

**VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
December 12, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

George Thomas, President  
Veronica Marin, Treasurer  
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary  
Josef Lazarovitz, Parliamentarian  
Jason Ackerman  
Michael Browning  
John Camera  
Glenn Epstein  
Steve Friedmann  
John Hendry  
Jeffrey Lynn  
Penny Meyer  
Kathy Schreiner  
Maria Skelton

**ABSENT MEMBERS:**

Marlin Medrano, Vice President  
Jaklen Keshishyan  
Jerry Martin  
Ashley Negra  
Kathleen Padden

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:02 p.m. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge followed. **ROLL CALL:** Our secretary took the roll and ascertained we have a quorum.

**2) OFFICERS'S REPORTS:** Mr. Thomas advised we have officially been released from EE. All accounts were returned to us and all administrative duties for about five seconds. The day following said release we received a Letter of Admonishment related to the holiday event. Although paperwork had been submitted which began with vetting at the Outreach Committee on August 28<sup>th</sup> that went through Budget & Finance and subsequently the General Board in September prior to submission to funding, it was lost downtown and resubmitted due to a date change requested by the venue, Delano Recreation Center. The lateness of that resubmission and the fact that it should have been done as an NPG rather than a co-sponsored event netted us the letter of Admonishment. Provided we have a full board training session presented by NC Funding we will again be released completely and be in control of our own fate. There will be no seizure of funds, etc. We already learned when we have an event, we are the liable party, whereas if we use an NPG and go through a non-profit we are not liable, as they have all the necessary permits, etc.

We are #1 in the city in submission of Community Impact Statements. We will try to continue submitting between 1 and 3 CIS's each month.

**b) Vice-President's Report:** Ms. Medrano is absent, so there is not report.

**c) Secretary's Report:** Ms. Hopp previously explained the problem with the holiday event. She did state she spoke at great length with Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Posada and Mr. Canas, in addition to multiple emails back and forth. She advised she has the battery for the recording equipment and has ordered the timer, although the 2<sup>nd</sup> one suggested was also no longer available, she found one that is available through Staples warehouse and ordered same. It is to be received by the 18<sup>th</sup> and should be available for our next meeting. It is my understanding that even while we were in EE we were supposed to have access to \$ 300 in administrative funds to be utilized in paying for things like copies, food for our meeting, P. O. Box, etc. each month while in EE. This never happened any time while we have been in Exhaustive Efforts. I also mentioned that I had to pay for the food tonight out of my pocket and Mr. Thomas paid for copies out of his pocket. The minutes for the month of November were posted on-line. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Mr. Ackerman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lazarovitz and carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**d) Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Marin presented the MER for the month of November, including all expenditures. Following review, a motion to approve the MER was made by Mr. Lazarovitz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lynn and carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**2) d (ii)** The NC Funding unit advised if we provide an NPG for the Emergency Preparedness Fair, they will approve funding in the previously voted upon amount of \$ 250.00.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Richard Hopp spoke about a situation involving the representative from Chipolte and Ms. Marin a few months ago. His perception differed from that of others present. His complaint was forwarded to DONE and the city attorney and is out of our hands.

Mr. Marez also had a few choice words to express against board members.

**e) Candidate Notice:** The VNNC is to consider any and all applications to fill the vacant seats of Stacey Rains and Richard Hopp at the January 2019 General Board meeting. The VNNC is officially announcing the seats are vacant and shall solicit applications to fill the seats. The seats shall remain at their original designation for sixth days and then change to at-large seats until the next election in May, 2019. There was some discussion about these seats. Mr. Lynn, as a practicing lawyer and the only attorney on the board expressed some concerns about any attempt to fill Mr. Richard Hopp's former seat. Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Lynn to email him with his concerns and points of law.

### **3) COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS:**

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** Ms. Skelton advised we had two events take place, the Thanksgiving event and the holiday event. The Thanksgiving event was changed as Van Nuys Recreation Center was unable to host, so with considerable effort on Ms. Park's initiation we gave the good to be distributed to the food pantry in Van Nuys where it was given out to needy families. The holiday event at Delano Recreation Center took place with us giving out our branded bags, frisbees and branded sweatshirts to underprivileged community members. Both were successful. Ms. Skelton thanked me for my help in seeing that both events took place, even if not as originally planned. We were pleased to have helped the community in both instances.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE:** Ms. Marin has no report at this time.

**PARK AND REC COMMITTEE:** Mr. Browning advised he works with both the Park and Rec Committee and the Open Spaces Committee. The focus of their work has been to support the folks at Van Nuys. Tout the park if we have not already done so. They have had a representative from the city speak to them about the fact that Van Nuys is under represented and does not have enough parks. The city has to locate more land for us to have additional parks.

Mr. Ackerman formally asked us to reconsider item #6, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Epstein. **6) Discussion and possible action to consider the recommendations of the PLUM Committee with reference to project at 14622 Delano and to draft a letter with regard to the position of the VNNC.** Following much discussion this item passed. The vote was 9 ayes, 5 nays and 0 abstentions.

