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Danielle Rouillard  
Dr. Thelá Thatch  
Kibwe Trim  
Britt Vaughan  
Matt Wayne

## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting Draft Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 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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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 7:08PM by President Schreiner. The roll was called by the Secretary Hendry. The Pledge was led by President Schreiner.

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

2. **Reports from Government officials:**

- a. LAPD Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/> Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Whitey reported that she is the officer that covers the area of the northern portion of the Van Nuys Division that includes the area north of Sherman Way to the railroad tracks and from the 405 freeway to the Tujunga Wash. Brief crime stats were provided. Violent crime was up in 2022 from 2021 by six percent. Property crimes were up seven percent for total part one crimes to be up six and a half percent. The SLO reminded the community about 911 for emergencies, i.e., traffic collisions with an injury, medical emergencies, fire emergencies, a robbery, violent crime, burglary, or other property crime in progress. 877-ASK-LAPD is the number for non-emergencies, i.e., trespassing, noise complaints, drinking in public, business disputes, general information, or crimes after the fact. LAPD also has online reporting, [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) which you do not have to come to the station. This is for theft, i.e., porch pirates for those stolen Amazon packages, lost property reports, non-injury motor vehicle collision, harassing phone calls, or burglary from a motor vehicle.
- b. **Guest Speaker: City Council Member Nithya Raman** The Councilmember spoke on the areas that she represents in CD 4 and other issues that are affecting the district, governance reform, homelessness, and the City Council. The video can be seen at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/wQsTYzrUofhQu0tQ3MvBhPRXhCz4Eh\\_ImlYII9TeBprLkcf5qkmGTWjYd4sLfjHdhGQFda9H9hi8RjhX.4xvCavAlj93gRGYo?continueMode=true](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/wQsTYzrUofhQu0tQ3MvBhPRXhCz4Eh_ImlYII9TeBprLkcf5qkmGTWjYd4sLfjHdhGQFda9H9hi8RjhX.4xvCavAlj93gRGYo?continueMode=true) from 7:49 to 51:00
  - i. **Public comment:**
    - A. Caller 172
    - B. Gurlovelen Kaur
    - C. Tess Taylor
    - D. Christina DerHagopian
    - E. Call-In User\_2
    - F. Jessi Keenan
  - ii. Council District 4 – Ryan Ahari [ryan.ahari@lacity.org](mailto:ryan.ahari@lacity.org) 213-473-7004

**President Schreiner moved the meeting to item 4.**

**Jennifer Febre joined the meeting at 7:24PM.**

**John Camera left the meeting at 7:54PM.**

- c. Council District 6 – Sophia Soudani (818) 778 4999 [sophia.soudani@lacity.org](mailto:sophia.soudani@lacity.org) reported about the Miracle on Sylvan Street that was an event for 500 families who got free backpacks and books. There was an amazing light show and it was a great event. There have been a few clean-ups at Champs with about 20 volunteers cleaning Van Nuys Recreation Center and along Van Nuys Blvd. There was also a clean-up along Vista Del Monte and we encourage everyone to join in and if you form a group, the Council Office

will provide supplies. The Homeless Count will take place on January 24<sup>th</sup> to January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Council Office also provides bulky item pick up if Sanitation misses the item. Contact the office to schedule a pick up.

- d. California Congressional District 29 - Osvaldo Ramirez [osvaldo.ramirez@mail.house.gov](mailto:osvaldo.ramirez@mail.house.gov) reported that Congress passed the fiscal spending bill and the bill included some community project funding for \$26 million dollars for the San Fernando Valley. The projects range from educational projects to health and mental care. The 15 projects can be seen at [www. https://cardenas.house.gov/](http://www.https://cardenas.house.gov/)
- e. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) - Lorenzo Briceno [lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org](mailto:lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org) (213) 978-1551 reported that Neighborhood Councils will be going back to in person meetings on March 1, 2023. Assembly Bill 2449 will allow Neighborhood Councils to vote for the option to have a hybrid meeting with specific procedures. The City Attorney is reviewing the protocols. The plan will be finalized and the DONE will provide training.
- f. Office of the City Clerk, Election Division, Neighborhood Council Elections – Paola Posada provided important election information for the 2023 NC Election cycle to the board and stakeholders. Ms. Posada, gave a presentation on the upcoming 2023 VNNC elections. The VNNC election will be on June 22, 2023 from 11:00AM to 5:00PM. 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. Vote by Mail (VBM) applications can be submitted through the online portal or by paper application from April 23, 2023 to June 3, 2023. Both application deadlines are moving from 5:00PM to 11:59PM. Staff will only be available during business hours. 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. County owned drop boxes will not be utilized for this election. VBM voters can drop their ballots off at the polling location on election day. If you registered to VBM and did not receive a ballot by election day, you can still vote in person. Per current city policy, proof of current vaccination or a negative COVID 19 test within the past 72 hours will be required to enter a polling location. Any voter who cannot provide the required COVID-19 documents will be able to vote outside via curbside voting. Masks are strongly recommended at this point. These are current city policies and can change. Unofficial results will be released five days after the election with official results 13 days after the election. Stakeholders have the opportunity to help with the election process as a poll worker on election day or serving on the independent, grievance panel. There is a flier on the website to explain both opportunities. The website has been redesigned to be more mobile and digital friendly.
- g. Mayor’s office (Karen Bass) – Michelle Vergera reported that the Mayor has been very busy on her first day declaring a state of emergency on homelessness and signing Executive Directive 1 to create more homeless housing and speed up the process. She also signed Executive Directive 2, The Inside Safe Program, a program to direct services to parts of the city that have the most homelessness with the most chronic encampments and to get housing resources to those folks and little by little get them off the street. The program was launched in Venice and will be working its way to the Valley area.
- h. Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Alberto Vargas [alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov](mailto:alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov) 818-346-4521 reported that the Assemblymember recently gained a portion of Van Nuys through the recent redistricting process and would like to introduce himself as the field staff for Van Nuys. The Assembly was not in session during December so there are few legislative updates. Next meeting there should be more updates. If you have an issue

