

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Kurt Cabrera-Miller

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Christian Rubalcava

Communications: Maria Silva

SECRETARY: Marti Marshall

TREASURER: George Ortega



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**GENERAL BOARD MEETING - MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 25th – 6:30 PM**

**Sylmar Charter High School**

**13050 Borden Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342**

**(Spartan Hall – Auditorium)**

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Kurt Cabrera-Miller called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Laura Rathbone led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council's quorum is 11.

17 of the 21 Board Members were present during roll call: Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Sheldon Cabrera-Miller, Paul Dumont, Kathy Grubert, Greg Hoerner, Ann Job, Marti Marshall, Derek Martin, Don Neal, George Ortega, John Pacheco, Peter Postlmayr, Diana Rodriguez, Christian Rubalcava, Maria Silva, Diane Valencia, and Donald Zelaya

2 of the Board Members arrived after roll call: Kathy Bloom arrived 6:57; Cheri Blose arrived 6:48

2 Board Members were absent: Hector Cabrera, Lucille Floresta

1 Board Members left Early: Maria Silva left during the break.

**3. Housekeeping: Speaker Cards, Recording, and Timekeeper. Welcome from facility host.**

Derek Martin of Sylmar Charter High School welcomed the board and stakeholders.

**4. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations**

**Steve List on CFAC CD7L** introduced himself as the Community Forestry Representative for Council District 7, and asked the assembled stakeholders if they were familiar with Graffiti Busters, to which the audience applauded. He reminded those assembled that if they see graffiti, they can call the Graffiti Busters number and a crew will be out within a day to address it. He made the following announcements:

**Brian Gavidia, representing Mayor Garcetti's office:** Updates from the Mayor's office. 213-713-7960, [brian.gavidia@lacity.org](mailto:brian.gavidia@lacity.org).

**Alvan Arzu, Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Mission Division:** Updates on dealing with: street vending, homelessness, motel conversions. [Alvan.arzu@lacity.org](mailto:Alvan.arzu@lacity.org).

**Officer Keith Crawford, Senior Lead Officer:**

Stats: Officer Giron's area in Sylmar: violent crime was down 50%, property crime 56.8% down. Total crimes in Sylmar West were down 53%.

Officer Crawford's area, Sylmar East, violent crime was down 81.3%, property crime was down 54.8% percent.

Total crimes were down 60.3%.

**Franklin Ochoa with Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez's office** discussed the efforts to clean up trash around the area attributed to homeless encampments.

**George Camp, U.S. Small Business Administration** explained the process for Sylmar constituents to file for federal disaster loans following the recent fires and mudslides.

**Benita Trujillo, Valley District Director from the office of Sheila Kuehl, LA County Supervisor for District 3:** introduced herself and said that she had brought brochures with her that described county departments that will benefit the Sylmar area.

**5. Public Comment on Non-Agenized Items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.**

**Laura Rathbone** is the Homeless Liaison for the council, and is now director of the Clean Streets Clean Starts program.

**Ricardo Bonitez** is a candidate for the state assembly and former SNC member.

**Tom Weisbarth** asked that the SNC agenzize for next month if possible a review of the process to submit a position and have that position voted on.

**Yolie Anguiano** is a candidate for the State Assembly special primary election.

**Richard Flores** is a candidate running for State Assembly.

**6. City Liaison and Representatives Reports**

**Animal Services - Kelli Land** was not present.

**Budget Representative - Christian Rubalcava** attended Regional Budget Day.

**City Attorney – Diane Valencia** talked about reaching out to the city attorney in context of how SNC board members could work with community members via social media to get input on items on the agenda and in the community.

**D.W.P. – George Ortega** updated attendees about the construction going on Foothill between Maclay and Hubbard, and added that it appears like it's going as well as it can be.

**Homelessness – Ann Job** On Tuesday, January 23rd, the Sylmar Neighborhood Council participated in and sponsored a homeless count, and actually had a quorum of 11 board members present to volunteer.

**Planning – Ann Job and Cheri Blose** nothing to report.

**Public Safety - Greg Hoerner and Diane Valencia:** Greg said the fire department is putting more attention on homeless encampments in the High Fire Hazard zone.

