

**VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL RETREAT
AND GENERAL BOARD MEETING
October 27, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Thomas, President
Veronica Marin, Treasurer
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary
Michael Browning
John Camera
Glenn Epstein
Steve Friedmann (9:30)
John Hendry
Jaklen Keshishyan
Jeffrey Lynn
Penny Meyer
Kathy Schreiner
Maria Skelt on (noon)

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Marlin Medrano, V.P.
Josef Lazaro vit z, excused
Ksthleen Padden, excused
Jason Ackerman
Jerry Martin
Ashley Neyra

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. **ROLL CALL:** The roll was taken and we have a quorum with 11. We achieved 12 within 15 minutes. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** There is no flag, so there was no salute.

2) COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: George advised he invited the chair from West Hills NC, who had 180 Brown Act meetings that won their council the award for holding the most meetings, especially committee meetings per year. If we pass the things on the agenda, we will again be #1 this year in relation to Community Impact Statements submitted.

Congressman Cardenas actually took action concerning postal vehicles by requesting all postal vehicles be upgraded with air-conditioning after we made a Call to Action. As a result, he will be reading a declaration into the Congressional Record that the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council made the Call to Action. We will get something suitable for framing.

We need to focus on our job as elected officials. We are being honored next month by Adrin Nazarian and Nury Martinez.

Ron Ziff will be coming to speak to us about the proposition dealing with homelessness, Proposition Q, a touchy subject. Ms. Meyer said we, Van Nuys, have a high concentration in mental health facilities, etc. Mr. Gomes said the mayor said nothing when it was only 15,000 homeless people. Mr. Gomes said once the count neared 75,000 the mayor recommended they use a cruise ship and house them in the harbor. It was thought to be a ludicrous solution.

We received a plug on KNX 1070 radio. Ms. Hopp said we also received a plug on NAACP radio by Ms. Skelton.

We will be voting on MailChimp. Also, the issue about a grant writer .

Mr. Browning made a motion that we move the regular items concerning funding to the beginning, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried with a vote of 12 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

6) Discussion and debate on the following items:

- a) The VNNC to purchase the MailChimp program to expand the outreach of the newsletter. The VNNC to aim to have 10,000 subscribers by the end of the year; and, additionally constantly expand our database for general reasons and election outreach NTE \$ 100 per month. The \$ 100 per month is to pay for the amount that is over and above the free amount. There is currently a cap at 2,000 subscribers. We are at 1,850 subscribers at this time. Mr. Gomes asked what is our opt out return at this time? We need to know whether we need to send out once per week, twice per month or what. We cannot decide without knowing how often to send out the newsletter. George will ask Wendy how many are opting out. Mr. Browning moved that we approve Item 6) a, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried with a vote of 12 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions NTE \$1,200 each fiscal year. Mr. Gomes said add this as a Line item when we do our budget in May, and it will move forward every year.
- b) VNNC to hire a professional grant writer to seek out funds and grants that may help benefit the Van Nuys community. The grant writer is to focus on early childhood education, afterschool programs and having our youth choose a trade school or a traditional education NTE \$ 2499. Mr. Bailey said the NPG limits are \$ 5,000 and it is only for schools or a 501C3. We can do something like this, but we will have to get a contract. SVNC got a \$ 2,000 grant as part of the Clean Streets initiative. Mr. Gomes said So. Robertson NC got the money and it was placed into a special fund and it was discretionary as to how it could be spent. We can go through a 501C3 or we can put it in a special fund. Mr. Browning said spend the money on a grant writing class and train our partners on how to write a grant. The VNNC to hire a professional grant writing agency to train the VNNC and stakeholders on how to seek out grants. This was moved by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Marin and carried with a vote of 12 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Mr. Thomas explained what a CIS (Community Impact Statement) means. It shows the city council what we are doing and that we are advising them, as mandated. The Fair Practices Commission oversees us. We must abide by their rules. We are a municipal advisory council.

