

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
June 13, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Stacey Rains
Ashley Neyra
Kathleen Padden

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. **FLAG SALUTE: The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mr. Camera. **1) ROLL CALL:** The roll was taken by our secretary and we achieved a quorum.

2) OFFICER'S REPORTS: Secretary's Report: I advised the minutes had been typed, but not posted yet on-line. A hard copy was provided. Approval of the minutes was postponed. **Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Marin advised she was unable to get onto the dashboard at DONE, as they were working on the site. The PDF was also corrupted. Therefore, she has no report at this time. Her report was also postponed until next month.

3) REPORTS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS: CD6 Report: Christina is no longer with their office. Yvonne Perez is the new representative. Their office is sponsoring a Pride event in the valley on June 30th from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00p.m.

David Ryu's Office: Daniel stated Mr. Ryu is unable to attend and be a part of our Distinguished Speaker series. He said the homeless population has dropped by 6% in Los Angeles and by 3% in the county. Thus far, they have housed 16,000 persons. If we have any area for District 4, please let them know. They are providing free lunches for all children 1-18 years of age all summer long until August 10th at every local Rec and Park. Kaiser is partnering with them and providing swimming lessons for Van Nuys and Sherman Oaks. **Job Fair:** There will be a job fair this Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus in Van Nuys.

Police Department: Erica Kirk, SLO for Van Nuys spoke to us about the status of crime in Van Nuys. She thanked everyone who helped make their Open House a success. She said Van Nuys is at an all-time low in crime as it is down 7%. Only aggravated assaults (usually domestic violence) are up 2.6%.

Sahag: He worked diligently on getting parking spaces for teachers at Van Nuys Elementary, and was able to garner 15 spaces for them at the Senior Center. He is trying to get an additional ten spaces for staff. They are providing **eight free concerts** in North Hollywood; June 16th through August 4th.

Homeless Connect Day: will be held at Hope of the Valley on Tyrone and Victory Boulevard in Van Nuys from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on June 21st.

Jose Galdamez: We have to choose the election site by August 1st, contact persons, etc. What type of voting do we want; on-line, in person, or whatever? We must write a draft proposal for the time line for valley voting places. They shifted the voting time line in the central, east and valley areas to May, 2019. Send any questions concerning the to NCElections@LAcity.org.

The city clerk will have a black out in June. They will not be having any funding training. We have a funding packet that must be submitted to the city clerk. Regarding EE they are waiting for the complete inventory, and two interviews. Once they are done, we should be out of EE.

Mr. Thomas said we are going to hold hard and fast to the agenda submission deadline of 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to our General meeting. Please have three sentences and supporting documentation.

4) COMMITTEE REPORTS: Budget and Finance Committee: We need to get the Storage Facility paid. A lien notice was just delivered this evening. We also need to get the Go Daddy bill paid. Ms. Hopp advised she has tried no less than 6 times to pay Go Daddy to no avail. Ms. Marin stated the invoice for Ms. Moore was paid without review and approval of the Budget & Finance Committee, Executive Committee and a vote of the board. The city clerk violated their own policy. I want to file a grievance against them, and a PRA request. This is wrong. The next meeting is scheduled for June 27th at 4:00 p.m. in the State Office Building conference room.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Ms. Skelton said they are preparing for Saturday Night Lights at Delano Park. We are going to have a softball game again between us and the Van Nuys Police Department.

PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT: Mr. Friedmann said they have items coming up and will speak at that time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Marez complained again about Mr. Friedmann.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE: Their next meeting will be on the 25th of June from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at the Van Nuys Recreation center on Vanowen Street.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE: There is no report, as they have not met.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Browning stated he cannot run an executive meeting without executive supplies. We need to get out of EE so that it is not punitive. We want our committee members to receive their rightful funds, as previously agreed upon. They are planning for everything. Their next meeting is scheduled to be held on the 28th of June from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at the Van Nuys Recreation Center on Vanowen. There has been some headway on the renovation of the soccer field.

Mr. Thomas stated he is going to have a debate between the two run-off candidates for the governor's race coming-up. Also, in September there will be a debate for the sheriff's race.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Wayne expressed his problem with our not being able to spend our funds. Miriam spoke about Item "F" with reference to mental illness being a medical condition. She feels we should not discuss this issue because we are not doctors. She also wants to keep the name El Cortez. We are pulling items L,M,N from the Consent Calendar, as persons attending the meeting do not want them on the calendar. Mr. Marez wants to know if Mr. De la Cuesta and Mr. Benjamin can be held liable for their actions on the Plum Committee. Neither are board members, but rather members of the public. Items L,M,N will be referred to the city attorney's office for comment.