**Public Works – Christian Rubalcava** said that on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> the Outreach Committee Chair and he will be going to City Hall to accept an award for participation in community cleanups from the LA Public Works Board.

**Transportation – Don Neal** explained that the committee's primary issue has been the possibility of high speed rail construction.

**7. Presentation – Sandra Trutt/League of Women Voters of Los Angeles** Sandra Trutt introduced herself as the Membership Chair/Homeless Action Chair of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. She explained that the mission of the LWV is to provide non-partisan info to public. They do not endorse candidates, but after study and drafting a formal position, they do advocate for issues. Homelessness is one of those issues. So the Homeless Action Committee was conferring with Mayor's office who said they need a guide to tell the public what permanent supportive housing is. Permanent Supportive Housing consists of an apartment complex for those needing shelter the most. It provides wraparound services, which means there's case management, job training, independent training, medical, dental, and mental health services. The housing also features money management classes, substance abuse, addiction treatment, medical, dental, and PSH complexes are staffed 24 hours.

**8. Presentation – Bureau of Sanitation and Republic Sanitation Services** Dan Meyers introduced himself to give an overview of RecycLA. Customer Service: 1-800-773-2489.

**9. President to appoint SNC Board Member Paul Dumont as Chair of the SNC Homeless Services Committee.**

There was a motion to accept by Ann Job, Kathy Grubert seconded. There was no discussion from the board or audience. Paul Dumont accepted the nomination, and President Cabrera-Miller called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously with 19 yay votes.

**10. Discussion and possible action to authorize and register Board Member Rubalcava, giving him the ability to file Community Impact Statements on behalf of the SNC.**

There was a motion by Maria Silva to discuss and vote, which was seconded by Sheldon Cabrera-Miller. There was no discussion or comment from board or audience.

The motion passed unanimously with 19 yay votes.

**11. Discussion and possible action to approve a Community Impact Statement in Opposition to the LA City Council File (CF17-1432) relating to the Interim Motel Conversion Ordinance.**

There was a motion by Christian Rubalcava, who authored the Community Impact Statement, to discuss and vote. Peter Postlmayr seconded the motion.

Christian Rubalcava said they should vote on the amendment, and President Kurt Cabrera-Miller called for a roll call vote to change “opposition” to “for, if amended” in the CIS.

The motion was voted down with 6 yes votes, 8 no votes, and 5 abstentions.

The amendment failed, and the original motion was back on the floor for Board member discussion, as previously motioned by Christian Rubalcava and seconded by Peter Postlmayr.

Christian Rubalcava said that they could send it to a committee or table it until the next meeting, but recommended referring it to an appropriate committee based on what he gleaned the board looked like it wanted. He moved to refer the CIS to the Planning and Land Use Committee. Marti Marshall seconded, and discussion began on referring to the Planning and Land Use Committee.

It was then suggested that there should be a joint referral to Planning and Land Use and the Homeless Committee. Christian Rubalcava and Marti Marshall both accepted this, and then a further suggestion was made by Ann Job to refer to the Public Safety committee and hold a meeting of all three to discuss the CIS. Mr. Rubalcava accepted this suggestion and asked if there was any further discussion.

The motion to refer passed with 18 yes votes, no no votes, and one abstention.

**27. Discussion and possible action to approve a position letter to be sent to CD7 and related parties regarding public safety aspects of the Street Dwelling Ordinance (LAMC 85.02). The Public Safety Committee drafted the letter and approved it unanimously by a vote of 6/0/0 on January 11, 2018.**

Diane Valencia moved to approve as written. Sheldon Cabrera-Miller seconded.

The motion passes with 17 yes votes, one no vote (Paul Dumont), and one abstention (George Ortega).

**28. Discussion and possible action to approve a position letter to be sent to CD7 and related parties regarding public safety aspects related to Homeless Encampments. The Public Safety Committee drafted the letter and approved it unanimously by a vote of 6/0/0 on January 11, 2018.**

Christian Rubalcava motioned to approve, and Derek Martin seconded.

Kurt Cabrera-Miller clarified that the vote and discussion would just be about approving the position letter.

The position letter was unanimously approved with 19 yes votes.

