

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
December 13, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George C. Thomas, President
Howard Benjamin, Vice-President
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary
Veronica Marin, Treasurer
Josef Lazarovitz, Parliamentarian
Jason Ackerman
John Camera
Steve Friedman
John Hendry
Richard Hopp
Jeffrey Lynn
Jerry Martin
Penny Meyer
Kathleen Padden

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Browning
Marlin Medrano
Stacey Rains, exc
Marcela Rodriguez
Maria Skelton, exc

The meeting was called or order at 7:05 p.m. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge followed. **2) ROLL CALL:** The secretary took the roll and ascertained we have a quorum. There were 14 members present, 5 absent. **3)** No comments from the chair at this time. **4) Secretary's Report:** Ms. Hopp advised that the minutes for the month of October were adopted last month. We need to adopt the minutes for the month of November. I advised the minutes were placed on-line as a draft because we had not yet voted on these minutes. She also disseminated a copy for each board member to ensure all had a chance to review them. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a vote of 9 ayes, 4 nays and 1 abstention. **5) Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Marin advised we had a beginning balance of \$ 40,492.87, and that we spent \$ 5,575.73 leaving a remaining balance of \$ 34,917.14. We have no outstanding amounts and a commitment of \$ 198.00. Our net available balance is \$ 34,719.14. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman to adopt her report with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention. Motion passed.

6) REPORTS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS: Senator Hertzberg swore in the new executive officers; Mr. George Thomas, President, Mr. Howard Benjamin, Vice-President, Ms. Jeanette Hopp, Secretary, Ms. Veronica Marin, Treasurer and Mr. Josef Lazarovitz, Parliamentarian.

Senator Hertzberg advised that \$ 368 billion is collected per year. \$ 2 billion is allotted for education, there are grants for Police, aerospace, etc. \$ 82 billion is paid by the middle class (13%). The legislature spoke about education and furlough days for the courts. The legislature is worried that people will have their accountants move them out-of-state. There has been tension between the federal government and California. Senator Hertzberg wants to focus on putting the money into areas that need to be handled; such as putting as many people as possible to work, getting things fixed, education, transportation, housing and partnering with the county to handle the homeless situation. Senator

Hertzberg said we have a 7.5 billion budget and they funded 8.5 billion. Approximately every 9 years we run out of money to function. We are in the 9th year. We are the 6th largest city in the nation. We need to sit down and imagine the future, while looking at the past, as a means to not repeat past mistakes. We need to talk to news media. What is education in schools looking like, particularly in view of on-line education.

Pertaining to efforts to secede, this must be done with a vote of the people and the city council has the right to veto. The senator changed it so that the people in the city and the people in the valley who want to secede may vote. There would have to be a Charter amendment at the local level, which also goes to the city council.

Mr. Thomas asked if we have a good idea would he sponsor us? He explained the people at city hall have a set of metrics they use to review neighborhood councils. One is to collaborate with other levels of government. He wants to collaborate with all other valley offices and have a caucus.

Jason asked about a vision for the San Fernando Valley. The senator said he has a sense of having a handful of people in a room to discuss a big picture to begin to inspire and generate dialogue concerning education, public safety, joblessness, etc.

I requested he sponsor legislation to raise the minimum drinking age and age to purchase marijuana to 25. I explained that the human brain does not fully develop until the age of 25, therefore, permitting the purchase of these mind-altering items at a younger age does not lend to the individual considering the consequences of his/her actions. DUI's have risen significantly in the past two years.

Mr. Richard Hopp asked are neighborhood councils entitled to closed sessions? We have asked the city attorney's office. The senator will speak to Mr. Hopp separately following the meeting. He doesn't know if we are permitted to do so.

Have you done anything with regard to affordable housing at the federal level? It is a real big problem. The senator replied there will be a 3.1 billion measure on the ballot in November for public housing. They added a \$75.00 fee for every real estate transaction. There are 16 bills on homelessness and housing. It will take some planning as they will be taking big blocks of space. Steinberg passed a bill that would allow 1.6 billion for the mentally ill. The county is also passing legislation. A constituent who is in real estate development raised questions concerning the erosion of bills passed to build affordable housing. The rules make it nearly impossible to get approval for this situation. It takes about one year due to having to get a DIR (director determination approval). Many want to build affordable housing under SB 1818, and the government gives incentives if the builder provides 10% affordable housing in their projects.

