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Council

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John Camera
Brian Edelman
David Harari
Glen Makiri
Richard Marks
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Danielle Rouillard
Dr. Thelá Thatch
Britt Vaughan

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting Approved Minutes Wednesday, April 12, 2023



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 3118
Van Nuys, CA 91407-3118

Email: info@vnnc.org
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1. Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM by President Schreiner. The roll was called by the minute taker. The Pledge was led by John Camera. Brian Edelman gave instructions for public comment and how time keeping will take place.

VNNC ITEM 1. Roll Call	
Present –11	Absent-05
Schreiner, Vijayan, Bolla, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Vaughan	Azatyan, Febre, Hendry, Rouillard, Thatch

Jennifer Febre Joined the meeting at 7:11PM
Hakop Azatyan joined the meeting at 7:11PM.

2. Reports from Government officials:

- a. LAPD Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/> Senior Lead Officer (SLO) George Lara 38454@lapd.online 818-731-2557 Basic Car 9A23 reported that property crime and violent crime is down. Many of the crimes are committed by the homeless and are retail theft. SLO Lara provided maps of the area and contact information for LAPD. Van Nuys is down to two SLOs for the area for the next couple of months.
- b. Council District 2 –Cairo Rodríguez cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org 818-755-7676 Lorraine Diaz was in attendance for Cairo Rodriguez and reported that she is in charge of homelessness for CD 2. Currently the Van Nuys bridge housing is filled to capacity. There were a few female beds, but due to the weather those beds have filled. There are four other sites in CD2 that have capacity so if you know someone that is experiencing homelessness, let us know and we will refer them to interim housing. LAPD has been a big help in helping the homeless get housing. Currently 18 homeless have been housed through LAPD. CD 2 is currently accepting applications for the youth leadership academy this summer. It is a two week program for four hours a day to teach high school students about government. The students work in the office and

have field trips to different city agencies to learn about their operations. CD2 is also accepting applications for internships at the office. Applications can be found on the website.

<https://www.paulkrekorian.org/internship> <https://www.paulkrekorian.org/leadership>

- c. Council District 4 – Ryan Ahari ryan.ahari@lacity.org 213-473-7004 absent, no report
- d. Council District 6 – Jonah Glickman jonah.glickman@lacity.org- absent, no report
- e. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) - Lorenzo Briceno lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org (213) 978-1551- absent, no report
- f. Mayor’s office – Michelle Vergara michelle.vergara@lacity.org (213) 400-9816 absent, no report
- g. Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) – absent, no report
- h. Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Alberto Vargas alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov 818-346-4521- absent, no report
- i. Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) -- Brandon Gonzalez- absent, no report
- j. California Congressional District 29 - Osvaldo Ramirez osvaldo.ramirez@mail.house.gov - absent, no report
- k. LA County Probation Department – Mel Bailey mel.bailey@probation.lacounty.gov - absent, no report
- l. Written report from Budget Advocates. NOTE: Includes link for survey for individuals to complete. <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Budget-Advocates-report-April-2023.pdf> President Schreiner gave a brief report on the document that the city needs money and that Budget Day is coming up in June. Go to the report for more information.
- m. Public comment:
 - i. Mr. Hopp
 - ii. Mr. Candido

3. Executive Reports

- a. President Schreiner reviewed her notes that were on the agenda.
 - i. Accepting applications through April 30th to fill Youth Representative vacancy (term ends 2025)
 - ii. Received written resignations from Kibwe Trim (moved out of the area) and Matt Wayne (time conflict with work). This takes the VNNC to 16 Boardmembers.
 - iii. Clarification of how “abstain” votes are to be treated in determining a majority from a roll call vote.
 - iv. SB 411 update DONE had contacted the President and wanted to know what the VNNC was going to do with the licenses. The President told DONE that the issue would be placed on the May Board meeting. SB411 will allow Neighborhood Councils to have hybrid, zoom, and in person meetings.
 - v. Cleaning communities Glenn Makiri reported that there will be a clean-up on Sherman Way from Sepulveda on April 22, 2023 from 10:00AM on Earth Day. There will be about 21 people participating and anyone can join. President Schreiner encouraged that Boardmembers sign up. If they sign up, they will get a personalized t-shirt. An ice cream social will follow after.

