Kathy Schreiner
kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org
President

Pam Bingham
pam.bingham@vnnc.org
Vice President

Brian Edelman
Brian.edelman@vnnc.org
Secretary

David Harari
david.harari@vnnc.org
Treasurer

Cyle Zezotarski
cyle.zezotarski@vnnc.org
Parliamentarian

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 11, 2025

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 3118
Van Nuys, CA 91407-3118
Email: info@vnnc.org
www.vnnc.org
818-357-2446

Members

John Camera
Connor Chiu
Quirino de la Cuesta
Mindi Gonzalez
Brandon Gruzen
Ann Kalb
Raymond Mandarino
Dalilah Perez-Vigo
Priscilla Ramos
Derek Spears
Francois Verin

1. **Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance-** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Schreiner Roll was called by the minute taker. There were ten (10) Boardmembers present. Five (05) Boardmembers were absent. Quorum was not met. Information about giving public comment was read by President Schreiner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at this time.

VNNC ITEM 1. Roll Call	
Present –10	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Chiu, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Ramos, Schreiner, Verin, Zezotarski	**de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Spears**

2. **Reports from LAPD and LAFD**
   a. https://vnnc.org/resource/ Acting SLO Sierra reported that McDonalds will be having a grand reopening on February 14, 2026. There will be activities, crafts, and characters there. Future "Coffee with a Cop" events may be held there. The Sepulveda Median Pedestrian Walkway groundbreaking was held last week and the homeless encampments around the project were removed before the event. Acting SLO Sierra will be returning to his normal assignment as a training officer in patrol after a four-month loan to the Van Nuys LAPD Community Resource Office.
   b. **Report from LAFD** Absent, no report.
   c. **Public comment:** Mr. Marez

de la Cuesta joined the meeting at 7:16PM.

Quorum was met.

Spears joined the meeting at 7:19PM

3. **Reports from other Government officials** (approximately 2 min each)
    a. Council District 2 –Abkar Kalantarians abkar.kalantarians@lacity.org (213) 951 2191 reported that there will be a senior, self-defense training this Saturday, February 14, 2026 from 10:30AM-1200PM. More information on the website. The Council office is working with Metro to make train crossings safer. The meeting will be held two weeks from today.
    b. Council District 4 – Taleen Keuroghlian taleen.keuroghlian@lacity.org Absent, no report.
    c. Council District 6 – Paulina Alvarado paulina.alvarado@lacity.org (818) 778-4999 reported that there is an increase of graffiti in the area. LASan has been performing Care Plus clean-ups in the area. CD 6 held an Arts and Crafts event at the Library and all students attending the event received a book. Palm fronds pick-ups were delayed in the month of January due to StreetsLA focusing on potholes. CD 6 worked with their graffiti vendor and LASan to collect the palm fronds during the first weeks of February. On March 21st there will be a community clean up. A flyer will be available soon.
    d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – John Darnell john.darnell@lacity.org reported that there was a Homelessness Liaisons Meeting on 1/8/26. Numerous Homelessness Liaisons from across the city met to discuss the Homeless Count and explore how Neighborhood Councils can effectively advocate for the unhoused. This meeting is held quarterly, and if you would like more information then please let him know and he will connect you with the staffer at our department who sets these up. Budget 101 for Neighborhood Councils (1/29/26) EmpowerLA provided an overview of the city budget process. The session focused on how Neighborhood Councils can influence the budget by filing Community Impact Statements (CIS) and communicating directly with elected officials and city departments. Etiquette, Communication, and Healthy Board Dynamics Workshop (1/31/26) This interactive workshop provided tools for improving communication, resolving conflict, and fostering a respectful board culture. Attendees practiced navigating difficult conversations and strategies for ensuring inclusive teamwork.
    e. Mayor's office – Genesis Discus genesis.discua@lacity.org reported that she has been in the job for six weeks. Contact her for any issues in the area. She will be attending the VNNC meetings quarterly due to having twelve Neighborhood Council meetings to attend each month.
    f. LAUSD Board District 3, Scott Schmerelson scott.schmerelson@lausd.net reported that on February 23, 2026 from 5:00PM to 6:30PM there will be a listening session called Listening to Families and Planning for Success. It will be held at Mulholland Middle School and streamed on Zoom. The Boardmember discussed the Miller Career and Transition Center and that it has a wonderful program for 18–22-year-olds with severe disabilities. They have a silk screen department and a bakery where the students learn job skills. After 22 years old, the County takes over to help the students with life skills and jobs.
    g. Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) – Karen Dominguez KDominguez@bos.lacounty.gov Absent, no report.
    h. Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Clarissa Gomez Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov Absent, no report.
    i. Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) –Alex De Leon Alex.deleon@sen.ca.gov Absent, no report.
    j. California Congressional District 29 – Cynthia Becerra Cynthia.Becerra@email.house.gov (818) 253-3535 Absent, no report.
    k. Metro staff: Construction updates regarding the ESFV Light Rail Transit Project Joanna Amador AmadorJo@metro.net reported that as part of the ESFV LRT Project, Metro's contractor will conduct utility relocation work along Van Nuys Blvd between Sherman Way and Arminta St, as well as on nearby side streets. Work will take place on Mondays to Sundays at night and on weekends

