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Richard Marks  
Maduka Nkuku  
Danielle Rouillard  
Dr. Thelá Thatch  
Britt Vaughan

## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



### Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2023  
7:00PM

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



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)

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)
- 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>

## 3. Executive Reports

- a. President
  - Accepting applications through April 30<sup>th</sup> to fill Youth Representative vacancy (term ends 2025)
  - Received written resignations from Kibwe Trim (moved out of the area) and Matt Wayne (time conflict with work)
  - Clarification of how “abstain” votes are to be treated in determining a majority from a roll call vote

VNNC Bylaws Section 3: Official Actions
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A simple majority vote by the Directors present, <b>not including abstentions</b> , at a meeting which there is a quorum shall be required to take official action, unless specified otherwise in these Bylaws.
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- b. Vice President
  - Report on Councilmember Raman’s Zoom session with DWP reps on handling of emergency power outages.
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Parliamentarian

#### 4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of February 8<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting minutes

[https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/VNNC\\_GBM\\_Draft\\_Minutes\\_02082023\\_final.pdf](https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/VNNC_GBM_Draft_Minutes_02082023_final.pdf)

- b. Approval of March 8<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting minutes

[https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/VNNC\\_GBM\\_Draft\\_Minutes\\_03082023\\_final.pdf](https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/VNNC_GBM_Draft_Minutes_03082023_final.pdf)

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. 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>

- 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>

#### 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.

##### 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**

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

## 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.

- 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](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.

## 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

### ❖ 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
- b. Discussion and possible action on recommendation from the Bylaws Committee to use uniformly, throughout VNNC Bylaws, the phrase “VNNC Board member” 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 Board Member” throughout the Bylaws.

## 11. Other Committee Business

- a. Reports from Committee Chairs
- b. The President has reserved the Braude Center conference room for the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 agendaize 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](mailto:Stephanie.Spicer@ladwp.com)>

NCMOU -- Tony Wilkinson <[tonyw.civic@gmail.com](mailto:tonyw.civic@gmail.com)>

Advocacy Cmte -- Jack Humphreville <[JackH@targetmediapartners.com](mailto:JackH@targetmediapartners.com)>

DWP cover letter, Board resolution, and MOU:

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

For further information, see: [www.ladwp.com/neighborhoodcouncils](http://www.ladwp.com/neighborhoodcouncils).

## 13. 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 & COMMUNITY  
MOTION ENRICHMENT

CF 20-0105

**BUDGET & FINANCE**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Encompassing over 2,000 acres and nearly eight miles of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, the Sepulveda Basin is the second largest open space in the City of Los Angeles and serves as a regional asset for the entire San Fernando Valley. Home to multiple City parks, a host of recreational facilities, and Lake Balboa, the Basin is incredibly important to surrounding communities. It is also a biodiversity hotspot with a wildlife reserve and natural sections of the Los Angeles River, providing a critical habitat for many native plants and animals. The Basin is owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers and is first and foremost a flood risk management facility. The City leases areas of the basin for City use.

In February of 2022, recognizing the Basin has not been living up to its full potential, the City released a task order solicitation (TOS) seeking proposals for comprehensive master planning and design consulting services for the development of a world-class Vision Plan for the Sepulveda Basin. On November 18, 2022, the Board of Public Works approved the selection of the highest ranked consulting team to execute the services requested in the TOS with an initial Notice to Proceed of \$1,949,654.

A number of environmental and community groups have signed onto a joint resolution<sup>1</sup> urging the City to employ nature-based solutions in the redevelopment of the Sepulveda Basin, focusing on floodplain reclamation, watershed restoration, and revitalizing the ecosystem functions of the river, while at the same time expanding access to the parkland and its amenities for surrounding communities.

In this early stage of the Vision Plan process, the City should affirm the primary objectives of the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan: ensuring that nature-based solutions, large-scale habitat restoration, increased recreational access, and environmental justice remain at the center of this effort.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Bureau of Engineering, with assistance from the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Sanitation's Biodiversity Team, the Department of Transportation, and any other City departments, to update the scope of work (and budget, as needed) for the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project as follows:

- Utilize The River Project's Sepulveda Basin Restoration Feasibility Study and Vision Plan (April 2022), the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Upper Los Angeles River and



Tributaries Revitalization Plan 2020: and the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan 2007 as foundations to shape the development of the Vision Plan;

- Affirm:, where possible, that Attachment 5 of Task Order Solicitation (TOS) No- 054 for the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project Feasibility: Conceptua1 Study (Work Order No. E1908913) sets out opportunity area locations and possible projects to be considered m the Vision Plan development process: but that the projects are not binding and that the community will be able to give input on the proposed projects;
- Ensure that the Vision Plan:
  - Evaluates current access, and improves and expands access and mobility to and within Sepulveda Basin and its amenities for immediate surroundmg communities and underserved communities;

