

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Don Neal

VICE-PRESIDENTS: George Ortega  
and Kristin Mills

TREASURER: Richard Perry

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jose Oliva



**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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Minutes of the  
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, June 27, 2013**

at the Sylmar Park Recreation Center, 13109 Borden 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 to this are the Motions and quotes, which are words that have quotation marks (""") at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

President Don Neal 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. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled. Two Board Seats (Community-Based Organizations and Retail) were vacant. Eleven of the 19 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Ricardo Benitez, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Ann Job, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Don Neal, Judi Neal, George Ortega, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Diane Valencia. Cheri Blose, Laurie Fadness and Richard Perry arrived later. Board Members absent: Edward Campos, Brianna King, Kristin Mills and Jose Oliva (all excused) and Rubi Ramirez (unexcused). The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11, so the Board could take such votes. Also attending: 42 Stakeholders and Guests.

**3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper** – Mr. Neal explained this.

**4. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.**

The Meeting Host was unavailable at this time.

**5. Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 28, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with eight in favor.

The following correction to the April 25, 2013 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested: page one, Item #2: Ann Job's absence was excused, not "unexcused."

**MOTION** (by Ms. Lincoln, seconded by Mr. Martin): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 25, 2013 General Board Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote with 11 in favor.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 23, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with nine in favor; two abstained.

**6. Public Officials and Community Representatives announcements and presentations.**

L.A. City District Seven Councilman-Elect Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Felipe.Fuentes@LACity.org; <http://council.lacity.org/Directory/CouncilDistrict7/index.htm>) reported that CD7 will have the same office locations and that staff will include Tanya Soto and Steve Jaramillo. A swearing-in ceremony will be held July 27<sup>th</sup>, probably at L.A. Mission College.

Bill Larsen, L.A. City Deputy Attorney, Nuisance Abatement Division (213.393.5561; 213.978.8100; William.Larsen@LACity.org; [http://www.atty.LACity.org/our\\_office/CriminalDivision/CNAP/index.htm](http://www.atty.LACity.org/our_office/CriminalDivision/CNAP/index.htm)), reported that he is "in charge of group home enforcement for the City of L.A." A boarding house formerly known as "the Maclay House" at Sayre and the 210 Freeway was cited June 7<sup>th</sup> and before.

*Board Member Laurie Fadness arrived at this time.*

Mr. Larsen continued that the same owner was cited for a Panorama City boarding house with 35 people in it.

Dave Gilman, General Manager of Hamer Toyota, representing the Mission Community Police Council, reminded about the July 31<sup>st</sup> Race for Youth fundraiser at the MB2 Raceway.

**7. Board Member community announcements.**

Mr. Shows displayed a plaque the SNC received for supporting the May 18-19 Relay for Life. Mr. Martin announced that the Sylmar, Cesar Chavez and San Fernando High Schools "are now known as the North Valley Zone of Choice." Mr. Neal reminded about the September 21-22 Sylmar Olive Festival at El Cariso Park.

*Presiding Officer President Don Neal temporarily left the Meeting at this time. Vice-President of Administration George Ortega became the Presiding Officer.*

**8. Reports**

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work warning not to open spam e-mails; responding to a Public Records Act request; referring a possible Olive Festival participant; writing a draft letter regarding SNC support of hybrid and online classes at L.A. Mission College; ordering Board Member business cards and providing nameplate and shirt badge ordering information; and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- Mr. Perry had not yet arrived. [See below Item #11.]

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega indicated that there was no report.

Outreach -- Ms. Campbell-Jones and Ms. Valencia indicated that there was no report.

Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services -- Mr. Shows indicated that there was no report.

Equestrian -- Ms. Blose indicated that there was no report.

Bylaws -- Mr. Martin indicated that there was no report.

Education -- Mr. Neal was unavailable at this time and there was no report.

## **9. Public Comments**

Stakeholder Les Aisenman would like the SNC to be more involved in the County's May Sediment Placement Site decisions. Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez suggested that Olive Festival attendees bring food for homeless people.

*Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.*

Michael Long of For Learners of All Ages announced an August 3<sup>rd</sup> cleanup in the Pacoima Dam Flood Control Basin.

## **Old Business**

**10. Introduction and presentation** by North Valley Military Institute, a charter school with a military theme, about their school's curriculum program and student extracurricular activities.

A representative of the North Valley Military Institute College Preparatory Academy presented. For 10 years the school was known "as North Valley Charter Academy . . . this is not a boot camp . . . this isn't a school to get kids into the military . . . the goal is to get kids into four-year colleges and universities," which she indicated 85% of their students do. Their other goals are teaching academic excellence, honorable citizenship and democratic leadership to grades six through twelve. Three cadets displayed photos of Academy activities. She offered that cadets can volunteer for community service projects.

**11. Discussion and vote** to approve SNC 2013-2014 budget of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. Presentation by Richard Perry, SNC Treasurer. Further discussion of revision of SNC By-Laws.  
[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #14.*] Mr. Neal explained that Neighborhood Councils will each have a checking account; until then, the Purchase Card will still be used and DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] will "have much more stringent oversight" over the Budget. DONE is requiring all Board Members to complete Funding Training or they will not be allowed to vote on funding Motions. There was discussion of the proposed Budget; a majority of Board Members were in favor of purchasing a new computer to replace the SNC's five-year-old computer.

*Board Member Richard Perry arrived at this time.*

There was extensive discussion of possible Budget and funding allocations. Mr. Perry reported that he completed the DONE Funding Training. He explained that allocations must be itemized in the Budget and that Neighborhood Purposes Grants will take around three months for DONE to process. The Budget can be adjusted later. He said that lack of Board Member Funding Training “doesn’t affect the quorum.”