**12. Award presentation for outstanding members of the community recognized by the SNC Outreach Committee**

Linda Willeford, president of the Oakridge Residence Association, accepted the award recognizing Oakridge as involved and active residents of Sylmar.

**13. Award presentation, for former SNC Board Member and Homeless Services Committee Chair Peggy Courtney for her contributions to the community.**

Brian Gavidia, Franklin Ochoa for CD 7 and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office presented certificates to Peggy Courtney.

**14. MEET AND GREET (10 minute Break)**

Board members reconvened at 9:20 p.m. Maria Silva departed during break.

President Kurt Cabrera-Miller announced that they would be jumping to item 17 in the agenda in the interest of getting important financial decisions made within their limited time.

**17. Discussion and possible action on approving the October 2017 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)**

Christian Rubalcava motioned to approve, Kathy Grubert seconded. There was no discussion from the board or the stakeholders present.

The motion passed and the October 2017 MER was approved unanimously with 18 yes votes.

**18. Discussion and possible action on approving the November 2017 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)**

Christian Rubalcava motioned to approve, Ann Job seconded. There was no discussion from the board or the stakeholders present.

The motion passed and the November 2017 MER was approved unanimously with 18 yes votes.

**19. Discussion and possible action on approving the December 2017 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)**

Christian Rubalcava motioned to approve, and Kathy Grubert seconded. There was no discussion from the board or the stakeholders present.

The motion passed and the December 2017 MER was approved with 17 yes votes and one Board Member abstaining (Don Neal).

**20. Discussion and possible action to approve an amount not to exceed \$3,000 for a (N.P.G.) Neighborhood Purpose Grant. Grant is for Sylmar Charter High School Drama & Arts Dept. The Drama Department will be putting on a High School Musical. Funds would be used in providing acting coaches, choreographers etc.**

Sheldon Cabrera-Miller motioned to discuss and approve, and George Ortega seconded. Derek Martin recused himself from the discussion and vote because he works for the Sylmar Charter High School.

Mr. Fine explained that SCHS would be doing a School Edition of the musical *Rent*, and in order to give students and the Sylmar community a professional experience, they were planning on hiring a professional choreographer and a professional vocal coach. They were therefore requesting a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to provide funding for those positions.

The motion passed with 16 yay votes, one nay vote (Marti Marshall), and one recused (Derek Martin).

**21. Discussion and possible action to reallocate \$3,000 from General Operations/Outreach to be moved to Neighborhood Purpose Grants. (All Grants will come before the Board for approval.)**

Christian Rubalcava moved to discuss and reallocate, and Diane Rodriguez seconded. There was no discussion from the board or the audience.

Kurt Cabrera-Miller called for a reverse vote, none opposed, and motion carried unanimously.

**24. Discussion and possible action to approve reimbursement to Board Member Kurt Cabrera-Miller for an amount of \$46.08 for items purchased at Home Depot (building/repair items for the SNC office)**

Kurt Cabrera-Miller explained that the items bought were paint and molding used in building/repair for the SNC office.

Christian Rubalcava moved to approve, and Derek Martin seconded.

The motion passed unanimously with 18 yay's.

**25. Discussion and possible action to nominate a Board Member to serve as the SNC card holder.**

Ann nominated Kathy Bloom to be the designated SNC credit cardholder, Kathy Bloom accepted the nomination, and Derek Martin seconded it.

Paul Dumont nominated Sheldon Cabrera-Miller to be the designated SNC credit cardholder, and Christian Rubalcava seconded the nomination.

Sheldon Cabrera-Miller then respectfully withdrew his nomination, and Mr. Cabrera-Miller called for a vote for Kathy Bloom to be designated the cardholder for the SNC credit card.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 18 yay's.

**22. Discussion and possible action to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$2,500 to hold a Community Town Hall Meeting to discuss a variety of public safety issues, including but not limited to police and fire resources, crime and other community based public safety concerns/issues. Meeting will be organized by the Public Safety Committee as discussed and supported unanimously by the Committee. Timing, location and scope of the meeting will be dependent on the availability of a venue and representatives from CD7, LAPD, LAFD, City Attorney and related parties with the goal of holding such a meeting no later than June 1, 2018 with a preference for dates in April, 2018. A draft and preliminary budget will be provided for discussion purposes.**

Board Member Peter Postlmayr motioned to approve and Derek Martin seconded.