VNNC Bylaws Section 3: Official Actions
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A simple majority vote by the Directors present, not including abstentions , at a meeting which there is a quorum shall be required to take official action, unless specified otherwise in these Bylaws.

- b. Vice President Vijayan
 - i. Report on Councilmember Raman’s Zoom session with LADWP representatives on the handling of the emergency power outages during the recent storm. The outcome is that LADWP learns from these events and that communications needs to be improved both on

the website and social media. LAWDP prioritizes calls and responds to the most dangerous calls.

- c. Secretary absent, no report
- d. Treasurer Febre reported that the VNNC has two months until the end of the fiscal year. There are a few categories that may need to be reallocated to cover all the expenses.
- e. Parliamentarian Bolla reported role of parliamentarian and that she will be providing a written report on motions. She asked the Board what tasks they would like her to perform.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of February 8th General Board Meeting minutes https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/VNNC_GBM_Draft_Minutes_02082023_final.pdf
- b. Approval of March 8th General Board Meeting minutes https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/VNNC_GBM_Draft_Minutes_03082023_final.pdf

Public Comment: no comments

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 4. Approval of the consent agenda. Moved: Vijayan Seconded: Makiri				
Present –13	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Vaughan	None	None	None	Hendry, Rouillard, Thatch

5. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- a. Mr. Scher
- b. Mr. Hopp
- c. Mr. Candido
- d. Goat Puppet

6. Items from Budget & Finance Committee

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the February 2023 MER. <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/VNNC-February-2023-MER.pdf> 1599.82 21719.20

Treasurer Febre reviewed the MER and all the expenses for the month of February 2023. Attachments are in the agenda on the VNNC website and also can be found on the City Clerk’s public website.

Public Comment: Mr. Candido, Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 6a. Approval of February 2023 MER Moved: Browning Second: Harari				
Present –13	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Vaughan	None	None	None	Hendry, Rouillard, Thatch

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant for the Zawadi Cultural Foundation in the amount of \$2,000. The purpose of the grant is to assist with the costs of holding a Juneteenth celebration for the community on Saturday, June 17 at Woodley Park. <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Zawadi-NPG-Application-VNNC-final.pdf>

Item was removed from the agenda because of missing information on the NPG application.

7. Items from Outreach Committee

- a. Discussion and possible action on recommendation from Outreach Committee to approve up to \$400 to purchase Facebook/Instagram ads to promote the election and polling/voting options. Michael Browning thanked everyone who had spread the word about the election and the process to run for the VNNC. These ads will be targeted for voters on where and how to vote and to recruit stakeholders to vote. This will allow the VNNC to purchase ads on Facebook and Instagram. The Outreach committee will also provide materials to the twelve candidates to promote the election and how and where to vote. Michael Browning read the candidate list which can be found at <https://clerkappsele.lacity.org/NCElection/nccandidates?id=b81ced7e-9ff3-40a1-5318-08db144ce607>

Public Comment: Mr. Hopp

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 7a. Approval of \$400 for Social Media ads. Moved: Febre Seconded: Azatyan				
Present –13	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Vaughan	None	None	None	Hendry, Rouillard, Thatch

- b. Critical Dates for VNNC Election Process- **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: Application deadlines are moving from 5:00PM to 11:59PM. Staff will only be available to provide assistance during business hours.) The VNNC **in-person voting** will take place on **June 22, 2023** from 11:00AM to 5:00PM. **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.
- c. Election Outreach materials and activities- the Outreach Committee will need all hands on deck to help with the elections. We are looking at two candidate forums, possibly by Zoom. We could promote the Zoom forums for people to see.

8. Discussion to be introduced by Richard Marks about what the VNNC could do to attract more people to our meetings – including what Boardmembers are willing to do to educate more people about the VNNC.

