

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
June 15, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Friedmann
Howard Benjamin
Stacey Rains
Veronica Marin
Josef Lazarovitz
Jason Ackerman
Quirino de la Cuesta
John Hendry
Jeffrey Lynn
Jacob Lynn
Jerry Martin
Penny Meyer
Jeremy Pessoa

ABSENT MEMBERS:

George Thomas
Maria Skelton
Paul Anand
Austin Noll
Kathleen Padden
John Camera

The meeting was called to order at the top of the hour. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The flag salute followed, led by Jason Ackerman. **ROLL CALL:** The roll was taken and a quorum achieved with 13 members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was made by Richard Hopp and Candido. Richard spoke on how appreciative he is of the links that are being posted on the VNNC website. He also spoke on the inefficient nature of DONE and advised that the Board always get things in writing from DONE. Candido spoke in praise of Stacey Rains and how she is doing an amazing job as Treasurer. He also said he wants the Board to support the Police Department, but not at the expense/neglect of the greater needs of the community.

5a: The motion on Item A was for the Council to re-examine and re-vote on the CA Safe Schools NPG application (from June's General Meeting). The motion moved to a vote and the item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

5b: The Council then proceeded to vote on approving a donation—not to exceed \$3,200—to CA Safe Schools so the organization can take students of Van Nuys Title 1 Schools on field trips to national parks. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was made by Howard Benjamin and Candido. Howard shared how neither DONE nor Union Bank have agreed to assist in the egregious mistake of not increasing the Council's daily spending limit of \$500. He went on to suggest that the Council send a strongly worded letter on how it is being treated by both DONE and Union Bank. Candido suggested that the Council send letters to both the Mayor and Nury Martinez's Office. Howard expressed his frustration with DONE's unwillingness to cooperate with the Council. He also voiced his concern that the Council be accused of serial purchasing if it were to spend below the current limit day-after-day.

6a: The Council took a vote to move the remaining balance of \$3,236 from the Elections category to the adopted NPG category. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

6b: The Council took a vote to move the cash request funds of \$2,135.85 from Outreach into the NPG's adopted budget category. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

6c: The Council took a vote to move \$1,500 from Operations into NPG and \$627.15 from Outreach into NPG. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

6d: The Council took a vote to approve the purchase of an all-in-one printer/scanner/fax machine, not to exceed \$400. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

6e: The Council took a vote to approve the purchase of 300 VNNC logo-ed flash drives to be used for both operational and outreach purposes. The purchase would not exceed \$1,000. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

6f: The Council took a vote to approve the purchase of protective laptop bags, not to exceed \$150. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

6g: The Council took a vote to approve the purchase of two (2) external hard drives to store essential VNNC data, not to exceed \$300. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

6h: The Council took a vote to approve the purchase of a B&W laser printer to be used for official VNNC business, not to exceed \$300. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

6i: The Council took a vote to approve the purchase of various office supplies to be used for official VNNC business, not to exceed \$200. The item passed unanimously with 13 votes.

6j: The Council issued a call for any and all interested board members to volunteer to join the Budget & Finance Committee. Veronica Marin, Stacey Rains, and Howard Benjamin agreed to join the Budget & Finance Committee.

6k: The Council took a vote to approve the Annual Budget for 2016-2017. The item passed with 12 votes and one abstention.

Public Comment: Public comment was made by Candido, who said that the Council has to decide if it's going to run as a unified unit. He also stated that he will be returning to Van Nuys.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05pm.

Jeremy Pessoa, Secretary

