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Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Retreat Board Meeting Approved Minutes Saturday, October 28, 2023



Members
Samuel Apikyan
Hakop 'Jack' Azatyan
John Camera
Josue Chavez
Brian Edelman
David Harari
Ann Kalb
Yena Kim
David Kopelev
Jarred Pina
Britt Vaughan
Cyle Zezotarski

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1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance The meeting was called to order at 9:47AM by President Schreiner. Roll was called by John Hendry. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kathy Schreiner. There were thirteen (13) Boardmembers present. Three (3) Boardmembers were absent. Quorum was met.

VNNC ITEM 1. Roll Call	
Present –13	Absent-03
Azatyan, Bolla, Camera, Chavez, Edelman, Harari, Hendry, Kalb, Kim, Nkuku, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	Apikyan, Kopelev, Pina

2. Overview of the meeting – Kathy Schreiner turned the meeting over to Vice President Nkuku to explain the overview of the meeting and how the retreat will be held. Vice President Nkuku took over the meeting to start the ice breaker after general public comment.
3. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items- No comments
4. Icebreaker: Getting to Know Each Other Boardmembers were asked to name two things about themselves and one untruth for the group to guess the two truths about the Boardmember.
5. Introduction to the VNNC and how Neighborhood Councils work. A handout about the VNNC was distributed. It can be found at the end of the minutes. Main issues discussed were the geographic boundaries of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council and the history of the area. There was also discussion about outreaching to the community.

President Schreiner recessed the meeting at 11:15AM.

President Schreiner reconvened the meeting back to order at 11:33AM.

6. Discussion of priority issues for the next 8 to 20 months (through June 30, 2025) and identification of target actions to accomplish by June 30, 2024. The key issues document was distributed to the Board. The key issues document can be found at the end of the minutes. During the brain-storming session, the following items were brought up for future discussion and possible motions.
 - a. Medians
 - b. Civic messages
 - c. Sidewalks
 - i. Pedestrian friendly walking areas
 - ii. Repairs to sidewalks
 - d. More trash cans on the streets
 - i. Increased schedule to pick up filled trash cans
 - ii. Identify areas that need additional trash cans
 - e. Pride in your space and history
 - f. Outreach event to promote the history of the area and get the community involved to clean up the area
 - g. Homelessness
 - h. Affordable housing only vs mixed housing stock.
 - i. Motion to create a list of actions to take.
7. Discussion about what committees (beyond those required by the Bylaws) should be formed to address priority issues.
 - a. Preliminary discussion about committee chairs and members.
 - b. Reminder that all VNNC Board Members must serve on at least one committee.

No action taken.

8. Discussion about potential scenarios for future meeting formats if LA City Council votes to allow implementation of SB 411 (e.g., all in-person meetings, hybrid meetings with both in- person and Zoom participation, and/or virtual meetings on Zoom).

No action taken.

9. Discussion about what public officials to invite to speak at VNNC Board meetings

No action taken.

10. Identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting.

No action taken.

11. Adjournment meeting adjourned at 12:30PM.

Introduction to the VNNC and How Neighborhood Councils Work

VNNC

- Founded in 2001. Missed celebrating our 21st anniversary due to the pandemic and to the vacant Council seat for CD 6.
- 21 seats authorized in Bylaws. Composition:

No. of seats	Type of Seat	Filled/vacant
4	Resident seats for Zones 1, 2, 3, and 4	Filled
2	At Large Resident Representatives	Filled
2	At Large Resident Renter Representatives	Filled
2	Commercial Representatives	Filled
2	At-Large Industrial Representatives	1 filled, 1 vacant
2	Non-profit Representatives	1 filled, 1 vacant
1	Religious Institution Representative	Filled
1	School Representative	Vacant
1	Senior Representative	Filled
1	Youth Representative	Vacant
3	At Large Representatives (can be resident and/or stakeholder)	2 filled, 1 vacant
21		

Geographic Boundaries

	North The railroad tracks just north of Saticoy Street from the 405 freeway to the Tujunga Wash	
West The 405 freeway from the railroad tracks (just north of Saticoy Street) to Burbank Blvd.		East Tujunga Wash (from railroad tracks s. to Sherman Way) W on Sherman Way to Woodman. S. on Woodman to Vanowen. W on Vanowen to Hazeltine. S. on Hazeltine to Burbank.
	South Burbank Blvd. from the San Diego Freeway to Hazeltine. Plus, the commercial corridor S. on Van Nuys from Burbank to Magnolia (Auto Row).	