with a State agency, feel free to reach out.

- i. Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) -Brandon Gonzalez introduced himself and covers the city of Van Nuys. All residents are invited to Senator Menjivar’s community swearing -in on January 28, 2023 at 10:00AM.
- j. Boardmember comments:
  - i. Michael Browning- Polling location, outreach, and poll workers
- k. Public comment
  - i. Lionel Mares

### 3. Executive Reports

- a. President stated that there is a plan to have a retreat in February and will send out an email to look for a date, possibly February 25, 2023. Next month’s general board meeting will be early on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Vice President no report
- c. Secretary no report
- d. Treasurer- no report
- e. Parliamentarian- Ms. Bolla reported that her job is to make sure the VNNC is compliant with Robert’s Rule of Order and the VNNC By-laws. She is concerned that the By-laws Committee has not met since June 20, 2022 and based on Article 7, Section 1, Item D, all standing committees will meet once a quarter with no less than four meetings a year. Ms. Bolla asked that the By-laws Committee be resurrected and complete updates to the By-laws. There are only four standing committees and there is no mentioning of the parliamentarian.
- f. **Boardmember comments:**
  - i. Michael Browning commented about having mentoring for new Executive Officers.
- g. **Public comment:**
  - i. Caller 172
  - ii. Tess Taylor
  - iii. Call-In User\_2

- 4. **Presentation and Q&A regarding Metro/East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Project** – Jesse Leon and Annette Cortez. A presentation was shown on the screen focusing on the southern segment of the light rail line. The presentation can be seen at:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/wQsTYzrUofhQu0tQ3MvBhPRXhCz4Eh\\_ImLYII9TeBprLkcf5qkmGTWjYd4sLfjHd\\_hGQFda9H9hi8RjhX.4xvCavAlj93gRGYo?continueMode=true](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/wQsTYzrUofhQu0tQ3MvBhPRXhCz4Eh_ImLYII9TeBprLkcf5qkmGTWjYd4sLfjHd_hGQFda9H9hi8RjhX.4xvCavAlj93gRGYo?continueMode=true) from 51:37 to 01:18:38

- a. **Public comment:**
  - i. Lionel Mares
  - ii. Caller 172

**President Schreiner moved the meeting to item 2c.**

5. **Information about participating in the Homeless Count** in the SFV on January 24<sup>th</sup> – Suju Vijayan asked people to sign up for the count, It is an easy process and an opportunity to get a sense of the homelessness in the community. You should sign up with a partner and it is a great time to get involved.

6. **Consent agenda**

a. Approve December 14<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting minutes

<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/VNNC-12-14-22-Minutes-with-Budget-Summary.pdf>

Public Comment: no comments

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC. Agenda Item 6a. Approval of December’s minutes Moved: Edelman Seconded: Browning</b>				
<b>Yes-12</b>	No-00	Abstain-00	<b>Ineligible-01</b>	<b>Absent-05</b>
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Bolla, Azatyan, Browning, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Rouillard, Wayne	None	None	Nkuku	Hendry, Camera, Thatch, Trim, Vaughan

7. **General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

- a. Call-in User\_2
- b. Lionel Martes CicLAvia
- c. Imelda Padilla candidate for CD6.
- d. Tess Taylor
- e. F\*\*\*2023
- f. Marco Santana candidate for CD 6

8. **Financial Items and Budget Update**

a. Discussion and possible action to approve the VNNC November MER. <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/VNNC-Nov-2022-MER.pdf> The report was shown on the screen.

