

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
Match 14, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Thomas, President
Howard Benjamin, Vice-President
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary
Veronica Marin, Treasurer
Josef Lazarovitz, Parliamentarian
Jason Ackerman
Michael Browning
John Camera
Steve Friedmann
John Hendry
Richard Hopp
Jeffrey Lynn
Jerry Martin
Marlin Medrano (7:30pm)
Penny Meyer
Ashley Neyra
Kathleen Padden
Stacey Rains
Kathy Schreiner
Maria Skelton

ABSENT MEMBERS:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Thomas at 7:05 p.m. **FLAG SALUTE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ackerman. **ROLL CALL:** Our secretary took the roll and advised we have a quorum. **MINUTES:** The secretary advised the minutes were forwarded by Ms. Marin at her request to be placed on-line and she has hard copies just in case someone did not receive them. Mr. Lazarovitz moved that the minutes for the month of February be approved as presented, 2nd by Mr. Benjamin and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Marin advised that we began with a sum of \$ 32,046.80. We spent \$ 550.45 and a commitment of \$ 209.88 leaving a remaining balance of \$ 31,286.49. Mr. Thomas moved that we adopt the Treasurer's report on the MER for the month of February, 2nd by Mr. Lazarovitz and carried.

6a) Tabled awaiting response from City Attorney's office. Jose from DONE said we cannot discuss this item at our meeting. Next month **DONE** will be hosting a series of workshops with the Planning Department. Jose left fliers and has e-mailed the board. They are focused on project planning.

EMPOWER LA AWARDS: *The awards will be held at City Hall on the 29th of March.*

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS: Nigel from Congressman Cardenas' office wished to advise us "The Soar", H.R. 767 was passed by the house and needs to pass the Senate. This is known as the Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program. It is a measure to be utilized to detect human trafficking. He is providing a contest that anyone in the 29th District may participate and provide artwork. The winning entry will hang in the capitol building. Senior citizens and anyone receiving Medicare will be getting a new social security card with new safety features. It will not have your social security number on the card. This will help prevent identity theft. They are working on having an Entrepreneurial Workshop for veterans. They will be providing loans for these individuals for this purpose.

Sahag from Councilman Krekorian's office came to update us. His office will provide 15 parking spots for the teachers in Van Nuys at the elementary school who have nowhere to park. There will be an event at Van Nuys Elementary on May 18th and at Hazeltine Elementary on June 15th. His office printed little cards that tell you what to do if you see a homeless person.

Angie from Assemblyman Nazarian's office came to speak with us. She has a pamphlet that provides the telephone numbers for assistance with different things. **AB1857** will require all newly engineered buildings to be sturdy enough to withstand an earthquake. **AB2681** requires all cities to compile a list of all buildings that are vulnerable, where should they start reassessing and that they will be safe for the community.

Daniel from David Ryu's office came to update us. Mr. Ryu spearheaded passing the first party house ordinance. This was to prevent owners/renters from inviting people to a huge party at their home and charging an entrance fee. Often way too many people attended causing parking problems and noise for the neighbors. The speed limit on Sepulveda Boulevard, Burbank Boulevard and Oxnard have been increased to 40 miles per hour. Currently, if you speed on any of these streets an officer cannot give out tickets. However, they are hoping the situation will soon change before the end of the year. They will be holding a community meeting on Los Feliz regarding who we want to replace Chief Beck.

OUTREACH: A certificate is being given to the VNNC on behalf of Angel Tree. They very much appreciated our help in providing toys for these children during the holiday season.

PARKS AND REC: Mr. Browning will have his meeting at the animal shelter on March 29th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. There is a petition being circulated about the park. This is to keep our parks and recreation center open.

BUDGET & FINANCE: **The MPG for Baker to Vegas did not have appropriate signatures. The MPG's for Hazeltine Elementary and Van Nuys Elementary did not pass the committee because there was confusion with regard to the paperwork. We want total transparency with regard to the budget. Therefore, these items were referred back to the committee.** Richard asked if she wrote the agenda for her committee meeting and her answer was no.

