

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Don Neal

VICE-PRESIDENTS: George Ortega
and Kristin Mills

TREASURER: open

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jose Oliva



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Minutes of the
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, October 3, 2013**

at Sylmar Park 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 6:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Twelve of the 19 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Ricardo Benitez, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Laurie Fadness, Sherry Lincoln, Kristin Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, George Ortega, Chardell Powell, Rubi Ramirez, Chris Shows and Roy Smith. Cheri Blose and Ann Job arrived later. Board Members absent: Edward Campos (unexcused), Derek Martin (unexcused), Jose Oliva (unexcused), Richard Perry (unexcused) and Diane Valencia (excused). The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11, so the Board could take such votes. Two Board Seats were vacant. Also attending: 21 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

Board Member Ann Job arrived at this time.

4. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

The Meeting Host was not available at this time.

5. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council TABLES approval of the Minutes of its July 25 and August 24, 2013 General Board Meetings.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

6. Public Officials and Community Representatives announcements and presentations.

Ms. Lincoln announced the October 5th Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair and read aloud a Certificate of Recognition to the SNC from DONE, the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment. Mr. Benitez reported that a City "Day of the Horse" was celebrated yesterday.

[This Item was continued after Item #9.] Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), announced an October 19th cleanup.

Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.

Ms. Soto encouraged calling 3-1-1 for the City Bureau of Sanitation to pick up bulky items on a Monday or Friday. She also encouraged reporting illegal marijuana dispensaries.

[This Item was continued after Item #6.] Aura Garcia, L.A. City North Valley Area Representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti (818.778.4990; 213.978.0600; Aura.Garcia@LACity.org), offered outreach help and to provide City resources.

7. Board Member community announcements.

There were no announcements at this time.

8. Reports

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work for the Sylmar Olive Festival, City information referrals, Committees and Meetings; Ethics Training, Funding Training, spam e-mails to avoid opening, and the SNC website; forwarding land use applications and Hearing Notices and more.

Treasurer/Budget – There was no report.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega reported that the Committee will meet Monday October 7th.

Outreach – Mr. Benitez reported that the Committee approved, with the Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services Committee, a November 16th cleanup.

Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services -- Mr. Shows reported that the Committee approved, with the Outreach Committee, a November 16th cleanup.

Equestrian -- Ms. Fadness reported that she and other equestrians took City Councilman Felipe Fuentes on a ride and "showed him issues that" equestrians face.

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

Education – Mr. Neal said that he will try to schedule L.A. School Board Member Monica Ratliff to speak to the SNC.

Ad Hoc Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal – Ms. Job distributed copies of and reviewed an “Ad Hoc Committee (Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal Project) update” and reported that the Committee will meet with L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

9. Public Comments

Stakeholder Jaine Burke, a CPAB Member, announced the October 9th Officer Appreciation Day. Michael Long of For Learners of All Ages announced and distributed copies of a “Sylmar Neighborhood Pride Day” flier for the October 5th event on Lyle St. between Herrick and DeGarmo.

New Business

10. Discussion and possible vote for appointment of 2 budget reps, 1 rep each to work with DWP oversight and advocacy, legal liaison, planning representative, public works liaison, transportation representative.

[This Item was continued after Item #6 Tania Soto's report.] The following Board Members volunteered as SNC representatives: Ann Job and George Ortega, Budget; Diane Valencia, DWP; Don Neal, Legal; and Chris Shows, Public Works. Mr. Neal encouraged Board Members to volunteer, especially those “not serving on a Committee.”

11. Discussion and possible vote [see the below Motion]. Presentation by Wendy Moore.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Powell): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocates funds for an annual renewal of Sylmar NC website content maintenance with Moore Business Results in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.

