and possible Board Action** to approve the draft Neighborhood Council Self-Assessment Form for Fiscal Year 2013-2014, due by September 1, 2014 as part of the Neighborhood Council Budget Package for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

The MOTION to table (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Silva) was approved unanimously by reverse vote by the 15 members present; (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Meher, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Simpson and Smith).

20. **Presentation by the Valley on Track Coalition**, a coalition of community organizations, transportation advocates and elected officials calling for the expansion of the Metro Rail system in the San Fernando Valley.
Presentation and Q&A by Stuart Waldman

The President had told Mr. Waldman of the time issues for this meeting, and Mr. Waldman agreed to delay his presentation until the October meeting.
So this item was postponed to next month's meeting.

21. **Discussion and possible Board action** to approve submitting a letter to Mayor Eric Garcetti, copying Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, supporting Garcetti's call for assistance for newly-arrived unaccompanied minors from Central America.
Presentation and Q&A by Eugene Hernandez

Mr. Hernandez described the Motion and issue. He estimated that 60,000-80,000 minors face dangerous conditions in Central America. Mr. Gonzalez volunteered to draft a letter.

MOTION amended to read: Move to have Carlos Gonzalez draft a letter for the board's consideration in support of Mayor Garcetti's call for assistance for newly-arrived unaccompanied minors from Central America. (Motion made by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Grubert.)

MOTION PASSED by roll call vote of the 15 members present; 10 in favor (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Meher, Powell, Rau, Rubalcava, and Silva); 2 against (Simpson, Smith); 3 abstention (Martin, Resendis, Shows).

22. **Discussion and possible Board action** to approve a resolution to support a statewide and national ban on non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production and send a letter to our State Representatives, Congressional Representative, and U.S. Senators calling for a ban on the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock agriculture.
Presentation and Q&A by Les Aisenman

MOTION to table until the next meeting (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Mr. Powell) was approved unanimously by reverse vote by the 15 members present: (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Meher, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Simpson, and Smith)

- 22A. **Discussion and possible Board action** to approve the allocation an amount not to exceed \$250 to feed volunteers at the 3K/5K Walk and Health Fair outreach event being sponsored by Valley Care Community Consortium on September 27, 2104.

Representatives from the Valley Care Community Consortium had gone to the Outreach Committee to make their request. The Outreach Committee voted to recommend this expenditure to the board.

MOTION to approve the allocation in an amount not to exceed \$250 to feed volunteers at the 3K/5K Walk and Health Fair outreach event being sponsored by the Valley Care Community Consortium on September 27, 2014. (Motion made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Silva.)

MOTION PASSED by reverse roll call of the 15 members present; 13 in favor (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Meher, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva, Simpson); 2 abstention (Shows and Smith).

23. Discussion and possible Board action to approve an amount not to exceed \$225 for fees associated with renting space and electricity for SNC outreach at the Sylmar Olive Festival.

MOTION to approve an amount not to exceed \$225 for fees associated with renting space and electricity for SNC outreach at the Sylmar Olive Festival. (Motion made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava)

MOTION PASSED by roll call of the 15 members present: 8 in favor (Courtney, Grubert, Job, Martin, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, and Silva); 1 against (Smith); 6 abstentions (Gonzalez, Lara, Powell, Resendis, Shows, Simpson).

24. Discussion and possible Board action to approve an amount not to exceed \$125 for fasteners for our banners and for refreshments for volunteers working 3 days the SNC booth for SNC outreach at the Sylmar Olive Festival.

MOTION to approve an amount not to exceed \$125 for fasteners for our banners and for refreshments for volunteers working 3 days the SNC booth for SNC outreach at the Sylmar Olive Festival. (Motion made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Smith)

MOTION PASSED by reverse roll call of the 15 members present: 13 in favor (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Meher, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva and Simpson); 2 against (Shows and Smith)

25. Discussion and possible Board action to approve an amount not to exceed \$250 for 5,000 bi-lingual, black/white, double-sided newsletters to be drawn from the SNC Outreach/Newsletter Expense funds.

MOTION to approve an amount not to exceed \$250 for 5,000 bi-lingual, black/white, double-sided newsletters to be drawn from the SNC Outreach/Newsletter Expense funds. (Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Martin)

MOTION PASSED unanimously by reverse roll call of the 15 members present: (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Meher, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Simpson, and Smith).

26. Discussion and possible Board Action to request an amount not to exceed \$100 for outreach-related expenses of Ad Hoc Sediment Removal Committee.

MOTION to approve an amount not to exceed \$100 for outreach-related expenses of Ad Hoc Sediment Removal Committee. (Motion made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava)

Stakeholder and Ad Hoc Committee member, Mr. Aisenman, expressed outrage that the Sediment Removal issue was relegated to the end of the meeting, and that so little money was being requested. Ms. Grubert commented that there will be other times when the Ad Hoc Committee will request funds for its activities.

MOTION PASSED by reverse roll call of the 15 members present: 13 in favor (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Meher, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva, and Simpson); 2 abstentions (Shows and Smith)

27. Discussion and possible Board action to approve the Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for August, 2014.

MOTION to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for August 2014. (Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Grubert)

MOTION PASSED unanimously by reverse roll call of the 15 members present: (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Meher, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Simpson, and Smith)

28. Treasurer's Report made by Treasurer Patricia Rau.
Ms. Rau reported that the SNC balance is \$36,574.55.

29. Discussion and possible Board action to approve a pilot SNC internship program to take place in collaboration with LA Mission College in September through December of this year. The proposed program will involve 2-4 students or recent graduates of the college and be structured to provide mutual benefits for participating interns, SNC Directors, and the Sylmar community.

Mr. Gonzalez spoke in favor of having interns and introduced Marcello and Melissa two recent graduates of Mission College as candidates to be our two interns. Ms. Grubert spoke of her experience in forming internships and directing interns.

Mr. Smith suggested that the City Attorney be asked about our having an internship program.

AMENDED MOTION to approve (contingent on approval by the City Attorney) a pilot SNC internship program to take place in collaboration with LA Mission College from September through December of this year. The proposed program will involve students or recent graduates of the college and will be structured to provide mutual benefits for participating interns, SNC Directors, and the Sylmar community. (Motion made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Smith)

MOTION PASSED unanimously by reverse roll call of the 15 members present: (Courtney, Gonzalez, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Meher, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Simpson and Smith)

30. Board Member Comments

Mr. Smith said everyone who voted for the Olive Festival should be there to volunteer.
Ms. Job said the next meeting will be the Retreat on September 6, 2014

31. Future Agenda item suggestions from public and Board members.

32. 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 9:43 p.m.

Minutes written by AJ, edited by SNC Board.