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Dr. Thelá Thatch
Kibwe Trim
Britt Vaughan
Matt Wayne

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting Approved Minutes

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Zoom meeting
online or by telephone
Please click the link below
to join the Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87609757252>

Dial **(669) 900-6833** to join the meeting
Enter Meeting ID **876 0975 7252**
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877 853 5257 US Toll-free
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In Conformity with The September 16, 2021 Enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) And Due to Concerns Over Covid-19, General Board Meeting of Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Will Be Conducted Telephonically and Internet Based Via Zoom.

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 use Meeting ID No. **876 0975 7252** 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 to dial *9 if participating by phone or "Raise Hand" if participating by computer, 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. **Speakers shall limit their comments to matters relevant to the item on the agenda. The Chair may rule that the speaker is out of order if the comments are not germane to the item under consideration**

1. **Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance** The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM by President Schreiner. The roll was called by the minute taker. The Pledge was led by President Schreiner.

VNNC ITEM 1. Roll Call	
Present –13	Absent-05
Schreiner, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Thatch, Vaughan, Wayne	Vijayan, Hendry, Camera, Rouillard, Trim

Suju Vijayan joined the meeting at 7:12PM.

John Camera joined the meeting at 7:12PM.

2. Reports from Government officials:

- a. LAPD Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/>
 - i. Senior Lead Officer Gutierrez, LAPD reported that there was an officer involved shooting in Van Nuys. The suspect was armed and a firearm was found and recovered. He was transported to the hospital and will be arrested. There was also a kidnapping by a homeless person, but officers were able to assist.
- b. Council District 4 – Ryan Ahari ryan.ahari@lacity.org 213-473-7004 reported that there was a successful homeless count and thanked Myrra for helping with the count. Starting January 16, 2023, all residents must use the green bins for food scrap waste for composting. CD 4 is partnering with LASan to hand out free, kitchen pails. On February 26, 2023 CD will be handing out kitchen pails from 10:30AM- 1:00PM at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Park. Location TBD. There is a meeting for the planning of the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan and the meeting is looking for feedback from the community. The Alfresco Ordinance meeting is also happening right now and is one of many meetings planned for community input. You can also contact Ryan at 213-424-2412.
- c. Council District 6 – Sophia Soudani (818) 778 4999 sophia.soudani@lacity.org reported that that the SoCal Gas Scholarship Program is running from February 6, 2023 to March 15, 2023 and is for 15 awards for four year programs with \$5000.00 awarded per year. Contact Sophia for more information. The Council Office is looking for community members to be on the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project Leadership Council. We are looking for people to advocate for residents, businesses, and the Van Nuys community to make sure that light rail is effective for everybody. Applications are available at the Council Office. Recreation and Parks is hosting a job fair February 11, 2023 at Delano Recreation Center. There is construction at Van Nuys and Vanowen to install curb ramps and left hand turn signals installed. Expect traffic delays next week. You can email her with any issues.
- d. Council District 2 –Cairo Rodríguez cairo.rodriquez@lacity.org 818-755-7676 reported that there is an ADU Zoom webinar on February 15, 2023. You can register at the CD 2 Facebook page or call the Council Office. Cairo also thanked all the volunteers who came out to the 2023 homeless count. The Council Office will be hosting a Summer Youth Academy. Any high school students interested in the program needs to call the Council Office. The flyer will be shared with the VNNC. The Council Office is also accepting applications for internships for college students.
- e. California Congressional District 29 - Osvaldo Ramirez osvaldo.ramirez@mail.house.gov absent, no report.
- f. LA County Probation Department – Mel Bailey mel.bailey@probation.lacounty.gov reported that there is a bi-monthly meeting happening tomorrow at 10:00AM via Zoom to bridge the gap between services that are needed and services that are available.
- g. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) - Lorenzo Briceno lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org (213)

978-1551 absent, no report.