Public Comment: F\*\*\*2023, Call-In User\_2

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC. Agenda Item 8a. Motion to approve the November 2022 MER Moved: Marks Seconded: Edelman</b>				
<b>Yes-11</b>	No-00	<b>Abstain-01</b>	<b>Ineligible-02</b>	<b>Absent-04</b>
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Hendry, Bolla, Browning, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Wayne	None	Rouillard	Azatyan, Nkuku	Camera, Thatch, Trim, Vaughan

9. **Update and possible action 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.**

- 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 18<sup>th</sup>.

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 invite.
- d. A common digital format for a “flyer” will be provided to each NC. The NC can customize the flyer with the name of their NC. It is requested that each NC post information about the candidate forum to their social media accounts.
- e. Water will be provided. Each NC has the option to provide snacks or drinks at their table. NCs will provide their own recruitment materials. **The Executive voted to recommend that the VNNC approve \$200 from the Elections budget line item to be spent on food, drinks, and recruitment materials.**
- f. A neutral moderator will be chosen by VANC. NCs can submit written questions for candidates through February 16<sup>th</sup>.

NOTE: A list of candidates who have filed to run in the CD 6 Special Election can be found at:

<https://ethics.lacity.org/elections/>

**Public Comment: Caller 172, F\*\*\*2023, Call-in User\_2**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC. Agenda Item 9. Approve \$200.00 for candidate forum. Moved: Marks Seconded: Edelman</b>				
<b>Yes-12</b>	<b>No-00</b>	<b>Abstain-00</b>	<b>Ineligible-02</b>	<b>Absent-04</b>
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Hendry, Bolla, Browning, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Rouillard, Wayne	None	None	Azatian, Nkuku	Camera, Thatch, Trim, Vaughan

10. **Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on VNNC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – Suju Vijayan. Discussion and possible action on recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee. The committee is looking into the history of it and to host at the Library. The committee is looking at partnering with the Council Offices to use some discretionary funds to help with the costs.

- a. **Board Comment:**
  - i. Michael Browning commented that we could use this event for election outreach and use some of the election budget to fund this event.
- b. **Public Comment:**
  - i. **Caller 172, Call-In User\_2, F\*\*\*2023**

**Danielle Rouillard left the meeting at 8:47PM.**

11. **Discussion and possible action to begin review of VNNC committees and leadership.** Some committee no longer have chairs and/or do not meet the minimum of three VNNC members (needed for a quorum).

<https://vnn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/VNNC-Committee-membership-as-of-01.03.23.pdf>

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve appointment of Myrra Bolla as Chair of the Government Affairs and Bylaws Committee (replacing Lillian Macias, who has resigned from the VNNC).

**Public Comment: Caller 172, F\*\*\*2023, Call-in User\_2**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC. Agenda Item 11. Approve Myrra Bolla as Chair of Government Affairs and By-laws Committee. Moved: Vijayan Seconded: Edelman</b>				
<b>Yes-12</b>	No-00	Abstain-00	<b>Ineligible-01</b>	<b>Absent-04</b>
Schreiner, Vijayan, Febre, Hendry, Azatyan, Bolla, Browning, Edelman, Harari, Makiri, Marks, Wayne	None	None	Nkuku	Camera, Thatch, Trim, Rouillard, Vaughan

- b. Review current list of Committees, Chairs, and Members and correct any errors. No action
- c. Ask for volunteers who would be interested in filling vacant committee member seats. No action
- d. Introduce a discussion that will be held at the Board retreat regarding identifying committees with high priority tasks that need to be accomplished by June 2023 and ensuring that those committees have adequate membership. Will also discuss at retreat how frequently committees need to meet. (By-Laws require meeting at least quarterly.) No action

**12. Executive Committee approved proposals from John Hendry to document elements of Van Nuys history.** President Schreiner announced the project and that it will be exciting to see the finished project. Completed draft writing projects will be shared with the VNNC Board for feedback.

- a. Photo and story about the Van Nuys Christmas parade in the 1950s to be posted to the vnnc.org website.
- b. Photo and story about 100 missing angel figures that used to be on Van Nuys Blvd to be posted to the vnnc.org website.
- c. Addition of 40 unique “Van Nuys in 1911-1930” photos to be posted to the vnnc.org website with captions written by Hendry.
- d. Authorize Hendry to ask UCLA Graduate Research Library to let him review the Whitley “garage papers” of pioneer Van Nuys. For possible display in Van Nuys.
- e. Ask Hendry to share with VNNC the letter sent to Secretary Hendry by City GSA discussing VNNC use of the Braude Center for a “Van Nuys history wall” and ask Hendry to recommend what actions are needed.

**13. Adjournment** Moved: Hendry Seconded: Edelman Meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM