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Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 8, 2025

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council
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Van Nuys, CA 91407-3118
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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 7:06 PM by President Schreiner Roll was called by the minute taker. There were seven (07) Boardmembers present. Nine (09) 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 –07	**Absent-09**
Camera, Edelman, Harari, Mandarino, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	**Bingham, Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Gruzen, Kalb, Perez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

2. **Reports from LAPD and LAFD**
   a. Report from LAPD Van Nuys Division https://vnnc.org/resource/ Senior Lead Officer Gutierrez 36816@lapd.online reported that the Metro Balboa Station Park and Ride lot is operational to store impounded RVs until the RVs can be disposed of. LAPD Van Nuys Community Resource Office will host a Coffee with a Cop Event on Friday 04/10/2026 at the CVS 5601 Van Nuys Blvd. LAPD Van Nuys Division will be hosting a Community Clean-up on May 2nd in the Van Nuys courtyard.

b. Report from LAFD - Battalion Chief Barna reported that there is a new Valley Bureau Chief as Deputy Chief Moore was promoted to Chief. Due to the unseasonal rains, the Sepulveda Basin has had increase in vegetation. A pilot program that was funded by the Audubon Society provided goats to clear vegetation. The goats proved that the concept worked. This month the Chief provided information on Evacuation Preparedness. To start to be prepared, you must make plan. Go to www.ready.gov which offers free resources. For local resources, go to www.MysafeLA.org for free smoke alarms and CO detectors. When building an evacuation kit, have all documents in one place and build your emergency kit a little at a time.

Boardmember Gruzen joined the meeting at 7:12PM.
Boardmember Bingham joined the meeting at 7:22PM.
Boardmember Kalb joined the meeting at 7:34PM.
Boardmember Perez joined the meeting at 7:57PM.
Quorum was met at 7:57PM.

3. **Reports from other Government officials** (approximately 2 min each)
   a. Council District 2 –Abkar Kalantarians abkar.kalantarians@lacity.org (213) 951 2191 Mr. Kalantarians had a scheduling conflict. MD, the case worker, reported that there were several clean-ups on Van Nuys Blvd. The Councilmember is working to obtain a Federal Grant for building improvements at the Bernardi Multipurpose Senior. Last month he presented the Councilmember's motion, Keeping Hollywood Home. The motion called on all relevant agencies to make recommendations for streamlining the film permitting process and eliminating regulatory obstacles to film and television production in Los Angeles. These recommendations were compiled in a report from the Chief Legislative Analyst's office. This report gave facts, figures, and some definite proposals, but policies will be grounded in the lived experience of the working people who make movies and TV in Los Angeles. Go to https://cd2.lacity.gov/council-motions for more information on the motions.
   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 she was thankful for those that came out last month's clean-up. There is an uptick in graffiti in Van Nuys. Depending on the location where the graffiti is located, the location can be reported to LAHD, LADBS, or 311/ MyLA311. The Councilwoman is providing buses for Van Nuys High School students who were going to attend Grad Night at Disneyland. This will allow the organizers to lower the price for students to attend Grad night. The Council Office has received an increase in LADWP complaints. If you have a concern with LADWP, please reach out to the Councilwoman's Office. Due to the requirements of SB 707, City Council meeting will be halted at Van Nuys City Hall. There is a Community Clean-up for Earth Day. Contact the office for more information.
   d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – John Darnell john.darnell@lacity.org reported that Budget Day is Saturday, June 27th from 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Breakfast is served from 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM, Presentations in the Council Chambers will be held from 9 AM - 11:30 AM (City Leaders will present the City Budget which starts July 1st and explain the city budget process), and Breakout Sessions from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Boardmembers can give feedback to the Budget Advocates). This is the second largest Neighborhood Council related event of the year. The DONE encourages you to attend because the session is very educational and relates directly to the City's budget. The City Clerk has proposed postponing the Neighborhood Council election from 2027 to 2029 in its budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. However, this does not mean it will happen. The mayor releases her proposed budget on or before April 20th and what she proposes regarding NC elections and what the City Council wants after that. The DONE hosted a workshop on March 26,

2026 from 11:30 AM – 1:00PM where we invited Nextdoor to present their product and how Neighborhood Councils can use it. It was recorded and sent to those who RSVP'd for the event.

e. Mayor's office – Genesis Discua genesis.discua@lacity.org Absent, no report.

