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Danielle Rouillard  
Dr. Thelá Thatch  
Britt Vaughan

## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



### Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2023  
7:00PM

Conference room of the  
Marvin Braude Constituents  
Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd,  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

(SE corner of Van Nuys Blvd. and  
Sylvan St.)



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Neighborhood Council  
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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**

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

- a. LAPD Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/>
- b. Council District 2 –Cairo Rodríguez [cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org](mailto:cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org) 818-755-7676
- c. Council District 4 – Ryan Ahari [ryan.ahari@lacity.org](mailto:ryan.ahari@lacity.org) 213-473-7004
- d. Council District 6 – Jonah Glickman [jonah.glickman@lacity.org](mailto:jonah.glickman@lacity.org)
- e. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) - Lorenzo Briceno [lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org](mailto:lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org) (213) 978-1551
- f. Mayor’s office – Michelle Vergara [michelle.vergara@lacity.org](mailto:michelle.vergara@lacity.org) (213) 400-9816
- g. Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) –
- h. Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Alberto Vargas [alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov](mailto:alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov) 818-346-4521
- i. Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) -- Brandon Gonzalez
- j. California Congressional District 29 - Osvaldo Ramirez [osvaldo.ramirez@mail.house.gov](mailto:osvaldo.ramirez@mail.house.gov)
- k. LA County Probation Department – Mel Bailey [mel.bailey@probation.lacounty.gov](mailto:mel.bailey@probation.lacounty.gov)

**3. \*\*\*\*7:30 pm. Presentation on the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan and opportunity for comments from Board Members and the Public\*\*\*\*\***

Presenter: Dr. Mark Hanna from Geosyntec

Background: The Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area is an approximately 2,000-acre flood management basin located in the San Fernando Valley near the intersection of the 101 and 405 Freeways. The Basin is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and includes parks and recreational facilities managed primarily by the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks.

The Sepulveda Basin is the largest public open space in the San Fernando Valley, but surrounding neighborhoods are significantly lacking green open spaces, with only 0.2 acres of park per 1000 people in Van Nuys and Sherman Oaks – significantly below the LA County goal of 4 acres/1000 people. While the Sepulveda Basin does provide recreational opportunities for the San Fernando Valley, it can be difficult to access and navigate, areas are underutilized and could be enhanced to provide better natural habitat, recreation, and cultural spaces.

The City’s Bureau of Engineering, with a team of consultants and a technical advisory board, is tasked with developing a long-term Vision Plan for the future development of the Sepulveda Basin. They are in the process of seeking community input.

The VNNC voted last month to submit a CIS to express support for Council File 23-1015, a motion by Councilmember Raman to broaden the Work Plan for development of the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan and request some short-term reports about potential funding sources and the need to align the Vision Plan with criteria of funding sources.

- a. John Hendry will present the questions and comments shown in Attachment A.
- b. Other Board Members will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

- c. Public attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

#### **4. Executive Reports**

- a. President
  - ✓ Status of SB 411 (Portantino) regarding allowing Neighborhood Councils to have a choice to hold virtual meetings.
  - ✓ LANCC (Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition) is developing a proposed “Bill of Rights” for Neighborhood Councils and is seeking input.
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Parliamentarian

- 5. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (2 min per stakeholder) A stakeholder who wishes to provide public comment may indicate to the Chair before providing public comment whether they wish to provide one minute or two minutes of public comment.

#### **6. Youth Representative vacancy**

Discussion and possible action to appoint candidate Rohan Blum to fill the vacancy for Youth Representative (term ends 2025).

