

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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, October 23, 2014**

Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall Auditorium, 13050 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

SNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary; Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript or comprehensive record of what was said at a Meeting. Exceptions: Motion(s) (included as stated at the Meeting, or, if not stated, as written on the Agenda); quotes (words that have quotation marks ("")) at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and Agenda wording copied into the Minutes.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Ann Job called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Ms. Job. Fourteen of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Ann Job, Derek Martin, Jackie Mata, Chardell Powell, Patricia Rau, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, Maria Silva, Roy Smith and Diane Valencia. Laurie Fadness and Peggy Courtney arrived later. Four Board Members were absent: Carlos Gonzalez, Carlos Lara, Jeh Meher and Brenda Resendis. 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. Twenty of the 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant: At Large. Also attending: 25 Stakeholders and Guests. Ms. Job announced that At Large Board Member Monique Simpson resigned as of October 20th.

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

4. Secretary's Report -- The Secretary described some of the work completed and in progress, including about emails sent, documents storage, a records request, public services requests and Board Training.

5. Welcome and Announcements by Board Meeting facility Host.

Meeting Host Derek Martin welcomed everyone. "Cash for College" program information is available.

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

6. Approval of Minutes of the September 25, 2014 General Board Meeting.

The following corrections to the September 25, 2014 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested: page three, Item #11: the sentence "The Department of Public Works SNC Liaison position is available" should read "Ms. Job appointed herself as the Department of Public Works SNC Liaison"; and page four, Item #12: "Kim Lemorry" should read "Kim Lemorie."

MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 25, 2014 General Board Meeting as corrected.

DISCUSSION: There was very extensive discussion of whether the phrase “non-Stakeholders” should be included in the Minutes.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Powell, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows and Silva); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fadness and Valencia); one abstained (Smith).

Board Member Peggy Courtney arrived at this time, making 16 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

7. Public Official and Community Representative announcements and presentations.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.*] Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), reported that she met with the City Recreation and Parks Dept.; CD7 is working to “bring more amenities to Sylmar.” She said “the community needs to revamp Sylmar Park” and mentioned possibly installing exercise equipment at the Park and improving the softball fields. Ms. Grubert suggested “a skateboarding park.” Ms. Soto said “we’re trying to make sure the infrastructure in the Park gets fixed . . . we do want to definitely” restore the Susan B. Anthony Building”; they are considering different funding sources. She indicated that it is considered a historical building. They are considering a dog park somewhere else, “possibly Lakeside Park.” Ms. Soto reported that “the City Attorney sent a letter to the muralist” of the Sylmar Park mural that the mural needs to be maintained or by November 4th the Park will take it over.

a. Questions / Comments from the Public

Stakeholder Sherry Lincoln wished the SNC was represented at recent public events. Kim Lemorie described County Supervisor Candidate Bobby Shriver’s experience and interests.

8. Board Member community announcements.

Ms. Job announced that the next SNC Board Meeting will be on the third Thursday in November. Ms. Grubert indicated that details are on the SNC calendar and in emails to Stakeholders.

9. Committee Reports

Executive – Ms. Valencia reported that she is talking with people and is pursuing a possibility of renting office space for the SNC; she is “waiting for the City” to decide. Another option is contingent upon an LAPD Substation also being located in the space. She would like feedback about sound system replacement ideas. Committee Chairs need to send to her lists of their Committee Members.

Budget – Ms. Rau reported that the Committee met but there was no quorum.

Outreach – Ms. Silva reported that on October 9th the LAUSD met at Olive Vista Middle School about “architectural changes and designs.” She is “working on a project with Gridley Elementary School” about parent involvement. The North Valley YMCA Thanksgiving basket program needs donations and volunteers.

Equestrian -- Ms. Blose reported that the Committee Meeting will be re-scheduled.

Bylaws -- Mr. Smith reported that the Committee is “approximately halfway through” revising the SNC Bylaws. They met October 14th and again will meet October 28th.

Planning and Land Use – Ms. Blose deferred to below Items.

Government Affairs & City Services – Mr. Rubalcava reported that he is “getting information on sidewalks . . . the City is proposing the 50-50 plan again,” which he described. He is interested to have a Town Hall meeting and is “planning a community cleanup on the Sylmar-San Fernando border” at the Truman-San Fernando Road triangle. He “will communicate with Councilman Fuentes.”

Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety – Mr. Powell reported that he is working to secure a meeting location and date. He is “responding to any emails about public safety . . . working with Officer Menchaca” and encouraged reporting graffiti to him.

Ad Hoc Sediment Removal – Ms. Grubert reported that the Committee meets first and third Tuesdays. She is working to get speakers and to have a Town Hall meeting in January.

10. Reports by Liaisons to the City

Budget Representatives – Maria Silva and Patricia Rau: Ms. Rau described the October 11th Valley Regional Budget Day meeting.

Department of Public Works Liaison – Ann Job: Ms. Job distributed copies of a Dept. of Public Works newsletter.

