

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
March 13, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Thomas, President
Marlin Medrano, Vice-President
Veronica Marin, Treasurer
Jeanette Hopp, Secretary
Jason Ackerman
Michael Browning
John Camera
Glenn Epstein
Steve Friedmann
John Hendry
Jeffrey Lynn
Penny Meyer
Kathleen Padden
Kathy Schreiner
Maria Skelton

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Josef Lazarovitz, exc.
Ashley Neyra
Jerry Martin, exc

The meeting was called to order by the Mr. Thomas at 7:05 p.m. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge followed. **ROLL CALL:** Our secretary took the roll and we have a quorum.

2) OFFICERS' REPORTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS: 2) a ii Mr. Thomas stated we need to elect a replacement Parliamentarian, as Mr. Lazarovitz has been gravely ill. Mr. Lazarovitz is hereby granted an official LOA. The Parliamentarian is a voting member of the Executive Committee and must attend these meetings, and maintains protocol at the meetings. A motion to elect a new Parliamentarian was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Marin and carried. Mr. Ackerman voiced his desire to be elected to this position. Mr. Ackerman was elected with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

2) a iii Discussion and possible action to fill all vacant seats and to consider any and all applications. Both Sandy Logan and Ms. Ashley Martinez have submitted applications to fill the two remaining open seats.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Richard Hopp stated that Mr. Thomas said the seat he held would not be filled. Mr. Thomas said he had no control over the situation, because the action was taken administratively and by the city attorney. All Mr. Gomes can do is advise us. Ms. Sandy Moreno said she needed some clarification. She and another applicant sent their applications on-line. They then sent an e-mail asking if they should rescind their applications to run in the upcoming election, if they applied directly to us. If we do not appoint them, their applications to run may have been removed from the ballot. Mr. Thomas said we have not received clarification from the city attorney or from the city clerk's office. Candido spoke and said these ladies should be voted onto the board. Mr. Friedmann stated we should vote on

these two ladies because they came before the PLUM Committee and were fully vetted. We decided to have them run on the ballot in two months and we will make certain they are on the ballot. They qualified to run and were certified to run in the upcoming election.

President's report: Mr. Thomas attended the job fair. There was a huge turn-out. **Adrin Nazarian's Office:** Cindi from Adrin's office came to update us. She said the job fair was a success. She thanked us for supporting the event and our presence. He is sponsoring a women's resource fair on the 15th of March, a self-defense class and is providing a Van Nuys Resiliency Coalition gathering on the 21st.

Nury Martinez' Office: Yvonne came to update us. She spoke about Arbor Day. The event was a success. They planted a number of trees and gave away many more. They also provided a resource fair that was well received. Ms. Martinez co-sponsored a motion to shut-down illegal cannabis shops by turning off their water and power. She obtained \$ 250,000 from the city for pot holes in CD 6. This will be a 4-week process. If you know of streets with big potholes, advise the city and/or her office. This Sunday there will be a Community Expo in front of the Van Nuys Police Department from noon to 2:30 p.m.

We have tent city in front of the closed store fronts next door.

Distinguished speaker series: Mr. Rob Wilcox is a member of the City Attorney's office, Mr. Feuer. He is the Director of Community Engagement and Outreach. He addressed homelessness. All elected officials must vow to do more. The majority of us voted for a tax to be used to address this critical issue. Mr. Feuer called for an audit of LASA, the group who oversees the homeless field workers. They hired hundreds of people to help count the homeless population. The audit is a means to see if they are effective.

School Safety: A coalition of teachers, parents, the city attorney's office held a townhall meeting during which they received 33 major issues. He wants us to make a resolution to our school board member, Kelly Gonez concerning school safety. Cannabis was not permitted under Medical Marijuana usage. Now they have licensing through the Cannabis Regulation Office for the city. You should only utilize a permitted, regulated facility, because there is testing and security in the permitted sites. The city attorney filed 200 cases against 800 defendants. We can report to LAPD or his bosses' office if we are aware of any illegal facilities operating in our neighborhood. This must be done with due process.

