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## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting Approved Minutes Wednesday, January 10, 2024



**Members**  
Samuel Apikyan  
Hakop 'Jack' Azatyan  
John Camera  
Josue Chavez  
Brian Edelman  
Ann Kalb  
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 7:23 PM by President Schreiner. Roll was called by the minute taker. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Schreiner. There were eleven (11) Boardmembers present. Four (4) Boardmembers were absent. Quorum was met.

VNNC ITEM 1. Roll Call	
<b>Present –11</b>	<b>Absent-04</b>
Camera, Chavez, Edelman, Harari, Kalb, Kopelev, Nkuku, Pina, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Hendry

2. **Reports from Government officials:**

- a. Public Safety

- i. LAPD Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/> SLO Mike Perez was in attendance and reported that Officer Matt Anderson is on temporary loan and will be filling in for Officer White while she is out on leave. Officer Dela Torre is still non leave and if you send emails to those officers, the emails will be responded to by these officers. On January 1, 2024 a new law went into effect, AB 433 which bans local jurisdictions from banning cruising and lowered vehicles. Van Nuys has a history of going all the way back to American Graffiti, but the cruising has become a nuisance and LAPD has received many complaints from the business owners on Van Nuys Blvd along with community members. Last month there was a cruise night on Van Nuys that attracted about 1000 people. There were many complaints of gridlock of traffic, drinking, and parking issues. LAPD will be monitoring the events.

- ii. LAFD Station 39 Battalion 10 Chief Matthew Conroy reflected on the previous year. The Chief reported that the LAPD in 2023 responded to 541,500 calls. That was an eight percent increase from last year. The LAFD transported 230,000 patients to local hospitals. On average, dispatchers take one minute and seven seconds to send resources. On average it takes a unit five minutes and 10 seconds to arrive at an emergency. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake and the Chief will be doing a press conference next week.

- a) Public comment: Mr. Marez, Rudy Menedez, Carmelina Minasova, Richard Solano, Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet

b. Council Offices

- i. Council District 2 – Arus Grigoryan [arus.grigoryan@lacity.org](mailto:arus.grigoryan@lacity.org) 818-210-1504 (cell) reported that the Council Office is hosting the homeless count and that she is the coordinator for the homeless count in CD 2. CD2 is having an internship opportunity and a leadership academy. Details are on their website.

- ii. Council District 4 – Ryan Ahari [ryan.ahari@lacity.org](mailto:ryan.ahari@lacity.org) 213-473-7004 absent, no report

- iii. Council District 6 – Brian Patton [brian.patton@lacity.org](mailto:brian.patton@lacity.org) Office: (818) 778-4999, Cell: (818) 270-1931 reported the grand opening for Planet Fitness. January 23<sup>rd</sup> homeless count. <https://www.theycountwillyou.org/> Two locations to volunteer Van Nuys and Sun Valley. There will be a career fair held on January 25 from 9:00AM-3:00PM at the Airtel Hotel.

- a) Public comment: Speaker 1, Rudy Menedez, Mr. Hopp, Mr. Marez, Richard Solano, Goat Puppet, John Hamburg, Carmelina Minasova, Jesse Freeman

c. Other Government Offices

- i. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – Alfonso Manzo [alfonso.manzo@lacity.org](mailto:alfonso.manzo@lacity.org) no report

- ii. Mayor’s office – Michelle Vergara [michelle.vergara@lacity.org](mailto:michelle.vergara@lacity.org) (213) 400-9816 absent, no report

- iii. Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) – absent, no report

- iv. Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Clarissa Gomez [Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov) absent, no report

- v. Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) – Jasmin Hernandez [jasmin.hernandez@sen.ca.gov](mailto:jasmin.hernandez@sen.ca.gov) reported that she was happy to see all the Boardmembers that came to holiday events. The legislature is now in session.

- vi. California Congressional District 29 – Laura Juarez [laura.juarez@mail.house.gov](mailto:laura.juarez@mail.house.gov) absent, no report

- vii. Planning Department

- a) Public comment: Mr. Hopp, Stakeholder 1, Richard Solano, Rudy Melendez, Mr. Marez, Carmelina Minasova, Goat Puppet, Mr. Marez

3. **Tentative: Report from Councilmember Imelda Padilla of CD 6.** Unable to attend, but will reschedule for a later date.

4. **Officer Reports**

a. President

-- A printed copy of VNNC agendas and linked files can be reviewed in a reference notebook that will be located at the Van Nuys Branch Library.

-- February Board meeting will be on February 28 (to avoid having a meeting on February 14).