f. LAUSD Board District 3, Scott Schmerelson scott.schmerelson@lausd.net reported that contracts have been settled with the trades, and teamsters. UTLA, SEIU, and AALA/Teamsters need contacts to be negotiated. He feels very optimistic that there will not be a strike. Beyond Screen Time are a group of parents who feel that there's too much screen time at school, and not enough interaction face-to-face and person-to-person. Ever since they've come to the Board, the Boardmember has been looking at the schools he visits and sees that there is a lot of screen time at the schools. When the teacher says that the students have 15 minutes of independent activities nobody talks to anybody. Everybody opens their computer, and they're on the screen. So, these parents are absolutely right. We are trying to push face-to-face, student talking, debates, and discussions where people are actually talking to people. This is his second year as Board Chair and it has been a difficult year and no one else is having had these problems with unions going on strike, the superintendent being put on administrative leave and everything is happening at once, but we're still functioning, and it's still working, and the students are getting a good education. He is very proud of our schools, especially, in the North. We have great schools in the North. He is the Boardmember for District 3, which covers from North Hollywood to Port Ranch. The next special event in the district is the special naming of the auditorium at North Hollywood High School which will be named after the famous composer John Williams. The newly remodeled schools look like community colleges. He is very proud of the new look of the remodeled schools.

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) – Star Resendez Star.Resendez@sen.ca.gov (818) 901-5588 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 as part of the ESFV LRT Project, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) will conduct utility relocation work along Van Nuys Bl between Chase St and Rayen St and lateral side streets. This work is expected to take approximately eight months, and work hours vary. Most of the work is scheduled at night, but daytime and extended daytime hours are anticipated. This work will involve various traffic control setups, including a full street closure of side streets and work at multiple intersections. The scope of work performed will include traffic control implementation, pothole investigation, demolition, trench excavation, shoring and backfill, electrical work, and concrete and paving work.

l. Metro staff: Construction updates regarding construction in Van Nuys related to G Line Improvements – Jessica Legaspi LegaspiJ@metro.net reported that the Sepulveda Bridge construction started on March 28th. Van Nuys Station Closure: The station and parking lots are closed during construction. Pedestrian Access: Safe pedestrian walkways are available during construction with intermittent closures (please follow detour signs). Bus Detour: G Line buses have been rerouted along Oxnard Street between Sepulveda Blvd and Woodman Ave. A temporary bus stop is available at Oxnard St and Van Nuys Blvd. Bike Path Detour: The G Line bike path has been detoured between Tyrone Ave and Sepulveda Blvd (please follow all directional signage). Sepulveda Station Parking: Beginning February 2026, parking will be limited to the northern section of the lot. Park and Ride access from Haskell Av at Victory Bl will be closed to the public, diverting all access to Sepulveda Station via Erwin St.

m. Other government agency representatives
n. Public comment: Mr. Marez, Stakeholder 1, Stakeholder 2, Stakeholder 3, Stakeholder 4

4. **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. Mr. Marez
    b. Tomas

5. **Board Officer Reports**
    a. President
        i. Report on CD 6 Cleanup on March 21.
        ii. Participation in May 18 One Generation Senior Symposium.
        iii. Hope to have a presentation by ICON at the May 13 meeting regarding economic development services and street vendor training.
        iv. How to report a RECYCLA dumpster left on the street in between pickups.
        v. Is there interest in having VNNC host a workshop with Animal Services on what residents should know about coyotes?
        vi. 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.
        vii. 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 Bingham reported that the White Paper is completed based on all the departments that the Budget Advocates met with. Budget Day is June 27th.
    c. Other Officer Reports

6. Consent agenda
    a. Approve minutes from February 11 meeting. https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/VNNC_02112026_GBM_Draft_Minutes_Final.pdf

Public Comment: no comment
Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 6.a. Motion to approve the February 11th meeting. Moved: Edelman Seconded: Verin				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	None	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

7. Discussion and possible action to approve modifications to the VNNC Bylaws in order to reduce the total number of Board seats from 21 to 19 and to reduce the quorum required to conduct business from 11 to 10. These changes are proposed in order to improve the Board's chances to have a quorum present at regular Board Meetings. NOTE: Once approved by the VNNC, bylaws will also have to be approved by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) because a change is being made to the number of Board seats. See page 7 for specific changes to be made.

Public Comment: no comment

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 7. Motion to approve modifications to the VNNC Bylaws in order to reduce the total number of Board seats from 21 to 19 and to reduce the quorum required to conduct business from 11 to 10. **Moved: Edelman Seconded: Mandarino**				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	None	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

8. Budget and Finance Committee items that require a roll call vote.
    a. Discussion and possible action to approve the February 2026 MER. https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/VNNC_MER_Feb2026.pdf

Public Comment: no comment

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 8.a. Motion to approve the February 2026 MER. **Moved: Edelman Seconded: Verin**				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	None	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

Beginning Balance	Total Spent	Remaining Balance	Outstanding	Commitments	Net Available
$27,944.78	$1,601.14	$26,343.64	$4,276.28	$1,000.00	$21,067.36

    b. **Discussion and possible action to approve a revised Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) Application from Project Breaking Barriers for $2,500 to support three one-week sessions of their IGNITE programs for 2026**. NOTE: In February, the VNNC approved an NPG for this program. However, the City Clerk's office notified us that they were declining our approval because the expense for liability insurance was not an authorized use of NPG funds. The agency was invited to submit a revised budget for an NPG. They are now requesting that $1,250 be allocated to Meals and Beverages and $1,250 be allocated to Transportation, for a total of $2,500. https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Revised-Project-Breaking-Barriers-VNNC-Application-03.18.2026.pdf

