

**VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Thomas, President
Howard Benjamin, Vice President
Stacey Rains, Treasurer
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary
Jason Ackerman
Paul Anand
John Camera
Quirino de la Cuesta
Steve Friedmann
John Hendry
Josef Lazarovitz, Parliamentarian
Jeffrey Lynn, Sergeant-at-Arms
Jerry Martin
Kambiz Merabi
Penny Meyer
Kathleen Padden
Charles Robbins
Maria Skelton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Austin Noll
Marilyn Havard

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. The flag salute followed led by Mr. Camera. **ROLL CALL:** The secretary called the roll and a quorum was achieved with 18 members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Off –the-Wall addressed us to speak about not getting the Great Streets grant, but said they would be painting murals on the eleven electrical boxes across the valley. They will be using themes for Hollywood actors or films, movies in the valley and vintage cars from the production in the valley at the former General Motors plant. The cost is \$ 5,000 to \$ 8,000 per box depending upon donations. They want a sketch from us by February 29th given to Nury and any funding we desire.

William Castillo, Financial Advisor with Revolutions Financial Advisement came to let us know his company provides free workshops and help with tax preparation, financial planning, retirement planning for low income families and anyone needing help.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The secretary passed out hard copies of the minutes from our last meeting for anyone who does not have computer access. A motion was made by George, seconded by Mr. Robbins to approve the minutes. Motion carried with 18 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A motion was made by George, seconded by Howard to adopt her report. The motion passed with a vote of 17 ayes, 1 abstention and 0 nays.

OUTREACH: Maria is working with Adrin's office. She said some young men are hustling because they made mistakes in the past. She will have attorneys in the room and have whatever things on their record that may be expunged so they can find a job. She said we need just one good idea. Howard

made a good suggestion. We could get Welcome to Van Nuys signs and make them graffiti proof with the materials with which they are made and the coating utilized.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: We have six candidates who have registered and several new candidates. Almost everyone running is running unopposed, except the secretary, who has four or five candidates running against her. Mr. Lynn did not divulge that information until he was asked by the secretary.

BUDGET ADVOCATE'S REPORT: Jeanette stated they have been making the rounds of all department heads to determine their budgetary requests. The advocates had met with them months ago for preliminary reports and now are obtaining final reports. A draft White paper was listed on line, along with a list of recommendations.

The Police Department, Officer Michelle and Officer Frank Arguella came to tell us about the Baker to Vegas race. It is a 100 mile relay race with 270 teams from every law enforcement agency; including local police departments, FBI, CIA, ATF, etc. The cost for a team is \$ 6,500.00. They have paid out-of-pocket and with some donations for all but \$ 2,500.00. The money is for food, gas, water, t-shirts and reflective vests. They have not submitted a funding packet. It will be given to Stacey. The race is March 19th and 20th.

Nury's Office: Guillermo said the councilwoman has spoken about many ways to combat the problem, and he is unaware of her position on CCTV. The Public Safety Deputy, Alexis Marin is working on this issue. Jennifer spoke about the issue. How many cameras are to be purchased? There is no outline. Mr. Robbins said Journey Out is working on the issue of prostitution and sex trafficking. The motion was tabled in view of the fact that we need considerably more information. We need locations, how many cameras, cost, maintenance, etc. Guillermo also reiterated the toiletry drive that Nury has begun from January 12th through February 12th.

8a: The VNNC to fund Closed Circuit TV Cameras for the Sepulveda corridor. The CCTV is to be watched and monitored by LAPD-trained volunteers to alleviate the on-going sex trafficking that is so prevalent in the San Fernando Valley. The CCTV video recordings are to be used in conjunction with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies. NTE \$ 20,000. There is no set time for maintenance, who will actually view the videos, etc. We heard from a Sherman Oaks board member who advised they spent the funds and no one maintained the cameras. They were broken immediately and never repaired or used. No action taken on this item.