Mr. Browning asked is there a contingency plan to spend our money by June 30th? We have different MPG's and Maria has events coming up. It is tedious, but the hoops must be jumped through. Mr. Browning wanted to suggest a cut-off date, if there is still money on the table. Each committee is to let her know.

PLUM COMMITTEE: The meeting was very active. We have a couple of presentations tonight. We elected Penny Meyer as Co-Chair. If someone is using their g-mail account rather than their VNNC account, what I am asking is this because his e-mail account isn't working properly? Yes, he is unable to respond to anyone and neither can Penny. Why doesn't he spend the funds to get more e-mails or software that is needed? His response, **DONE** won't let him use the money for GoDaddy saying they are not an approved vendor. However, we have been using them for more than five years.

We cannot speak on item **6) a** because the department provided him with the statement that this is outside the scope and jurisdiction of our purview as a board member. He could not say who at the city attorney's office cited we cannot talk about the issue. Mr. Thomas moved to table **6)a**, seconded by Mr. Ackerman and carried.

7) CONSENT CALENDAR: j) CPR class was approved with a motion made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Benjamin and carried with one abstention. The remainder of the items on the Consent Calendar; **a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l and o are all tabled.**

NEW BUSINESS:

8) c EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Nathan Wolfstein came to speak to us concerning communications during a disaster. He stated they are focusing on Van Nuys because we are a target. Their group was activated because of the wild fires. They continued their event and there was a showing of many distinguished providers. He noted we have had events at the United Methodist Church. They have events at the Sherman Oaks Senior Center and the military installation on Victory Boulevard and Kester. This year they will be doing the event in Spanish with English translation. His call sign is N48MD. Council members area involved. The county of Los Angeles says this is a designated FEMA event. This is where you do something and you earn something. Nothing is being sold, most everything has been donated. They have a ham radio unit located in Van Nuys. They want people to be motivated to get their technician license. They will have four elements of communication; fire department, police department, ARES and county DCS operator and text of preparedness. The Salvation army will be providing food and the Boy Scouts will also be helping. Under Phase I the National Incident Management Systems Office comes into play.

Mr. Benjamin became chair while Mr. Thomas left momentarily. **7) a** The owner of a Public Storage facility located at 15350 Oxnard Street wants approval for demolition of one structure and building of two structures on the site. They have owned the property for approximately 40 years. The project has single drive-up. This will be an \$ 8,000,000.00 project. They want to begin the project during the summer. I asked did their project pass the PLUM Committee? The answer was, yes. They did a thorough vetting process. We need not ask anymore questions. Measure HHH was to set aside some

