

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
August 9, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey Lynn
Jason Ackerman
Veronica Marin
Jeanette Hopp
Michael Browning
John Camera
Quirino de la Cuesta
Steve Friedmann
John Hendry
Richard Hopp
Josef Lazarovitz
Marlin Medrano
Jerry Martin
Penny Meyer
Kathleen Padden
Marcela Rodriguez
Maria Skelton
George Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Howard Benjamin
Austin Noll
Stacey Rains

The meeting was called to order by our president at 7:10 pm. The president read the disclaimer. **1) FLAG SALUTE:** The Pledge of Allegiance followed. **ROLL CALL:** Our secretary took the roll and determined eighteen members were present constituting a quorum.

2) REPORTS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS: Ovanes spoke about Movie Night and advised they will be showing Star Wars: The Force Awakens on August 25th from 7pm until 9pm. They will also be providing arts and crafts and food. They will be sponsoring an Arts Festival in the government center on September 29th from 6pm until 9pm. There will be food and lots of different things to see.

BUDGET ADVOCATE'S REPORT: Michael Menjivar repeated his previous report explaining the duties of the advocates. He advised committee assignments had been completed and stated the advocates will be meeting with department heads to obtain information for the construction of the White Paper. He was asked about video-conferencing. He was unaware of this topic and the old city hall location.

DELANO RECREATION CENTER: Daniel Hernandez spoke about day camp for kids during the summer. They have free boot camp on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and adult exercise classes on Wednesdays and Fridays. Their Zuma class is from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

LITERACY PROGRAM: Ms. Siefert represents the literacy program. They offer free programs for adults who want to improve their reading skills, writing and communication skills. They have classes on Mondays from 5 until 6:30 p.m. at the Van Nuys Public Library. She works with several of the libraries in the public library system in the valley.

LAPD: John Bailey, SLO within the Van Nuys Police Department came to advise us of some continuing crime in our neighborhood. He advised several board members have had -parcel theft. It is better to pick up the package or there is a lock box for them or have the delivery agent hide the package in a designated hidden place. There have been a number of thefts from vehicles, particularly on Varna near Vanowen. His area is from Victory to Sherman Way, Van Nuys Boulevard to Tujunga. His e-mail address is 33445@lapd.online. His cell number is (818) 731-2566. There were a number of questions and persons were told to call 911 regarding street racing. Also, to report any vehicular accidents.

3) PUBLIC COMMENT: Candido spoke about John Camera and that he believes John isn't receiving recognition for work he has done. Miriam spoke about parking problems. Richard Hopp spoke about an incident on July 12th when he and Veronica went downtown for training. George Thomas spoke to a member of the Olympics Committee about reinstating cricket as an Olympic event. There is a large field in Van Nuys where this venue could be held.

RETREAT: George spoke to the manager of the Hampton Inn, and was advised for a mere \$ 300 we could book a conference room for the entire day. It is equipped with a screen and plenty of tables and chairs to accommodate any group. He took pictures and will email them to board members. The Special meeting on the 12th was to discuss postponing the Immigration Summit until December. A motion to adopt this recommendation was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lynn to postpone the summit. The motion was carried with 15 ayes, 0 nays and 2 abstentions.

BYLAWS: George spoke about changes to our Bylaws and necessary amendments with Jason. They are recommending we add five alternate council members, so that in the absence of a board member, an alternate could be seated and vote on that occasion.

Donna thanked Jason for bringing up video conferencing. We need to let the public know about it so they can come to hear city council meetings in a local setting that would permit participation from valley residents.

Richard who works for a local non-profit, Mend, spoke about parking problems where people leave their trash cans out in the street all week to prevent people from taking their parking spaces presumably in or near their homes.

BEST START FAMILIES: Spoke about a desired NPG for children 0-5 who are in need of services. It was agreed an amendment needs to be made to add learning English. Paperwork not completed.

A gentleman named Gary who puts together musicians in groups of 6-9 to visit nursing homes where residents are dying to ease their suffering spoke. He advised we have four nursing homes in our area.

4) a) The president made some comments that were not germane to his report. **b)** Vice-President spoke about his trip to China. **c)** Secretary's report: Jeanette advised a copy of the minutes for both our regular meeting on the 12th of July and the Special Meeting on that same date had been disseminated. The Special Meeting was held to discuss postponing the Immigration Summit until December, as previously stated. A motion to adopt the minutes for both meetings with any necessary corrections or additions was made by George Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lynn and carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 2 abstentions. **d)** The Treasurer's report was made by Veronica Marin advising \$ 510.00 was spent. She stated the amount of the remaining figure, however there was no information as to whether or not the storage facility had actually been paid. A motion to postpone approval of the June MER was made by Jason Ackerman, 2nd by Mr. Lynn and carried with a vote of 18 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

5) Consent Calendar: There was discussion concerning a letter of support to be sent for 14306 Oxnard Street to allow continued maintenance and operation of auto repair with spray painting. Another such business was approved about two months ago without difficulty. Mr. Marez had disparaging comments about board members regarding this topic. Mr. Lazarovitz moved to approve a letter of support, 2nd by Mr. Lynn and carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 3 nays and 0 abstentions.

6) a) Outreach Committee Report: Maria advised we had to get the Outreach Survey completed for the Strategic Plan and asked the board members to assist. She read the questions and we responded. We made changes to our Big Goals and the number of summits we would like to hold. Furthermore, we resolved to increase stakeholder participation, to provide literacy workshops for stakeholders and board members, as necessary. Maria motioned to approve the survey as modified, 2nd by George and carried with a vote of 18 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

6 b) i, ii, iii was a discussion and action to approve the budget for 2017-2018 and the accompanying Strategic Plan. Following discussion, changes to the plan and to the budget a motion to approve was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Friedmann and carried with a vote of 18 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

7) Semee congratulated us on coming so far. Next month the city attorney should be able to meet with us to provide the training his office gives councils regarding workplace violence. **a)** The board will discuss its' own progress. We spoke about the method we wished to use to set-up committees, with chairs by appointment or voting. We prefer to vote. **c)** We agreed there should be 5 members and may include stakeholders in that number. **d)** We agreed there should be five individuals able to file a CIS. It was stated the Executive Committee members should be those members and Mr. Thomas. The Executive Committee will be able to meet next month according to Semee. The president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer plus Mr. Thomas; Mr. Lynn, Mr. Ackerman, Ms. Hopp and Ms. Marin.

8) There was discussion concerning reimbursement of Mr. Richard Hopp for out-of-pocket expense to pay for our P.O. Box that was overdue. The bill was \$ 100.00. Mr. Lynn moved to repay Mr. Hopp, 2nd by Mr. Lazarovitz and carried with a vote of 17 ayes, 1 nay and 0 abstentions.

9) There were no board comments on non-agenda items.

Angie advised that Assembly member Nazarian has events he provides at Delano Park and events for seniors. His office will be having an annual government day at the Panorama Mall on Saturday, August 19th from 10am until 1pm. She can do a 199 mailer, but she needs a one-month advance notice.

Semee wants to have Executive Committee elections and training next month.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

jh