S)a The VNNC to submit a CIS and Call to Action on CF#OS-2684. The VNNC is to support creating a vibrant Farmer's Market. The VNNC is to solicit ideas and advice from well known and established Farmer's markets for proper government procedure and permits. The VNNC to consider making the SFV-wide Farmers Market that every neighborhood council could support. We need to ask Nury to

reopen the file or a new motion with supplemental action. There was considerable discussion. Mr. Gomes believes we should only give the council three things. Mr. Bailey reviewed 12 of the CIS's being considered. They do come with some creative ideas. It is appropriate to discuss them at our retreat, because we can discuss them in depth. Mr. Bailey said to put two of the more recent CIS's on the agenda each month. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Marin to write the CIS and call to action for CF#0B-2584. The VNNC to partner to reopen the CF and/or to request a new motion and add a supplemental statement. Motion carried with 12 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

5)b The VNNC is to submit a CIS and Call to Action on CF#99-1604. The VNNC is to support a CIS and Call to Action on CF#99-1604. The VNNC is to support creating an annual Van Nuys and San Fernando Valley Auto Show. The VNNC is to recruit all auto brokers on auto row to participate. Moreover, there is to be an auto parade ending at the Civic Center in Van Nuys, followed by a large festival and party. The VN/SFV Auto show is to be an annual event with every neighborhood council allowed to have a booth free-of-charge and one auto or float entry in the parade. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas to send this item to the Outreach Committee, 2nd by Ms. Marin and carried with a vote of 6 ayes, 5 nays and 0 abstentions. The VNNC to partner with Nury to either reopen this CIS or make a new motion with a supplemental statement.

5)c The VNNC is to submit a CIS and Call to Action on CF#0G-0170. The VNNC is to take the position of extremely concerned about unattended property in Van Nuys, especially around the government center and offices at the civic center. The VNNC is to understand about potential security issues, and also the possibility of unattended property being a fire hazard. The VNNC is to work with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to come up with a solution and new approach to this ever-growing problem. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Keshishyan and carried with a vote of 9 ayes, 3 nays and 0 abstentions.

5) d The VNNC is to submit a CIS and Call to Action on CF#10-0993. The VNNC is to request more is done about the homeless situation in Van Nuys. The VNNC is to propose an ordinance that there is no loitering around government buildings after dark. The VNNC is also to propose a Dawn to Dusk referendum for people using the Civic Center in Van Nuys. We want the Police and Fire departments to have permission to remove people from the government center. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Epstein to approve this item and assign it to the Public Safety Committee. The motion passed with a vote of eight ayes, 4 nays and 0 abstentions.

5) e This item was with reference to community court. A motion to decline supporting bringing back community court was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Meyer and carried with a vote of 11 ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstention.

5)f The VNNC is to submit a CIS and Call to Action on CF#11-1981. The VNNC is to install year around wreaths with a changing theme. The VNNC is to decorate the Civic Center with wreaths with supplemental applications. Government Center left -overs will be donated to the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Marin and carried with a vote of 10 ayes, 2 nays and 0 abstentions. Send to Rec and Park Committee.

5) g This item was declined unanimously.

5) h The VNNC is to submit a CIS and Call to Action on CF#02-2327 and CF#0G-2690. The VNNC is to propose a walking holiday parade through the Civic Center. The parade is to represent all of the cultures in Los Angeles and Van Nuys and will be designed to create community unity. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lynn and carried with a vote of 7 ayes, 4 nays and 1 abstention. Send to the Executive Committee.

5) i The VNNC is to submit a CIS and Call to Action for CF#03-1733. The VNNC is to propose all government offices at the Civic Center become earthquake retrofitted. Moreover, the VNNC shall propose all government buildings install solar energy panels, and become self-sufficient buildings in the event of a disaster. Additionally, the government buildings should also have ample emergency and energy supplies, and first-aid kits able to accommodate numerous people. A motion was made by Mr. Browning, 2nd by Ms. Meyer to approve this item. The motion carried with a vote of 10 ayes, 1 nay and 0 abstentions. This item is to be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee for further action.

Mr. Ziff is here to discuss Proposition "Q". Jason Ackerman chose this item for our agenda. The first forum held in Venice was not well-received and a recall effort for City Council member Bonin is under way. It has been recommended that we sit down with David Ryu to discuss this issue. Ron took over chair or president of the Sherman Oaks NC when Jill Banks-Barrad became ill. He has been President of Sherman Oaks since February of last year. We have 55,000 homeless in the county of Los Angeles. There is two billion to help homeless issues and 1 billion from the state for mental health for the county that they will not use. If the council district must come up with bridge housing or emergency housing there are some funds for the 200 beds. Councilman Ryu asked Sherman Oaks to come up with possible sites. They determined he look at two or perhaps a 3rd site, but the 3rd site is not government-owned. They discovered 4 within our boundaries. Half of the government-owned sites were not mapped. One parcel is located at 5161 Sepulveda Boulevard and Magnolia and Fire Station 88. The U.S. Army owns it and it is covered in weeds. Another parcel is located at 15314 Dickens Street. Dickens dead-ends and there is a small triangular parking lot. It is behind an alley. It is at Sepulveda on Dickens. It belongs to Cal-Trans. Councilman Ryu introduced a motion to study these sites in Sherman Oaks. There has been no study, as of yet. Ms. Keshishyan wants to partner with Sherman Oaks. What is the role for Van Nuys? We do not know. The issue is occurring under the purview of the Sherman Oaks NC. The one site would be permanent supportive housing like Section 8 not overseen by the city. The other could be bridge housing. The city should do a feasibility study. An EIR needs to be done. It is important to have oversight, because there is a considerable number of homeless who are drug-addicted and are mentally ill. We need oversight to prevent them cooking meth. Mr. Ziff recommended that one of the sites be designated for seniors and the other for women and children. He has four sites that are within our neighborhood. The VNNC to study the feasibility of constructing permanent supportive housing.