- h. Mayor’s office (Karen Bass) – Michelle Vergara michelle.vergara@lacity.org (213) 400- 9816 absent, no report.
- i. Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) –absent, no report.
- j. Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Alberto Vargas alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov 818-346-4521 reported the District will be hosting a FAFSA workshop via Zoom. The flyer is on the VNNC website. Two bills were introduced today, AB 29 which is about readapting commercial space for affordable housing and AB 554 which is the animal protection act. Feel free to email him with any issues.
- k. Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) -- Brandon Gonzalez absent, no report.
- l. Budget Advocate –no report
- m. Public comment:
 - i. Goat Puppet
 - ii. Call-In User_2

3. Executive Reports

- a. President Schreiner reported on meetings being held in person. VNNC should wait until April to start meeting in person. There will be four meetings on the Sepulveda Basin. Thanked the Board for catching up on their training and all Boardmembers are eligible to vote.
- b. Vice President- no report
- c. Secretary- absent, no report
- d. Treasurer-no report
- e. Parliamentarian- the committee is planning to meet in March, but needs to hear what the plan is for in person meetings.
- f. Public comment:
 - i. Goat Puppet
 - ii. Call-In User_2

4. Consent agenda

- a. Approve January 11th General Board Meeting minutes. https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/VNNC_GBM_Draft_Minutes_01.11.2023.pdf

John Camera left the meeting at 7:45PM.

Public Comment: no comments

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 6a. Approval of January 11th minutes Moved: Browning Seconded: Edelman				
Yes-14	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-04
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Thatch, Vaughan, Wayne	None	None	None	Hendry, Camera, Rouillard, Trim

5. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- a. Call-in User_2
- b. Goat Puppet

John Camera joined the meeting at 7:52PM.
 Kathy moved the meeting to item 7.

6. Item from PLUM Committee

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve recommendation from the PLUM Committee that the VNNC write a letter of support for the project at 6634 and 6650 N. Kester Ave. 91405. **Case No. DIR-2022-6507-TOC-HCA.** Demolition of one single family home (built 1921). Proposing construction of a 12 unit, 4 story apartment building, consisting of three floors of units over one floor of an on-grade parking garage, lobby, and recreation room. Ten (10) units will be market rate and two (2) units will be reserved for very low-income renters. Qualifies for TOC 3. Requesting on-menu incentives of additional height of 14.5 ft. over the 30 ft. allowed (with the first 15 ft. from the street limited at 41 ft.), reduced side yard setbacks of 5 ft. in lieu of required 7 ft., and reduced common open space area of 1463 sq. ft. in lieu of required 1950 sq. ft. Applicant: Anoush Sarkisyan, 6640 Kester LLC Agent/Representative: Armen Kazanchyan, Kazanchyan Design. Digital copies of project documents can be found at: <https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjYwNzQz0> (in box on top right of screen, click on "Initial Submittal Documents" to find links to project documents). No action taken. Item moved to the next meeting.

7. Items from Budget & Finance Committee

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant of \$5000 for The Orange Cooler Project. The purpose of the grant is to help cover the cost of orange coolers, ice water/lemonade, warm blankets and emergency survival items for unhoused people in Van Nuys awaiting housing.
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Orange-Cooler-NPG-Request.pdf>

Public Comment: Goat Puppet, Caller User_1, Latora Green

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 7a. Approval of NPG to The Orange Project for \$5000				
Moved: Browning Seconded: Makiri				
Yes-14	No-1	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Thatch, Vaughan, Wayne	Bolla	None	None	Hendry, Rouillard, Trim

Richard Marks left the meeting at 8:12PM

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee that the VNNC vote to acknowledge a fraudulent charge of \$75.70 made to a VNNC credit card and subsequently reversed by the vendor to eliminate the charge, and no payment was made. Neither the bank nor the City Clerk can remove these two transactions from the records. The City Clerk needs a BAC from the VNNC that acknowledges these two transactions, so that the December MER can be generated and formally reviewed by the VNNC.
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/City-Clerk-email-regarding-two-transactions-missing-receipts.pdf>

Public Comment: Goat Puppet

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 7b. Approval of BAC to acknowledge a fraudulent charge of \$75.70.				
Moved: Febre Seconded: Schreiner				
Yes-14	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-04
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku, Thatch, Vaughan, Wayne	None	None	None	Hendry, Marks, Rouillard, Trim

8. Item from Outreach Committee

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve recommendation from the Outreach Committee that the VNNC approve up to \$300 in Outreach funds to be allocated to supplies and refreshments for community activities sponsored by community agencies and City departments during the months of February March, April, May, and June to reach out to Van Nuys residents. Decisions about specific events can be made at the monthly VNNC meetings.