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- Employs nature-based solutions and principles of fluvial geomorphology to mitigate climate change and restore ecosystem functions to the Los Angeles River and tributaries in the Sepulveda Basin;
- Optimizes floodplain function for ground water recharge to maximize local water supplies and buffer against periods of drought;
- Increases retention capacity to reduce flood risk for downstream and surrounding communities;
- Protects and expands wildlife habitat and biodiversity within the Sepulveda Basin;
- Elevates transit, walking, biking, and other non-private vehicle modes of transportation and proposes methods to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled and private vehicle trips with a clear timeline and benchmarks;
- Proposes strategies to protect the affordability and social fabric of surrounding communities;
- Incorporates indigenous stewardship principles and peoples through inclusive consultation; and
- Prioritizes the aforementioned principles in any preparation or use of the Sepulveda Basin for the 2028 Olympics.

1 FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Bureau of Engineering, with assistance from the Department of Recreation and Parks and any other City departments, as needed, to report back within 30 days with the following:

- The status of the projects and opportunity area locations set out in Attachment 5 of Task Order

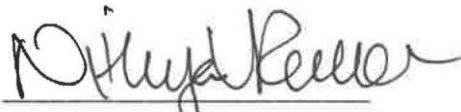
Solicitation (TOS) No- 054 for the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project Feasibility/Conceptual Study (Work Order No- E 1908913): including which projects can be relocated or redefined as the Vision Plan is developed;

- Recommendations for the possible inclusion of a topographic survey, a geotechnical soils study: and a groundwater infiltration study in the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project Feasibility/Conceptual Study scope of work, including any additional funding required; and
- Report back to the relevant council committees on project activities every quarter.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Bureau of Engineering, with assistance from the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Sanitation, the Department of Transportation, and any other City departments, as needed, to report back to Council within 30 days on the State, Federal, and private grants, programs, and partnerships that may be available to help plan and fund the redevelopment and ecological restoration of the Sepulveda Basin—including the criteria these grants and programs utilize—to ensure that the City aligns the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan with these funding opportunities.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Department of Recreation and Parks to report back within 30 days with recommendations for the establishment of a Park Advisory Board for the Sepulveda Basin, similar to the Griffith Park Advisory Board, to provide guidance and stewardship for the Sepulveda Basin.

PRESENTED BY:

  
NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember- 4th District

  
BOB BLUMENFIELD  
Councilmember, 3rd District

ORIGINAL

SECONDED BY



## PUBLIC WORKS

### CF 23-0167

#### MOTION

The urban environment is a web of natural and built features interacting daily. Whether it's the sun beating down on streets and sidewalks; or rain running off asphalt and saturated lawns into gutters, these daily workings of life in a city are all surrounded by an important piece of green infrastructure — trees. Trees are combatants of the urban heat island effect, providing necessary shade to streetscapes. Trees are interceptors of rainwater, providing stormwater retention for overloaded drainage systems. Trees are absorbers of air and water pollutants, improving health and wellness in neighborhoods, and they are beautiful green canopies housing wildlife and improving the character of communities.

In the City of Los Angeles, the Urban Forestry Division manages nearly 700,000 street trees growing along 6,500 miles of public roads, making the City's street tree population the largest urban forest in the nation. Having the largest urban forest does not come without its share of problems. The conflicts between tree roots and sidewalks in Los Angeles are widespread, resulting in recurring expenses for repair and even at times, tree removals. In 2016, the City settled a \$1.4 billion class action lawsuit, commonly known as the "Willits Settlement," that determined the City's crumbling sidewalk infrastructure was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and prevented people with disabilities from traveling and accessing opportunities in Los Angeles. This legal action led the City to develop the "Sidewalk Repair Program," which as of today is the only program for sidewalks in the City.

In an effort to comply with the Willits Settlement, the City prepared a comprehensive EIR that supported the need to remove some 13,000 street trees. However, in late January 2023, the Los Angeles Superior Court ruled that the EIR failed to thoroughly examine the impacts to wildlife and the environmental consequences of trading mature trees for young replacement trees.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Bureau of Street Services, in coordination with the Urban Forestry Division and the City Forest Officer, to report back on sustainable solutions and best practices to sidewalk repairs, implemented by other cities, that preserve our City's mature street trees while ensuring safe sidewalks.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer, and all other relevant departments, to report back on the steps necessary, or already underway, to secure federal funding under the urban forestry program of the new infrastructure bill.


PRESENTED BY



JOHN S. LEE  
Councilmember, 12<sup>th</sup> District

**EB 1 4 2023**

**SECONDED BY**



**ORIGINAL**

## **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.