Glenn Bailey is President of Northridge East NC. He began in Encino NC. He did not know about VANC initially. The head came to their meeting. Mr. Friedman asked who do we ask to train the committee chairs so that we do not have a Brown Act violation. If you violate the Brown Act, the city attorney will shut down the meeting. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners are the ones who make you adhere to no violations of the Brown Act notices on the ENS. You must put the header on the agenda, the

disclaimer and make sure the date is accurate, including the time and place. Copy Kimberly and Betty Wong, Semee and the City Attorney, Elise Ruden. We will then be in-compliance. Make sure we include the committee chair in the body of the agenda. We need to put in details of what is on the agenda and if there is an action item, be sure to put NTE if it is a funding issue. If it is an action item without funding, be sure to say you are forwarding to someone for action.

We may only have five council members on committees, and the remainder if you have any must be stakeholders.

Another thing that makes Los Angeles' homeless distinct is the relatively low prevalence of substance disorders and serious mental illness. Though mental illness is an issue, less than 1/3rd (27%) of people who are homeless on any given night have a serious mental illness and 15% have a substance abuse disorder. This is in contrast to all items passed with Mr. Thomas moving. Lorenzo and Kyle Stone downtown track these items; Brown Act compliant meetings and CIS's signed.

Daniel Brin came to speak to us. They do not have any illegal signs in West Hills, because they take down all illegal signs with a device they made with a pool cleaning pole and a forked end. How do you hold 180 meetings each month? They try to include as many people as they can to attend their committee meetings. They have back-to-back meetings per week. They have more people who have a personal stake. Each meeting has the co-chair and they really want them to work. Every committee is billed as a joint committee and board meeting. How do you get agenda items? Their board meeting is a night when they come up with the agenda items during the meeting. Finding a good meeting location is difficult.

Semee, pronounced semi like the chocolate, said she brought all of the information that we need to set-up and have working committees. You can only have five (5) board members at committee meetings. It is better to have less than five to make it not a board meeting. The agenda must be posted 72 hours in advance physically. It must be posted on the ENS also. You must post 24 hours in advance of a Special meeting. Post on our website, physically and on the ENS. Semee's number is (818) 374-6851. If you are going to cancel a meeting, you must put a watermark on the agenda that the meeting was cancelled. Place the cancelled agenda on the website. There were some questions and answers.

WE RESUMED THE REMAINDER OF THE AGENDA.

5) I The VNNC is to file a CIS and Call to Action for CF#18-0560 and CF#18-0600. The VNNC is to support the following "Fund an assessment of the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities, categorized by primary purpose and the implementation of strategic planning. Expand nutrition programs by developing new program models to serve all of those in need. Increase the budget for the Department to address the unmet need for housing counseling and adequacy, availability of housing subsidies, and the opportunity to collaborate with other City departments to serve homeless seniors. Promote services that mitigate isolation among seniors, designate additional funding for support of caregivers and advocacy for older adults. The implementation of gerontology-focused training for current staff so that they can develop the skill set required to assist the aging community, in addition to implementing diversity training for the purpose of equity and to prevent disparities, to serve minority

communities and for racial, ethnic and cultural enrichment." A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Hopp and carried with a vote of 12 ayes, 1 nay and 0 abstentions.