Public Comment: no comments

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 8a. Approval of up to \$300 in Outreach funds for supplies and refreshments for community activities. Moved: Vijayan Seconded: Makiri				
Yes-14	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-04
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku, Thatch, Vaughan, Wayne	None	None	None	Hendry, Marks, Rouillard, Trim

9. Proposed CIS Recommended by Education Committee and Parks, Open Space, and Environment Committee

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve submission of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners to recommend that priority be given to SFV LAUSD Middle Schools for implementation of the next phase of the Department of Recreation and Parks “Community School Park” program – a program that will make school grounds available on weekends, holidays, and summer for community use for structured recreational activities. Also submit a CIS to LAUSD Board of Education to make the same recommendation – i.e., to advocate for priority to be given to SFV middle schools in the next phase of the “Community School Park” program. Background on this recommendation is provided in the draft CIS that is linked here:

<https://vnn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Draft-CIS-regarding-developing-SFV-middle-schools-as-Community-School-Park...-Feb-2.pdf>

Since Van Nuys has little open space to develop new parks, having LAUSD schools in our area designated as Community School Parks would mean that the Department of Recreation and Parks would staff the school grounds during non-school hours (i.e., on weekends, holidays, and summer) so that the fields and play areas could be used by the community for recreational activities. The Community School Parks had a pilot implementation at four schools in April 2018. A new phase of the program was planned to start in fall of 2022, and five middle schools were selected for implementation of Community School Parks. All five schools are located in Council Districts 8, 9, and 10 -- even though schools in the SFV had a higher potential number of people who could be impacted than four of the chosen schools. It is proposed that the VNNC advocate that when Recreation and Parks chooses schools for the next phase of the program, they give priority to middle schools in the San Fernando Valley in areas that are ranked as having a high need for

parks.

Board comment: John Camera asked if these schools were public or private schools. Kathy Schreiner responded that this program is through the LAUSD.

Public Comment: Goat Puppet

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 9a. Approval of CIS to recommend priority for CSPP in Van Nuys Moved: Browning				
Seconded: Edelman				
Yes-14	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-04
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku, Thatch, Vaughan, Wayne	None	None	None	Hendry, Marks, Rouillard, Trim

10. Report on plans for NC Election Outreach for VNNC Open Positions

- a. **Critical Dates for VNNC Election Process** President Schreiner reviewed the information for the election.
 - i. **Candidate filing** starts on February 22, 2023 and ends April 8, 2023. Candidates can submit an application on the City Clerk’s Portal or by submitting a paper application.
 - ii. **Vote by Mail (VBM) applications** can be submitted through the online portal or by paper application from April 23, 2023 to June 3, 2023. (NOTE: Both application deadlines are moving from 5:00PM to 11:59PM. Staff will only be available to provide assistance during business hours.
 - iii. The VNNC **in-person voting** will take place on June 22, 2023 from 11:00AM to 5:00PM.
 - iv. **VBM ballots will be mailed out** on May 18, 2023 and must be returned and postmarked by election day and received no later than July 2, 2023 in order to be counted
- b. **Election Outreach materials**-Michael Browning reviewed the fliers and other promotional items for the election
- c. **Outreach methods.**

President Schreiner moved the meeting to 10c.i.i.

- i. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$600 from the Election budget to advertise/boost posts on Facebook. Michael Browning explained the options that were available and Facebook was the most cost effective and allowed tracking of the ad success.

Dr. Thatch rejoined the meeting at 8:47PM.