Public Comment: no comment

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 8.b. Motion to approve a revised Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) Application from Project Breaking Barriers for $2,500 to support three one-week sessions of their IGNITE programs for 2026. **Moved: Edelman Seconded: Mandarino**				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	None	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

c. **Discussion and possible action to allocate $500 from Outreach funding to support the Neighborhood Council Budget Day on June 27 (sponsored by the Budget Advocates).**

Public Comment: no comment

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 8.c. Motion to approve to allocate $500 from Outreach funding to support the Neighborhood Council Budget Day on June 27 (sponsored by the Budget Advocates). Moved: Edelman Seconded: Verin				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	None	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

d. **Discussion and possible action to allocate $1000 from Outreach funding to support the Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods to be held in the fall.** (Note: Funding of $1000 would lead to the VNNC being recognized at the event as a Gold Sponsor and given a half-page ad in the program book. "Gold Sponsor" is a category designated for donors of an amount from $1000 to 4999.)

Public Comment: Mr. Marez

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 8.d. Motion to approve to allocate $1000 from Outreach funding to support the Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods to be held in the fall. Moved: Edelman Seconded: Spears				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	None	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

e. **Discussion and possible action to adopt a revised FY 2025/26 Budget for the VNNC** to make minor changes in order to cover higher costs in specific line items. See revised budget on page 8.

Public Comment: no comment

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 8.e. Motion to approve to adopt a revised FY 2025/26 Budget for the VNNC to make minor changes in order to cover higher costs in specific line items. Moved: Spears Seconded: Edelman				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	None	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

f. Discussion and possible action to approve submission of a CIS (Community Impact Statement) regarding Council File 26-0600, the proposed City Budget for FY 2026/27. See page 9 for proposed CIS

Public Comment: no comment

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 8.f. Motion to approve submission of a CIS (Community Impact Statement) regarding Council File 26-0600, the proposed City Budget for FY 2026/27. Moved: Mandarino Seconded: Verin				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	None	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

9. **Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee Items that require a roll call vote.**
   a. **Discussion and possible action: VNNC will vote to approve a letter and attachments that identify 9 (nine) priority sites for potential park creation and improvements across Van Nuys, developed through collaboration with residents and neighborhood groups and Parks Reassessment Program for more parks and open space in the Van Nuys community.** See pages 10-12 for the draft letter designing nine priority sites and page 13-19 for a brief that provides more detailed information on each site. **Postponed**

   b. **Discussion and possible action to approve submission of a CIS (Community Impact Statement) regarding Council File 25-1083 regarding impacts of SB 79 and implementation options.** See pages 20-22 for the draft CIS and pages 23-26 for a brief regarding general issues to be considered.

Public Comment: Mr. Marez

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 9.b. Motion to approve submission of a CIS (Community Impact Statement) regarding Council File 25-1083 regarding impacts of SB 79 and implementation options. Moved: Edelman Seconded: Verin				
Yes-10	**No-01**	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	**Bingham**	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

c. Discussion and possible action to support Comments to be submitted to the City Planning Department regarding the most recent draft of the Orange Line Transit Neighborhood Plan (OLTNP). See pages 27-30 for suggested comments.

Public Comment: no comment

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 9.c. Motion to approve to support Comments to be submitted to the City Planning Department regarding the most recent draft of the Orange Line Transit Neighborhood Plan (OLTNP). Moved: Edelman Seconded: Spears				
Yes-10	**No-01**	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	**Bingham**	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

10. **Discussion and possible action to allocate a maximum of $600 from Outreach Funds to purchase 500 aluminum bottle/can openers for use as a promotional item to be given out at the upcoming Senior Symposium and other Outreach activities of the VNNC.** (Cost of 92 cents per item, plus setup for artwork and shipping**.** Well-received in the past.)

Public Comment: no comment

Motion: Passed

VNNC Agenda Item 10. Motion to approve to allocate a maximum of $600 from Outreach Funds to purchase 500 aluminum bottle/can openers for use as a promotional item to be given out at the upcoming Senior Symposium and other Outreach activities of the VNNC. Moved: Bingham Seconded: Mandarino				
Yes-11	No-00	Abstain-00	Ineligible-00	**Absent-05**
Bingham, Camera, Edelman, Gruzen, Harari, Kalb, Mandarino, Perez, Schreiner, Spears, Verin	None	None	None	**Chiu, de la Cuesta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Zezotarski**

11. Announcements and identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting.

12. Adjournment. Meeting was moved to adjournment by Boardmember Edelman at 9:22PM.