5) m The VNNC is to file a CIS and Call to Action for CF#16-0043 and CF#18-0600. The VNNC is to support the following "Fund the no-kill policy for healthy adoptable animals, that the City shelters have adopted and more spay/neuter surgeries, free or reduced cost vouchers and enforcement of spay/neuter laws. Fund professional behavior training for the dogs and cats to make them more adoptable, and to provide outreach and marketing specifically for pet adoptions. Fund physical improvements to existing shelters, and to pay for more Animal Control Officers and Animal Care Technicians. Increase salary scales for Animal Control Officers and Animal Care Technician. Continue to offer Requests for Proposals for Private/Public Partnerships to build or renovate shelters that meet the needs of the community. Partner with non-traditional markets to advertise licensing events and to recruit volunteers for public counters and community services, such as the Gift-a-License campaign; where pet owners can gift a license to another person. Launch an on-line campaign at community counters and with pet technology companies such as dog walking. Utilize neighborhood councils, schools and other non-profits to create Pet Education Programs (PEP) that visit schools, churches, grocery stores, and malls to engage and share pet education. Partner with community college instructors to recruit and coordinate volunteers. Establish a volunteer track with various volunteer positions with the ability to move up or laterally based upon length of volunteer service. Host an annual volunteer dinner and present year of service pins. Continue with background checks, but use the advances in technology software or outsource to private companies to conduct background checks to be completed within 3-5 days. Continue to expand the usage of the ACE (Administrative Citation Enforcement) program." A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Marin. The motion was amended to include both aforementioned CIS numbers by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Epstein and carried with a vote of 12 ayes, 1 nay and 0 abstentions. The committee to be determined to whom it will be referred.

S)n The VNNC is to file a CIS and Call to Action for CF#0S-1087 and CF#18-0600. The VNNC is to support the following "Study and eliminate the overlap in functions and duties between this Board and other City Departments. Prioritize the clean-up of homeless encampments, working together with law enforcement. Study and determine whether outside services should be eliminated, or increased, for repair of streets, sidewalks, potholes, etc." A motion to approve this item was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Marin and carried with a vote of 12 ayes, 1 nay and 0 abstentions. This item was referred to the Public Health and Safety Committee.

S)o The VNNC is to file a CIS and Call to Action for CF#IS-1212 and CF#18-0600. The VNNC is to support the following "Expedite the permit and Inspection processes to facilitate development in the City, reduce response and resolution times for code enforcement cases, which could increase revenue to the City in fees and penalties imposed and collected. Expand the use of retirees on temporary contracts as substitute inspectors to offset the potential loss of staff through retirement. Expand the Targeted Local Hiring Program and Summer Youth Employment Program and provide opportunities for employment. Implement the Youth Employment Program as the Department's primary transition plan to train and maintain an adequate number of employees." A motion to approve this item was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Hopp and carried with a vote of 11 ayes, 1 nay and 0 abstentions.

S)p The VNNC is to file a CIS and Call to Action for CF#18-0002s100 and CF#18-0600. The VNNC is to Support the following "Cannabis Regulation. Fund 15 additional staff to process cannabis applications, enforce penalties and monitor the social equity component. Set-up a special fund within the General Fund to track the fees and fines collected by this department. Allocate Excess Cannabis Revenues back into communities where cannabis businesses are in operation. Allocate a portion of the Excess Cannabis Revenues to Neighborhood Councils where cannabis businesses are located, to be used for neighborhood specific problems. Set-up a system for Neighborhood Councils to file official complaints against cannabis businesses that are in violation. Create and manage an interactive website to monitor retailer activity and compliance, including taxes paid and to help potential retailers locate viable locations and connect with the appropriate Neighborhood Councils. Fund a committee with law enforcement, cannabis regulation and community members to establish and recommend cannabis regulations and applications, taking into consideration the need to prevent racial profiling, while still enforcing the law. Fund a transparent training program for licensed owners, with a contact person designated to clarify training and to track training of employees. Monitor the social equity program to ensure these applicants adhere to all requirements and that all applicants are treated equitably. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Keshishyan and carried with a vote of 9 ayes, 4 nays and 0 abstentions.

5) q The VNNC strongly supports CF#12-1549-s12 to study and hopefully construct a Permanent Supportive Housing facility at 15314 W. Dickens Street, Department of Transportation Lot #762 and an adjacent property owned by the Department of Transportation and a Crisis and Bridge Housing, a Bridge Home facility at 5161 Sepulveda Boulevard owned and occupied by the United States Department of the Army. The VNNC understands the need to house those who are currently homeless and that the vast majority of those who are currently homeless in Los Angeles County are people who lived here before becoming homeless and who are in the circumstances in which they find themselves due to economic reasons, not because they suffer from mental health and/or substance abuse issues, but the longer they remain on the streets without shelter or support, the more likely they are to develop such issues. Van Nuys is more than willing to do its part to help address the homelessness crisis, but we and the handful of other communities that have stood up to do the right thing cannot and should not have to do it alone. We commend Councilmember Ryu for his courage and leadership in dealing with this pressing issue and encourage our neighbors and colleagues on the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council to do the same. A motion to approve this item was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Meyer and carried with a vote of 10 ayes, 2 nays and 0 abstentions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



anette Hopp, Secretary
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