

Michael Browning
President

Kathy Schreiner
Vice President

John Hendry
Secretary

Jennifer Febre
Treasurer

Board
Hakop 'Jack' Azatyan
John Camera
Jason Correa
Brian Edelman
Damaris Macias
Lillian Macias
Richard Marks
Ashley Nicole Martinez
Rigüey Mercado
Kathleen Padden
Dr. Thelá Thatch



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council
General Board Meeting

Minutes
April 14, 2021

Zoom meeting online or by telephone
Dial **(669) 900-6833** to join the meeting
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IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) AND DUE TO CONCERNS OVER COVID-19, THE GENERAL BOARD OF VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED ENTIRELY TELEPHONICALLY.

Members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting or participate in public comment to the Committee via telephone should call (669) 900-6833 or one of the following Toll-Free Telephone Numbers: (833) 548 0282, (888) 475 4499, (877) 853 5257, (833) 548 0276 use Meeting ID No. 858 5759 9476 and then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID. When you have a question for the Host, you can Raise Hand by pressing *9, when called on to talk, you can mute/unmute by pressing *6.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS The public is requested dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker per item with a maximum of 10 minutes total per meeting, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

1. Call to order 7:06 PM. Introductory comments. President Browning stated that he will give three warnings to stakeholders during Public Comment of an item to stay on the item subject. After the third warning, a stakeholder will be removed from the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Camera.

a. QUORUM CALL PRESENT-12

- i. President Browning
- ii. VP Schreiner
- iii. Treasurer Febre
- iv. Secretary Hendry
- v. Parliamentarian D. Macias
- vi. Azatyan
- vii. Camera
- viii. Edelman
- ix. L. Macias
- x. Marks
- xi. Martinez
- xii. Thatch.

b. ABSENT -3

- i. Padden
- ii. Correa
- iii. Mercado.

c. QUORUM was met. Proceeded to agenda.

2. Executive and Committee Chair Reports:

- a. President Browning thanked members of the public for attending and the importance of community participation in the meeting. He requested that stakeholders respect everyone and expressed hope that comments will be intended to benefit Van Nuys and the Neighborhood Council. He said that the Council is not ready to discuss the agenda item regarding an NPG for One Generation, which will be postponed to a future meeting.
- b. Vice President Schreiner showed a copy of the NC mail-in ballot she received in the mail from the City. She announced that a number of the candidates for open seats were present among attendees and would be making self-introductions later in the meeting. She also emphasized her agreement with President Browning that the Board wants to set a positive and inclusive tone for the meeting.
- c. Secretary Hendry- Minutes posted; PLUM meeting forthcoming. Some people have a desire in the preservation of Corky's Restaurant, 5100 block of Van Nuys Blvd. Preserve it or build a Chick-Fill-A?
- d. Treasurer- President Browning welcomed Febre to the role of Treasurer. Febre thanked VP Schreiner for her continuing assistance. VNNC is very close to being caught

- up with all financial paperwork that needs to be submitted to the City. Febre has confidence that going forward all financial transactions can be handled expeditiously.
- e. Outreach Chair Martinez- Outreach Committee Meeting scheduled for 4/13 had to be postponed due to lack of quorum. A new meeting will be scheduled before the end of the month. New members will be added.
 - f. Human Services Chair Thatch- Had a good meeting on April 7th. Reviewed NPG application from Hope of the Valley and voted to recommend approval by the Board. A discussed proposal was that Marks and Thatch worked on regarding an apartment vacancy bulletin board. CD 4 office staff member Alexandria Naseef has expressed the Councilperson's interest in helping with this concept. Two CISs were discussed and recommended to move to the Board for consideration at next month's meeting. Next Human Services meeting will be first Wednesday of May, which is May 5th.