Senator Hertzberg said we have spent money on transportation routes, nearly 100 billion, but it will be obsolete by the time it is completed. The bullet train in Japan was built in the 60's. We must be thinking about the future.

Sahag from Council District 2 Krekorian's office: He mentioned that on January 18th there will be a town hall meeting wherein Sanitation, the City Attorney's office and other departments will be

represented. They will be discussing moving forward and spending the Measure H money. Sahag said they had a townhall in the West Valley and are now having one here in the East Valley. George asked that an e-mail blast be sent along with a flyer.

Brian Gavidia, Area Representative for Mayor Garcetti: Brian spoke about Measure H and money they have to help the homeless. His cell number is (213) 713- 0960 and his e-mail is brian.gavidia@lacity.org.

Mr. Ackerman asked if the mayor has taken an official position on which option to utilize for the light rail and the necessary maintenance facility to be built. Brian said he will defer to the council member in the affected area in other words Ms. Martinez.

Mr. Marez asked that the mayor re-open the video conferencing again in the old government building. There are many elderly and handicapped people who find it difficult to go downtown to address the city council and/or the mayor.

Daniel Hernandez from Delano Park: Daniel advised the event he was co-sponsoring with us for the holiday party for our community on the 13th had to be cancelled due to the fires. The park was a designated evacuation site. Although not utilized, this temporary designation interfered with their planning for our event. However, with the help of Ms. Hopp he rescheduled an event to be held on December 23rd from 10:00 until noon, entitled "Breakfast with Santa". The toys will be disseminated at that time. We would like the help of the council in setting-up our table, banner, etc. During the fire situation many community members called and asked if they could be of help. Papa John's donated food during that time frame.

NEW BUSINESS: 7) a Discussion and action to fill the youth seat on the council. Miss Ashley Meyra has attended many months of meetings and is interested in this seat. Mr. Thomas moved that the student seat be filled with Ms. Meyra, 2nd by Mr. Benjamin and carried unanimously with a vote of 14 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

7) b Came under Item 6 above. 7) c Wendy Moore an approved vendor with the city came to speak to us about taking over webmaster duties. She provided a brief slide show presentation indicating what she has done for other neighborhood councils. Mr. Hopp asked the cost of her schedule of fees. Graphics at \$95.00 per hour, developer at \$65.00 per hour.

Mr. Hopp and Mr. Benjamin stated that Mr. de la Cuesta has agreed to continue webmaster duties for 6 months.

7)d Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to partner with the Office of Assembly member Adrin Nazarian for the annual job fair expo. The VNNC to assist in greeting and signing-in applicants, as well as offer support and staffing for the event. The VNNC to feed approximately 60 people NTE \$ 1,000.00. It was moved by Mr. Ackerman, 2nd by Mr. Lynn and carried unanimously with a vote of 14 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

7) e The VNNC to host the taste of Van Nuys. The VNNC to choose a different ethnically diverse site for each general meeting in order to sample the delicious dishes from restaurants in our neighborhood. A motion was made by Mr. Ackerman, 2nd by Mr. Benjamin and carried with 14 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions. NTE \$ 150.00 per month.

7) f Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to partner with the Van Nuys Public Library and the Children's and Teens Librarian was tabled, as the librarian was not present.

7) g Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to fund office space for committee meetings, storage space, etc. Mr. Benjamin advised that the office space at which they looked offered 7 different offices at the Valley Executive Office Suites on Van Nuys Boulevard. They discussed it with the management group. The fee was \$ 925 per month for 380 sq. feet. It is comprised of two spacious offices with an outside ante room. It is negotiable on a city lease. It would cost about \$ 860 per month. They had one that was 317 sq. ft. that for some reason was \$ 1,100 per month. It was immediately eliminated. The 380 sq. ft. would allow us to eliminate the use of the storage facility. They have four conference rooms that we could use for our committees; thereby saving us time and money. They have a full-time receptionist. The offices are ADA compliant. They are well-kept and look impressive. We cannot get an office in the old government building under any circumstances. It is either this or we go to another location and start the process over again. Ms. Marin asked about parking. Mr. Benjamin said they have parking in the rear. Jason said one of the biggest problems for him was logistics. Printing out agendas was a problem. We would have the printers and computers all in one place. We would have to reserve the conference rooms, by scheduling their use at the beginning of the month. Ms. Marin said she would put into our budget the purchase of video cameras for security and keys that are coded for each individual given a key. It would indicate the time and which individual entered and exited the offices. The additional cost would be \$ 8,460.00 per year or less than ¼ of our entire budget annually. A motion was moved by Josef, 2nd by Ms. Marin and carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention. The motion passed.