-- Participated with LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (LANCSA) in development of comments on the Draft Vision Plan for the Sepulveda Basin. The 260+ page plan can be accessed from the project website: [bit.ly/sepulvedabasinvp](https://bit.ly/sepulvedabasinvp)

- b. Vice-President wished everyone a happy New Year
- c. Secretary absent, no report
- d. Treasurer great to see everyone here.
- e. Parliamentarian absent, no report
  - a) Public comment: Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet

**5. Procedures regarding limits and timing of Public Comments.**

Discussion and possible action to adopt a new Standing Rule regarding the amount of time allocated for individual public comments and method for tracking individual time.

Background: Each Neighborhood Council can develop a set of Standing Rules that specify procedures to be followed by the council. Standing rules are more flexible than Bylaws and may be adopted and changed by a majority vote of the Council. The VNNC Standing Rules were last modified in 2018 and no longer match the actual procedures of the council. A link to the current Standing Rules and the specific rule applicable to VNNC procedures regarding public comments is attached at the end of the agenda. The current policy followed during VNNC Board and Committee meetings is printed on the first page of each VNNC agenda:

**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.**

Based on experience in the past few months, many minutes are being consumed in recording time per topic and tracking time per individual commenter. To simplify the process of recording and tracking time, it is proposed that additional language be added regarding how time per comment will be tracked. This will simplify the amount of time a Board volunteer has to spend on timing each comment, recording time per comment, and summarizing how much time is left when asked by a stakeholder. Proposed new language: Actual time for each comment will be recorded in 30 second increments (i.e., 30 sec., 1 min., 90 sec., 2 min.).

**Public Comment: Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 5. Motion to adopt a new Standing Rule regarding the amount of time allocated for individual public comments and method for tracking individual time. Moved: Edelman Seconded: Kopelev</b>				
<b>Yes-08</b>	<b>No-02</b>	<b>Abstain-01</b>	<b>Ineligible-00</b>	<b>Absent-04</b>
Camera, Chavez, Edelman, Nkuku, Pina, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	Harari, Kalb	Kopelev	None	Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Hendry

**6. Discussion and possible action to vote to fill vacant Board seats.**

- a. ANNOUNCEMENT: In accordance with Section 7F of the Bylaws, the five (5) Board seats that are currently vacant have automatically become at-large seats. The 5 seats are:
  - i. At-large Representative (Seat 2)
  - ii. Non-Profit Representative (Seat 2)
  - iii. At-large Industrial Representative (Seat 2)
  - iv. School Representative
  - v. Youth Representative
- b. Discussion and possible action to appoint **Sohrob Tahmasebi**, a resident of Van Nuys who has applied for and meets the qualifications for At-Large Representative (Seat 2). The candidate will be asked to give a 2-minute self-introduction, followed by questions from Board members.  
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-10-SohrobTahmasebi.png> **Postponed**

**Public Comment: Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet**

7. Discussion and possible action to approve a CIS to [CF 23-1114](#) to authorize the use of teleconferencing for Van Nuys Neighborhood Council meetings, including board meetings and committee meetings, in accordance with the rules established by Senate Bill 411 and the subsequent motion passed by the City Council on November 1, 2023. The VNNC wants to take advantage of the special teleconferencing rules available to Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils in order to enable access to meetings by individuals who are unable to participate in-person and to encourage broader participation of Stakeholders who are more willing to attend when a meeting allows virtual access.

Voting "yes" would permit the VNNC to hold hybrid meetings (i.e., with participation on Zoom by a few members and stakeholders who cannot attend in person), as well as to have the option to hold some 100% virtual meetings.

NOTE: A 2/3 affirmative vote is required by SB 411 in order for a Neighborhood Council to take advantage of teleconferencing. City Attorney and DONE say that the VNNC must have 14 positive in-person votes to approve (i.e. 2/3 of 21 seats). **Postponed**

**Public comment: Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet**

8. **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.)

- a. Rudy Melendez
- b. Jon-Paul Bird
- c. Crystal Walker
- d. Carmelina Minasova
- e. Sean Pleasants
- f. Bernie Bernal
- g. Eddie Dela Cruz
- h. Mr. Marez
- i. Richard Solano
- j. Walter
- k. Mr. Hopp
- l. Goat Puppet

9. **Action items from the Budget and Finance Committee requiring roll call votes.**

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the November 2023 MER (Monthly Expenditure Report)

Beginning Balance	Total Spent	Remaining Balance	Outstanding	Commitments	Net Available
\$30,730.90	\$1,366.48	\$29,364.42	\$120.45	\$0	\$29,243.97

[https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/VNNC\\_MER\\_112023.pdf](https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/VNNC_MER_112023.pdf)

**Public Comment: Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet, Mr. Marez, d. Carmelina Minasova**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 9a. Motion to approve the November 2023 MER (Monthly Expenditure Report)</b>				
<b>Moved: Kopelev Seconded: Edelman</b>				
<b>Yes-11</b>	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	<b>Absent-04</b>
Camera, Chavez, Edelman, Harari, Kalb, Kopelev, Nkuku, Pina, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	None	None	None	Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Hendry

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve reimbursement to David Harari for \$75.00 for purchasing food for the VNNC Board Retreat on October 28th. (Note: Receipts add up to more than \$78.35, but the BAC was approved for \$75.00 so that is the reimbursement request.)