3. Reports from Government officials: (2 min each)

- a. LAPD Van Nuys Division—Officer Mike Perez. Grand theft auto crimes have gone significantly down in the last week. Announced ZOOM Combating hate against Asian-Americans on Wed April 28 at 10 a.m.
- b. LAUSD Board President Kelly Gonez had hoped to attend in person. However, her staff person Michael Menjivar reported that Board President Gonez was still in a School Board meeting (which had started at 11 a.m. and was still in progress). Menjivar shared update: schools to reopen; hybrid model – parents choose. Best practices for safe place, including air filters and cleaning, Gonez and staff open to any questions about the return. Multiple employee vaccination sites.
- c. Council District 6 – Yvonne Perez (818) 778 4999. Martinez supporting vaccines. Working on housing options for the homeless. Will open rooms at Valley Haven (Sepulveda near Vanowen); 79 beds (former Motel Six). Part of homeless roadmap that the City is working on.
- d. Council District 4 – Alexandria Naseef <mailto:alexandria.naseef@lacity.org> Ordinance against tenant harassment by Landlords discussed in Housing Committee. Bridge homeless building at Burbank west of Van Nuys. Also, hopeful might be able to use open lot on Oxnard, west of Sepulveda next to freeway for homeless.
- e. Council District 2 – formerly Nikki Ezhari — new field deputy is Cairo Rodriguez.
- f. Mayor's office - Caroline Menjivar (818) 689-2334- Student Clarisa presented the report.
- g. Jessica Orellana, County Supervisorial District 3. Newly overseeing Van Nuys area. Updates on vaccine.
- h. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). Lorenzo Briceno present. Provided information on City Clerk's guidelines on end of fiscal year. May 20th last date to submit event request. June 1st is last date to request a check. June 21st is last date for bankcard transactions.

4. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (2 min per stakeholder)

- a. Rouillard (candidate) has questions about current development policies requiring insufficient parking. She also noted that to avoid catalytic converter theft, people are advised to park indoors or to park in well lighted area. However, there is not enough

indoor parking and many residential streets are not well lighted. How petition for speed bumps?

- b. Marez on addressing the homeless – should try to get people back to their own families. Also, why can't DWP use its multiple properties for homeless.
 - c. Puppet.
 - d. Kevin W, Shelter Now Coalition.
 - e. R. Hopp.
5. Discussion and possible actions on the BONC Statement on Civility and Positive Human Relations Resolution in the Neighborhood Council System, February 2, 2021.
<https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/BONC-Resolution-on-Civility-Signed-v2-.pdf>
- a. Schreiner leaded discussion for VNNC to “affirm” the BONC proposal
 - b. Public comment
 - i. Hopp
 - ii. Goat Puppet
 - iii. Myra
 - c. Motion to vote (Thatch/Schreiner) Vote to adopt BONC’s resolution on civility and apply it wholeheartedly.
 - i. Yes
 1. President Browning
 2. VP Schreiner
 3. Treasurer Febre
 4. Secretary Hendry
 5. Azatyan
 6. Camera
 7. Edelman
 8. Martinez
 9. Thatch.
 - ii. No
 1. D. Macias
 2. L. Macias
 - iii. Abstention
 1. Marks
 - iv. Motion approved.
6. Consent Calendar. If all agree, all items are passed in one vote/ If anyone disagrees as to an item the item is pulled, and a full discussion and vote is undertaken.
- a. Possible action to use an on-screen time clock and physical timer for public comments. If any costs are associated, not to exceed \$50.
 - b. Possible action to approve outstanding Minutes, March 10, 2021

https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/VNNC_GBM_Draft_Minutes_03102021.pdf

