

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



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Josue Chavez
Quirino de la Cuesta
Brian Edelman
John Hendry
Ann Kalb
David Kopelev
Cyle Zezotarski

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday, August 14, 2024
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.)

Van Nuys
Neighborhood Council
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818-357-2446

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.

A reminder to those attending: during Public Comment, you may hear colorful language that some might find offensive. The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council has no ability to control or regulate the content of speech that is protected under the 1st Amendment.

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. **Actual time for each comment will be recorded in 30 second increments (i.e., 30 sec., 1 min., 90 sec., 2 min.).**

Stakeholders are asked to respect the timekeeper when you are alerted that your time has expired.

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Boardmembers are reminded not to cut off, interrupt, or otherwise engage with Stakeholders during their allotted time for Public Comment.

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.

Speakers shall direct their comments to the Board (not to an individual).

Stakeholders are welcome to offer comments -- both during General Public Comment and Public Comments on specific agenda items -- but the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council requests that Stakeholders do not disrupt the meeting for other Stakeholders in attendance. We ask that Stakeholders refrain from calling out or participating in behavior that would disrupt the Board Meeting of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council. Stakeholders will be given an initial warning. There may be two additional warnings before the stakeholder is asked to leave the meeting due to disruptions of the meeting.

All public comments must be made into the microphone at the lectern to facilitate the capture of a clear recording of the meeting.

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Reports from Government officials:

a. **Report from LAPD** Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/>

b. **Report from LAFD**

c. **Reports from other Government officials (2 min each)**

NOTE: Board questions and public comments will take place after all government official reports have been made.

- Council District 2 – Arus Grigoryan arus.grigoryan@lacity.org 818-210-1504 (cell)
- Council District 4 –
- Council District 6 – Brian Patton brian.patton@lacity.org Office: (818) 778-4999, Cell: (818) 270-1931
- Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – Alfonso Manzo alfonso.manzo@lacity.org
- Mayor’s office – Betsaira Aguilera betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org (213) 257-0224
- LAUSD Board District 3
- Metro staff
- Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) –
- Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Clarissa Gomez Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov
- Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) –

- California Congressional District 29 – Laura Juarez
laura.juarez@mail.house.gov
 - Representatives of the Studio City Neighborhood Council
4. Discussion and possible action to fill two vacant VNNC Board seats:
- a. At-Large seat with applicant Dalilah Perez, resident of Van Nuys.
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Perez-Boardmember-application.pdf>
 - b. Youth Representative seat with applicant Ami Singer, student at Van Nuys High School
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Singer-Youth-Boardmember-application.pdf>
 - c. Discussion and possible action regarding one Board Member who has not completed the two new required training courses. Vote to remove Samuel Apikyan for not taking the required training, as well as for not attending a Board meeting since August 2023.
5. **Officer Reports**
- a. President
 - A printed copy of VNNC General Board Meeting agendas and linked files can be reviewed in a reference notebook that will be located at the Van Nuys Branch Library.
 - For information on upcoming local events and services, look under the Events list on the right side of the homepage of the vnnc.org website and on the calendar.
 - Openings for a Homeless Liaison, 2 Budget Representatives, and a Regional Grievance Panelist
 - Request for Board members to seek candidates for Board vacancies and distribute Board recruitment flyers.
 - Encourage Board members to complete Empower LA 2024 Neighborhood Council Perceptions and Insights Survey by August 30th.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHS639J>
 - 2025 election for Neighborhood Councils will only be by mail-in ballot. More info to come.
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Secretary – Mr. Hendry has resigned from the role of Secretary. To be discussed under Item 15.
 - d. Treasurer – City Clerk has notified the VNNC that rollover funds of \$12,750 are available to be added to the 2024-25 budget of the VNNC. The Budget and Finance Committee will develop a revised budget to be voted on at the next General Board Meeting (September 11).
 - e. Parliamentarian

- 6. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** – maximum of 2 min per stakeholder
(Note that topics discussed must be within the jurisdiction of the VNNC.)