- a. Richard Marks reviewed the experience he had on the streets with people about the Neighborhood Councils. No one knows we are here. No one is in the audience and when we were on Zoom, we had no one in the audience. We have no say what goes on in Van Nuys. Richard Marks asked who would spend one hour a month to go on the streets and outreach to the community. When we see a hundred people in the audience, we would have done our jobs. We need to get more people involved and fill this meeting. Only then, we will have power.
- b. Michael Browning stated that we almost have no power. We have done great work. We only make recommendations. Why go to the middleman when stakeholders can go to the man when it comes to PLUM or any other decisions.
- c. Brian Edelman stated the importance of Neighborhood Councils. He spent three years coming to meetings and lost two elections, but kept coming. You need to find a place to go and this is the place to start. Have not seen good options to get people to the meetings. What can we do to help out. Find a way to let people know that we are here and that people can come to us.
- d. David Harari 60% of Van Nuys is Spanish and we need to push DONE and the City Council to have translation. We should always be asking for translation services. Understands that translation needs to come out of the budget of the Neighborhood Council and that it can put a burden on the VNNC. It should not come out of the VNNC budget and we should always be asking when there will be a

budget for translation. We need to hammer DONE every time they are here.

- e. Kathy Schreiner has written emails to DONE requesting translations and how DONE can support us.
- f. Jennifer Febre stated that everyone needs to know what the VNNC can do. We have one mandate to make recommendations and have a limited scope. Funds to nonprofits and schools. How do you get people involve? Nothing of interest for people to come. Very limited power. We have a very small email list with mainly government officials. Using social media and Instagram is an illusion.
- g. Kathy Schreiner thinks that we can do better to get people to the meetings. We need to find out what people want.
- h. Suju Vijayan systemic problem that we need to focus on homelessness and give all our NPGs to those organizations. What does the community want?
- i. Michael Browning states that we can host events. There needs to be interest and commitment. The city now has the right to approve outreach events. We are all volunteers.
- j. Public comment:
 - i. Mr. Hopp
 - ii. Mr. Candido
 - iii. Goat Puppet
 - iv. Brian Patton

9. Items from the Parks, Open Space, and Environment

- a. Discussion and possible action to file a CIS to express support for Council File 23-1015 See Motion on p. 8-10 of this document. The council file can be found at: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-0105> The purpose of this Motion is to broaden the Work Plan for development of the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan, request some short-term reports about potential funding sources and the need to align the Vision Plan with criteria of funding sources, and ask for recommendations from the Department of Recreation and Parks for establishment of a Park Advisory Board for the Sepulveda Basin. President Schreiner reviewed the Council File for the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan.

Public Comment: no comments

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 9a. Approval of CIS for CF 23-1015 Moved: Browning Seconded: Febre				
Present –12	No-00	Abstain-01	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku, Vaughan	None	Marks	None	Hendry, Rouillard, Thatch

- b. Discussion and possible action to file a CIS to express support for Council File 23-0167 See Motion on pp. 11-12 of this document. The council file can be found at: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2023/23-0167_misc_2-14-23.pdf The purpose of this motion is to find solutions that could allow the City’s sidewalk repair program to proceed without the need to eliminate so many mature street trees. President Schreiner reviewed the Council File.

Public Comment: Mr. Hopp, Mr. Candido, Goat Puppet

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 9b. Approval of CIS for CF 23-0167 Moved: Browning Seconded: Makiri				
Present –12	No-00	Abstain-01	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Nkuku, Vaughan	None	Marks	None	Hendry, Rouillard, Thatch

10. Items from the Bylaws Committee- NOTE: The Bylaws Committee is proposing potential changes and updates to the Current Version of the VNNC Bylaws dated 5/16/22, which can be found at the following link: <https://vnnc.org/about/> Our NEA from DONE will let Neighborhood Councils know when the time “window” is open to submit Bylaws revisions to the City for approval. Once we know the timeframe, we will compile all the changes into a proposed set of updated Bylaws and follow the timeframe specified by our Bylaws to post the changes for public review with at least 30 days’ notice to the community prior to the meeting.

a. Discussion and possible action to correct discrepancies between page numbers in the table of contents and actual page numbers of bylaws: Corrections as presented.