**Representative from Councilman David Ryu's office:** Ms. Alice Roth, Senior Deputy addressed us. She updated us by speaking about the city's approval of the higher speed limits that were proposed, their position concerning homelessness and other issues. His office has a beautification team working with them. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Marin and carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions to work with them to clean-up Van Nuys.

**Distinguished Speaker Series:** Ms. Rosalyn Khan came to speak to us about her books and "Random Acts of Kindness." She has written a book and Ms. Skelton is recommending her and the book. Ms. Skelton would like to invite Ms. Khan to be one of the speakers at the Anti-bullying Townhall she is planning. Perhaps we could purchase some of her books to be given out at the townhall. I am recommending we find a non-profit to sponsor Ms. Khan and provide the books for us.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Shawn Ramsey would like to meet with the PLUM Committee. He is encountering some difficulties where he lives. There is a mansion being built near his home. He has lived in his home for any years with no problems. Now this project is impinging on his privacy as a portion is built excessively close to his home even though the land on which this gigantic home is being built; ½ acre is more than enough to have left more space between it and his home. This is to be an 11,000 sq. foot home. He is unhappy with the placement of a sweeping staircase that oversees his home and surrounding properties.

A homeless man advised us he is cleaning up some streets in North Hollywood and would like to help us with cleaning up our neighborhood.

Mr. Ackerman and I commented on the need for video-conferencing. When Mr. Ryu's senior deputy spoke about city council updates, we stated it would be easier to respond to things affecting those of us who reside in the valley, if we could attend council meetings via video-conferencing. It is difficult for handicapped persons to get downtown and find parking.

**4) c Discussion and possible action to purchase external hard drives for storing the VNNC digital media, NTE \$200.** A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ackerman which carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions to purchase the external hard drives.

**4) d Discussion and possible action to reimburse Ms. Skelton for food purchased during the retreat, NTE \$ 40.00.** A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Marin and carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions to reimburse Ms. Skelton.

**4) e Has already been voted upon and approved previously.**

**4) f Has been removed from the calendar.**

**4) g Discussion and possible action to reimburse councilmember Jeanette Hopp for office supplies, printing, copies of agendas and minutes and forms for different committees and the General Board Meeting, NTE \$ 200.** A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lazarovitz and carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions to reimburse Ms. Hopp.

**4) I Discussion and possible action to provide Ms. Hopp with an office supply card for copies, printing of forms, agendas, minutes, etc. NTE \$ 500 for 2018-2019.** A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Meyer and carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions to purchase the card.

**4)j Discussion and possible action to reimburse Mr. Thomas in the amount of \$ 94 spent to purchase popcorn for the Movies-in-the-Park this past summer in conjunction with CD^ and Nury Martinez.** A motion was made by Mr. Lazarovitz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions to reimburse Mr. Thomas.

**4) k Discussion and possible action to reimburse Mr. Thomas In the amount of \$ 140 for the Subway sandwiches purchased for the Van Nuys Clean-up with Ms. Martinez of CD6.** A motion was made by Mr. Lazarovitz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions to reimburse Mr. Thomas.

**4) l and m were tabled.**

**4) n Discussion and possible action to do all that we can to help anyone in Van Nuys who wants a job to find gainful employment. The VNNC is to partner with the State Assembly and the State Senate in providing four job fairs in 2019.** A motion was made by Mr. Lazarovitz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a vote of 14 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions to work with both entities on the job fairs.

**4)r Discussion and possible action to hire a staffer to help with administrative functions and committee work.** It was agreed that this item be referred to the Budget and Finance Committee.

**4) s Discussion and possible action to participate in the ribbon cutting and grand re-opening of the Van Nuys Recreation Center in January, 2019 by Councilmember Nury Martinez. All VNNC members are requested to attend. The VNNC president will be speaking, along with Ms. Martinez, who will**

**handle the logistics. NTE \$ 250 for food.** A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lazarovitz and carried with a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions to provide food for the grand re-opening.

**4) u Discussion and possible action to issue a Call-to-Action to rename the 101-23 interchange and/or the 101/Moorpark Road onramps and offramps in both directions the “Sgt. Ron Helus Memorial Interchange. Sgt. Helus born and raised in the San Fernando Valley met his wife at Pierce College in the valley and will forever have valley roots. The VNNC endorses, supports, and will follow through with introducing legislation in Sacramento with the concurrent assistance of State Senator Henry Stern and State Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin, both of whom represent the area in the state legislature.** A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Marin and carried with a vote of 7 ayes, 7 nays and 0 abstentions.

**4) v Discussion and possible action to file a CIS with regard to “The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANNC) and the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council demanding that Councilmember Jose Huizar resign immediately. Considering the FBI and IRS investigations and several prior high-profile incidents, including the affair with his chief of staff that cost the city \$200,000 in legal fees, an after-hours car accident that settled with \$ 285,000 of city funds and his role in a \$ 72 million pay-to-play Sea Breeze development scandal, he is a distraction and the people of Los Angeles and Council District 14 deserve better.** A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lynn and carried with a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays and 3 abstentions to file a CIS.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary