

Samuel Apikyani  
 Hakop 'Jack' Azatyan  
 Myrra Bolla  
 John Camera  
 Josue Chavez  
 David Harari  
 John Hendry  
 Ann Kalb  
 Yena Kim  
 David Kopelev  
 Maduka Nkuku  
 Brian Patton  
 Kathy Schreiner  
 Britt Vaughan  
 Cyle Zezotarski

**Van Nuys Neighborhood Council**



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

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

Email: [info@vnnc.org](mailto:info@vnnc.org)  
[www.vnnc.org](http://www.vnnc.org)

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call (by minute taker), and Swearing in of Newly Elected and Re-Elected VNNC Board Members by representative of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Department of Neighborhood Empowerment employee Gibson Nyambura. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Camera.

<b>VNNC ITEM 1. Roll Call</b>	
<b>Present –14</b>	<b>Absent-01</b>
Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Camera, Chavez, Hendry, Kalb, Kim, Kopelev, Nkuku, Patton, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	Harari

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment employee Gibson Nyambura administered the Oath of Office to the VNNC Boardmembers.

**Neighborhood Council Board Member Oath**

I pledge to represent my neighborhood with dignity, integrity, and pride.  
 I will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own. I will respect, value, and consider everyone's opinion.  
 I will find the good in my neighborhood and praise it and promote it.  
 To my neighbors, and to neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles, I pledge to do this to the best of my ability.

VNNC Bylaws (May 2022) Article VI: OFFICERS

**Section 1: Officers of the Board**

The VNNC has four (4) officers of the Board (“Officers”): President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, which together, comprise the Executive Committee.  
 A fifth Director may be included to join the Executive Committee by the Officers.

**Section 3: Selection of Officers**

The Board will elect its Officers every two (2) years by simple majority vote by the Directors present at the General Board meeting. The selection of Officers will take place the following month after the Citywide Neighborhood Board Election

*Note: See Appendix A for full version of Article VI.*

**2. Election of Officers**

- a. President- Kathy Schreiner self-nominated for President.

**Public Comment: Mr. Marez, Mr. Hopp, Scott Schmerelson, Vanessa Garza, Speaker 1**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 2a. Motion to appoint Kathy Schreiner as President Moved: Schreiner Seconded: Nkuku</b>				
<b>Yes –09</b>	<b>No-02</b>	<b>Abstain-03</b>	<b>Ineligible-00</b>	<b>Absent-01</b>
Azatyany, Camera, Kim, Kopelev, Nkuku, Patton, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	Bolla, Hendry	Apikyany, Chavez, Kalb	None	Harari

**President Schreiner presided over the meeting after her appointment.**

**Samuel Apikyany left the meeting at 8:05PM**

- b. Vice-President- Nkuku, Hendry, and Chavez self-nominated for Vice President.

**Public Comment: Mr. Marez, Christopher McNeela, Mr. Hopp**

**Motion: Nkuku appointed Vice President.**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 2b. Motion to appoint Vice President. Moved: Kopelev Seconded: Azatyany</b>				
<b>Nkuku-07</b>	<b>Hendry-2</b>	<b>Chavez-3</b>	<b>Abstain-01</b>	<b>Absent-01</b>
Azatyany, Kalb, Kopelev, Nkuku, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	Camera, Hendry	Bolla, Chavez, Patton	Kim	Apikyany, Harari

- c. Secretary- John Hendry self-nominated for Secretary.

**Public Comment: Mr. Marez, Mr. Hopp**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 2c. Motion to appoint John Hendry as secretary. Moved: Hendry Seconded: Bolla</b>				
<b>Yes –13</b>	<b>No-00</b>	<b>Abstain-00</b>	<b>Ineligible-00</b>	<b>Absent-02</b>
Azatyany, Bolla, Camera, Chavez, Hendry, Kalb, Kim, Kopelev, Nkuku, Patton, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	None	None	None	Apikyany, Harari

- d. Treasurer Kathy Schreiner nominated Brian Patton for Treasurer.