Public Comment: Goat Puppet

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 10c.i. Approval of \$600 for Facebook Ads Moved: Vijayan Seconded: Makiri				
Yes-14	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-04
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku, Thatch, Vaughan, Wayne	None	None	None	Hendry, Marks, Rouillard, Trim

President Schreiner moved the meeting to item 10c.i.i.i.

- ii. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$200 from the Election budget to print and pass out

English/Spanish flyers.

Public Comment: Goat Puppet

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 10c.i.i. Approval of \$200 from the Election budget to print and pass out English/Spanish flyers. Moved: Thatch Seconded: Makiri				
Yes-13	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-05
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku, Vaughan, Wayne	None	None	None	Hendry, Marks, Rouillard, Thatch, Trim

Dr Thatch did not respond to the vote and was considered absent at 8:41PM and then had left the meeting.

President Schreiner moved the meeting back to item 10c.i.

- iii. Table at CD 6 Candidate Forum on Feb. 18th. Send an email to President Schreiner if you have any questions for the candidates. No action taken.

11. Update regarding VNNC participation with other Neighborhood Councils in a joint candidate forum for the CD6 City Council Special Election and to utilize the event to promote recruitment of candidates for the VNNC Board Member election in June 2023. President Schreiner reviewed the information and no action was taken.

- a. The CD 6 Candidate Forum will be hosted by VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils). Each participating NC will be responsible for an individual table where NC representatives can share information about the upcoming election for seats on their NC (e.g., information regarding schedule of dates, seats candidates can run for, and other related information).
- b. The event will be hybrid – both in-person and via live stream. The date will be Saturday, February 18th. Tentative time is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (depending on the number of candidates who participate). Space is being provided at no charge by the Osborne Neighborhood Church, 13051 Osborne St. in Arleta in their community room. The church will provide streaming services.
- c. Invitations have been extended by VANC to all potential candidates. So far 6 have accepted the invitation.
- d. A common digital format for a “flyer” to announce the event was provided to the VNNC. See Attachment at the end of the agenda. The information has been posted on the vnn.org website and on social media.
- e. A neutral moderator will be chosen by VANC. NCs can submit written questions for candidates through February 16th.
- f. What Van Nuys-oriented questions do we want to submit? For example, we want to know what each candidate’s vision/plan is to improve and revitalize Van Nuys Blvd.

President Schreiner moved the meeting to item 13.

12. Plans for Board Retreat No action taken.

- a. Tentative date is Saturday morning, March 11th.
- b. Tentative topics:
 - Identify committees with high priority tasks that need to be accomplished by June 2023 and ensure that those committees have adequate membership. Will also discuss how frequently committees need to meet. (By-Laws require meeting at least quarterly.)

- Discuss policy priorities (e.g., City government reform, addressing homelessness, animal welfare, more parks and green space, etc.)
- Review key Brown Act rules (including not having serial communication)
- Discuss with Ad Hoc Committee on VNNC 20th Anniversary Celebration options under consideration.
- Any other suggestions?

13. Committees

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve appointment of David Harari as the permanent Chair of the Education Committee (replacing Kathy Schreiner, who has served as Interim Chair and will continue to serve as a member of the committee).

Public Comment: no comments

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 6a. Approval of December’s minutes Moved: Edelman Seconded: Browning				
Yes-13	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-05
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku, Vaughan, Wayne	None	None	None	Hendry, Marks, Rouillard, Thatch, Trim

Dr Thatch did not respond to the vote and was considered absent at 8:59PM and then had left the meeting.

- b. Calendar for February committee meetings. President Schreiner reviewed the calendar.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2/6-2/11			Feb 8, 7 pm General Bd. Meeting			
2/13-2/18	Feb 13, 7 pm Education			Feb 16, 7 pm Parks, Open Space & Environment		Feb 18, 10 am CD 6 Candidate Forum
2/20-2/25		Feb. 21, 6:30 Outreach (tentative)		Feb 23, 7 pm PLUM		
2/27-3/4		Feb 28, 6pm Budget & Finance 7 pm Exec	Mar. 1, 6 pm Human Services			

- c. Reports from Committees.

12. Adjournment Moved: Edelman Seconded: Wayne Meeting was adjourned at 9:06PM.