Legal Liaison – Diane Valencia and Ann Job: Ms. Valencia described interacting with the City Attorney’s Office; a Public Records Act request was processed.

11. Public Comments

Ms. Lincoln announced that “SOS Survival Products is holding a canned food drive for MEND”; you can get a 15% discount. A Family Health Fair will be held November 22nd, 10:00-2:00 at Branford Recreation Center in Arleta. Randal Curtis of Olive View Medical Center announced a November 5th 6:00-8:00 community meeting there. Ms. Grubert encouraged emailing event information to the SNC for outreach. Kathryn Padilla-Otanez, a Metro consultant (office 323.258.5384; cell 626.818.3324; kpadilla@katherinepadilla.com; www.katherinepadilla.com), announced that “we’re in the process of developing an Environmental Impact Report” about the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor project. There will be meetings November 6, 12 and 13 in the northeast Valley. Monique Simpson explained that she will be leaving the area for work but “will continue to work” in Sylmar while she can.

12. Discussion and possible Board action to approve the recommendations of the Planning & Land Use Committee, regarding:

(1) 13506 Glenoaks Blvd Sylmar, CA 91342 - Market Rate Single Family Homes; and
(2) Roxford Homes 15248-60 Roxford Street, Sylmar CA 91342 - 20 Small Lot Subdivision of Market Rate Single Family Homes. SNC Board Approval is contingent on the seller informing all prospective buyers, prior to purchasing homes, that this is an equestrian community. Interim PLUC Chair, Cheri Blose, will report the committee’s recommendation. Jim Brewer and David Spiegel (developer) present for questions

(1) 13506 Glenoaks Blvd Sylmar, CA 91342 - Market Rate Single Family Homes

Ms. Blose reminded that this was reviewed last month by the Board and was presented more than once to the Committee. She explained that “this falls into a protected area, but it shouldn’t have . . . there isn’t any horse keeping around it.” The project has “a “K” overlay” which allows a smaller setback. The Committee unanimously supported the project “as re-presented.”

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council accepts as presented to its Planning & Land Use Committee the project at 13506 Glenoaks Blvd Sylmar, CA 91342 - Market Rate Single Family Homes.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Blose clarified that “it will be . . . in the CC&Rs” that the project is adjacent to horse keeping properties. Mr. Brewer described the project and said “we have 10-foot building separations . . . every house has a guest parking space . . . four times the Code . . . we’re not asking for any Variances.” Construction hours allowed are Monday-Friday 7:00-3:30 and Saturday 8:00-3:30.

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 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Powell, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith and Valencia); one abstained (Fadness).

(2) Roxford Homes 15248-60 Roxford Street, Sylmar CA 91342 - 20 Small Lot Subdivision of Market Rate Single Family Homes. SNC Board Approval is contingent on the seller informing all prospective buyers, prior to purchasing homes, that this is an equestrian community. Interim PLUC Chair, Cheri Blose, will report the committee’s recommendation. Jim Brewer and David Spiegel (developer) present for questions

Ms. Blose described the RD-4 zoned lot near Glenoaks Blvd. She said “these homes . . . have a back yard . . . this does not touch any equestrian property.” The Committee unanimously supported the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Powell): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council accepts as presented to its Planning & Land Use Committee the Roxford Homes project at 15248-60 Roxford Street, Sylmar CA 91342 - 20 Small Lot Subdivision of Market Rate Single Family Homes.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Blose added that “it’s never been equestrian property” since at least 1981. Mr. Spiegel said the homes would be priced “in the high 4’s to maybe \$500,000” with a \$1,900-\$2,000 monthly payment. He and Mr. Brewer displayed floor plans and elevations. Homes will have “a big back yard” and porches.

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

- 13. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve and/or amend the letter as drafted by Carlos Gonzelez to Mayor Eric Garcetti, copying Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, supporting Garcetti’s call for assistance for newly-arrived unaccompanied minors from Central America.

Ms. Job requested and it was agreed to POSTPONE this Item.

- 14. Discussion and possible Board action** regarding 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 and Douglas Arseneault, Senior Legislative Affairs Manager, Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA)

Mr. Arseneault said the Coalition (www.ValleyOnTrack.org) is focused on getting transportation funding for the Valley including “extension of the Orange Line.” They’d like more Neighborhood Councils to join the coalition to help influence Metro to study more Valley projects. The East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor project is scheduled to be built starting in early 2015; he said “specifically we’re calling for light rail.”

- 15. Discussion and possible Board action** to [see the below Motion].

Stakeholder Les Aisenman listed many organizations supporting an effort to have food suppliers stop buying meat produced on “factory farms.” He described the issue and said “these drugs should only be used to treat infections.”

MOTION (by Ms. Rau, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves 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.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Aisenman clarified that the letter would include the following Resolution:

“THE OVERUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS ON FACTORY FARMS

WHEREAS, eighty percent of the antibiotics sold in the United States are used in livestock production, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that most of those antibiotics are used irresponsibly; and low doses of antibiotics are routinely fed to livestock for growth promotion and disease prevention to compensate for crowded, unsanitary conditions, in a practice known as “nontherapeutic use”; and

WHEREAS, “nontherapeutic use” creates ideal conditions for the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria; and antibiotic resistant bacteria on livestock operations are known to spread to retail meat, farmers and farmworkers, and rural environments; and antibiotic resistant bacteria have been the cause of several food-borne illness outbreaks, including a 2011 outbreak of antibiotic resistant Salmonella in ground turkey that sickened 136 people, hospitalized 37, and killed one and led to the third largest meat recall in the USDA’s records and a 2013 outbreak of antibiotic resistant Salmonella in chicken that sickened 416 people and hospitalized 162;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that at least two million Americans suffer from antibiotic resistant bacterial infections each year and twenty-three thousand Americans die from those infections; and the medical and social costs of antibiotic-resistance infections in just one hospital for one year have been estimated to be between \$13 million and \$18 million; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has limited nontherapeutic uses of two classes of antibiotics, but otherwise largely relied on voluntary guidance to attempt to reduce overuse of antibiotics in livestock production, despite regular acknowledgements that nontherapeutic use and the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria poses a significant public health threat;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the ____day of ____2014, the Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports a statewide and national ban on nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA).

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sylmar Neighborhood Council will send a letter to our City Councilpersons, State Representatives, Congressional Representative and U.S. Senators calling for a ban on the nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock agriculture and for them to co-sponsor the PAMTA/PARA.”

Ms. Valencia reported that the City Attorney guided that “the Resolution as drafted is outside the scope of Neighborhood Councils.” She read an excerpt from the City Attorney’s opinion that Neighborhood Councils “lack authority” to opine on State or Federal legislation. She recommended that the SNC may want to make a recommendation “to the Mayor or City Council.”

MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Rau and Silva); five opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Job, Martin, Shows, Smith and Valencia); five abstained (Blöse, Courtney, Mata, Powell and Rubalcava).

16. Recess

Board Members Laurie Fadness and Chardell Powell left the Meeting and Kathy Bloom left the room at this time, making 13 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

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

Ms. Rau reviewed recent expenses.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Silva): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its monthly expenditure report (MER) for September, 2014.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Blose, Courtney, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith and Valencia).

Board Member Kathy Bloom returned to the room at this time, making 14 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

18. Reimbursements for Board Member to [see the below Motion].

Ms. Rau explained the expense.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves out of pocket expenditures. Diane Valencia – in an amount not to exceed \$40.32.

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

19. Reimbursements for Board Member to [see the below Motion].

Ms. Rau explained the expense.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves out of pocket expenditures. Ann Job – in an amount not to exceed \$167.05.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Valencia); one abstained (Smith).

20. Discussion and possible Board action to amend the August 28, 2014, General Board Meeting item 22A whereby the Board approved “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.” The amendment is for an additional \$15.53 for water provided to the volunteers.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Mr. Martin): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves allocating an additional \$15.53 for water provided to the volunteers at the 3K/5K Walk and Health Fair outreach event being sponsored by Valley Care Community Consortium on September 27.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Job explained that water was to have been provided by another organization but was not.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Valencia); one opposed (Smith).

21. Discussion and possible Board action to amend the August 28, 2014, General Board Meeting item 22A whereby the Board approved “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.” The amendment is for an additional \$5.57 for B&W Sylmar NC brochures put in each of the 75 Subway bags.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves allocating an additional \$5.57 for B&W Sylmar NC brochures put in each of the 75 Subway bags at the 3K/5K Walk and Health Fair outreach event being sponsored by Valley Care Community Consortium on September 27.

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

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

Ms. Rau reviewed expenses.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its monthly expenditure report (MER) for October, 2014.

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

23. Treasurer’s Report.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Grubert): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its Treasurer’s Report for October 2014.

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

24. Report on the Appeal that the Board voted to support at the September 25th SNC Board Meeting regarding the 90 Small Lot units on 12361 and 12835 North San Fernando Rd

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #25.*] Ms. Blose described the issue, which she said “will go before the City Council.” Stakeholder John Holmes noted that the Sylmar population has increased while “infrastructure has remained the same,” for example, there is only one fire Station for the large area that Sylmar has. Ms. Job explained that “the Appeal failed”; the City Planning and Land Use Management Committee will consider it.

25. Appointment by the President of Chairs for committees created
Education Committee
Underserved Stakeholders

Ms. Job requested and Ms. Courtney agreed to serve on the Underserved Stakeholders Committee.

26. Board Member Comments

Mr. Martin requested that financial-related Items be “moved to the front of the Agenda” and for Meetings to end “by 9:15 or so.” Ms. Valencia noted that the open At Large Board Seat will be posted.

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, or PO Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-1023. Due to Thanksgiving, the next General Board meeting will be the 3rd Thursday of the month, Nov. 20, 2014

at Sylmar High School – Spartan Hall. Due to Christmas, the December meeting will also be on the 3rd Thursday.

There were no suggestions.

28. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Rau).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED with no objection.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:41 p.m.

Minutes written by DL