

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Don Neal
VICE-PRESIDENTS: George Ortega
and Kristin Mills
TREASURER: Richard Perry
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jose Oliva



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342
Telephone: (818) 833-8737
Fax: (818) 833-8707
E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org
Website: www.SylmarNC.org
Office Administrator: David Levin

Minutes of the
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
BOARD RETREAT**

Thursday, December 15, 2012

at Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

SNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions to this are the Motions and quotes, which are words that have quotation marks (") at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Don Neal called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Laurie Fadness, Ann Job, Sherry Lincoln, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Jose Oliva, George Ortega, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Diane Valencia. Cheri Blose arrived later. Board Members absent: Ricardo Benitez (unexcused), Edward Campos (unexcused), Deidre Campbell-Jones (excused), Brianne King (excused), Derek Martin (excused), Kristin Mills (excused), Richard Perry (excused), Rubi Ramirez (excused), and Jeanne Rowe (excused). One Board Seat (Community-Based Organizations) was vacant. Also attending: four Stakeholders and Guests.

Ten of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is not a quorum. The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11, so at this time the Board could only have discussions without making any Motions or taking any binding votes.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Mr. Neal explained this.

4. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

The Meeting Host was unable to attend.

5. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the October 25 and November 15, 2012 General Board Meetings was **TABLED** for lack of a quorum.

6. Announcements and presentations by public officials and community representatives.

There were none at this time.

7. Board Member community announcements.

Ms. Lincoln announced that emergency “YES,” “NO,” and “HELP” signs are available from City Council District 12; she would like District Seven to also provide them. Mr. Oliva encouraged watching the Mayoral Candidates debate and announced a Valley Economic Alliance December 19th Meeting. Mr. Neal announced today’s inauguration of new State 39th District Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (916-319-2039; <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a39>).

8. Reports

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work helping to organize this Retreat; providing information about the P-Card and Treasurer Training, and the Bylaws; getting Board Member Ethics Training certification information; and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- Mr. Neal announced that Mr. Perry resigned as Treasurer pending approval of a replacement though he is still a Board Member.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega described a proposed Charter School that would replace the former First Lutheran School on Glenoaks Blvd. by Cobalt St. Mr. Neal will agendize this for the January 24th General Board Meeting.

Outreach -- Ms. Valencia would like more outreach participation among Board Members and Stakeholders and suggested a community survey. There was discussion about outreach opportunities, challenges and methods. Mr. Smith suggested visiting local businesses and giving information and the SNC phone number [818-833-8737] to Stakeholders without Internet access. There was discussion of how to improve SNC and Meeting signage and posting.

Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services -- Mr. Shows reported that he met with Alonzo Menchaca, LAPD Mission Division (north/east of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0619; office 818-838-9846; 36178@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDonline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), who said that gangs of thieves are stealing water valves for resale. There was discussion that thieves are also stealing other residential, industrial and commercial equipment and material, especially copper wire. If you see suspicious activity, call 1-877-ASK-LAPD. If you see a crime in progress, call 9-1-1.

Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time, making a quorum of 11 Board Members. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

Green – There was no report.

Equestrian -- Ms. Blose reported on the Stetson Ranch project. Water control equipment that was destroyed and/or covered in the Sayre and Marek Fires in October and November 2008 is being sought. They are working with the Land Use Committee regarding "access along streets that have heavy equipment use." She described that some residents have installed and/or placed obstacles on equestrian right-of-way trails, forcing riders and horses onto streets.

Bylaws -- Mr. Martin was not present and there was no report.

Additional Reports, requested by the President -- There were no additional reports.

9. Public Comments

Stakeholder Mary McLeod encouraged more outreach about Board Meetings.

New Business

10. Discussion and possible vote [see the below Motion].

Mr. Ortega distributed copies of and described the Variance Application. There was discussion of the storage contents.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Blose): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a Zone Variance for 15022-15050 San Fernando Road to permit open storage of cargo containers (stacked) and film production trailers and equipment, presently not permitted in the M1 Zone.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

11. Discussion and possible vote to name a new SNC Treasurer, if necessary.

Mr. Neal recommended and it was agreed to **TABLE** this Item.

12. Discussion and possible vote [see the below Motion].

It was noted that Board Member Chris Shows completed the DONE Treasurer Training on October 25, 2012 and has volunteered to be the SNC Purchase Card (P-Card) second signatory. The primary signatory is SNC Treasurer Richard Perry.

FUNDING-RELATED MOTION (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves Board Member Chris Shows as the second signatory for the SNC Purchase Card.

FUNDING-RELATED MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all 11 Board Members present.

13. Appointment by President of additional Committee Members to the SNC Bylaws Committee.

Mr. Neal noted that Board Members Cheri Blose, Ann Job, Sherry Lincoln and Don Neal were appointed to the SNC Bylaws Committee Chaired by Derek Martin.

14. Appointment by President of Ad Hoc Education Committee to study viability and community support of proposal to convert Los Angeles Mission College, a two-year community college, into a four-year California State University (CSU-Sylmar Mission).

Mr. Neal appointed Mr. Oliva as Chair of the SNC ad hoc (temporary) Education Committee. There was discussion about the merits of the conversion idea and whether to form a Committee. Mr. Neal encouraged and it was agreed to form the Committee.

15. Board Member discussion: goal setting and points of emphasis for the new year. There was very extensive discussion of land use, public safety and outreach opportunities and challenges. Ms. Fadness recommended and there was discussion of having recognition awards for Sylmar individuals and businesses. Mr. Oliva encouraged attending Mayoral Candidate events.

Board Member Laurie Fadness had to leave at this time.

16. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

The next General Board Meeting will be held Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Susan B. Anthony Bldg., Fireplace Room, Sylmar, CA 91342.

17. Closing remarks, acknowledgements and Adjournment

Mr. Neal declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.