- c. Possible action to pay Bridgegap \$500 for administrative services provided for March 2021. https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/VNNC_Invoice_Form_04012021_Bridgegap.pdf
- d. Possible action to approve outstanding invoices for Moore Business Results for February 2021-\$699.72; March 2021-\$696.15. <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/MBR-3-1-4-1.pdf>
- e. Possible action to support PLUM committee recommendations.
 - i. Recommend that the City Planning Dept. approve a rear-yard reduction resulting from the split zoned nature of the lot at 15102, 15106 W Haynes, 15105 W Hamlin. Case# ZA 2021-929-ZAA, **ENV 2021-958 CE**. Applicant is seeking to subdivide property as part of separate application ([AA 2019-1556 PMLA ZA](#)). As part of subdivision, applicant is seeking a rear-yard reduction resulting from the split zoned nature of the lot. Representative/ Applicant: Sue Steinberg of Howard Robison & Associates. Supporting Documents: [Photos/ Entitlement reports, Application](#).
 - ii. Recommend that the City Planning Dept. approve requested change of use from warehouse into an automotive service and storage location for a private collection of cars at property at 14814-14818 Calvert. Case# [ZA 2021-1243 CU](#). Representative/ Applicant: Nick Leathers of Crest Real Estate. Supporting Documents: [Application/Drawings, Findings, Drawings](#)
- f. Possible action to appoint the President as an Alternate Signer for Financial Documents.
- g. Support for DONE's Board Seating Policy to allow the new board to be seated in July 2021. Many Neighborhood Councils have taken action to adopt a seating policy to sit the new board in July following an election (as opposed to the month following their election). Final Election results will be available at the end of May 2021.
- h. Public comment:
 - i. Goat Puppet
 - ii. Hopp
- i. Motion to vote to approve consent calendar (Febre/Schreiner)
 - i. Yes
 - 1. President Browning
 - 2. VP Schreiner

3. Treasurer Febre
 4. Secretary Hendry
 5. Marks
 6. Camera
 7. Edelman
 8. Martinez
 9. Thatch.
- ii. No -- None
 - iii. Abstention
 1. D. Macias
 2. L. Macias
 3. Azatyan
7. Discussion and possible action to support PLUM Committee recommendation.
- a. Recommend that City Planning Dept. approve proposed project at 7621 Tobias. Case# DIR 2021-1320 TOC HOA. Demo of existing SFD to construct 17 units (15 market rate and 2 extremely low income or ELI). Project qualifies as TOC Tier 3. Requesting 3 incentives: height increase, open space (25% reduction), and setbacks per RAS-3 zone. Representative/Applicant—Nick Leathers of Crest Real Estate. Supporting Documents: Application/ Drawings
 - b. Question about size of one-bedroom units. Answer: average of 650 sq feet.
 - c. Public comment
 - i. Puppet
 - ii. D. Rouillard
 - d. Motion to vote to approve recommendation (Hendry/Febre)
 - i. Yes
 1. President Browning
 2. VP Schreiner
 3. Treasurer Febre
 4. Secretary Hendry
 5. Azatyan
 6. Camera
 7. Edelman
 8. Thatch.
 - ii. No
 1. D. Macias
 2. L. Macias

3. Marks
4. Martinez

8. VNNC Candidates: Self Introductions for May2021 Elections of those candidates who were present (90 seconds max).

- a. Zone 1:
 - i. Michael Browning
 - ii. Glenn Makiri
- b. Zone 3
 - i. Robert Edmiston
- c. At-Large Resident Rep Seat 1:
 - i. Damaris Macias
 - ii. Danielle Rouillard
 - iii. Mayra Todd
 - iv. Kibwe Trim
- d. At-Large Residential Renter Rep Seat 1 – no one present
- e. Senior Rep:
 - i. John Hendry
- f. Commercial Business Owner or Employee RepSeat
 - i. Hakop “Jack” Azatyan unable to speak; recovering from surgery
- g. Religious Institution Rep:
 - i. John Camera
- h. Non-Profit Community Org or Club Rep:
 - i. Myrra Bolla – present but not able to unmute
- i. Youth Rep:
 - i. Lilian Macias

9. Budget Update Discussion and Possible Actions:

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve outstanding MERs. Jennifer reviewed each of the three MERs.
 - i. January MER <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Jan-2021-MER.pdf>
 - ii. February MER <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Feb-2021-MER.pdf>
 - iii. March MER <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Mar-2021-MER.pdf>
 - iv. Public comment:
 1. Puppet
 2. Marez
 - v. Motion to approve Jan., Feb., and March MERS (Marks/Edelman)
 1. Yes