Mr. Thomas said two of the three candidates rescinded their request to be appointed to the council tonight. Ms. Logan was appointed with a unanimous vote.

3) c Jessica Romo is applying with Strength United for an intersection mural as part of the LADOT People Street Program. People Street is an application-based program that transforms public streets into places that people can meet and gather. The location they chose is at Calvert and Vesper. A motion to approve their location was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a vote of 14 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

This meeting was suspended. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lynn and carried to begin the Special Meeting.

Item 1) a The VNNC to support and assist Councilman David Ryu with his “Senior Scam Stopper” event on March 21st. The VNNC to help with all aspects of this important event. The VNNC to consider funding an NPG for this event through the Valley Interfaith Alliance who is co-sponsoring this event. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Hopp. Motion passed with 14 ayes, 1 nay and 0 abstentions.

Item 1) b **The VNNC to support the government program known as AEM or the Asteroid Realignment Mission. Additionally, the VNNC to request additional funding from the Federal Government for this program and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).** This item was moved by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lynn, but did not pass.

Return to the regular meeting. Special Meeting adjourned.

Vice-President’s Report: Ms. Medrano advised a breakdown of different officers was given at her committee meeting for the Public Health and Safety Committee on the 25th of February. She stated that the only committee other than the Executive Committee and Budget and Finance that is meeting monthly is the PLUM Committee. There were other committees that have met at least once per quarter, like Outreach has met previously but has a problem facing them at this time.

Ms. Skelton spoke about the election meetings and that originally Mr. Lynn and she were elected to head the Election Committee. However, Mr. Lynn was too busy, so she and Ms. Hopp attended the meetings led by Mr. Soong downtown pertaining to elections so they could bring back information on ways to increase community participation. When we tried to let the committee know, the vice-president and Mr. Ackerman stated our attendance at these outreach activities for the election were a conflict of interest because we are candidates. Ms. Skelton spoke to DONE and sent an e-mail to the city attorney to ascertain if our attending such informational meetings on outreach is a conflict of interest.

Secretary’s Report: Our secretary advised she sent the minutes to be posted and she provided a copy as well, in addition to the Inventory that she and Ms. Padden took. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman to adopt the minutes. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

The Inventory was adopted with a motion made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman and carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

2) d Treasurer’s Report: Ms. Marin presented the MER for the month of December. Following review, a motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lynn to adopt this report. The motion carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions. **2) d i** Ms. Marin presented the MER for the month of January. Following discussion, a motion to approve this item was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lynn and was carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions. **2) d i** Ms. Marin presented the MER for the

month of February. Following discussion, a motion to approve the report was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lynn and carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

2) iv Discussion and possible action to elect an Education Committee chair. The VNNC to consider combining the Education Committee and the Historical Preservation Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Lynn to appoint Mr. Hendry as the chair of the Education Committee. Motion passed with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

3) Consent Calendar: Following discussion the following items were approved with a motion made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Medrano and carried with a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions: **a, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, n, p and r.**

3) o Discussion and possible action to support a new proposed construction of a 4 unit townhome located at 14824 Delano Street in Van Nuys was postponed, as the individual involved was not present.

3) q Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to file an (RFA) Request for Action to Mr. Ryu and Ms. Martinez, Mr. Krekorian and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and the district attorney's office calling for District Attorney Jackie Lacey to follow the lead of the District Attorney in San Francisco and San Diego and have the DA's office expunge and/or dismiss all prior low-level marijuana-based offenses going back no less than 40 years and to review all other marijuana-related felonies to determine if they should be retroactively reduced to misdemeanors. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Mr. Ackerman to adopt the language in this item. Motion carried with a vote of 10 ayes, 5 nays and 0 abstentions.

5) Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to support the passage of Liam's Law. The VNNC to lobby and write a letter in support of Assembly Bill (AB 1713), and to publicly thank Assemblywoman Burke for introducing this legislation. This item was postponed and referred to the Public Health and Safety Committee.

Mr. Browning made a motion to host a candidate forum. We cannot vote on anything that is not on the agenda. Mr. Thomas said we could host a candidate forum for one hour prior to our meeting in April and May.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Hopp, Secretary