funds that could be used for some storage units. Mr. Thomas moved to approve this project, 2nd by Mr. Benjamin and carried. **7)c** This is a small lot subdivision. The owners of the property were a paint and body shop, but the project is for a small lot subdivision. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas to approve this project, 2nd by Mr. Friedmann and carried. **7)d** This is to place Mr. de la Cuesta on the Plum Committee in assisting them in the capacity as an observer to post renderings, narrative, descriptions of projects, applicant timelines on the VNNC website. The Plum Committee has elected Ms. Meyer to the position of Co-Chair. Mr. Browning asked is there an opportunity for others to learn? The answer was yes. It was moved by Mr. Thomas and 2nd by Mr. Benjamin to approve this recommendation. The motion carried. **7)e** This is regarding Council File #17-0447 also known as the 2500 ft. Public Health Safety Buffer. We wish to support this proposal with a CIS. This item passed, but the language is being amended. The Executive Committee would have approved the recommendation had they understood its intent. The PLUM Committee approved this project. It was recommended that this item go back to the PLUM Committee for the amended language and then come back to the General Board. **8)q** The VNNC to fill the empty council seat left by the exit of Marcela Rodriguez. A candidate stated she has been a volunteer policy advocate, worked on bail reform. She was an aide for Xavier Becerra. She lobbied in favor of SB 776 that provides health care for incarcerated veterans. She also lobbied in favor of AB 38 that provides protection for students against predatory loans. She is a volunteer for a non-profit. She also volunteers for LA Voice and the Los Angeles Rescue Mission. Candido said she would be a good addition to the board. He heard her say she works with Hope of the Valley. She did not submit an application. She will fill out an application and forward it to the board, followed by our review and vote on her joining the board next month.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS: **7)k** was tabled. **8)a** Mr. Thomas moved to make “**Health is Wealth**” the motto for Van Nuys. The motto is to be used in accordance with sponsored special events and getting the people of Van Nuys healthier. **8)b Venessa and Precision Concrete Cutting** will present the concept of creating a sidewalk repair program for the entire neighborhood where residents and business owners work together to complete the repairs. They have worked with other communities and the results went well. They have been helping communities and cities repair and develop safe and ADA compliant sidewalk plans for over a decade. This item was tabled. **8)d** The VNNC to discuss and take action by filing a CIS for Council File #13-0192. This is an action item that passed the Transportation Committee relative to the formulation of a multiple-provider carshare fixed-space and point-to-point carshare ppose thr question on tyhr by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Benjamin t to file the CIS. Motion passed unanimously. **8)e** The VNNC to discuss Council File #16-1178. We are to file a CIS with reference to **LA RISE**, an expansion pilot program combining rapid re-housing and transitional social enterprise jobs for homeless individuals in the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles regions. Passed 13-0 by the City Council on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Benjamin and carried unanimously. **8)g** The VNNC to discuss Council File #18-0087. This is in reference to the Budget and Finance Committee report relative to determining the extent of errors in the calculation and allocation of sales tax throughout the City of Los Angeles and options for remedies. This item passed 12-0 by the City Council on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. We passed the motion to file a CIS unanimously, so that we get our fair share of tax revenue. Moved by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lazarovitz. The VNNC to discuss Council File #18-0044 the Homeless Poverty Committee Report relative to the use of Parking Lot 5 at the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument for temporary use as emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness. This item passed the city council 12-0 on February 13, 2018. We

want to request that the coordinator of Council File #18-0044 be asked to come and speak to us about formulating a program for Van Nuys. **8)k** The VNNC to discuss the official and formal position the City Council took in Council File #18-0002-S8 Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee Report and Resolution relative to the city's position regarding the Department of Justice's proposal to include a citizenship question on the 2020 Census questionnaire. The VNNC wants to oppose this question. Motion to write a CIS opposing the question was made by Mr. Ackerman, 2nd by Mr. Thomas and carried. **8)l** tabled and sent to the Plum Committee. **8) P** The VNNC to officially declare and vote on the membership of the standing committees. The VNNC to decide the meeting times and turn over a list of the meeting days and times to DONE. The VNNC to also brief all committee chairs on what to do and when and how to with regard to the Ralph M. Brown Act. The Executive Committee is meeting regularly. Public Safety Committee is Co-Chaired by Mr. Lazarovitz and Ms. Medrano. Ms. Schreiner, Mr. Ackerman and Ms. Meyer were added to the committee. Parks and Rec Committee is chaired by Mr. Browning and his Vice-Chair is Mr. Camera. Ms. Schreiner was added to the committee. Budget and Finance Committee is co-chaired by Ms. Marin and Ms. Hopp. Mr. Lynn and Mr. Hopp are members. This committee meets regularly just prior to the General Committee meeting each month. Planning and Land Use is co-chaired by Mr. Friedmann and Ms. Meyer. The members are Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Hendry and Mr. Martin, and it meets regularly. The Government Relations, Rules and Bylaws Committee is chaired by Mr. Ackerman has not met. Its members are Mr. Hopp and Mr. Lynn. Outreach Committee is chaired by Ms. Skelton and meets regularly. Her members are Mr. Browning, Ms. Neyra and Mr. Hopp.

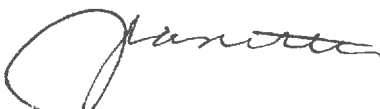
PUBLIC COMMENT: Miriam believes everyone who cannot pay taxes will be helped by the Communist Democrats. Donna believes we should be against Measure HHH. She s for everyone who does not believe in Measure HHH.

Candido wants to see the things we have funded in the past. Did we get the graffiti removed, previous status, etc.

JOE SHAMMUS: Mr. Shammus is running for office. He was in the Navy and he retired as a Commander. If we can, he would encourage us to host a candidate forum.

There being no further business, we adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

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