The motion passes unanimously with 18 yay votes.

**26. Board Member Absenteeism – As per SNC bylaws - Discussion & possible Board action: To remove SNC Director Diana Rodriguez per Article V, Section 7 (Absences) of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Bylaws, dated June 26, 2017. Any Director who misses three (3) regularly scheduled consecutive Council Board meetings during any six (6) month period or four (4) regularly scheduled meetings within any twelve (12) month period will be subject to removal by a majority vote of the Board.**

Ann Job motioned to discuss and take possible action, and Kurt Cabrera-Miller seconded.

Diana Rodriguez spoke up in her own interest, and clarified that she had missed four meetings in a 12-month period. To be very clear it's four within the 12-month period. She explained that she holds a position that requires her to attend evening events on behalf of the organization and sometimes this created a conflict.

The motion fails unanimously with 18 nay votes. Diana Rodriguez remains a member of the SNC board.

**23. Discussion and possible action to approve \$300 for a Community Beautification Project, location TBA, to come from the Clean Streets LA Special Fund.**

Christian Rubalcava moved to discuss and take possible action, and Sheldon Cabrera-Miller seconded.

There was no board or audience discussion.

The motion was approved with 17 yes votes and one abstention (Don Neal).

## **15. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee – Kurt Cabrera-Miller:** The office space for the SNC is up and ready, and the Executive Committee was coordinating with the LAPD.

**Budget Committee – George Ortega:** There was no report.

**Bylaws Committee – Diane Valencia:** There was no report.

**Outreach Committee – Carlos Lara:** There was no report.

**Planning & Land Use Committee – Peter Postlmayr:** The Planning and Land Use Committee received notice that LA County will start hauling sediment from the local fires again starting tomorrow, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Homeless Services Committee – Peggy Courtney:** There was no report.

**Emergency Preparedness – John Pacheco:** described the debrief he had with our friends from Foothill and Tujunga, and two major issues came out of it: clearly, there are some problems with the local evacuation plan, so they were working on improving it with emergency services. Second, there was the issue of equestrian evacuation, and he offered that the committee can help local owners in making a map for their neighborhood tailored for equestrians. Lastly, the Red Cross has selected our community and the San Fernando Valley for special preparedness outreach, which would be kicking off on April 28<sup>th</sup> with smoke alarm installation.

**Equestrian Committee – Cheri Blose:** preparations are underway for the Make Your Horse Count event.

**Public Safety Committee – Diane Valencia:** There was no report.

**16. Treasurer's Report (2 minutes):** There was no report from the treasurer.

**29. Board Member Comments / Announcements (2 Minutes)**

**Sheldon Cabrera-Miller** let the board know that he has taken it on himself to be in charge of the cleaning team for the SNC office, and said that if board members were interested or available to join in maintaining and cleaning their office space to send him their contact information and availability. He will be cleaning the space weekly.

**Ann Job** mentioned that there would be a meeting regarding the high speed rail issue on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, which would conflict with their board meeting. However, she said that it was still an important issue so the board should make a choice whether to send a representative or not.

**Diane Rodriguez** added that the traffic Armageddon currently happening as a result of a Department of Water and Power project in Sylmar is more horrendous than they originally thought it would be. She maintained that the board needed to apply pressure to get more traffic control or re-signaling, and that above all something just needs to be done to alleviate traffic.

**Kurt Cabrera-Miller** recommended that anybody familiar with the Sylmar Advocacy group should appeal to them to deal with the traffic issue.

**30. Future Agenda Items** Write to Executive Board by email at [ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org](mailto:ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org) or mail Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, P.O. Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-10 **(1 minutes)**

**31. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment (1 minute)**

**President Kurt Cabrera-Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:01 pm**

**The Next Sylmar Neighborhood Council General Board meeting will be:**

**February 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm  
Sylmar Charter High School  
13050 Borden Ave, Sylmar, CA 91342**

**Minutes by AppleOne**