Mr. Ackerman wants to pull Item "O" from the Consent Calendar. Also, pull Item "C" and Item "K". Mr. Ackerman believes funding items should be on a separate calendar. He is a firm believer in staying involved if you want to make change.

Wayne gave us his view of someone who wants to join our council. Mr. Marin supports Glenn in his bid to become a member of our council.

5) C It is ok to vote on this item. Board members received the application; but failed to print it out. He is on the Plum Committee. He works for a non-profit. He has been on a Plum Committee downtown and in the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. We discussed placing Glenn Epstein on our council. The vote to place Glenn on the council was 16 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

CAO'S OFFICE: Laila Alequresh has been evaluating the public right-of-way in the City of Los Angeles. This has been to improve the coordination of efforts to provide services to the residents of Los Angeles. When you close a street, you are closing twelve programs. They are competing with each other. You may have waited twenty years to have a street re-paved; but might have to wait three weeks to have it striped. This is because two different departments handle the process. We had 400 interviews with employees, site visits and observations. There are six key problems preventing the city from providing essential services. **1)** lack of alignment, **2)** lack of communications, **3)** lack of coordination, **4)** inaction of customer's centricity, **5)** lack of data and technology and **6)** lack of planning. Every recommendation is addressed in one or more departments. There are three commissions, public works board, taxi commission and transportation commission. The Public Works Board meets three times per week. There is public feedback and output. Create a single oversight authority for the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation. There is no one to be held accountable for checking the condition of streets sidewalks at this time. Re-establish a planning group. If a pedestrian is closing over twelve programs, make sure you cover all areas prior to taking action. They have no one with a vision of

how to handle infrastructure. Proper planning: do not re-pave when DWP may be about to work on pipes. They have 200 utility companies in the city. It has been twelve years since the city has set the way for cutting into a street. The city is losing money. We are the only city out of 25 that do not have a capital plan. If we do not protect the street, everything that is on, over or under the street is at risk. Mr. Browning asked where alleys fall in this mix. They do not have a program or funding for alleys at this time. Ms. Schreiner asked about trees. We have many different entities touching the trees. This program was hit the hardest with our lack of funding. Ms. Keshishyan asked how our city score is in the 70's. Other cities are in better shape than us. Ms. Marin asked about a bench that is old and falling apart here in Van Nuys. It is an old bus stop bench. She said she would speak to her after the meeting.

Item K: We would like to take a position on Council File 10-0993. The VNNC to request the entire Government Center be declared a "Historical District." The VNNC to seek to highlight the history of Van Nuys and improve government functions at the Government Center. Motion to adopt the language and proposal of Item K was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Hendry and carried.

Mr. Hopp believes DONE's rules and ours are in conflict. We were discussing **Item O**. Mr. Hopp wants to refer to an index. Mr. Hopp said refer to our facilitator. It was referred to the Chair of the Government Relations and Bylaws Committee within thirty (30) days.

NEW BUSINESS: a) The VNNC to pay for the professional services of the facilitator, Terrence Gomes of Bridgegap in an amount NTE \$ 2,500.00. Mr. Hopp would like to see something in writing from Mr. Gomes stating what he would be handling on our behalf.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Medrano to extend the meeting beyond 9:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

d) We discussed possible action on writing a CIS regarding CF 17-1311 based on the results of the State of Street related infrastructure Programs in Los Angeles. We agreed to write a CIS.

e) We discussed the problems both Ms. Marin and Ms. Hopp encountered in trying to sign onto the dashboard to input data and complete the MER. The city claimed they were updating the system.

f) The VNNC to take an official position on Council file 17-0078. The VNNC to create a Citizens on Patrol sub-section of the LAPD. The VNNC to work concurrently with Councilwoman Martinez and the program she helped create in the west SFV. The VNNC to work with the LAPD to reduce crime in and end gangs in Van Nuys. We were going to refer this item to the Health and Safety Committee for review, however, it was postponed instead.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Sandra McNeil wished to invite us to a meeting being held in conjunction with parks and Rec to discuss any funding available for Parks and improvements, open spaces. The funding will continue to grow every year. This is with reference to Measure "A". The meeting will be on the 30th at the Van Nuys Rec Center at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Marez complained again regarding Mr. Friedmann.

Wayne complained about breaking rules. Something about normal people first and then him. He doesn't like Mr. Wesson, who cut public comment to one (1) minute.

Rudy addressed the board to re-introduce himself as a candidate for a senate seat. He is a grassroots candidate. Melendez for California Senate.

Donna Pearman spoke in deference to Items being removed from the Consent Calendar.

Miriam Fogler believes our practices are very unfair.

Laura Velkie from the Historical Highland Park NC, 3rd Vice-President came to address us. There are a lot of changes completed through DONE Watch. We should be mindful of how we respond to public comment and items on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary

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