7)h Sandy Logan and Sarah Blanch wished to discuss possible action regarding beer and wine Conditional Use and alcohol sales. The VNNC to support the authority of city zoning administrators to impose conditions of approval to mitigate potential land use impacts arising from the sale or service of alcoholic beverages that are adverse to public health, safety and welfare. They wanted a letter of support. Mr. Ron Zix has a speaker card on this issue. He was a member of the California Beverage Retailers Association and he chaired the Land Use Committee for the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council. What can be regulated? The city attorney and the courts have taken the stance that the individual states can decide this issue. This is why there are no conditions on alcohol licenses. We are currently a landlord to lease to an alcohol lessee. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas to adopt the language on our agenda, seconded by Mr. Lazarovitz and carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

7)I Planning and Land Use Case #CPC2017-0737 was tabled as the owner is out of the country.

7)j Discussion and possible action concerning 14019 Vanowen Street, an 8-unit apartment with redesign, and façade suggestions. Athena Novak came to speak to us on behalf of the owner. They want a façade

that is not commensurate with the neighborhood. The re-design was brought to the Plum Committee meeting and again they were asked for more changes. Ken Stockton Architects was not cooperative. It does not meet the conditions that were requested by the Plum Committee. It did not pass the Plum Committee. We are not supporting this building without the changes, as requested. The chair requests that they return to the Plum Committee. They have gone before the Plum Committee three times with three purported changes. The only change noted is the color of the apartment building. Ms. Martinez and Mr. Koretz partnered on this issue. There are a number of empowerment tools and countless conditions are being ignored. Change was done behind closed doors with no public input. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Benjamin to return the item to the Plum Committee. The owner wanted a vote now. The vote was 4 ayes, 8 nays, 1 abstention. The item did not pass.

7)k Discussion and possible action regarding Farm Table Restaurant at 6209 Van Nuys Boulevard attempting to acquire a beer and wine license and build an upscale wine list for customers. The previous CUP gave them permission to sell only on the weekends. They are now seeking to sell daily from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman to accept the language as presented. This item passed unanimously in the Plum Committee. The vote was 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

7)l Discussion and possible action concerning 14350 Victory Boulevard, a 7-11 store owned by Paul Anand. He is requesting approval for continued sales of beer and wine for off-site consumption. He also wishes to continue the 24-hour operation. The sales are from 8:00 a.m. until midnight. They do not sell singles. They are not asking for any changes. A motion to approve this item was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a unanimous vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

7) m This item was tabled.

7) n The VNNC to look at possible parking spots for staff at Van Nuys Elementary School. The VNNC is to submit a proposal to provide 15 spaces at the Bernardi Senior Center and 15 spaces at the city parking facility on Gilmore. This item came before us presented by the Principal, Ms. Fran Goldstein. The VNNC supports this recommendation and a motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Marin with a vote of 12 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention. The motion passed.

8) Mr. Richard Hopp spoke to the board about the idea that we cannot have a closed session.

A constituent advised that she has street vendors across the street from where she lives. She lives on Cedros and Kittridge. The street vendors are messy and dump grease on the street. Their music was very loud until 3:00 a.m. This happens several times per week. Ms. Meyer said she would give the number of the school police to her. We would like to try to help, but our hands are somewhat tied. The city voted to allow street vendors.

Wayne complained about a statute.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Metro is planning changes to the Orange line in this area. They will be putting a one-mile bridge so that the traffic won't conflict with the line. This will cause traffic congestion during construction, because

they will be closing Tyrone Avenue to Victory Boulevard during the building process. It was stated we could individually request it to be placed as an underpass.

The city has a deal with Office Depot for cheaper copies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There is a Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting at the Sherman Oaks Hospital on the 14th at 6:30 p.m. The LADWP will be making a presentation. They are planning to hire more women. The Deputy City Attorney will be the guest speaker.


March 8th will be the next mixer at CBS for the 15th anniversary. We can agree to give them \$ 250.00 and can vote on it next month.

Marlin Medrano a member of our council will be running to replace Mr. Bocanegra in the Assembly.

Ms. Marin advised Las Posadas is being held at the Central Lutheran Church on December 14th at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

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