during the day. This work will require intermittent directional street closures for southbound and northbound Van Nuys Blvd. Only one direction of the street will be closed at a time. A detour will be in place to guide traffic around the closure during work hours, and Van Nuys Blvd will fully reopen during non-work hours. Activities will include utility installation operations such as duct bank, trenching, vault installations, traffic control implementation, concrete, paving and striping. The work started in January 2026 and will end in June 2026. The next East San Fernando Valley LRT – In-Person Community Meeting will be held at the Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multipurpose Senior Center Los Angeles, CA on Thursday, February 12, 2026 from 6:00PM to 7:30PM. This in-person community meeting will share information on new development related to the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit (LRT) project. Attendees will learn about planned improvements, development opportunities, and potential community benefits along the corridor. Project representatives will be available to provide updates, answer questions, and gather feedback. Community meeting presentation: https://www.metro.net/documents/2026/02/community-meeting-presentation-english.pdf/

l. Metro staff: Construction updates regarding construction in Van Nuys related to G Line Improvements Jessica Legaspi LegaspiJ@metro.net was absent and the report was given by Jesse Leon. Roadway improvements will be done on Erwin St between Sepulveda Bl and Langdon Ave. This work will support construction of the future G Line bridge over Sepulveda Bl. Beginning this February, contractors will remove and replace the Park & Ride driveway on Erwin St by Peach Ave and construct a temporary bus platform in Park & Ride lot. Work includes k-rail installation, new asphalt, street striping and signage. Anticipated completion is in March 2026. Anticipated start: February 17, 2026 Anticipated completion: Late-March 2026 Work hours: Daily: 7:00AM to 5:00PM Erwin St improvements will help maintain transit service during construction and allow for long-term safety and reliability upgrades to the Metro G Line. Construction is dynamic and schedules are subject to change. See full notice here.

m. Other government agency representatives- none present

n. **Public comment:** Mr. Marez

4. **Presentation on the new Donald C Tillman Advanced Water Purification Facility in the Sepulveda Basin – Arturo Gonzalez** NOTE: This will be one of the largest advanced potable water reuse projects in the United States. When completed in July 2028, this facility will purify up to 30 million gallons of treated waste water each day -- with an ultimate capacity of up to 45 million gallons a day. The City of Los Angeles is committed to a sustainable water future that relies more on local water supplies than costly and unreliable imported water. The plan to increase local water resources includes groundwater replenishment using advanced purified water. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), in partnership with the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), is undertaking the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project (LAGWR). LAGWR will provide up to 22,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of purified water to replenish the San Fernando Groundwater Basin using proven, state-of-the-art technology that is highly protective of human health. LAGWR is an important investment in developing a local, drought resilient, and reliable water supply for a sustainable Los Angeles. Presentation can be found at: https://vimeo.com/1022645053?fl=pl&fe=sh

   a. **Public comment: Mr. Marez**

5. **Presentation on upcoming work on the next segment of the LA River Way bike path/trail between Woodman and Coldwater Canyon – Michael Affeldt, Bureau of Engineering.** NOTE: This bike path segment will eventually connect the entire Valley and all of the river's 51 miles. The LA River Valley Bike Path (often referred to as part of the LA RiverWay) is a major Bureau of Engineering project. Project Scope: 12.8 to 13

