

**VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Thomas
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary
Stacey Rains, Treasurer
Jason Ackerman
John Camera
Quirino de la Cuesta
Steve Friedmann
John Hendry (late)
Josef Lazarovitz
Jeffrey Lynn
Jerry Martin
Kambiz Merabi
Penny Meyer
Austin Noll
Kathleen Padden
Charles Robbins

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Paul Anand
Howard Benjamin, excused
Marilyn Havard

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. The flag salute followed. **ROLL CALL:** The secretary took the Roll and determined that sixteen members were present constituting a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NEW ECONOMICS FOR WOMEN came to speak to us. They have been in operation since 2009 and serve low income persons. They perform legal referrals, etc. They are located between Sherman Way and Vanowen in Van Nuys. They are interested in any funding we may be able to provide them. They are a non-profit operation. They are a family resource center. Their address is 6931 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys 91406.

Ann Porter came to speak to us about **MOVE TO AMEND**, a grassroots movement to reform government. Their Northeast Los Angeles Chapter is presenting "**A question of Personhood,**" on **YouTube**. They are all about freedom of speech, which is already protected under the Constitution. The L.A. City Council has passed a motion to support making a change to the wording of the U.S. Constitution.

X-MAS DONATIONS: Candido wanted to report back concerning the donations collected for the needy in Sun Valley, North Hollywood, etc. Jason Ackerman brought in the most toys. The committee wondered where and to whom the toys were distributed.

Donna spoke about using the Video Conferencing again at the Van Nuys Civic Center. Also, many people would like to have their streets fixed or their sidewalks be repaired.

They will be sponsoring a stakeholder breakfast to introduce the public to their organization that provides help in applying for citizenship and immigration legal services. They are located at 16501 Sherman Way, #245, Van Nuys 91406. Their telephone number is (818) 616-6019. They have been in the valley in Van Nuys since March of last year; and represent Central American immigrants. They will have a brainstorming session following the breakfast at noon. They focus on citizenship and what other resources they may have for other needs.

Van Nuys Library: Kevin came to advise us that the library will provide free classes for tax preparation from February 1st through April 15th on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The law library comes in the 3rd Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The Mid-Valley is from 9:00 a.m. until noon and 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. for citizenship classes, all of which are free.

REPRESENTATIVES' OFFICES: Jacqueline representing Tony Cardenas' office came to let us know she is our point person. He is providing an Affordable Care Act workshop on Friday, January 29th from 2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at San Fernando Middle School, 130 N. Brand Boulevard, San Fernando. Small businesses will be fined for every person who is not enrolled in health care. A small business could be as few as 4 persons. The congressman will be attending the CPAP meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. Her office has received calls from persons interested in the old post office. The post office is both federal and private.

NURY'S OFFICE: Guillermo thanked us for having him. He says 2016 will be a great new year. He looks forward to working with us. Nury is sponsoring a Human Trafficking Toiletry drive. Her office will be accepting donations at her Van Nuys office, Los Angeles City Hall office, Journey Out located at 7136 Haskell Avenue, #125, Van Nuys 91406 and at her Sun Valley Office from January 12th through February 12th. The Human trafficking Task Force began in November of 2015. They have a tip line. You may report anything you may notice in your neighborhood regarding prostitution.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER NAZARIAN'S OFFICE: Angie from his office came to offer veterans a free ticket to observe a golf tournament. He will have a Job and Career fair. She asked us to pay for the food to be provided to the 80 employers at the job fair. According to George, even though this request was not discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and properly placed on our agenda for a vote, that we could provide the funds through Outreach. The date is January 22nd. The amount was NTE \$ 500.00. It was suggested we could use this event as an Outreach event for our election. We would have to set-up a booth.

They are going to provide some new trash bins. They are trying to start more Neighborhood Watch groups in Van Nuys.

COUNCILMEMBER KREKORIAN'S OFFICE: Sahag Yedalian, Field Deputy for the councilmember came to introduce himself.

SENATOR HERTZBERG'S OFFICE: Marco Santana, district representative for Senator Hertzberg came to introduce himself. He advised us that all of the bills the senator had sponsored were signed by the governor. The water from the run-off was dumped off into the ocean. They are recycling this water now. He advised from 1996 through 2002 Mr. Hertzberg was speaker of the assembly. He held a hearing to find out why millions of taxpayer dollars donated were not being given to the party that the taxpayer had designated. It was as much as \$ 10 million in some cases.

They delivered 100 turkeys to the Church on the Way for needy families on Thanksgiving. He visited all but one Neighborhood Council. He held an event concerning the best method of transportation in the valley. They will host another event at CSUN on January 22nd.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER MONICA GARCIA'S OFFICE: David Gonzalez came to introduce himself. The new superintendent is Ms. Michelle King. There was some discussion about union dues being considered by the legislature.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jeanette advised the minutes were e-mailed to Info at vnnc.org. but were not in pdf format. She will correct that ASAP. Since some individuals cannot access their on-line account, she brought hard copies and they were disseminated. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by George, seconded by Josef and carried. The vote was unanimous.

