

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

May 10, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey Lynn, President
Jason Ackerman, Vice President
Stacey Rains, Treasurer
Howard Benjamin 2nd Signatory
John Camera
Quirino de la Cuesta
Steve Friedmann
John Hendry
Veronica Marin
Jerry Martin
Penny Meyer
Austin Noll
Kathleen Padden
Marcela Rodriguez
Maria Skelton
George C. Thomas
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Josef Lazarovitz

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 7:10 p.m. **FLAG SALUTE:** The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Mr. Lynn then read a disclaimer.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was some discussion about filling empty board seats. Mr. Marez recommended a homeless man he knows fill a seat. Someone said this is the same man who threatened physical assault upon a former board member's family and who struck the former member. Someone who not only threatens physical violence, but also engages in it is not suitable for a board seat. Mr. Marez claims these were only accusations and that one side refuses to meet to discuss the matter.

Vice President's Report: Jason spoke about the Civic University Homeless Summit he attended last week. He attended the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting with Quirino and Jerry to receive recognition for the 15th Anniversary of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stacey advised the council spent \$ 174.83 from Outreach on food for the month, bringing the total funds spent to-date of \$ 11,692.40 leaving a balance of \$ 25,132.77. It was moved by Jason, seconded by Jeff to adopt her report on the MER. The motion carried with 17 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

PRESENTATION OF PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS PERTAINING TO VAN NUYS: Howard presented the video we had commissioned and one he made himself. The video Howard made was infinitely more thorough and presented Van Nuys in a positive light. It was well received.

REPORTS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS: Sahag had two quick announcements. He organized some funding for the community block party. They will have food trucks and they will provide a booth to disseminate flu shots to the homeless population. North Hollywood Northwest is funding breakfast. Sahag is

requesting that we fund lunch. The event is to be held on June 13th. They will be doing this at Hope of the Valley. They help more than 100 homeless persons every day. They are requesting \$ 500 for lunch. Hope of the Valley is located on Tyrone in Van Nuys.

Ovanes from Nury's office spoke about the community clean-up in the area around Van Nuys High on May 6th. It was a success. They had a large group helping in the clean-up.

The Summer Nights Lights program will be beginning soon, and they will take applications for basketball and football.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Erica Kirk the SLO for our area spoke to us about funding raised for Van Nuys' station to be used for their Jeopardy program. Crime is still on the rise. We need to lock our vehicles and not leave valuables inside the car in plain sight.

BUDGET Advocate : I advised the last two meetings were postponed. However, we met with departments and forwarded recommendations. Budget Day is scheduled to be held June 24th. More information will be disseminated on-line and by flyers.

MINUTES: A motion to adopt the minutes from April 12, 2017 and January 17th minutes, as amended, was made by Jeff and seconded by Penny. The motion carried with 12 ayes, 0 nays and 5 abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Janelle is a stakeholder and is involved in community organizing. She comes in contact with many undocumented people, whom she says are being targeted. They want us to support a motion made by City Councilmembers Gil Cedillo and Jose Huizar in conjunction with Council President Herb Wesson of solidarity and collaboration with our community members who have been adversely affected by ICE Customs Enforcement activity in our neighborhoods. It is entitled CF 16-1320 to take a position with community organizations who are advocating for undocumented members of the community. None of these individuals showed any respect for this country when we stood and pledged allegiance. They all sat. They were belligerent and called us Nazis and more. Semee stated prior to any vote that a vote to abstain would mean a yes vote. The dictionary defines abstain as formally declining to vote either for or against a proposal or motion. Due to her decree, no one abstained. She should not have the right to dictate what our vote means or how we must vote. This is supposed to be a democracy not a dictatorship. David Aboud spoke saying he works with day laborers. He works with the National Day Laborers Organizing Network. The assistance they want would be supporting a line between local law enforcement and ICE. (The Feds trump (no pun intended) local law enforcement). He believes it would afford the undocumented a day in court.

Jaime Tijerina spoke thanking us for considering this letter. She is a stakeholder and wrote the original letter that passed in her neighborhood council. She believes that everyone who comes to the U.S. is entitled to their human rights. We have laws for a reason. It should be noted without law there would be utter chaos. Elizabeth spoke in her capacity as an instructor at Los Angeles City College. A parent of a middle school student was detained in the Lincoln Heights area. John is a stakeholder here. He worked for San Fernando Valley Mental Health and the animal shelter. He believes that people who fear for their status do not get their needs met. He believes we should support this motion as it is a moral issue. It is an issue of legality. Paula Kahn spoke. Miriam does not like this issue. She is tired of supporting illegal immigrants. Candido added his support stating this is a human rights issue.

Richard spoke as former head of the LIC Committee advising the issue should be transferred to a committee to be vetted. Danny Martinez has worked for the past three years on this issue. Children ask him what will happen if their parents are deported. Faramarz is an attorney. He believes we should support the issue. Renato Kahn said remember Nazi Germany? Something has to be done. Please support this proposal. The next speaker, Jazelle represents the Gay, Lesbian, transgender and their children. Richard said he doesn't like it when our bylaws are said to be null and void and we must look at bylaws we did not write or adopt. Members asked what is the rule on a Consent Calendar? All we had to do was remove one item off the agenda. Semee did not address the Brown Act violation.

The following motion to adopt Item 8A (i) from the Plum Committee carried with 12 ayes, 0 nays and 5 abstentions. Motion 8A (ii) was moved by Penny and seconded by Steve. The motion carried with 15 ayes, 1 nay and 0 abstentions. Motion 8A (iii) was moved by Jason, seconded by Steve and carried with 13 ayes, 2 nays and 3 abstentions. Motion 8A (IV) as moved by Jason seconded by Steve and carried with 13 ayes, 2 nays and 1 abstention. Motion 8A (V) was moved by Steve, seconded by Penny and carried with 16 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

Item 9 A-D we need to call a special meeting to discuss the funding issue at which everyone must be in attendance or nothing can be done according to Semee. A meeting date of June 1st was chosen to hold an Ad Hoc Committee meeting to discuss Movie Night with a sunset date by November. Jason moved and Jeff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 9B was moved by Jason, seconded by Steve to create a drop box for transferring large files, for posting links of supporting documents and exchange files with board members at a cost of up to \$30 per month for 12 months. Motion carried with 16 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

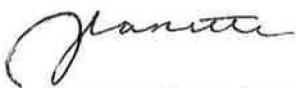
George stated Brad Sherman wants to work with us on the issue of transportation and have a townhall meeting. He met with the mayor's office on the issue of an immigration workshop. We have the No. 1 Office of Consul Generals. The suggestion is to have it during our December meeting, if we cannot do it earlier.

Congressmen from California signed on to the bill to name the Post Office in Van Nuys after Marilyn Monroe. Only Mimi did not sign the bill. The vote was 52 out of 53 signatures. The bill will not be heard unless all 53 agree.

Item 11 was moved by Jason, seconded by Marcella and carried with 13 ayes and 1 nay. There were no abstentions following Semee's decree.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

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