**Public Comment: Mr. Marez, Christopher McNeela, Mr. Hopp**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 2d. Motion to appoint Brian Patton as Treasurer. Moved: Schreiner Seconded: Camera</b>				
<b>Yes –13</b>	<b>No-00</b>	<b>Abstain-00</b>	<b>Ineligible-00</b>	<b>Absent-02</b>
Azatyany, Bolla, Camera, Chavez, Hendry, Kalb, Kim, Kopelev, Nkuku, Patton, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	None	None	None	Apikyany, Harari

- e. Parliamentarian-Kathy Schreiner nominated Myrra Bolla for Parliamentarian.

**Public Comment: Mr. Marez, Mr. Hopp**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 2e. Motion to appoint Myrra Bolla as Parliamentarian. Moved: Schreiner Seconded: Vaughan</b>				
<b>Yes –13</b>	<b>No-00</b>	<b>Abstain-00</b>	<b>Ineligible-00</b>	<b>Absent-02</b>
Azatyany, Bolla, Camera, Chavez, Hendry, Kalb, Kim, Kopelev, Nkuku, Patton, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	None	None	None	Apikyani, Harari

**2. Reports from Government officials: NOTE: Because of the amount of time that was required to complete officer elections, many of the government officials had to leave before making a report. Reports were provided by the individuals named below.**

- a. Council District 4 – Ryan Ahari [ryan.ahari@lacity.org](mailto:ryan.ahari@lacity.org) 213-473-7004 reported that the Councilmember advocated for \$1.3 million for non-armed response for those having a mental episode to get the help they need. The Council Office recently held a Movies in the Park with Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council. On July 22<sup>nd</sup> will be an additional Movies in Park. More information on the website. Currently the Council Office is working with the homeless to get them into housing. Due to the heavy rains storms this past winter, weeds are very overgrown. LACC is working to remove the weeds. Call if there is a need for weed abatement. The Council is also working to have the street lights upgraded to LED lights. Contact the office if you need services.
- b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) -Gibson Nyambura [gibson.nyambura@lacity.org](mailto:gibson.nyambura@lacity.org) 818-374-9953 reported that he is the new director of innovation. His job is to integrate data into community engagement. He has worked for the city of Los Angeles for ten years with six years at the DONE. He wants to provide support to the Board. He can be contacted for any needs of the Board. The new NEA will be attending the next meeting. His name is Alfonso.
- c. LAUSD School Boardmember Scott Schmerelson reported that he is the School Boardmember for District 3 and he oversees over 103 schools from North Hollywood to Porter Ranch. He had never represented Van Nuys until the city of Los Angeles had the great change, redistricting. He had heard about many of the local schools and charter schools in Van Nuys. He started his career as a teacher, then a councilor, and then a principal. He tries to do his best to help the students and parents and is at the communities service. He buys benches and boards for many of his schools.
- d. **Public comment- Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet, Mr. Marez**

**Samuel Apikyan rejoined the meeting at 8:31PM**

- 3. Report on status of CA State Senate Bill 411 (Portantino) regarding allowing Neighborhood Councils to have a choice to hold virtual meetings. President Schreiner gave an overview of Senate Bill 411 and that it passed the Assembly Committee. The bill will then go to the full Assembly and then if passed will be forwarded to the Governor for his signature. Once it is law, then the City Council will have to vote to allow Neighborhood Councils to meet virtual.
- 4. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:
  - a. Christopher McNeela
  - b. Mr. Hopp
  - c. Mr. Marez
  - d. Goat Puppet

**President Schreiner moved to item 8.**

5. Discussion and possible action to approve the May 2023 MER and the June 2023 MER.  
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/VNNC-May-MER.pdf>  
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/VNNC-June-2023-MER.pdf>  
 NOTE: pages 11-24 of June MER are details associated with payments for Facebook ads for VNNC elections that are summarized on page 10. **Postponed**