DISCUSSION: The \$4,500 is the same amount as allocated last year.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Neal); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benitez, Blose, Campbell-Jones, Fadness, Job, Lincoln, Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Ortega, Powell, Shows and Smith). Ms. Ramirez abstained due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

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

Mr. Smith explained that the project, which the Land Use Committee supports, is to comply with federal regulations.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council recommends approval of a Plan Review / Conditional Use Permit Amendment to install a new 800 square-foot concrete block building and other equipment related to new nitrate removal equipment for an existing water treatment facility serving the City of San Fernando at 12900 Dronfield Avenue.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Neal); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Campbell-Jones): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council recommends approval of a Tract Map to subdivide a 67,500 square-foot property into 6 lots for single family dwellings at 13600 Fenton Avenue: with the proviso that concerns of relocation, removal, maintenance, and capacity of existing and new storm drains be addressed, and concerns of the required 35' equestrian easement / setback involving lot 1 shall also be addressed.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith reported that, at the Land Use Committee Meeting, a neighbor did not oppose the project. Ms. Blose added that the land is "not deep enough" for equestrian use.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Neal); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with eight in favor; four opposed; Ms. Job abstained.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benitez): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council recommends approval of a Conditional Use Permit to allow 24-hour business operation at a proposed new gas station on a 22,415 square-foot site at 12629 Glenoaks Boulevard.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ortega explained that the site must be cleaned up or it will not get the Permit. A Stakeholder said that it would be a Kroger's gas station.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Neal); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 12 in favor; Ms. Campbell-Jones and Ms. Ramirez abstained.

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

Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez described the ancient “Day of the Dead” event to honor passed family members and others.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benitez, seconded by Ms. Job): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocates financial support not to exceed \$500 for refreshments, supplies, and outreach materials for MECHA at Los Angeles Mission College for its Dia De Los Muertos [“Day of the Dead”] Day on October 29, 2013.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benitez noted that this could be a good outreach event.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Neal); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benitez, Fadness, Job, Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Powell and Shows). Five abstained (Blose, Campbell-Jones, Lincoln, Ortega and Smith). Ms. Ramirez abstained due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

Mr. Neal noted that the SNC Treasurer just resigned; it may be difficult to arrange funding. Mr. Hernandez offered to provide an event booth to the SNC.

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

Paul Landavazo, Youth Programs Director, Sylmar Recreation Center (818-367.5656; Paul.Landavazo@LACity.org), described the event as “a safe place for children to come”; included are decorations, candy, a “Best Costume” contest and more. “Easily over a thousand” attend and it’s “a great outreach opportunity.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benitez, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocates financial support not to exceed \$500 for candy, decorations, refreshments, supplies and outreach materials for the Sylmar Recreation Center’s Halloween Trick or Treat City.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benitez, Blose, Campbell-Jones, Fadness, Job, Lincoln, Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Ortega, Powell, Shows and Smith). Ms. Ramirez abstained due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

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

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Ortega): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocates funds not to exceed \$500 for Facebook advertising for SNC Outreach.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Neal reported that visitors to the Sylmar Olive Festival Facebook page have increased from around 450 to 2,200 in four months.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with ten in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benitez, Blose, Job, Lincoln, Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Ortega, Powell and Shows); one opposed (Smith); two abstained (Campbell-Jones and Fadness). Ms. Ramirez abstained due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

18. Appointments and/or vote to name new Board Members. Open seats: Community Based Organization (CBO) and At-Large Board seats, and any Committee Chairs, as needed.

Mr. Ortega encouraged candidates to contact Mr. Neal or himself.

19. Board Member Comments

There will be a Pioneer Cemetery fundraiser at the end of the month. Ms. Blose announced an October 18th Meeting with Councilman Fuentes addressing equestrians, soon a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, and soon a horse-drawn Cart Show at Stetson Ranch. Mr. Smith encouraged Board Members to volunteer at SNC-sponsored events. Ms. Campbell-Jones announced a Fridays church event at the Sylmar Recreation Center. Ms. Fadness said the SNC needs outreach help such as a mobile “app”; Mr. Neal indicated he’ll agendize that.

20. Future Agenda Items, Meeting date

The next General Board Meeting will be Thursday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m. here. Write to Executive Board at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org, or mail Sylmar Neighborhood Council, c/o Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342.

21. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Smith).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED with no objections.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.