BUDGET ADVOCATE'S REPORT: Jeanette advised that the White Paper was placed on-line on the budget advocates website for everyone's review, along with a separate list of recommendations concerning the budget. The manner in which we may weigh in on this process is to fill out the survey forwarded to each neighborhood council district and available online. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the survey. It asks your priorities in improving your neighborhood; such as sidewalks, streets, transportation, infrastructure, etc.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

OPERATIONS	4,508.97	308.61	4,208.26
OUTREACH	15,841.85	162.25	15,679.60
COMM. IMPROVEMENT	10,000.00	-0-	10,000.00
NPG	5,501.00	-0--	
ELECTIONS	4,000.00	-0-	4,000.00

The Treasurer's report was adopted with a motion made by George, seconded by Mr. Robbins and carried with a unanimous vote.

OUTREACH: Maria stated there will be things coming up in March.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Lynn stated he had nothing to report and that he had not received any e-mails concerning the upcoming elections and/or meetings he was supposed to attend.

NEW BUSINESS: The VNNC to address the need for Los Angeles to have a permanent professional football team, with the possibility of our city receiving an expansion team from the NFL. The VNNC to possibly explore building a stadium in the Valley to be the official home of the next expansion team coming to Los Angeles. The VNNC is to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) supporting the idea of a new expansion team, to be owned by the people of Los Angeles. The VNNC to contact the NFL and to bring American Football to the good people of Britain. Lastly, the VNNC to also ask for a California

League (AAA) Baseball team in the San Fernando Valley. The baseball team to play in the flood control district in the Sepulveda Basin.

Candido stated he is against us supporting a football team. Following discussion a vote was called to adopt baseball in the Sepulveda Basin. The motion was made by George, seconded by Mr. Robbins. Jason said as long as no agriculture is being displaced he is in favor. The vote was 11 in favor, 1 against, 4 abstentions and two absent. The motion passed.

8b BECAUSE I LOVE YOU: Dennis Poncher, Founder of the aforementioned group came to speak to us about his organization. He stated he began in 1982, when his then 15 year old daughter told him she was pregnant. His 13 year old son was arrested for selling marijuana on his campus. His family would not help, neither did anyone else. He began Because I Love You. He has been continuing his help for the past 34 years. He says 50-100 parents attend each and every group meeting he holds. The meetings are free-of-charge. Clients are referred by the court. He says 75% of the people attending the group are dealing with drug abuse. He advised in his studies he discovered 130-150 kids die every day from a drug overdose. Heroin is the drug being used the most, as it is the easiest and cheapest to obtain. Many kids know how to get it delivered to their door within 15 minutes. His group held a Heroin Symposium. They have no paid employees. Everyone is volunteer. He was asked if he is in favor of legalization of marijuana. He said, "No I am not in favor of legalization." Their meetings have been held for twenty-five years at Granada Hills Charter High School. The meetings are on Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. They do have classes in Spanish.

8c The VNNC to allocate \$ 4,000 for election Outreach. The VNNC to design and print a flyer/mailer inviting residents and stakeholders to participate in our April election. The VNNC to include our Constituent Services Guide outlining the services with which we may assist and/or provide the people of Van Nuys. The funds to be spent for flyers, food, outreach and other election expenses. Finally, NTE \$ 4,000.00. There was a point meeting on Saturday with the other nine councils in the valley. They are going to have a full page ad on the back page of the Daily News. (I stated when I was Election Chair, I attended the meetings and our council got in on that deal for a very reasonable \$ 600.00 fee.) There was a training meeting last evening with Nextdoor and Nation builder. It was recommended that we use our congressmen, at their town halls where announcements could be made, and the radio for free public service announcements. A motion was made by George, seconded by Josef and carried with a vote of 14 in favor, 2 absent, 2 out of the room to spend the previously specified \$ 4,000.00. The motion **carried**.

8d The VNNC to support a CIS in support of the constitution and the freedom of religion clause in the U. S. Constitution. We are not supposed to get involved in such issues. Our objective is to support or respond to issues being discussed by the Los Angeles City Council. A motion was made by George, seconded by Jason to state we support the U.S. Constitution as it is written. The motion was unanimous.

8e The VNNC to amend the bylaws to allow two or three alternates for the committee structure. A motion was made by George, seconded by Kathleen to refer this amendment back to the Bylaws Committee. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

8f The VNNC to fund through Outreach a Connect the Dots event on February 20th and to purchase 50 bicycle helmets to be handed out at the event. The helmets will have our logo on them with a sticker.

The expenditure NTE \$ 500.00. George made a motion to increase the amount to NTE \$ 750.00, seconded by Josef. The motion was passed unanimously.

8g The VNNC to entertain a motion to invite former Los Angeles Times writer Kevin Rodrick for the 105th birthday celebration of Van Nuys, CA. Candido said our parties are boring and he would like to provide stuff for the party. We also need to make certain we have whatever is needed for the celebration.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

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