7. Consent Agenda

Approve draft minutes from the following VNNC Board Meetings

- a. June 12, 2024 GBM Minutes

https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/VNNC_06122024_GBM_Draft_Minutes_Final.pdf

8. Action items from the Budget and Finance Committee requiring a roll call vote.

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the May MER

https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/VNNC_MER_May2024.pdf

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve the June MER.

https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/VNNC_MER_June2024.pdf

- c. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$4000 for Van Nuys Community Elementary School to update two murals on the school's campus.

<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NPG-applic-from-Van-Nuys-ES-061224-signed.pdf>

9. Action items from the Public Safety, Human Services, and Animal Welfare Committee requiring a roll call vote.

- a. Recommend that the VNNC submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) in favor of Council File 24-0036 regarding the introduction of solar powered street lighting where feasible, and the current pilot program in Van Nuys with an installation of 100 solar street lights, in order to reduce copper wire theft and street light vandalism.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=24-0036>

- b. Recommend that the VNNC submit a CIS in favor of Council File 23-1008 regarding the moratorium on dog breeding permits until shelter capacity becomes more manageable. This was passed by the City Council on April 15th (and ordinance became effective 5/27/24), though a CIS from the VNNC is still valid.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-1008>

10. Action Items from the Outreach Committee.

- a. Discussion and possible action on recommendation to the Board to allocate up to \$300 to cover expenses related to tabling at a **Community Resource Day on Saturday, September 7th from 10 am to 2 pm** on the Van Nuys City Hall Plaza, which is being hosted by Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC) with the special collaboration of Councilmember Imelda Padilla.
- b. Discussion and possible action to allocate up to \$200 for purchase of name badges on a lanyard with City seal for Board Members to wear to Outreach events (to be purchased from Anderson Trophy Company @\$15.95 plus tax).

11. Action items from the PLUM Committee

- a. Discussion and possible action for the VNNC to submit a CIS (Community Impact Statement) in support of CF 24-0602, which provides directions to City staff of various agencies to conduct studies and make recommendations regarding potential steps the City could take to transition away from use of synthetic turf or artificial grass, transition towards California drought-friendly landscaping, and related matters. See excerpt from Motion on p. 8 and report from Council Energy and Environment Committee on pp. 9-11.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=24-0602>

- b. Discussion and possible action to extend a welcome to Van Nuys for GALS Middle School, which took occupancy in June 2024 of its new campus at 14200 Runnymede, and to invite the principal to attend the September 11th GBM and share information about the school.
- c. Advise Board that Planning Department staff will make a presentation at the September 11th GBM meeting regarding updates to the Southeast Valley Community Plan.
- d. Discussion and possible action to approve PLUM Chair's appointments of Brian Edelman and Ann Kalb to Board seats on the PLUM Committee. Acceptance of PLUM Chair appointment of John Hendry as a Stakeholder member of the PLUM Committee.

12. Action Item from the Executive Committee: Discussion and possible action to approve purchase of a Jumbo Digital Timer for a price not to exceed \$125 for use in timing public comments during VNNC meetings.

13. Discussion items related to John Hendry.

- a. John Hendry discussion of his status on the VNNC Board.
- b. Discussion and possible action on John Hendry's "20 Legacy Items for the VNNC" (see pages 12-13).

14. Discussion and possible action to appoint a new chair for the Public Safety, Human Services, and Animal Welfare Committee

15. Select a Board Member to fill the Secretary position.

VNNC Bylaws Article VI. Section 2. C

The duties of the SECRETARY are:

1. Prepare minutes for all Council and Executive Committee meetings.
2. Keep accurate records of all Board proceedings, correspondence, documents, and Council meeting attendance.
3. Coordinate the posting of agendas in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, at all designated posting locations, or delegate the tasks.
4. Preserve all records, reports and other official documents, except those specifically assigned to the custody of others.
5. An Assistant Secretary is ex-Officio and is a non-voting member unless already a VNNC Director, and may be appointed or hired, subject to Board approval.

16. Updates on unresolved topics.

- a. DONE cited Attorney-Client Privilege and declined to share a communication related to Studio City NC and resignation of a registered sex offender from the NC. Email from Gibson Nyambura: “Please be advised that the advice provided to the Studio City Neighborhood Council is privileged as an attorney client communication. As such, we are not the holders of this information and are unable to provide any details or disclosures related to the matter.”
- b. Need to delay vote on SB 411 meeting option until can get 14 Board Members available to attend a meeting,

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

18. 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

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 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. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas>

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

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. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

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.

EXCERPT FROM INTRODUCTION SECTION OF MOTION FOR CF 24-0602
(key points in Bold)

Synthetic grass, or artificial turf, is created by fusing together rubber and certain plastics to create the illusion of lush grasses. In recent years, many people have installed artificial turf / synthetic grass for purposes of water conservation, or recreational activity. These artificial fields were so popular that in states like California, state laws were updated to at one point ensure that these types of products were essential in water saving policy. **However, numerous studies have concluded that the use of artificial turf / synthetic grass has several negative environmental impacts.**

Artificial turf is now known to contain harmful substances such as polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and other "forever chemicals." In April 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration, through the Environmental Protection Agency, categorized PFAS and other "forever chemicals" as hazardous substances dangerous to human health. The EPA has concluded that exposure to PFAS may lead to reproductive effects, developmental delays, and risks of some cancers. Exposure can occur through inhalation, ingestion, skin contact, and mucous membrane exposure, including microplastic dust kicked up on artificial turf fields.

Runoff from artificial turf, including tire rubber crumbs and other materials used for cushioning, can cause PFAS and other contaminants to leach into groundwater or runoff into waterways and the ocean, potentially contaminating drinking water. Additionally, artificial turf **contributes to the urban "heat island" effect, raising local temperatures**, while the City is engaged in other efforts to combat urban heat, including cool pavement and increasing the urban forest. Artificial turf **does not support life, including insects and birds, and by depriving underlying soil of water, air and light, can kill beneficial organisms in the soil for many years.**

In 2023, the State of California enacted SB 676 (Allen), which allows local agencies to prohibit artificial synthetic grass (turf) on residential properties, repealing a previous 2015 state law which had approved artificial grass as a method to save water from irrigation. In fact, several actions have focused on these types of lawns in recent years, such as the 2022 Governor's order which banned the practice of watering non-functional, or purely decorative artificial / synthetic grass. The Governor's order provided a potable water statewide estimated savings of between 156,000 acre-feet and 260,000 acre-feet per year, the equivalent of water used by 780,000 households.

Unfortunately, decorative lawns cannot be recycled, and are placed in landfills after their use, further allowing chemical deterioration and material breakdown which can find its way into local water sources.

To reduce health and environmental risks from PFAS and other contaminants, the City itself should transition away from future use of synthetic turf or artificial grass, and continue to incentivize the transition towards California drought-friendly landscaping broadly.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the health and environmental risks from polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other contaminants, the transition away from use of synthetic turf or artificial grass, transition towards California drought-friendly landscaping, and related matters.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Blumenfield - Yaroslavsky – Hernandez):

1. INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to report with the following:
 - a. In coordination with the City’s Chief Heat Officer and the Climate Emergency Management Office (CEMO), a summary of policies regarding synthetic grass or artificial turf in jurisdictions with climate and water supply issues analogous to Los Angeles, and their heat impacts citywide.
 - b. Recommendations to effectuate a transition away from future installations of synthetic grass and artificial turf citywide.
 - c. In coordination with the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), and the Department of General Services (GSD), an analysis of lifecycle costs (installation, operation and maintenance) for different types of turf surfaces, and recommendations to halt future installation of synthetic grass or artificial turf on City-owned property, including athletic fields, and a plan to remove and replace all current synthetic sports fields.
 - d. In coordination with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, (LADWP) recommendations for incentives and rebate programs to remove and replace synthetic turf and artificial grass, and encourage the transition to California friendly landscaping.
 - e. In coordination with the City Administrative Officer (CAO), RAP, GSD, and other impacted departments as needed, report on the budgetary and policy changes needed in order to ensure that all city agencies adhere to the intent of this policy.
 - f. In consultation with the Los Angeles Unified School District, The Los Angeles Community College District, private schools, and commercial properties, provide options and recommendations to incentivize the replacement of synthetic grass or artificial turf on school playgrounds, athletic fields, and other uses.

Summary:

On June 28, 2024, your Committee considered Motion (Blumenfield - Yaroslavsky – Hernandez) relative to the health and environmental risks from PFAS and other contaminants, the transition away from use of synthetic turf or artificial grass, transition towards California drought-friendly landscaping, and related matters. The Motion attached to the Council file includes some background on the matter.

After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations reflected above. This matter is now forwarded to Council for its consideration.
Respectfully Submitted,

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
YAROSLAVSKY:	YES
MCOSKER:	YES
BLUMENFIELD:	YES
DE LEON:	ABSENT
RAMAN:	YES

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-

John Hendry's 20 Legacy Items for VNNC

—Wildflowers on Sepulveda Dam

—ValleyVue hiking path on the north-south Sepulveda Dam berm

—“Calatrava style” bridge across 405

(An east-west single steel cable span that works like a sundial—as it runs east-west across the road—Redding, CA has one and it's popular tourist attraction)

—Sepulveda Dam—LA River interpretive plaza for “Friends of River”

—Van Nuys Plaza (mural to help manage on bank —across from Braude Plaza—saving “Western Wear” which was Van Nuys' first building in 1911 as Bank of Van Nuys

—Walking Tour of Van Nuys

(Hendry has done tour—considering a San Fernando tour (in cooperation with Museum San Fernando Valley)

—Return of the Christmas Angels—The 1950-1980 Bethlehem Star Parade led to 150 6' high Christmas angels posted on VN Bl light standards (can't find more than 3 today)

—Saving the BANK of AMERICA

With it's Millard Sheets mural, a “Van Nuys at 50” diorama of Van Nuys and the Indians to “Van Nuys goes into space”.

—the Whitsett legacy. William p Whitsett. , cofounder of Van Nuys, gave 2 unique buildings, Van Nuys' 10 story building used by CHAMPS, and a high art building on Archwood to oversee the Vons—Butler Brothers shopping center—(now “99 Cent Store—Adrays”).

—Sylvan St corridor (from Kester to Hazeltine). Unique 1920's corridor needing signage For 1926 Library, 1935 Post Office, 1911 Bank of Van Nuys, a 1915“first settlers' house)

—First Christian Science Church—Hamlin St Cedros—beautiful Southern California casual style (theatrical seating)church in need of preservation

—/Cedros trees lining street

Dating from the 1911 founding of Van Nuys, the trees lined the back side of the Whitley Mansion, the baronial home of HJ Whitley who founded Van Nuys.

—Restoring and preserving Sherman Way's palms and pines.
Planted from 1911 onward to flank the Valley's Great Boulevard, the palms and pines needed a Valley-wide sprucing up—special sidewalks, tree cutouts, signage.

—Turning the 1970's US Post Office into a Van Nuys Mercado/-an open interior place for incubator restaurants for all those judges? Jurors, attorneys, LAPD officers, city planners, city employees all could lunch there.

—Honoring the Tongva ("First Nations") with signage commemorating Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, Cahuenga Pass, Topanga Canyon as named historic sites named for "first citizens".

—The Mulholland Drive Centennial Car Rally". 2024 marks the "centennial of Mulholland Drive"—"What better
Than all of us, riding in the back of a classic 55 Thunderbird, 65 Mustang, or whatever down Mulholland Drive???"

What dreams we should have done

What little we've done with our time.