

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
August 10, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Friedmann
Paul Anand
Stacey Rains
Veronica Marin
Josef Lazarovitz
Jason Ackerman
Maria Skelton (late)
John Camera
Quirino de la Cuesta
John Hendry
Jeffrey Lynn
Jacob Lynn
Jerry Martin
Penny Meyer
Kathleen Padden
Jeremy Pessoa
Austin Noll (late)
George Thomas
Marcela Rodriguez

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Howard Benjamin

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The flag salute followed, led by John Camera. **ROLL CALL:** The roll was taken and a quorum achieved with 17 members present at the time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was made by the following individuals: Kathleen Padden, Richard Hopp, Beverly Simpson, John Hendry, Candido Marez, and Jeanette Hopp. Kathleen spoke on the firehouse Oxnard and the lawsuit that's been presented against the proposed firehouse. She further stated that the fire department saved her husband's life. Richard said that the VNNC's current mailing zip code is incorrect and that it should be 91407. Beverly responded to Kathleen saying that she is actually part of the ongoing lawsuit. Beverly voiced her concern over the toxic chemicals that are underground. John Hendry spoke on how he got dropped from his committee and voiced his disappointment on being dropped. Candido endorsed Dr. Wiseman to be the honorary Mayor of Van Nuys. He also spoke out against the proposed fire station. Candido also voiced his frustration over "14 years of dirty streets." Jeanette voiced her unhappiness with speaking to the Planning Committee when she learned that several members are in favor of putting the new fire department on Oxnard. Lastly, a representative from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) introduced the Electric Lawn Mower Exchange Program; a program that enables participants to trade in old, operable gas-powered lawn mowers for high-performance battery-electric lawn mowers. The gentleman also mentioned there being a leaf blowing program, as well.

Representatives of Elected Officials:

-Van Nuys Field Deputy Guillermo Marquez thanked the Council for agreeing to have a table at the Kung Foo Panda screening on August 12th.

-David Gonzalez announced that the graduation percentage has risen to 75%

-Sahad announced that the Sanitation Department is hosting a workshop at Fire Station 89 on August 11th at 6pm. He's also met with the mayor's office and they've agreed to clean up the Bernardi Center to make it ADA compliant.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stacey reported very little spending for the month of July. However, Stacey informed the Council that over \$4,000 had rolled over from June's budget to the Council's budget for July.

6a: The Board took a vote to approve the June 2016 MERs. The item passed unanimously with 19 votes.

6b: The Board took a vote to approve the July 2016 MERs. The item passed with 18 votes in favor and one abstention.

6c: The Board took a vote to adopt an annual budget for the new fiscal year. The item passed with 17 votes in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstention.

9a: Jean Chadwick of the Literacy Club made brief presentation on how her club is reaching out to inner city children and children at-risk. Chadwick's plan is to seed the book deserts by placing fifty (50) more libraries in the SFV. The goal is to help individuals who face challenges around transportation, identification, and library fines. Chadwick also seeks to place libraries inside the Valley Glen Parks, as well. Chadwick intends to offer two (2) years of maintenance support, as well as quarterly checks. She described this plan as an outreach opportunity to support literacy and beautification. The Literacy Club is seeking funding for either a small library (\$1,000) or a large library (\$2,000). Chadwick explained how they would work with the Council on identifying locations that would make sense and create the best level of engagement for the children of the community. The books, she explained, are stocked from board books to 9th grade.

9b: Edgar Schulz of the Andres and Maria Cardenas Elementary School spoke on how their campus doesn't have adequate shade. He addressed a need for three 14X14 giant umbrellas for the purpose of covering the yard. Edgar asked the Council for funding.

9c: The item was tabled. Richard Hopp stated that he sent a copy of the ordinance. George Thomas recommended we reach out to Jeffrey and Kevin from the former neighborhood council to help our current council get its old office back. George Thomas suggested the Council draft a Community Impact Statement (CIS) that goes downtown so as to go through a government relations committee (so long as it's agendaized for the next meeting).

9d: The president stated that he spoke with members from both the PLUM Committee and the LIC Committee and that one member was apprehensive about holding a debate before the Board at a general meeting. Quarino said he is willing to reach out to the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII) to request documentation for the agenda of their next meeting.

9e: The vice president suggested that the Council may have to modify the language of another neighborhood council that already has such procedures in their bylaws. The president asked John Hendry for the motion to be put on the September General Meeting Agenda. Paul Anand offered to investigate further into the issue as part of his role in the Government Relations Committee.

9f: Beverly Wiseman stated that the issue is that their street is small. Moreover, she wanted to see a motion to support the stakeholders to find a resolution to their parking issue. Beverly informed the Council that they have been in consultation with both Nury and Kerkorian's offices. Dr. Wiseman presented a motion to the Council and suggested a forum on the issue. The president asked Dr. Wiseman for the language of the motion for the next meeting's agenda and Dr. Wiseman gave it to him. The vice president noted that the notion presents a problem, but not a solution.

9g: The item was tabled to be voted on at the next month's meeting. In the meantime, Village Family Services (VFS) agreed to fill out the required paperwork and forward it over to the treasurer. The VFS representative agreed to have everything submitted by Friday.

9h: The Council discussed the idea of having the City of Los Angeles install a left turn signal for traffic transitioning from northbound Van Nuys Boulevard to westbound Oxnard Street. Guillermo recommended the Council submit a request through my.la.dot for DOT Review, which he explained, is a 3 month process.

9i: The president suggested the Council hold off on this matter until it comes to election in January.

9j: The Council took a vote to re-authorize a donation of \$3,000 in funding to Community Partners for two field trips to the Santa Monica Mountains. The item passed with 16 votes and 1 abstention.

9k: The Council discussed the idea of sponsoring an event over the Christmas holidays to celebrate the upcoming anniversary of the Country Western Store on Van Nuys Boulevard. Candido clarified that they are not requesting funding for this event, but that the event will be funded by donations.

9l: The Council discussed the idea of having a booth at the Kung Fu Panda showing at the Civic Center on 8/12/16. Several board members committed to attend the event.

9m: The Council took a vote to designate Quirino de la Cuesta as the VNC representative to the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance. The item passed unanimously with 18 votes.

Consent Calendar: Item 10A passed through the consent calendar.

Public Comment: Public comment was made by the following individuals: Donna Pearman, Maria Skelton, and Candido Marez. Donna stated that she wants to make Van Nuys great again and that she wants businesses to move into the space where Quiznos used to be. She further stated that she would like to see the parking issues get resolved. Maria reported that her Outreach meeting was excellent and that she met a couple from Tree People. She also mentioned that she's working with celebrities who want to assist her with some outreach

activities. Candido stated that the Trolley Company thinks Van Nuys would be a prime location for their business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:28pm.

Jeremy Pessoa, Secretary