- a. President Browning
 - b. VP Schreiner
 - c. Treasurer Febre
 - d. Secretary Hendry
 - e. Parliamentarian D. Macias
 - f. Azatyan
 - g. Camera
 - h. Edelman
 - i. L. Macias
 - j. Marks
 - k. Martinez
 - l. Thatch.
 - 2. No
 - a. None
 - 3. Abstention
 - a. None
- vi. Motion approved to approve MERS.
- b. Total funds expended through 3/31/21: \$6,210.87 <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/VNNC-Expenditure-update-as-of-March-31st.pdf>

10. Neighborhood Purpose Grants

- a. Requirements that Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs) must meet in order to be approved – must provide a demonstrable benefit to the community. <https://clerk.lacity.org/clerk-services/nc-funding/documents-forms/npg-documents>
- b. Review of priority categories for support identified during VNNC Board Retreat <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/List-of-focus-areas-for-potential-funding-by-VNNC.pdf>
- c. Discussion and possible action on recommendation from the Human Services Committee regarding NPG application from Hope of the Valley for \$5000.00, Agency is applying for NPG of \$5000.00 to help formerly homeless residents of A Bridge Home Van Nuys to overcome barriers and improve their readiness for transition to permanent housing <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Hope-of-the-Valley-NPG-3.15.21-application.pdf> <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Sample-list-of-potential-types-of-assistance-to-provide-to-A-Bridge-Home-Van-Nuys-Residents.pdf>
 - i. The project was presented by Dr. Thelá Thatch and by Bernice Saavedra from Hope of the Valley.
 - ii. Public Comment
 - 1. Hopp – VNNC By-Laws requires that applications for NPGs be reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee before they can be voted on by the General Board.
 - 2. Puppet

3. Myrra Bolla (candidate who was muted earlier under Item 8)
 4. Marez – Hope of the Valley has done so much for Van Nuys in the past and worked with VNNC members.
- iii. Motion to vote to approve NPG (Schreiner/Thatch)
 - iv. Yes
 1. President Browning
 2. VPSchreiner
 3. Treasurer Febre
 4. Secretary Hendry
 5. Azatyan
 6. Camera
 7. Edelman
 8. L. Macias
 9. Marks
 10. Martinez
 11. Thatch.
 - v. No
 1. None
 - vi. Abstention
 1. D. Macias
 - vii. Due to a technical error, the vote was rescinded and the item was sent to the Budget and Finance Committee for review.
- d. Review of NPG application from One Generation for \$1000.00 was postponed because the application needs to be considered first by the Outreach Committee (which did not have a quorum at the meeting on 4/13/21).

11. Proposed Election Outreach

- a. Discussion and possible action to implement election outreach budget approved at the 03/10/2021 GBM. Schreiner: what we will focus on:
 - i. How-to-instructions on requesting Mail-in ballot
 - ii. Candidate Forum
 - iii. Flyers
 - iv. Next Door
 - v. Facebook and Instagram – ads and/or elevate posts; use hashtags

12. Report from Ad Hoc Committee on the Website

- a. Report from VP Schreiner, Treasurer Febre, Dr. Thatch on three issues:
 - i. The new website will utilize Squarespace software (versus

- current use of WordPress).
 - ii. The transition will be deferred so that there is no disruption prior to the election. Anticipate completion by the end of June.
 - iii. Still working out division of work between a paid website administrator and work that can be done by Board members.
 - b. President Browning requested that recommendations be made to the Executive Committee and then presented to the Board for discussion. He expressed concern that there needs to be clear commitments from members if some posting responsibilities are to be handled by board members.
 - c. Dr. Thatch will be doing research to see what alternatives might be for contractors to help with the website.
 - d. Hopefully recommendations will be presented at May meeting.
13. Discussion and possible action to revise limits for public comment and review any response from City Attorney regarding pending item. Tabled because there has been no response from the City Attorney's office. City Attorney's office was asked for an opinion. Mr. Briceno of DONE, VNNC leadership got no response from City Attorney.
14. Adjournment. Motion (Marks/Edelman); approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted, John Hendry,
VNNC Secretary.
April 16, 2021.