

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
July 13, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Paul Anand

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The flag salute followed, led by John Camera. **ROLL CALL:** The roll was taken and a quorum achieved with 19 members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was made by the following individuals: Miriam Fogber, Richard Hopp, Howard Benjamin, Jeanette Hopp, and Candido. Miriam commented on how there was a rolling blackout for several hours in Panorama City/Arleta. She also voiced concern over the homelessness around the Civic Center and Golden China Restaurant. Candido shared how he is working with a school to get the Jeopardy Program to bridge between the Police and the children of the community. He wants to know where the Van Nuys program went. Richard Hopp felt it was necessary to clarify that he doesn't do anything for Miriam in any capacity. He also stated that he sent a public records act request to DONE on June 20th. Howard Benjamin stated that he sent a litany of paperwork to the mayor's office in regards to our credit limit. He went on to explain that all 97 councils—with the exception on Van Nuys—have a \$2,500/day spending limit. Howard spent a week on the phone with DONE and learned that their communication with the bank goes through one, singular individual. But, that individual at union Bank refuses to communicate with DONE, according to Mario Hernandez. Armando Ruiz wouldn't return any of Howard's 7 phone calls. Howard explained that we're in a stalemate according to what we've learned from DONE. Anything that exceeds \$500 needs to have DONE approval. It all boils down to a clerical error and no communication with Union Bank. Jeanette Hopp stated that she's a member of a nonprofit organization and has served as a volunteer. she also shared all of her qualifications for the open nonprofit seat on the Board.

Representatives of Elected Officials:

-Angie, from Nazarian's Office announced a Panel Discussion at High Tech LA at 6pm on 7/14 on the subject of self-driving cars and its assumed effect on commuter traffic. She went on to thank Candido and John Camera for providing drinks and snacks for the Art Walk.

-Van Nuys Field Deputy Guillermo Marquez thanked the Council for its support with the Community Cleanup. He also announced that they will be hosting a screening of "Kung Foo Panda" in the park on August 12th.

-Mr. Lacel thanked the Council for posting events on the website. He explained that the Congressman feels that a "mobile office" is needed here in the Congressional District. He also shared that there will be a grant workshop at the Japanese Garden on July 21st.

-Marco Sanchez thanked the Council for its stewardship in the Van Nuys area. Steve Friedmann asked Mr. Sanchez about the empty until nearby.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stacey advised the council that we might have to have another special meeting because her documentation and reports are due 10 days after the General Meeting. She explained that the special meeting would be held to approve MERs and the NPG.

6a: Marcela Rodriguez made brief presentation wherein she expressed her desire to fill the open position for the nonprofit seat on the Council Board. She declared that she intends to tackle the issues of the economy, homelessness, and education. Marcela also made it known that she tutors homeless children. The Council took a vote to elect Marcela Rodriguez to one (1) open nonprofit seat on the Council Board. The item passed unanimously with 18 votes. Soon thereafter, Marcela was formally sworn into the VNNC.

6b: Outreach Chair Maria Skelton gave a brief presentation reviewing the recent activities of the Outreach Committee. Maria proposed to the Board that it do something to give Mom & Pop stores more business so they aren't forced to close down. She also stated that we need to honor the children in our community. Maria went on to honor Christopher S. with a certificate of recognition from Assemblyman Nazarian's Office. Stacey Mendoza was also presented with a certificate from the assemblyman's office.

6c: The Council discussed the feasibility of renting local office space for the VNNC. Howard Benjamin said that there are two office spaces in our building. He would like to see if the office space will be donated to the Council for rented to the Council at a very reasonable rate. Candido stated that he is also exploring options. Quarino says that DONE has to approve any proposed contract for office space.

6d: The Council discussed the feasibility of creating a map of local establishments and eateries to be made available by the LA Superior Court to visitors. John Hendry suggested that the maps could be left in the Library, as well as the Police Station. Jason Ackerman suggested that we solicit some community service time from students of Cal State Northridge to help design the proposed maps. Candido said we should not limit ourselves to the immediate area when creating the map. Jeff Lynn appointed John Hendry to take the lead with everyone showing interest in the map idea.

