

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Meeting
June 14, 2017

Members Present:

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

Absent Members:

Austin Noll

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. **ROLL CALL:** The roll was taken and a quorum was achieved. **FLAG SALUTE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

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ITEM 2 REPORTS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS: Ovanes from Nury's Office spoke about screening Star Wars 7pm until 9pm and there will be food for movie night.

Angie from Assemblyman Nazarian's office spoke about pairing students with mentors. They meet from 5pm until 9pm every evening.

Glenn spoke about methods of having an election and utilizing bylaws.

Ms. Chavez from Monica Ratliff's office advised she is leaving at the end of the month. Kelly Gomez will take office on July 1st. August 1st is National Night Out.

Officer Bailey is now the SLO for north of Victory and east of Van Nuys. Officer Erica Kirk is also still our SLO.

Malaika Billups, City Attorney introduced herself. She was present to observe our meeting. She is the city attorney for our area.

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT: Miriam spoke about political issues. Donna spoke about the difficulties of getting downtown for council meetings. Richard Hopp spoke about board members being thrown under the bus. Candido spoke about conduct and made disparaging comments about the fellow who was

caught today who was killing people looking like a lot of the board members. Wayne spoke about his personal case with the city against Rossitor, City Attorney.

ITEM 4 Neighborhood Council Conduct and Liability Training: This training that was supposed to be held tonight has been postponed, because the city attorney who was supposed to provide the training is unable to be present due to an emergency.

Richard Hopp spoke about the fact that no training manual or material was provided

ITEM 5 Discussion to set aside the VNNC's action approving the MER's for November, December, January, February and March based upon the Brown Act complaint filed by Richard Hopp was discussed. We set aside the approval as there had been no public comment prior to the vote. The motion to set aside was made by Jason, seconded by Veronica and passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 A motion was made by George and seconded by Jeff to approve the MER's for the months of November, December 2015 and January, February and March 2016. The motion carried unanimously with 17 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

ITEM 7 Discussion and possible action to approve MER's for April and May 2017. Following discussion, a motion was made by George and 2nd by Jeff to approve the aforementioned MERS. Motion carried with a vote of 17 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

ITEM 8 Discussion and possible action to approve minutes from May 10, 2017 General Board Meeting. A motion was made following discussion by Jeff, 2nd by Jason and carried with a vote of 17 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

ITEM 9 Discussion and possible action to approve reimbursing Quirino de la Cuesta for expenses of copies of agendas and minutes for the Plum Committee in the amount of \$ 149.41. Wayne said through his puppet pig that Quirino should not be reimbursed. There were no other objections. A motion was made by Jason, 2nd by Jeff to reimburse Quirino in the amount stated. The motion carried with a vote of 16 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and one recusal.

ITEM 10 Discussion and possible action to reimburse the secretary for out-of-pocket expenses was tabled.

ITEM 11 An update from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and discussion on the progress of VNNC Work Plan was presented by Semee Park. She wanted to commend the board on how we have been conducting business, how we make our motions and things are improving. She asked all board members to send in all outstanding documents concerning expenditures. All paperwork has been submitted. The only hold-up was the lack of minutes to properly document our discussion and votes.

If we do the training, how long before we can hold leadership elections? Semee answered she wants all vacant board seats filled first, and to make sure all board members understand the responsibilities of the officers. The drafting of agendas must be done, in addition to conducting the meetings. We must review the budget, complete the inventory, conduct Outreach training, and review the manner in which outreach is accomplished, communications training, must be completed. There must be budget and finance training and our meetings must be conducted appropriately. We must complete Workplace Violence training and then review and amend our bylaws. Then the officers can be elected.

There is a plan which is due that we need to discuss. Richard asked Semee for standard reports or requirements published concerning what a neighborhood council must be required to do.

ITEM 12 Discussion and possible action to appoint new board members for three vacancies created by changing them from what they were to at-large seats. Thirteen candidates each spoke for three minutes providing us with information to help determine for whom we would like to vote.

Mr. Browning spoke first. He attended three meetings, in addition to several Outreach Committee meetings. He is a USC Trojan and has lived in the valley for 24 years.

One individual, Jonathan Cane left.

Mark Friedman has lived in the valley since 1994. His children attend LAUSD schools. He is General Counsel for companies in the valley. He rides a bicycle, the Orange line and works in the valley.

Justin Kent works for City Planning Department. He lives in the valley and has for four years. He has worked here for ten years.

Richard Hopp (no relation so there is no nepotism) was the former head of the LIT or Legislative Information Committee for our council. He is a current member of Budget and Finance Committee and Outreach Committee. He strives for accurate information, timely responses and accountability from DONE or any city entity. He wants to promote board sovereignty and respect. He would like to see comments in writing.

Lauren Hooten moved to the valley in 2011. She moved to Van Nuys a year ago. She is involved and interested in Information Technology and Public Safety.

Maria Serna grew up in Pacoima. She has lived 23 years in the valley. She has seen increased homelessness. She has worked for LAUSD for the past 15 years.

Patricia Sturges has lived in the valley 29 years. She is a teacher at Grant High School. She works in a program for children with autism. She is also an animal activist.

Ella Undzhyan is a Social Worker and has been since 2004. She is focused on quality of life issues.

Suzanne Whang has a degree in Psychology. She is an actor and was on House Hunters for ten years. She is a Stand-up Comedian and teacher. She moved to Van Nuys in 2016. She is focused on crime reduction and protecting civil rights and reducing homelessness.

Marlin Medrano lives in Sylmar. She is the sole caregiver of elderly parents. She is a senior analyst and her background is in finance. She attended Loyola University and is a community organizer. She would like to bring small businesses to our community and hold our elected officials accountable. There was a question about clean-up from Veronica. I did not get an opportunity to voice my concerns because I was busy taking notes. I am concerned that she will not have enough time to devote to attending board meetings from beginning to end and to training as sole caregiver to her parents.

Juanita Arevalo works for LAUSD in the cafeteria. She has six kids. She worked with the Parent Collaborative for several years. She also speaks Spanish. She was a former board member years ago.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Candido said he wishes he could replace many of the board members with all of the candidates and for the three open seats. Donna stated who she likes. Wayne said we need Richard. Wayne also weighed in with his opinion.

Semee asked if we would like to vote for three each when our names were called. Each board member cited their three choices. Mr. Browning, Ms. Medrano and Mr. Hopp were duly elected.

ITEM 10: Semee went back to this item to request the vote on reimbursing the secretary for her out-of-pocket expense in making copies of minutes and forms for our meetings. A motion was made by Jeff, 2nd by Jason with a vote of 15 ayes, 1 abstention and 0 nays. One member left. The motion to reimburse me in the amount of \$ 38.63 carried.

ITEM 13 Discussion and possible action to elect two budget representatives. Following discussion, a motion was made by Jason to vote on two budget representatives for Budget Day June 24th, 2nd by Jeff. The motion carried electing Jeanette Hopp and Veronica Marin as budget representatives by a vote of 18 ayes, 0 abstentions and 0 nays.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

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Following discussion, the vote was taken according to each board member's choices. The vote was tallied by Seme. Mr. Browning, Ms. Medrano and Mr. Hopp were duly elected. They were sworn in and took their seats.