

**VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
April 10, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Thomas, President
Marlin Medrano, Vice-President
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary
Veronica Marin, Treasurer
Jason Ackerman, Parliamentarian
Michael Browning
Brian Edelman
John Hendry
Jeffrey Lynn
Jerry Martin
Kathy Schreiner
Maria Skelton

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Josef Lazarovitz, LOA
John Camera, exc
Glenn Epstein, exc
Steve Friedmann, exc
Penny Meyer, exc
Kathleen Padden, exc

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:02 p.m. **ROLL CALL:** The roll was taken and despite a number of missing members the meeting took place, because we have a quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Ackerman led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) a OFFICERS' REPORTS, ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS, COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORTS: The president deferred to Ms. Medrano. We have had some changes this year. They want to move to dissolve all committees that have not met and next month we will appoint persons to the committees. She will be reaching out to the committees who have been meeting to get an updated roster.

Secretary's Report: Ms. Hopp advised she brought copies of the minutes from March for our review and had sent them to Ms. Moore for posting. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas to adopt the minutes, 2nd by Mr. Edelman and carried with a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

Treasurer's Report: Following Ms. Marin's report, a motion to approve was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Ms. Martinez' office: Yvonne Perez came to update us from the CD6 councilwoman's office. She is still working on getting the ribbon cutting ceremony set-up for the grand re-opening of the newly renovated park near the animal shelter. She will keep us posted.

Bonita from Sheila Kuehl's office: advised her office has been hosting a Job Fair at the Zev Yaroslavsky Center for the past four years in June. They have had at least 100 people who get jobs on that day. They partner with L. A. County and they hope we will feed the employers and volunteers who attend.

Sahag from Councilman Krekorian's office: came to update us. Each office gets 30 speed bumps or humps in their area. It is our turn. If we want one on our street, please let his office know. More than one person on the same street will need to agree. Sahag introduced Morgan Sutton. Morgan has a Masters' degree from CSUN and has been working on the homelessness issue and with the Green Streets Initiative. Morgan is now our representative. Their office is providing a youth leadership program this summer. Refer high school students for this opportunity.

Senator Hertzberg's office: Anthony Garcia came to update us on **SB 254** a bill that the senator sponsored that is the Resilient Homes Initiative. It is to make homes earthquake safe and retrofitting older homes. This program sets aside \$ 70 to \$ 100 million so that anyone who wants their home retrofitted may do so. The funds are coming from within the CEA, but will be moved into funding for homes to be retrofitted. A question was raised was it only for single-family homes or was it also for townhomes, condos and apartments? He had no answer, but said he would find out and let us know. **SB 258** is to cover permitting pets, specifically dogs and cats in shelters and temporary housing for the homeless. Approximately 5% homeless have pets, but they feel they will have to give up their pet in order to get a home. This bill allocates \$ 5 million to shelters who will allow pets into the shelters.

Councilmember Ryu was unable to be here this evening. We had the Senior Scam event at the Encino Adults center. We have a new prosecutor, Andy Sullivan and will have a new Senior Lead Officer soon. The Councilman will be present on 6/6, 8/2, 10/4 and 12/6. We have a big surge in motorhomes on Oxnard from Sepulveda to Van Nuys Boulevard. There are also quite a few on Noble Avenue and Kester. They have their beautification team working in areas where they need clean-up. I advised my street needs work on the center island after the rains. The councilman is working on rolling over funds for next year for the NC's. There will be a meeting regarding Metro on April 12th. He is also working on restricting tobacco sales of flavored tobacco items that are aimed at the younger generation.

Mayor's representative: from the West Valley came to speak as the one for our area was unavailable. He spoke about the Green Streets Initiative. He spoke to us about bridge homes, one of the solutions to the homeless situation. We have funding through Measure H and HHH. It takes time to get more bridge housing. There are 52,765 homeless in the county. There were only 9 outreach workers in 2018. Now they have 700 in the county and 500 in the city to work with the homeless and to connect them with services.

The group with whom they work is the mayor's office, LAPD, city attorney, LAFD, MTA, DOT, LA Street services, LAHSA, Sanitation, Council Office and Rec and Park. Bridge homes provide beds, toilets, meals, showers thereby giving residents the feeling of security and dignity. They have on-site storage and communal areas. This allows residents to focus on finding long-term homes as quickly as possible. Housing is open 24 hours with security and increased LAPD support. They are transitioned to supportive or affordable housing as soon as possible. There is intensive sanitation. Tents are down between the

hours of 6am and 9 pm. There is a Homeless Connect Day next Thursday, April 18th from 10 am through 1 pm at the Hjelte Sports Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Miriam spoke about people who are dying in the desert in Texas. Richard Hopp spoke about an unnamed board member.

3) Discussion and possible motion to adopt the Consent Calendar. Following discussion, the Consent Calendar was approved with a motion made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a vote of 12 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

4) a Councilman Ryu our Distinguished Speaker: The councilman was unable to attend this month.

4) b The 4th Annual Job Hiring Fair is seeking a partnership with the VNNC. This item was referred back to the Budget and Finance Committee, as the NPG was not ready to be presented for review and possible approval.

4) d Digital Ad signs on top of Uber and Lyft taxis: Following discussion about the safety of such signs that can be distracting to drivers and the unsightliness it was moved by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Marin to oppose this measure and to file a CIS in support of CF# 19-0904. The motion passed with a vote of 12 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

4) e Discussion and possible action to work with the Budget Advocates and file 32 CIS' with regard to their recommendations to the mayor and city council reference the city budget. We are also to follow up with the department heads. The motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Hendry and carried with a vote of 12 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

4) f Discussion and possible approval of holding the retreat for the coming year at the Hilton Suites as in the past in order to train all incoming and returning board members so everyone is on the same page. Agreement to hold the retreat at the Hilton Suites. The motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions. NTE \$ 1,000.

4) g Mr. Bill Haller founding member of the Lake Balboa NC came to discuss moving the western boundary 200 feet from the Center of the 405 freeway to the crest of the Sepulveda Dam between Burbank Boulevard and Victory Boulevard. No residents or businesses would be affected. Mr. Haller asked us to table this issue and work with his neighborhood council. We postponed the issue for future discussion and action.

4) h Discussion and possible action on a motion proposed by City Councilman O'Farrell to post signs and celebrate Indigenous People's Day. Yangna was the village at the location of city hall. Cahuenga and Tujunga can be marked in the San Fernando Valley. The motion passed with a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

4) i Discussion and possible action concerning changing of the name of the Coliseum. Changing the name of the Los Angeles Coliseum in its 93rd year so that USC can make \$ 60 million in cash is

disappointing. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman and carried to oppose changing the name with a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

5) General Public Comment: Miriam and Donna both spoke about turning the video conferencing back on at Van Nuys City Hall. They also spoke about the homeless issue and permitting them to sleep in their car if they have one.

Donna spoke about people who are getting SSI or social security and may need help. Many are homeless and cannot get help because they do not have a physical address, which disqualifies them for funds.

6) General Comments from Board members: Jason spoke about lowering the voting age to 16. He is in favor. I stated I have volunteered for the County of Los Angeles and the city for elections for more than 40 years and I am against this proposal. We lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 many years ago and apathy hasn't waned. I have first-hand view of who comes to vote and most often it is the elderly and some middle-aged persons. There are not many young people voting.

NOTE: Sometimes a board member left the room during discussion of issues, but a vote was not taken until there was a quorum on each issue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary