

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Kathy Schreiner
kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org
President

Maduka Nkuku
maduka.nkuku@vnnc.org
Vice President

Vacant
Secretary

David Harari
david.harari@vnnc.org
Treasurer

Myrra Bolla
myrra.bolla@vnnc.org
Parliamentarian

Hakop 'Jack' Azatyan
John Camera
Josue Chavez
Quirino de la Cuesta
Brian Edelman
John Hendry
Ann Kalb
Dalilah Perez
Cyle Zezotarski

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday, October 9, 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
P.O. Box 3118
Van Nuys, CA 91407-3118

Email: info@vnnc.org
www.vnnc.org

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)**

- 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) – Karen Dominguez KDominguez@bos.lacounty.gov
- Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Clarissa Gomez Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov
- Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) – Teodora Reyes Teodora.reyes@sen.ca.gov
- California Congressional District 29 – Laura Juarez laura.juarez@mail.house.gov

3. **City Planning Presentation: Updates on the SE Vally Community Plans.**
<https://planning.lacity.gov/community-plan-update/southeast-valley#home>
Introduced by PLUM Chair Quirino de la Cuesta
4. **Discussion and possible action to fill one vacant VNNC Board seat:**
 - a. At-Large seat with applicant Derek Spears, resident of Van Nuys.
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/D-Spears-VNNC-Boardmember-application.pdf>
5. Delano Park Handball Court Committee shares community concerns (up to 5 min.).
6. **Officer Reports**
 - a. President
 - The Trees Committee of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance produced postcards that can be sent to the Mayor to advocate for more attention to preserving mature trees and adding to the tree canopy. Postcards will be available at the meeting for individuals to fill out. (See p. 9)
 - 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.
 - 2025 election for Neighborhood Councils will only be by mail-in ballot. More info to come.
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Secretary – Vacant
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Parliamentarian
 - Possible formation of a Bylaws Committee
7. **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.)
8. **Consent Agenda**

Approve draft minutes from the following VNNC Board Meetings

 - a. September 11, 2024 GBM Minutes
https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/VNNC_09112024_GBM_Draft_Minutes_Final_V1.pdf
9. **Action items from the Budget and Finance Committee requiring a roll call vote**
 - a. Discussion and possible action to approve the August MER.

10. Action Items from the Outreach Committee

- a. Discussion and possible action to allocate up to \$150 to purchase supplies for a VNNC table at the Van Nuys Recreation Center’s Halloween event on October 25th.
- a. Discussion and possible action to allocate up to \$150 to purchase supplies for a VNNC table at the Delano Recreation Center Halloween event on October 31st

11. Report from the PLUM Committee

- a. Report: A revised motion regarding CF 24-0602 was passed by the City Council. The motion provides directions to City staff of various agencies to conduct studies and make recommendations regarding potential steps the City could take regarding future use of artificial turf, but deleted language regarding transitioning away from the use of synthetic turf or artificial grass and transition towards California drought-friendly landscaping,
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=24-0602>

12. Discussion and possible action on an animal welfare issue

- a. Discussion and possible action on a motion proposed by Dalilah Perez-Vigo for the VNNC to sponsor the virtual adoption of an animal that is currently at the East Valley Animal Shelter. (Virtual adoption means that the VNNC would share information about the animal’s availability for adoption on its website, on social media, and in its monthly e-blast. }

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).
- c. John Hendry will be asked to submit a written proposal to the PLUM Committee whenever he has future suggestions and recommendations for the VNNC to consider.

14. Discussion and possible action to elect Brian Edelman as chair of the Public Safety, Human Services, and Animal Welfare Committee

15. Discussion and possible action to elect 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. Need to delay vote on SB 411 meeting option until can get 14 Board Members available to attend a meeting.

<https://legiscan.com/CA/drafts/SB411/2023>

17. Announcements and 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 <https://ethics.lacity.gov/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.

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 1911founding 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.

1,000 Postcards to the Mayor to get Support for Trees!

Instructions –

Send one of our postcards to the Mayor today.

Provide your own message or choose a message from below and write it in the space on the postcard.

Please write in a message in the allotted space. Suggested messages below:

Both city staff and property owners behave as though trees are expendable. Yet trees are of great value. Trees have a calming effect, give respite from the heat. They sustain our diminishing birds and butterflies.

Trees are essential to clean the air. They remove (sequester) carbon.

Prioritize our trees and woodlands. Everyone needs trees, not just the rich.

Communities with an extensive urban forest have lower crime rates.

Trees should not be considered decoration – they contribute to our health.

It takes 20 years for a new tree to mature. Why not try to keep the ones we have?

BOE sent a survey offering sidewalk amenities – trees were not a choice. Why?

Property owners have the legal right to cut down most of their trees – and they do! Controls exist in other cities.

Single-family property owners demolish the house AND ALL the trees, just to rebuild a house. All by-right.

Designers should be required to preserve perimeter trees on new construction.

City Planners usually don't advise building around trees. Why not?

Urban Forestry is not planting trees. Their budget was cut. Can we fix this?

Property owners severely cut back canopy and harm trees. Nobody stops them.

Parking lot owners cut away the tree shade. No inspections, no enforcement.

Protected trees are secretly cut down on weekends and nights. How do we stop this?

Sidewalk Repair Program does not consider NEW ways to save big trees. Yet other cities have solutions.

Replacement trees are nearly always a smaller canopy species. We are downsizing the urban forest!

Without any submission of plans, trees get clear-cut during demolitions – why not require all trees remain?

New construction could be built around at least some of the trees, but most often trees are just cut down.

Driveways get relocated to where there is a tree in the way. Why is this allowed?

Why not give big street trees extra room by giving up a parking space. Trees are more essential than cars.

UFD and RAP have a much tinier percentage of the city budget compared to other cities. Let's fix this!

Paris planted 4,000 trees to get ready for their Olympics. How many is LA28 planting?

The proposed Olympic site at the Sepulveda basin expects to remove trees. Can't we solve this another way?

Trees are critical to the next generation – please let's not cheat the future LA residents.

Trees are the only infrastructure that increases in value over time. An investment!