<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/VNNC-application-R-Blum.jpg>

*Candidate statement: My name is Rohan Blum, and I've lived in Van Nuys my entire life. I'm a sophomore at the North Hollywood High School Highly Gifted Magnet, and during the last few years I've become very active in local politics. I have represented my school on School Board Member Scott Schmerelson's Student Advisory Council for 2 years, and I am an intern at Councilmember Nithya Raman's office. I am a straight A student, but my interests go beyond academics. I have won many awards with my school's Model United Nations Club and Speech and Debate Club. However, I've always wanted to have a more practical use of these public speaking and leadership skills. As a member of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, I would effectively represent my community and interact with the public, while learning about the powers and limitations of local government.*

#### **7. Items from Budget & Finance Committee**

- a. Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Board approve the March MER.  
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/VNNC-MER-March-2023.pdf>
- 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.  
NOTE: This NPG was withdrawn from the 4/12 GBM agenda due to a technical error in the application. A revised copy of the NPG application is linked below:

<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Revised-NPG-application-for-Juneteenth-Celebration.pdf>

- c. Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Board fund a Neighborhood Purpose Grant for The Valley of Change to provide hygiene kits to unhoused persons in Van Nuys.  
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/VNNC-NPG-Application-Valley-of-Change-Merged-.pdf>
- d. Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Board confirm to DONE that VNNC wants to retain the current two Zoom licenses (while we await State legislative action that could allow NCs to hold virtual and “true” hybrid meetings).
- e. Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Board approve a request from the Chair of the Outreach Committee that the VNNC purchase up to \$1000 in promotional items before the end of the fiscal year.
- f. Discussion and possible action to authorize renewal of vnnc.org email boxes with GoDaddy.
- g. Discussion of revisions to the Budget that will be recommended to the Board in order to allow anticipated expenses to be paid before the June cutoff dates set by the City Clerk (i.e., June 1<sup>st</sup> for check requests and June 20<sup>th</sup> for credit card purchases.)
- h. Discussion and possible action to approve reimbursement to Michael Browning for \$400 in Facebook election ads that Mr. Browning paid for with his personal credit card because the replacement City credit card that was "mailed" to Michael Browning was not received by him in time to be used to purchase Facebook ads.
- i. Discussion and possible recommendation for the Board to consider temporary appointment of a new Treasurer at the June GBM meeting to cover the transition until the new Board is seated and officers are elected.

## 8. Election Activities

### a. 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 outdoors behind Van Nuys City Hall.

**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 and activities – including candidate forums**

9. Other Committee issues

- a. Approve recommendation by Chair of the Outreach Committee regarding members to be added to the Committee.
- b. Discussion about possible committee meetings to be held in May.

10. Adjournment

**THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT** - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting VNNC by via email at: [info@vnnc.org](mailto:info@vnnc.org)

**SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION** - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 72 horas antes del evento. Por favor contacte a [info@vnnc.org](mailto:info@vnnc.org) por correo electrónico para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** – VNNC agendas are posted publicly near the front door to the conference room of the Marvin Braude Constituents Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401 and also online at [www.vnnc.org](http://www.vnnc.org). You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS** – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non- exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91401, at our website: <http://www.vnnc.org/> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact via email: [info@vnnc.org](mailto:info@vnnc.org)

**RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS** - For information on the VNNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNNC By-laws. The By-laws are available at our Board meetings and our website <http://www.vnnc.org>

**Notice to Paid Representatives** - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

## **Neighborhood Council Board Member Oath**

We 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.

## ATTACHMENT A

### Questions/Comments regarding the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan from John Hendry

Why does project not cover the Sepulveda Dam crest?

1. Back in 1941, Congress was to vote on an equestrian path on the dam crest. (LA Daily News). Pearl Harbor intervened.

The dam crest from Burbank to Victory would make an excellent nature walk.

2. "Planting wildflowers" on the dam crest. A book, "State of Grace", by Laura Cunningham, stated California's wildflowers were everywhere—it was agricultural excess—planting everywhere—that destroyed wildflowers.

If Sepulveda Dam is so loosely compacted that weeds can grow—wildflowers can too.

What a spectacular sight that would be.

3. Finally—you and Corps of Engineers should work on the actual Sepulveda Dam dam works. Corps is committed to extensive projects from Griffith Park to the Pacific. Yet—you won't work with Corps to publicize and explain these projects.

Letting people see the extraordinary concrete flood works—signboards explaining the LA River before the 1938 flood (the dam built 1941) and what's coming after—that's what you should be doing,

Corps of Engineers built the Sepulveda Dam in 3 years—after the 1938 flood the public demanded it—80 years later the Corps and City won't explain it.