8b: The VNNC to apply for and become an All American city. The VNNC is hoping to become an All American city, as designated by the National Civic League. The VNNC is to formally go through the process and apply for the title and status. A motion was made by John Camera, seconded by Jason and carried with a vote of 17 ayes, 1 abstention and 0 nays.

8c: The VNNC to vote on the formation of a Legislative Advisory Committee to provide and forward findings, not conclusions, to the VNNC board members within its interest on legislation and legislative intent. There is a sunset clause of June 30, 2016, unless renewed, and Brown Act mandated. The committee would be chaired by Mr. Richard Hopp. The motion was made by George and seconded by Howard. This motion carried unanimously.

8d: The VNNC to reimburse Jeanette Hopp, Secretary for out-of-pocket expenditures including food for our meeting, copies of forms and receipts, forms for funding issues and public comment. NTE \$ 100.00. The motion was made by George, seconded by Mr. Robbins and carried unanimously with 17 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 nays and 1 recusal.

8e: The VNNC to vote to make Jeanette Hopp the 2nd Signatory. The motion was made by George, seconded by Howard and carried unanimously with a vote of 18 ayes, 0 abstentions and 0 nays.

8f: The VNNC to purchase 50 bicycle helmets and NC logo stickers as Outreach for Connect-the-Dots event on February 20th. The cost for the stickers is \$ 118.00 for 500, and the check must be sent out immediately, as it is an out-of-state vendor. Time is of the essence due to the fact that we have to re-vote because of the increase in amount, leaving little time prior to the event. The helmets to be handed out at the event and for bike safety class and tour, NTE \$ 1,000.00. The motion was made by Mr. Robbins, seconded by Paul Anand and carried with a unanimous vote of 18 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

8g: Connect the Dots spoke to us about workshops this weekend and on 2/20/16. They will be setting up from 9:00 to noon. They will have partial block closures between Sylvan and Erwin, in order to have design workshops. They placed trust in DOT and a consultant about the traffic plan. They have support from Metro and the council members. There will be media coverage. They have been focusing on Outreach, going to schools. Their media outreach has been weak. Contact KNX 1070, and KTLA, CBS and so forth. Have you created a Press release? She said Metro is finalizing the press release.

8h: We were asked to vote on a letter of support for an extension of the Conditional Use Permit for alcohol for the CVS at 5601 N. Van Nuys Boulevard at Burbank Boulevard. They have restricted hours of operation for the sales of alcohol. The hours of sale are restricted to 7:00 a.m. until 11 p.m. It was approved with 0 conditions by Quirino's committee.

8i: The VNNC is to address and appoint the council to the Sustainability Alliance. The VNNC appointed Jason, Steve and Paul as Co-Chairs. This is a standing committee.

8j: The VNNC to vote on allocating \$ 5,000 for Welcome to Van Nuys signs. They will be approximately 30x30 steel enamel coated. It will say "The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council and all stakeholders welcome you to Van Nuys. We need permission to attach them to light poles. The motion was made by George and seconded by Howard. The motion passed with a vote of 12 ayes, 1 nay and 2 abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Angie spoke to us on behalf of her boss and advised if there is any way they may help us to let her know. She works with Assemblyman Nazarian. The Department of Insurance has a new program to provide insurance for low income persons to be able to obtain insurance.

VANC: Glenn Bailey advised us that we need to submit information to VANC and Empower LA concerning what we have done this past year to be nominated for an award for our achievement. We need to advise them about our summits, debates, Distinguished Speaker series, and any other issue that indicates how hard the majority of us worked to improve the quality of life in the City of Van Nuys. We need to mention the headway we have done with homelessness, sex trafficking, etc. Quirino is to supply me with a list of items so that I may submit our entry.

Yahag brought a log that lists who to call when you have a problem. The Community Emergency Response Team is holding classes. Please sign-up. Free trees are being given out in District 2.

John Hendry spoke to us about the fact that 105 years ago people in Van Nuys were busy trying to sell lots on this corner. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary