

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING

April 12, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey Lynn
Jason Ackerman
Stacey Rains (8:23pm)
Howard Benjamin
John Camera
Quirino de la Cuesta
Steve Friedmann
John Hendry
Veronica Marin
Jerry Martin
Penny Meyer
Austin Noll
Maria Skelton
George C. Thomas
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Josef Lazarovitz (exc)
Kathleen Padden (exc)
Marcela Rodriguez (ill)

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Lynn, at 7:05 p.m. **ROLL CALL:** The secretary took the roll. We have a quorum with fourteen members present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge was recited.

Item #2 Treasurer's report tabled, as she is not here.

Item #3 Reports from Public Officials, Budget Advocate: An Immigration Workshop is scheduled to be held in this room on April 20th at 6:00 p.m. There is a clean-up scheduled two Saturdays from now. I mentioned the island on Saticoy with 4 ft. tall weeds and the elderly residents are unable to do the work. The city is supposed to handle this and Sahag will let them know. A flier will be available soon. Veronica mentioned the students at Champs Charter School nearby need credit for helping in such events for graduation.

Angie from Assembly member Nazarian's office spoke. They will be doing their Artwork at the State Office Building from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the 4/20.

Officer Erica Kirk, SLO (senior lead officer) for part of Van Nuys advised we are up in GTA's (grand theft auto), but are down in property crimes and violent crime is down. There will be an Easter egg hunt for the kids and goodies in the courtyard on Saturday between noon and 2:00 p.m. There will be a street fair sponsored by the Van Nuys Police Department on April 21st, April 22nd and April 23rd. Tickets will cost \$ 20.00 for ten tickets. The event is being used to augment the station funds.

Budget Advocate's report: I advised the white paper was presented to the mayor at a special meeting and there is information to be found on-line at ncbala.org. We will be attending the Budget and Finance

Committee meetings to make our presentations and recommendations. We have CIS #17-0600 on which 12 NC's have remarked and supported our recommendations through this council file. You will remember George our past president introduced us to council files and we weighed in on a considerable number of them. I am asking that we do so on this file. The last date we may submit any funds to the Budget Advocates is June 1st. Although our funds are frozen, Seme said some things may be approved. There was considerable discussion on the marijuana framework the city needs with regard to finances. The city must address safety issues. The city needs to keep funds in a secure account to cover fiscal compliance and enforcement costs and should not divert funds for other expenses. There was discussion on the DWP settlement on the transfer tax.

Item #4 Workplace Violence/Harassment/Bullying training from the city attorney's office was postponed until next month.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No training material has been provided to the committee prior to the meeting. The board has not been advised why the council was placed in EE, other than that there were complaints. The board was not advised who complained or why, per Richard.

Item #6 report from Outreach Chair. Maria presented a Certificate to Jeff Smith from the Animal Shelter in Van Nuys for his exemplary work.

Item #6b was tabled until Glenn Bailey arrives. It was an update on the Homelessness issue.

Item #5 Ms. Park wants to officially appoint a secretary. I have been appointed, as the official secretary until we have the next election. Jason moved, seconded by Jeffrey Lynn that the minutes of March 8th be approved with any appropriate corrections. The vote was unanimous with 14 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Item #7 Abby spoke about movie night in partnership with Nury's office and the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition in Van Nuys during the month of August. We need to know how much it will cost. Seme will be meeting with Veronica concerning this issue.

Ms. Park stated we need to take inventory. She was advised an inventory was taken last August and Quirino has the list of equipment and items in our storage locker. It was stated we need to find office space. It could be used as a community meeting facility if large enough and for committee meetings, as well. There was some mention of the store fronts down the street that have been empty for years and are owned by the city and are overseen by GSA. George and Howard have been working on this issue for more than three years. We had met with opposition due to former rules set by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. They waffle between permitting donated items and not permitting same. Other NC's have free office space through their councilmember or other sources. If anyone has an idea email Jason, Jeff or Quirino and copy Seme.

Item #8 Sahag mentioned that Councilman Krekorian's office would take care of the costs for permits for a block party and movie night again like last year. It would be free to the neighborhood. There will be a petting zoo, jumpers, food, and many booths. He is asking for \$ 2,000 from us for the food, etc. It was recommended that this item be referred to Veronica for review by the Budget and Finance Committee with Ms. Park. It would be an NPG. We cannot vote on the funding, however, we can vote on the concept. The vote was unanimous with 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions. (Stacey arrived at 8:23).

Item #2 Treasurer's report: The February MER was passed around for our review. It was moved by Jason, seconded by Jerry that we approve the MER. The vote was unanimous with 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Browning discovered a patient released too early from Valley Presbyterian hospital walking down the street stark naked. The police arrived immediately

Concerning sanctuary cities and repeated erroneous comments by Mr. Marez stating a board member made disparaging remarks more than a year ago. The individual being targeted not only did not make said remarks, but was not a board member at the time the person who did make them. The city attorney investigated and sent an email that was read by the chair. As Ms. Park is unaware, perhaps that email should be re-read. The Constitution does guarantee freedom of speech, but it does not say an individual's civil rights can be violated and that harassment is legal. The constant repetition of erroneous statements is harassment and slanderous. This should not be permitted by Ms. Park.

A blurb was made by a representative of the LAUSD. He offered schools for our meetings at a fee.

Jason spoke about a retreat where we could talk about our bylaws and make whatever changes might be necessary.

Another Civic University training is being held on April 17th at 6:00 p.m. The first session will be held at Eaton Hall. The second session will be held on April 22nd at 9:00 a.m. and will be a site visit. The third session will be held on May 1st at 6:00 p.m. for a Welcome Home project. This will be about HHH.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned ta 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

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