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget as attached, with the following revisions: lower the “EVE Outreach Events/Food and Refreshments” line item funding allocation from \$1,600 to \$600; lower the “MEE Meetings” line item funding allocation from \$1,000 to \$500; add a “GRT Neighborhood Purpose Grant: Outreach - Relay for Life” line item funding allocation of \$500; and add a “GRT Neighborhood Purpose Grant: Outreach - Sylmar Parade” line item funding allocation of \$1,000.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote with 14 in favor.

### **New Business**

**12. Discussion and possible vote** for plan approval (LUC recommends approval) for new visitor and education and center on lot next door to the existing Guide Dogs of America facility in a RA-1 zone on a 75, 525 sq. ft. lot at 13479 Glenoaks Blvd. with the proviso to provide as much parking as possible.

Mr. Ortega distributed information about and described the project. It was agreed to delete the phrase “with the proviso to provide as much parking as possible” from the Motion.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Blose): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the plan for a new visitor and education and center on the lot next door to the existing Guide Dogs of America facility in a RA-1 zone on a 75,525 sq. ft. lot at 13479 Glenoaks Blvd.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Smith noted that Guide Dogs of America has been there for 30 years.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote with 13 in favor.

**13. Discussion and possible vote** to approve small lot subdivision of 90 lots, in place of previously approved 247 condos and 5 commercial condos, on 201,713 sq. ft. (4.63 acre) property at 12361 & 12385 San Fernando Road.

Mr. Ortega distributed information about and described the project. He met with the developer. The developer’s representative, Sean Oppenheim, indicated the developer has built homes in the San Fernando Valley “for many, many years . . . [including] 57 homes on Foothill and Pierce . . . in Pacoima.” He described the development process for this project and that “these homes will be about 1,600 square feet . . . [with] four bedrooms.” There will be “six feet between the buildings . . . it is dense.” Ms. Blose urged Mr. Oppenheim to present to the SNC Land Use Committee before presenting to the Board. Mr. Ortega explained that the project was “fast-tracked” by the City; the Land Use Committee found out about the project after the last Committee Meeting and that’s why this Item was Agendized for this

Board Meeting. Mr. Smith clarified that this Item is about a Variance request the developer made to the City to allow the developer to lower the space between the buildings from ten feet to six feet. The development's streets would be 28 feet wide; the City Code requires 20 or more feet for fire engines to turn around. Mr. Neal noted that currently the site is an empty lot; he believed that some development is needed along San Fernando Road. A Stakeholder indicated that neighbors have not been notified about the project.

*Presiding Officer George Ortega returned the Presiding Officer role to President Don Neal, who had returned to the Meeting.*

Mr. Neal reminded Stakeholders to complete a Speaker Card and take turns being recognized by the Chair before they speak. Mr. Benitez would like a different kind of project there. Mr. Ortega indicated that he personally notified residents within a 250-foot radius of the project about the project. Mr. Oppenheim said that many of the units would be rented at first because of the time needed to sell the units. Also, the project would either be 90 two-story single-family homes or 247 condos and five commercial condos in five-story buildings.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Ortega); there were no objections.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Campbell-Jones, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a small lot subdivision of 90 lots, in place of previously approved 247 condos and 5 commercial condos, on 201,713 sq. ft. (4.63 acre) property at 12361 & 12385 San Fernando Road.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with eight in favor; four opposed.

**14. Discussion and possible vote** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Ortega described the project and said the developer did not respond to calls.

**MOTION to TABLE** (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Job): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council TABLES approval of a "Q" clarification of proposed 61-unit apartment on items #3, #5, and #6 for previously approved 45 unit apartments, and 1 commercial condo, in C2-1, RS-1, and (TXQ) RAS3-IVL Zones on 36,750 sq. ft. lot at 12455 & 12457 San Fernando Road.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with eight in favor; four opposed.

**15. Discussion and possible vote** to approve Neighborhood Purpose Grant (for community outreach) to purchase a gas grill for the Sylmar Recreation Center in support of all their programs and events (i.e., Movie Nights in the Park, youth programs, special events, SNC supported events, etc.) in an amount not to exceed \$500.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.*] Mr. Neal declared and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

**16. Discussion and possible vote** [see the below Motion].

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #18.*] Mr. Neal said the banquet would be at the end of July.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will purchase food and paper supplies for the awards banquet for Summer Youth program for El Cariso Park in an amount not to exceed \$300.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Neal clarified that the funding would be allocated from next Fiscal Year's 2013-2014 Budget.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Neal); there were no objections.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 13 in favor; Mr. Smith opposed.

17. **Discussion and possible vote** approve a Neighborhood Purpose grant to purchase two picnic tables for Herrick Elementary sustainable garden/campus beautification project in an amount not to exceed \$400.  
Mr. Neal declared and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.
18. **Discussion and possible vote** to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to purchase to rent venue (MB2 Raceway) for the Race for Youth event.  
Mr. Neal declared and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.
19. **Appointments and/or vote** to name new Board Members. Open seats: Community-Based Organization (CBO) and 3rd Retail Representatives, Committee Chairs, and Sergeant at Arms.  
Mr. Neal reported that some Stakeholders have expressed interest in joining the Board but no filing documents have been received.
20. **Board Member Comments**  
Ms. Campbell-Jones announced that she will receive her Master's degree on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
21. **Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date**  
Mr. Neal announced the next General Board Meeting will be Thursday, July 25th at 6:30 p.m. at a place to be determined. To suggest Agenda Items write to Executive Board at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org, or mail Sylmar Neighborhood Council, c/o Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342.
22. **Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**  
Nina Royal (818-352-3671) invited everyone to the Sunland-Tujunga Fourth of July Parade. Mr. Neal reported that new SNC banners were ordered.

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Smith).

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.