6. Discussion and possible action to complete and approve the draft Fiscal Year Administrative Package for the VNNC. **Postponed**

<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/VNNC-NCFP-AdminPacket-AnnualBudget-Gen-fillable-FY-2023-2024.pdf>

- a. Draft Budget recommended by the Budget & Finance Committee at its meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>. See pages 8 (of 12) through 10 (of 12) of linked Admin. Packet. **Postponed**
- b. Fiscal Officer Roles to be appointed – must have completed Fiscal Officer Training. See pages 2 (of 12) through 5 (of 12) of linked Admin. Packet. Note: name of new Treasurer will be substituted on page 2 for name of previous Treasurer.
  - i. Second Signer (currently held by Kathy Schreiner) **Postponed**
  - ii. Alternate Signer **Postponed**
  - iii. First Bank Cardholder **Postponed**
  - iv. Second Bank Cardholder (currently held by Kathy Schreiner) **Postponed**

7. Discussion about whether to hold a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Braude Center Conference Room for a Board Retreat. Potential topics for discussion include (1) identifying key issues the Board would like to address during the next 12 months, (2) deciding what committees to activate and appointing committee chairs and members, and (3) discussing possible outreach events (near-term and later in the year), as well as other topics identified by Board members. July 27at 7:00PM. Three members said that they would not be able to attend a meeting on July 26th. It was determined that all three could attend if the meeting was moved to July 27at 7:00PM. President Schreiner will confirm that the Braude Center will be available on July 27th. Motion to postpone rest of the items until July 27.

**Public Comment: Mr. Marez, Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 8. Motion to postpone the rest of the agenda items until July 27<sup>th</sup>. Moved: Schreiner</b>				
<b>Seconded: Bolla</b>				
<b>Yes –13</b>	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	<b>Absent-01</b>
Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Camera, Chavez, Hendry, Kalb, Kim, Kopelev, Nkuku, Patton, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	None	None	None	Harari

8. Discussion and possible action about whether to post vacant Board positions and invite application by individuals who meet the qualifications for each position. (See Appendix B for section from By-

Laws regarding how vacancies will be filled. Note that applications for positions that are to be considered for appointment at the August 9<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting must be received by July 28<sup>th</sup> to meet the requirement of being submitted at least 10 days before a scheduled Board meeting.)

**Postponed**

- a. At-Large vacant positions:
    - i. At-Large Resident Representative Seat 1 (expires 2025)
    - ii. At-Large Representative Seat 2 (expires 2025)
  - b. Zone Resident vacancy for Zone 1 (expires 2025) -- bounded by the railroad tracks north of Saticoy Street, Van Nuys Boulevard, Vanowen Street and the 405 freeway.
  - c. Youth Representative (expires 2025) -- must be between 14 and 17 years of age at the time of election (or appointment)
  - d. Seats requiring special qualifications that had no candidates in the recent election:
    - i. At-Large Industrial Business Owner or Employee Seat 2 (expires 2027)
    - ii. School Representative (expires 2027) – stakeholder who is an employee or a parent volunteer at a school located within the VNNC boundaries
9. Discussion and possible action to appoint one or more Board members to be Budget Representatives. (Info about Budget Representatives and Budget Advocates can be found at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>) **Postponed**
10. Discussion and possible action to approve a CIS to support Council File (CF) 23-1200-S130, regarding nomination by Controller Kenneth Mejia of Reseda NC member Jamie York to the Ethics Commission. **Postponed**

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-1200-S130>

[https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Mejia-nomination-of-Jamie-York-CF-23-1200-s130\\_rpt\\_ctllr\\_07-05-23.pdf](https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Mejia-nomination-of-Jamie-York-CF-23-1200-s130_rpt_ctllr_07-05-23.pdf)

[https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Jamie-York-resume-CF-23-1200-s130\\_misc\\_06-30-23.pdf](https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Jamie-York-resume-CF-23-1200-s130_misc_06-30-23.pdf)

11. Identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting. **Postponed**
12. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 9:12PM.