- ❖ Article V, Governing Body
 - Section 2: Quorum should be page 7.
 - Section 3: Official Actions should be page 7.
 - Section 4: Terms and Term Limits should be page 7-8
 - Section 5: Duties and Powers should be page 8
 - Section 6: Vacancies should be page 8-9
 - Section 7: Absences should be page 9.
 - Section 8: Censure should be page 9-10
 - Section 9: Removal should be page 10-13
- ❖ Article VI OFFICERS should be page 13.
 - Section 1: Officers of the Board should be page 13.
 - Section 2: Duties and Powers should be page 13-14
 - Section3: Selection of Officers should be page 14-15
- ❖ Article VIII MEETINGS
 - Section 2: Agenda Setting should be page 17.
 - Section 3: Notifications/Postings should be page 17- 18
- ❖ Article X ELECTIONS
 - Section 6: Other Election Related Language should be page 20
- ❖ Article XII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY should be page 21.
- ❖ Article XIII AMENDMENTS should be page 21.
- ❖ Article XIV COMPLIANCE
 - Section 3: Self-Assessment should be page 22
- ❖ ATTACHMENT A – Map of Neighborhood Council should be page 23.
- ❖ ATTACHMENT B - Governing Board Structure and Voting should be page 22 – 26

Public Comment: Mr. Hopp, Mr. Candido, Goat Puppet

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 10a. Approval of recommendation Moved: Camera Seconded: Browning				
Present –13	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Vaughan	None	None	None	Hendry, Rouillard, Thatch

b. Discussion and possible action on recommendation from the Bylaws Committee to use uniformly, throughout VNNC Bylaws, the phrase “VNNC Boardmember” as the correct description for elected volunteers:

- ❖ Article V Governing Board, Section 2 Quorum “A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board shall consist of eleven (11) Directors.”
- ❖ Article VII Committees and their Duties, Section 1, line 5 state that All

Standing Committees shall be Chaired by a VNNC Council member.

❖ Article X Elections Section 2: Governing Board Structure and Voting
“...Each Stakeholder shall be able to vote once in each Director category. “

To replace the references to “VNNC Council Member” and “Board Director” with “VNNC Boardmember” throughout the Bylaws.

Public Comment: Mr. Hopp

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 10b. Approval of recommendation Moved: Bolla Seconded: Browning				
Present –13	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Vaughan	None	None	None	Hendry, Rouillard, Thatch

11. Other Committee Business

- a. Reports from Committee Chairs-no reports
- b. The President has reserved the Braude Center conference room for the 4th Wednesday of the month (which will be April 26th this month) for the purpose of holding in-person meetings for committees that need to make decisions about items that will be placed on the agenda for the May 10th GBM. The President will coordinate with Committee chairs about schedule details.

12. LADWP-NC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)-Discussion and possible action to agree to participation by the VNNC in the renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Water and Power and the Neighborhood Councils.

Background:

In February, the LADWP-NC MOU Renewal was approved by DWP. According to Tony Wilkinson, long-time member of the Panorama City NC and Chair of the NC-DWP MOU Oversight Committee: “This longstanding MOU is the ONLY formal agreement between a city department and individual Neighborhood Councils for transparent two-way communications, advance information, and local representation.”

Each Neighborhood Council is requested to agendize its own participation in the MOU and submit its action to LADWP on a Board Action Certificate (BAC).

Each Neighborhood Council should also name its own DWP Representative (who does not necessarily need to be a Board member), along with an Alternate Representative. The NC can choose the way to name a representative (e.g., by Board action or by appointment by the President or by the executive committee).

Please send copies of BACs and messages appointing representatives to:

LADWP -- Stephanie Spicer <Stephanie.Spicer@ladwp.com>

NCMOU -- Tony Wilkinson <tonyw.civic@gmail.com>

Advocacy Committee -- Jack Humphreville <JackH@targetmediapartners.com>

DWP cover letter, Board resolution, and MOU:

<https://vnncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/DWP-cover-letter-and-MOE.pdf>

For further information, see: www.ladwp.com/neighborhoodcouncils.

Public Comment: Mr. Candido, Goat Puppet

Motion: Passed

VNNC. Agenda Item 12. Approval to renew the LADWP MOU Moved: Browning Seconded: Edelman				
Present –13	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	Absent-03
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Camera, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Nkuku, Vaughan	None	None	None	Hendry, Rouillard, Thatch

13. Adjournment Suju Vijayan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:54PM. Richard Marks seconded the motion to adjourn.