miles of new Class I bicycle path and pedestrian trail. Location: Spans from Canoga Park to Elysian Valley, with multiple segments closing gaps along the river in the San Fernando Valley. Segment Details: The project consists of nine segments designed to fill in existing gaps, with significant work involving the Bureau of Engineering and LADOT. Features: The new segments will include a paved path for cyclists and pedestrians, enhancing connectivity to regional destinations. Timeline: The project is part of a larger push to complete key gaps, with various segments moving forward in 2023-2024 and others expected to be completed before 2028. The presentation for Segment 7 can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Go09gcT0KI Survey Link: https://ladot.typeform.com/to/kfKrf1td?typeform-source=ladotlivablestreets.org Fact sheet: https://ladotlivablestreets-cms.org/uploads/b7fcb76d3264488ca765d2a967a450b5.pdf

a. **Public comment:** no comment

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.)
   a. **Donna**

7. **Consent Agenda**
   a. Discussion and possible action to approve minutes from the General Board Meetings on December 10, 2025 and January 14, 2026.
   https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/VNNC_12102025_GBM_Draft_Minutes.pdf
   https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/VNNC_01142026_GBM_Draft_Minutes.pdf

Public Comment: Mr. Marez
Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 7.a. Motion to approve the December 2025 and January 2026 minutes. Correct item 12 of the December 2025 minutes as it was duplicated from item 11 and correct the text to "Motion to approve Pam Bingham as CIS filer." **Moved: Schreiner Seconded: Zezotarski**				
Yes-12	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-04**
Bingham, Camera, Chiu, de la Cuesta, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Ramos, Schreiner, Spears, Verin, Zezotarski	None	None	None	**Gonzalez, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez**

8. **Budget and Finance Committee items that require a roll call vote.**
   a. Discussion and possible action to approve the December 2025 MER.
   https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/VNNC_MER_Dec2025.pdf

Beginning Balance	Total Spent	Remaining Balance	Outstanding	Commitments	Net Available
$29,878.28	$1,164.84	$28,713.44	$0.00	$0.00	$28,713.44

Public Comment: no comment
Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 8.a. Motion to approve the December 2025 MER. **Moved: Zezotarski Seconded: Edelman**				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	**Ineligible-01**	**Absent-04**
Bingham, Camera, de la Cuesta, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Ramos, Schreiner, Spears, Verin, Zezotarski	None	None	**Chiu**	**Gonzalez, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez**

b. **Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) Application from Columbus Ave. Elementary School for $3700** to purchase a "cup" sign with the school's name for the back fence of the school property ($2200) and two murals for the handball court ($1500). Copy of application can be viewed at link and will be handed out at the meeting.
https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Columbus-VNNC-Neighborhood-Pupose-Grant-Application-January-2026-1.pdf

Public Comment: Mr. Marez, Stakeholder 1, Donna
Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 8.b. Motion to approve a Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) Application from Columbus Ave. Elementary School for $3700. **Moved: Edelman Seconded: Spears**				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	**Ineligible-01**	**Absent-04**
Bingham, Camera, de la Cuesta, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Ramos, Schreiner, Spears, Verin, Zezotarski	None	None	**Chiu**	**Gonzalez, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez**

c. Discussion and possible action to approve NPG Application from **Project Breaking Barriers** for $2500 to support three one-week sections in 2026 of their IGNITE program of career exploration for youth ages 13-20. Copy of application can be viewed at link and will be handed out at the meeting.
https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Project-Breaking-Barriers-NPG-Application-01.14.2026.pdf

Public Comment: Mr. Marez
Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 8.c. Motion to approve NPG Application from Project Breaking Barriers for $2500 to support three one-week sections in 2026 of their IGNITE program of career exploration for youth ages 13-20. **Moved: Edelman Seconded: Verin**				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	**Ineligible-01**	**Absent-04**
Bingham, Camera, de la Cuesta, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Ramos, Schreiner, Spears, Verin, Zezotarski	None	None	**Chiu**	**Gonzalez, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez**

9. **Report from Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee-** Chair de la Cuesta reported that he has created a tracking document for the Park Assessment Program to help identify sites for potential parks in Van Nuys and he is looking for additional feedback. The PLUM Committee meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month.
    a. **Public comment: Mr. Marez**

10. **Report from Outreach Committee-** President Schreiner reported that the committee's first meeting was last week and will have another meeting in March.
    a. **Public comment: Mr. Marez**

11. **Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws and Standing Rules-** Chair Zezotarski provided a presentation with the two primary issues to adjust the board seat totals and align the By-laws with current NC standards. He presented three proposals for the total number of Board seats. He will take the comments and feedback provided by the Board and the public back to the By-laws Committee for discussion and present the draft by-laws to the Board at a later meeting. NOTE: Any proposed amendments to the VNNC Bylaws will need to be voted on at the March 11, 2026 Board Meeting in order to meet the DONE deadline of April 1 for submission of Bylaws amendments.
    a. **Public comment: Mr. Marez, Donna, Stakeholder 1**

12. **Discussion and possible action to approve current membership of VNNC Committees.** See page 6.

