

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
April 11, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Thomas, President
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary
Veronica Marin, Treasurer
Josef Lazarovitz, Parliamentarian
Jason Ackerman
John Camera
Steve Friedmann
John Hendry
Richard Hopp
Jeffrey Lynn
Jerry Martin
Marlin Medrano
Penny Meyer
Kathy Schreiner
Maria Skelton

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Michael Browning
Ashley Neyra
Kathleen Padden
Stacey Rains

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 7:00 p.m. **FLAG SALUTE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Camera. **ROLL CALL:** The toll was taken in my absence as I was stuck paying for the food.

2) CODE OF CIVILITY: A vote was taken concerning this item and the results were as follows: The vote was 10 in favor 4 in opposition. Motion to approve passed.

3) CERTIFICATES: Mr. Thomas presented a certificate thanking each board member for his or her contributions from Senator Hertzberg.

7) DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES: Mr. Krekorian, Councilman from CD 2 came to update us. He thanked us for our volunteerism. He spoke about the budget. When Mr. Riordan was mayor he said the city was headed for bankruptcy. We currently have \$ 350 million in the reserve fund and an additional \$100 million in the stabilization fund in the event there is another down turn like in 2008. The bad news is we are not plush with extra money for things we need to do. The work we have done to establish financial stability is the most important. Once we continue with these efforts, we will reinstate services like sidewalk repair, etc.

Homelessness is the greatest social crisis this city has faced. We have cut the unemployment rate in half. There are cranes in the air and people are investing in Los Angeles. However, we are a tale of two cities. We have some residents who are doing tremendously well and many of whom are not doing well at all. The gap for those who are poor is widening. We have 35,000 people in Los Angeles without homes. It impacts them, the neighborhoods where they are congregating and the businesses who are

faced with the problem. There is no simple way to relieve neighborhoods of this problem. Some ask can't you just move them along or send them back to where they came from? The answer is "No." We must try to resolve the problem. Every councilmember is committed to building 200 units in their neighborhoods for the homeless. They have two buildings in North Hollywood already being built. The problem cannot just be in Venice or Los Angeles. He is doing a lot of work in his office. He is having a Homeless Connect Day on June 21st. There is another one with the Salvation Army. They gather together every service entity, providers and bring them into the room and asked them questions and walked them over to the people who could help them. You take them by the hand to the person who could solve the problem that day. We feed them first and foremost. You must address every homeless person as a singular person to see what problems he might possess. People live in cars and RV's in your neighborhoods. We are developing several parking areas where there will be restroom facilities and facilities where they may clean up. Mr. Ackerman asked about preventing the situation in the first place. Assistance programs do not bridge the gap. A lot of people have Section 8 vouchers in their hand and cannot find anywhere to live. No one wants them. We are considering Section 8 mandates. We are thinking about setting aside some units for Section 8. We raised the minimum wage. Getting more people employed will help them. The city launched a targeted employment program that should be targeted toward people who are difficult to hire, such as people who have been incarcerated, and persons with mental illness. He established a program that trains individuals on how to prepare to return to work, how to get to work on time, how to keep a job, etc. They are taught how to perform in a professional environment. His program brings job training and housing together. Often an individual will have multiple case management, and the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing. His Department of Public Safety is working with Chrysalis in Pacoima. Their mission is to create a pathway to self-sufficiency for homeless and low-income individuals by providing the resources and support they need to find and retain employment. They are a non-profit founded in 1984.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes were placed on-line and hard copies are available from Mr. Galdamez for anyone who did not read the on-line version. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman with the corrections required and carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT: The MER is incomplete, as there is a discrepancy on the dashboard. Two items have been flagged; one from 12/17 from Vatican Banquet Hall, as their name is not on the receipt that lists what was ordered and served only on the generic receipt that indicated the amount and one dated 11/17 for Mama Licha's Kitchen for the same reason. The register receipt has their name on it, but no descriptive data, while the descriptive receipt does not have their name.

The meeting was interrupted in order to begin the Special Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

4) a OLD BUSINESS: The NPG for Hazeltine Elementary School's event NTE \$ 2,500 in partnership with Councilman Paul Krekorian's office was discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman to approve the NPG with a unanimous vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

4)b The NPG for Van Nuys Elementary School's event NTE \$ 2,500 in partnership with Councilman Paul Krekorian's office was discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman to approve

this item. Ms. Marin recused herself, as she is a member of the PTA at the school. The vote was 14 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions with one recusal. Motion passed.

The Special Meeting adjourned and we continued with the regular general meeting.

