

**VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 9, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT;**

George Thomas, President  
Marlin Medrano, Vice-President  
Veronica Marin, Treasurer  
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary  
Jason, Ackerman  
Michael Browning  
John Camera  
John Hendry  
Richard Hopp  
Jeffrey Lynn  
Jerry Martin  
Penny Meyer  
Ashley Neyra  
Kathleen Padden  
Stacey Rains  
Kathy Schreiner  
Maria Skelton

**ABSENT MEMBERS:**

Josef Lazarovitz  
Steve Friedmann

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge was led by Mr. Camera. **ROLL CALL:** The roll was taken by our secretary who advised we have a quorum. Our secretary stated the minutes were posted and copies provided by MR. Galdamez for anyone who did not read them earlier. A motion to adopt the minutes with any necessary corrections was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Meyer to approve the minutes for the month of April, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

2) There was a recommendation to select an alternate signer so that in the event either the Treasurer or 2<sup>nd</sup> Signatory were required to recuse themselves, another signer would be available. Our Vice-President, Ms. Medrano was selected. The motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Marin and carried unanimously. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Discussion and possible action to reimburse our secretary in the amount of \$ 150.02 for her out-of-pocket purchase of the food for last month's meeting was discussed. A motion to reimburse our secretary was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Skelton and carried unanimously. **iii) Discussion to purchase a timer was raised.** This item must be approved by DONE prior to purchase according to Mr. Galdamez, and then the card can be unlocked to pay for the timer. Mr. Thomas moved to send item to DONE, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Medrano and carried unanimously.

3) **MR. SCOTT SCHMERELSON, DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES:** Mr. Schmerelson is an LAUSD Board Member. He advised he and Mr. McKenna were opposed to hiring Mr. Austin Beutner as Superintendent of the School District. There was no input from teachers, administrators, parents or community. Mr. Schmerelson went to Sacramento to fight for additional funding for Special Education. He wanted the funding to be dispersed according to the individual student's needs. Some special

education students require an aide throughout the day, while others do not. This is an additional expense, but currently the district receives the same amount of funding for each student regardless of needs. He is a proponent of early education. Teacher tenure is two years in California. He was a teacher, administrator, etc. California has more money than the British Isles, yet we are funding our schools at the bottom of the scale. We are ranked 47<sup>th</sup> nation in funding. The funding is nearly \$ 10,000 per student. We are the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, but we do not fund accordingly. He was involved in making parking lots in our representative's area larger. I asked him about Charter schools, and whether or not he is in favor of them. Charter schools take our tax payer dollars and use them like a private school. They do not have regular curriculums and can deny acceptance to special needs students. He said he is not against them if they are fair and honest.

**CONGRESSMAN CARDENAS' OFFICE:** Nigel came to let us know that the winner of the Art contest sponsored by his boss was a Van Nuys High School student. She gets to go Washington and have her artwork displayed there for a year. The student is Armenian and he is unable to either pronounce her name or spell it.

They are sponsoring a Veterans' Workshop in July and will be for veterans and their families. It will be held at a SFV post of the VFW from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. They will receive a free e-mail account, will get help with writing a resume and will receive clothes for the vet and his family.

**SENATOR HERTZBERG'S OFFICE:** Raj, Deputy District Director for the Senator advised the senator is working on bail reform. He is also attempting to set-up a state bank for cannabis deposits. He is getting state grants for transportation. He says 1 billion will be pumped into the county.

**ASSEMBLYMAN ADRIN NAZARIAN'S OFFICE:** Angie came to update us. They are having an event on June 2nd and it will be reference an Art Projects. The age group is 1-17 year-old children. If you have children in that age group, they can get into LACMA for free. They are sponsoring an event for Healthy Living on July 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for 14-21 year-olds. They already have sponsors, but we may join in by providing food for the volunteers.

**NURY MARTINEZ'S OFFICE:** Yvonne Perez from Councilwoman Martinez's office came to speak to us. She advised they will begin Movies in the courtyard of the courthouses on June 8<sup>th</sup>. They will be showing Wonder Woman. They will have free food, sodas and popcorn.

There was a question concerning the homeless, and she said they would talk off-line!

Freddie advised Budget Day is June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Donna spoke about the Van Nuys Post Office that we are attempting to have named after Marilyn Monroe. Another constituent spoke in favor of our efforts to have the post office named for Marilyn Monroe.

**6) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF DEMOLITION OF THE EL CORTEZ HOTEL:** This item was postponed due to a Brown Act violation. Mr. Hendry says he was disparaged after the PLUM Committee meeting ended, but there was no recording.

**7) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO HIRE A WEBMASTER TO ADMINISTER AND MAINTAIN THE VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL WEBSITE NTE \$ 500 USING ONE OF THE RECOMMENDED VENDORS:** Ms. Schreiner moved that we accept Ms. Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Browning . We amended the motion to state we wished to hire Mr. Terrence Gomes as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

**7b) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT APPLICANTS TO THE AT-LARGE SEAT:** Jaklen saw the commitment we place on our positions. She has a BA and a Master's in Public Health. She has done contract work. She has worked with non-profits in the past. She worked with AmeriCorps. She seems eminently qualified. She will work with community events.

**8) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO FILL THE AT-LARGE BUSINESS OWNER OR EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE SEAT:** The seat is not currently an at-large seat. The fellow interested in the seat is not a business owner or employee. He will qualify as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. It was agreed that we wait and allow others to apply, as well.

**9) COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Submission for items to the Executive Committee is the Thursday before the meeting.

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The two events were cancelled. All of the paperwork was not completed. Jose said the events did not meet the ability to obtain the funds prior to the funding having been frozen. They were discussed prior to the funds having been frozen, but there was a question. So, we had to have a Special Meeting. Now it seems they are not being funded.

**OUTREACH:** Ms. Skelton has done some amazing things. They went to CSUN and give out some certificates to thirty young men with the help of Assemblyman Nazarian. They provided local businessmen certificates and they will be playing softball with the police department again. She accomplished a lot even though we are still in EE.

**PLANNING AND LAND USE:** They approved a lot of projects. Lots of money is coming into the neighborhood. We will be getting another new apartment building.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH:** They are doing a listening tour.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND BYLAWS:** This committee has no report.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** They were to have met at the Van Nuys Recreation Center. The park is in horrible disrepair. Ms. Martinez is getting a new soccer field built. Service at the park is inadequate. They hope to have the Director of the park a member of their committee as a means to inspire him. They will be getting rid of the graffiti. We are lacking in park space for our community. We need to figure out how we may make copies of agendas for our committee, etc.

**CANDIDATES FOR STATE ASSEMBLY:** This would be for Adrin Nazarian's seat. Several persons spoke about running for this seat.

An individual who sent in an NPG spoke to us, but we cannot discuss and fund it because we are in EE. We will review the application next June.

**10) PUBLIC COMMENT:** Tony is opposed to the tax to fund the change in transportation.

**11)** Mr. Browning said bad government means the residents in Van Nuys are suffering, because we are not about to fund things to help them.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

jh