[https://vnncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/VNNC\\_Harari\\_Reimbursement.pdf](https://vnncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/VNNC_Harari_Reimbursement.pdf)

Public Comment: no comment

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 9b. Motion to approve reimbursement to David Harari for \$75.00 for purchasing food for the VNNC Board Retreat on October 28th. Moved: Edelman Seconded: Pina</b>				
<b>Yes-11</b>	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	<b>Absent-04</b>
Camera, Chavez, Edelman, Harari, Kalb, Kopelev, Nkuku, Pina, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	None	None	None	Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Hendry

- c. Discussion and possible action to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$150 for the VNNC to provide refreshments on the evening of January 23rd for the volunteers who will participate in the 2024 Van Nuys Homeless Count. Refreshments will be provided at the central deployment point, which will be the Mid-Valley YMCA.

Public Comment: Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 9c. Motion to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$150 for the VNNC to provide refreshments on the evening of January 23rd for the volunteers who will participate in the 2024 Van Nuys Homeless Count. Moved: Edelman Seconded: Pina</b>				
<b>Yes-11</b>	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	<b>Absent-04</b>
Camera, Chavez, Edelman, Harari, Kalb, Kopelev, Nkuku, Pina, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	None	None	None	Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Hendry

**10. Discussion and possible action to agree to support a CD 2 Candidate Forum that is being organized by the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council.**

The tentative date under consideration is February 6. The tentative site is NoHo Senior Center. No funding from the VNNC will be required.

Public Comment: Mr. Hopp, Mr. Marez, Carmelina Minasova, Goat Puppet, Speaker 1

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 10. Motion to support a CD 2 Candidate Forum that is being organized by the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council. Moved: Kopelev Seconded: Edelman</b>				
<b>Yes-11</b>	No-00	<b>Abstain-01</b>	Ineligible-00	<b>Absent-04</b>
Camera, Chavez, Edelman, Harari, Kalb, Kopelev, Nkuku, Pina, Schreiner, Vaughan	None	Zezotarski	None	Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Hendry

**11. Discussion and possible action to approve establishment of two new VNNC Committees. NOTE: Each Board member must serve on at least one committee.**

- a. Public Safety, Human Services, and Animal Welfare Committee.  
This committee will consider issues and action items that can enhance personal safety of residents, safety of neighborhoods, support for local police, support for City initiatives to help

people move from living on the streets into interim housing (including Inside Safe, Circle, and Council Office activities), and support activities to improve the welfare of feral animals.

**Public Comment: Goat Puppet Mr. Marez, Richard Solano, Jackie**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 11a. Motion to approve the creation of the Public Safety, Human Services, and Animal Welfare Committee. Moved: Edelman Seconded: Kopelev</b>				
<b>Yes-11</b>	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	<b>Absent-04</b>
Camera, Chavez, Edelman, Harari, Kalb, Kopelev, Nkuku, Pina, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	None	None	None	Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Hendry

b. Parks, Public Spaces, and Sustainability Committee

This committee will consider issues and action items that can improve the cleanliness and visual environment in Van Nuys, encourage greater use of reporting through 311, increase open space, enhance the tree canopy, and support initiatives to preserve and increase natural resources (such as native plants, groundwater storage, etc.) and address climate change.

**Public Comment: Mr. Hopp, Goat Puppet**

**Motion: Passed**

<b>VNNC Agenda Item 11b. Motion to approve the creation of the Parks, Public Spaces, and Sustainability Committee. Moved: Zezotarski Seconded: Edelman</b>				
<b>Yes-11</b>	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	<b>Absent-04</b>
Camera, Chavez, Edelman, Harari, Kalb, Kopelev, Nkuku, Pina, Schreiner, Vaughan, Zezotarski	None	None	None	Apikyan, Azatyan, Bolla, Hendry

12. **Updates on unresolved topics.**

a. Waiting for response from DONE and City Attorney regarding issue that led to the resignation of Studio City NC members.

13. **Identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting.** No action taken.

14. **Adjournment Edelman 10:08PM**