6e: Anna Huizar introduced herself as the coordinator for CD6 Community Cleanups. She explained that her team both delivers and provides the tools needed for cleanups. Anna asked that we report vandalism with the 311 App. She stated that the office oversees the contractors that remove graffiti. Her team provides rakes, brooms, gloves, trash bags, and garden tools for 10-500 people. Anna clarified that she usually asked for 2 weeks notice.

6f: The Council discussed the possibility of partnering with Public Works and the City Council for Community Cleanups. Quarino stated that he thinks community cleanups are the best way to get the community involved.

6g: The item was tabled.

6h: The Council heard Boaz Miodovsky's proposal to build a 5 unit subdivision on 6500 Columbus—5 single family homes, just under 30,000 square feet. Boaz clarified that there will be no zone change. He stated that the overall sentiment has been positive and neighbors are excited that he is investing into the area. Boaz doesn't anticipate a negative impact on the existing parking situation in the neighborhood. He stated that he would like a support letter from the Council. Jason Ackerman asked Boaz about the landscape and energy efficiency of the units. Boaz said the project will be drought tolerant, but there will be Title 21 compliance throughout the units. The Council took a vote and the item passed unanimously with 17 votes.

6i: Quarino explained that it's a mixed use project and that City Planning didn't give Michael Braun direction for 2 years. However, drawings have been updated with more articulation. Bicycle racks will be provided for the long term; underground parking will also be provided to serve both residents and retail businesses. Braun explained that they won't be evicting anyone, as it is an empty lot and that all of the units will be market-rate. Rezoning, he explained, is being done by another firm and it is in its final stages. They have slid completed a traffic study that's been approved by the City. The City, however, is requiring them to get approval from the VNNC. Quarino said the major problems will center around homelessness and parking issues. Jason Ackerman asked for a minimum of 7 affordable units (11%). Steve Friedmann requested that they attend the next PLUM Committee meeting. Braun explained that the architectural design of the building is intended to look very generic and not to clash with the historic architecture across the street. Quarino motioned that they Braun & Co come back to the next PLUM meeting with something the committee can get behind and support. Daniel Braun serves as the de facto proper manger and he explained that the area has attracted a lot of crime.

6j: Peter Garrell spoke about his client's compliance. He said that Dames N' Games has had a good relationship with the Police and the neighborhood, in general. Peter said that they've has cooperation from the surrounding scrap yards with keeping the streets clean. Steve Friedmann asked Peter what kind of pushback they've been getting from the surrounding neighborhood. Peter said there hasn't been any and that his client wants a letter of support for the renewal of their CUB. The Council took the matter to vote and the item passed by 13 votes, with 2 opposed and 1 abstention.

6k/l: The Council discussed a motion to implement a consent calendar comprised of items that pass unanimously through committees. Jason Ackerman clarified that the consent calendar is for noncontroversial items. He gave examples of items that would and would not go on a consent calendar. Steve Friedmann asked for clarification on the rules that apply to the consent calendar and Jason responded in fashion. If a commit member has an objection to an item,

Jason explained, it can be pulled from the consent calendar. Candido stated that he hopes the Council approves the item. Jeff Lynn said that he likes that the calendar will speed things up, but he's afraid that it might be subject to abuse. Jason said his personal preference is to put the calendar at the end of the agenda. The Council took the matter to vote and the item passed by 13 votes, with 3 opposed.

Consent Calendar: Item A was pulled from the consent calendar, with items B-F remaining. The Council took a vote to approve items B-F and the items passed unanimously with 16 votes.

Community Impact Statements: The Council took a vote to approve item A and the item passed unanimously with 16 votes.

Public Comment: Public comment was made by the following individuals: Daniel Hernandez, Howard Benjamin, and Donna Pearman. Daniel introduced himself as the new replacement and explained that he is here to outreach with us and serve the community. Howard reported that the check was approved for the Van Nuys video that Mr. Franco will be creating for the Council. Lastly, Donna stated that she was not please with the Council's support of Dames N' Games.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:36pm.

Jeremy Pessoa, Secretary