Decision-Making

Quorum = 11 Board Members

Official Action is taken by “a simple majority vote by the Directors present, not including abstentions, at a meeting at which there is a quorum present.”

Committees

Each Committee must be chaired by a Board Member.

Each Committee may include a maximum of 5 Board members. May also have Stakeholder members.

Committees may not take any final actions. The presents recommendations to the Board for final action.

The Brown Act

- California's first sunshine law, enacted in 1953.

• **The Brown Act = Transparency**

The Brown Act is a California state law governing open meetings for local governmental bodies. It establishes rules to ensure that:

- ✓ actions and deliberations of commissions, boards, councils and other public bodies of local agencies are taken openly
- ✓ public have access to the meeting and its agenda
- ✓ public has the opportunity to provide input.

The Brown Act ensures Transparency and Public Participation in Local Government

Agendas are part of Transparency

- Importance of Agendas
 - ✓ The Agenda will help the Public to make an informed decision whether to attend the meeting or not.
 - ✓ The agenda provides structure to a meeting
- Requirements for Agendas
 - ✓ The agenda must list all items that will be discussed or acted upon.
 - ✓ Items should be described in an informative way so that the Public as well as board members understand the general nature of each item. The goal of the description is to provide a reasonably clear understanding of what is to be considered by the board at its meeting.
 - ✓ Include required language prescribed by DONE. Example of a well-written agenda item:

Discussion and possible motion to approve up to \$1,500.00 to Carecen as a community partner for their Annual Holiday Posada community event.
Event participation will include tabling, NC listing on all event promo material and sharing of community contact information.
Event is scheduled for December 2019.

- Posting of agendas at least 72 hours before a meeting
 - ✓ Submitted to NC Support (DONE) for posting to the Early Notification System
 - ✓ Posted to the vnnc.org website

- ✓ Physical copy posted at the front of the Braude Center

Discuss issues and make decisions in public meetings.

How can the VNNC influence the City of Los Angeles?

- Submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to indicate support or opposition to a Council Motion (with a Council File Number)
May also submit a CIS to a City Board or Commission (e.g., City Planning Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, etc.)
- Advocate to local Council Offices for improvements in services and public facilities.
- Join coalitions that can increase our “voice.”

Use VNNC funds to support community organizations and community beautification projects

Key issues for VNNC to address in FY 2023/24
(list initially developed from 7/27 Special Board Meeting)

Making Van Nuys better for people and animals

- Public safety
 - ✓ People want to feel safe walking in their neighborhoods
- Address homelessness
 - ✓ Coordinate with appropriate Council Offices regarding encampments
 - ✓ Support Mayor's Inside Safe program
- Animal advocacy
 - ✓ Spay and neuter feral cats
 - ✓ Possible support for pets of homeless

Improving the external environment of Van Nuys

- Cleaner streets, medians, and parkways (area between street and sidewalk)
 - ✓ Possible community cleanups
 - ✓ Explore beautification opportunities
 - ✓ Fix sidewalks
- Climate change and sustainability initiatives
 - ✓ More non-car transportation
 - ✓ More trees and native plants
 - ✓ More green space for families to use
- Input to Planning and Land Use decisions
 - ✓ Input to major Metro initiatives (ESFV Light Rail Transit project down Van Nuys Blvd. and Sepulveda Corridor Transit Project)
 - ✓ Affordable housing
 - ✓ Influence City rezoning program
- Preserve and feature the history of Van Nuys
- Build up an IT industry business sector in the Valley

Increasing outreach to Van Nuys residents and stakeholders

- Increase attendance of members of the public at Board meetings
 - ✓ Find out what people in the community are concerned about and offer ways for them to get involved
- Host events for the Community
- Increase interaction with monolingual community members and share information about services/resources available from the City