6) Councilman Ryu will be here next month for the Distinguished Speaker Series. He will touch upon issues on which he is currently working. **SB827** was co-authored with regard to housing near the transit corridor. He is hosting Identity Los Angeles on Saturday, May 12th and it will focus on Asian-Americans. Famous people will be in attendance. Saturday, April 21st there will be a CEQUA meeting at the Sherman Oaks Senior Center. He has placed smart trash bins in several areas, including three along Van Nuys Boulevard. They alert the city's trash department when they are full. He is planning on placing 100 smart bins throughout council districts 4, 6 and 7.

Nury's representative reported information on the new synthetic turf that is being installed at the Van Nuys Recreation Center. Delano Park already has new synthetic turf. They have classes for young women 13-18.

Officer Perez said crime is down 35%. Home invasion crimes are down 25%.

Jose Galdamez updated the council by advising we have three things to complete with reference to EE. Each committee member was sent an e-mail regarding this issue. He advised that Terence Gomes is the 3rd party facilitator assigned to our council. The funding deadlines are as follows: May 20th is the deadline for event approval forms. June 1st is the deadline for check requests and June 20th is the deadline for credit card transactions. DONE will be holding Planning 101 workshops in the valley on April 30th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the North Hollywood Recreation Center. Payment for operational expenses must be sent to Jose for review and approval and then they will be forwarded to the funding unit.

8) CONSENT CALENDAR: Mr. Thomas moved to adopt the items on the Consent Calendar, 2nd by Mr. Friedmann and carried. The vote was unanimous.

9) STANDING RULES: There was some discussion concerning adopting the Standing Rules in relation to a) agenda setting, b) standing rules regarding public comment, c) standing rules concerning the consent calendar a, b, c and d 2nd by Mr. Friedmann and carried with a vote of 14 ayes, one nay and 0 abstentions. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Wayne weighed in on the Code of Civility to which he is opposed. Mr. John Houser is running for Congress in the 30th District. He wants to provide a voice in Congress that is free from the hold of Special Interest groups, as he has taken absolutely no campaign funds from any such groups.

Mr. Ricardo Pena a former student of Hazeltine Elementary spoke. He is a Supervisor for Starbucks. He is a college student studying international security and human rights law. He resides in Van Nuys at the same address where he grew up and has lived since he was six months old. He defended the need to help children attending our elementary schools.

10) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ELECT A VICE-PRESIDENT: Marlin Medrano ran unopposed for the position of Vice-President. The vote was unanimous.

11) Applications to fill the vacant seat made by Ms. Rodriguez who resigned as she moved out-of-the-country. We have some applications before us now, but in the interest of fairness we are allowing more people time to provide an application to the committee at least ten days prior to the next general meeting in accordance with the Standing Rules.

12) At-Large Industrial Business Owner or employee representative seat: Anyone interested in this seat be sure to submit an application at least ten days prior to the next general meeting for review.

13) Discussion on selecting a website service provider from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment approved list: This discussion took place. The Plum Committee needs to have a website functioning ASAP. They need to make sure their agendas and minutes are posted in a timely manner. We will be getting price quotes from all three entities who offered to fill the post. We wish to postpone the vote until next month when we have the amounts each will charge for their services. Mr. Thomas moved that we postpone the vote, 2nd by Mr. Friedmann and carried unanimously.

14) Discussion and possible approval of the monthly bill for All Right Storage in the amount of \$ 170.00. It was moved by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman to approve this payment. The motion passed unanimously.

15) COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Executive, Budget & Finance and Plum Committees reported earlier. Mr. Thomas worked on the Government Relation and Bylaws Committee. If we are hiring a professional person this could present a problem for us with regard to the Brown Act. The committees must get things to Mr. Thomas on the Thursday before the 1st Monday of the month when the Executive Committee meets. Currently, the Budget and Finance is held the same day as the General Meeting, but earlier. Mr. Friedmann thanked us for our action and thanked Mr. Gomes for his help in facilitating us. He said this is the first time we passed everything on the Consent Calendar. The projects on the calendar represented approximately \$ 45 million worth of construction and investment in the city. Ms. Meyer met at the Van Nuys Animal Shelter. Her committee was concerned about Vanowen Park. It is in bad shape. However, they are scheduled for the synthetic turf. Ms. Martinez called the Parks and Rec Department about this park. They will be doing yards of the year to neighbors who made their neighborhood proud. They emphasized that the Van Nuys Recreation Center has not been refurbished in 20 years. Mr. Ackerman wants drought-wise landscaping.

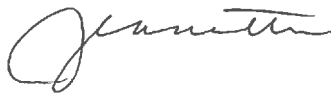
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Nadine spoke about property behind Keys on Bessemer and Calvert. The sidewalk is seriously broken, the backwall piping is broken and drugs were discovered in the gutter.

BOARD COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Ms. Medrano said it would be helpful if there was a contact list of board members to be utilized amongst ourselves. Mr. Thomas recommended we each e-mail Ms. Medrano our e-mail address and phone number.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeanette Hopp".

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

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