Public Comment: no comments
Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 12. Motion to approve current membership of VNNC Committees Moved: Zezotarski Seconded: Harari				
Yes-12	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-04**
Bingham, Camera, Chiu, de la Cuesta, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Ramos, Schreiner, Spears, Verin, Zezotarski	None	None	None	**Gonzalez, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez**

13. **Discussion and possible action to adopt a Standing Rule that VNNC Committees may hold virtual meetings on Zoom (in compliance with SB 707), with decision on whether to hold a virtual meeting to be made by the Committee chair.**

Public Comment: Mr. Marez, Donna
Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 13. Motion to a Standing Rule that VNNC Committees may hold virtual meetings on Zoom (in compliance with SB 707), with decision on whether to hold a virtual meeting to be made by the Committee chair. Moved: Edelman Seconded: Zezotarski				
Yes-12	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-04**
Bingham, Camera, Chiu, de la Cuesta, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Ramos, Schreiner, Spears, Verin, Zezotarski	None	None	None	**Gonzalez, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez**

14. **Discussion and possible action to adopt a CIS to be sent to the Charter Reform Commission that endorses the recommendations presented by LANCC (Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition).** See pages 7-8.

Public Comment: Mr. Marez
Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 14. Motion to approve a CIS to be sent to the Charter Reform Commission that endorses the recommendations presented by LANCC (Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition). **Moved: Zezotarski Seconded: Edelman**				
Yes-12	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-04**
Bingham, Camera, Chiu, de la Cuesta, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Ramos, Schreiner, Spears, Verin, Zezotarski	None	None	None	**Gonzalez, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez**

15. **Discussion and possible action to approve attached Scope of Services to be provided to the VNNC by Bridgegap.** See page 9.

Public Comment: no
Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 15. Motion to approve Scope of Services to be provided to the VNNC by Bridgegap. Three Blind Mice, LLC DBA Bridgegap Temporary Staffing and Services Agency (Bridgegap) will provide the following services to the VNNC: **Minute taking**- The scope of service provided by Bridgegap will include reviewing the agenda, creating a minute template, either attending the meeting in person or virtual or create draft minutes from a recording, taking minutes at the meeting, reviewing and editing the draft minutes, providing a finished PDF "draft minutes" document for the Board to approve, making any corrections to the draft minutes voted on by the Board, and providing a final PDF copy of the approved minutes. Bridgegap will also maintain a copy of the finished documents for two years. Rate for Minute taking: $31.15 per hour. Three Blind Mice, LLC DBA Bridgegap Temporary Staffing and Services Agency (Bridgegap) will provide the following services to the VNNC: **Administrative Services**- The scope of service provided by Bridgegap will include, but not be limited to temporary administrative office support, such as drafting general correspondence and other formal documents, preparing or editing agendas, preparing BACs for signatures and other related administrative support duties. Bridgegap will also maintain a copy of the finished documents for two years. Rate for Administrative Services: $25.47 per hour.

Moved: Ramos Seconded: Edelman

Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	**Ineligible-01**	**Absent-04**
Bingham, Camera, de la Cuesta, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Ramos, Schreiner, Spears, Verin, Zezotarski	None	None	**Chiu**	**Gonzalez, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez**

16. **Board Officer Reports**
    a. President
        i. Report on groundbreaking on February 5 of median project on Sepulveda Blvd. between Lemay and Haynes.
        ii. Report on support of Van Nuys Homeless Count on January 20.
        iii. A printed copy of VNNC General Board Meeting agendas and linked files can be reviewed in a reference notebook that is located at the Van Nuys Branch Library.
        iv. For information on upcoming local events and activities, look under the Events list on the right side of the homepage of the vnnc.org website and on the calendar.
    b. Vice President/Budget Advocate No reports
    c. Other Officer Reports No reports

17. Announcements and identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting. No announcements.

18. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 10:19PM. Moved: Edelman Seconded: Zezotarski