

## Board Meeting - Neighborhood Council, Valley Village

January 25, 2023

### 1. Board Minutes

The minutes for September, October, November & December were unanimously approved without objection. Minor corrections and language revisions were made in order to post the minutes on the Council's web site.

### 2. Guest Speaker - Paola Posada, City Clerk, Election Administration

Funding has been received for a hybrid election. The election date is June 22. The applications period is Feb. 22 to April 8. Ballots will be mailed out by May 13. Ballots can be mailed in, dropped off or voting can be done in person. Proof of Covid vaccination will be required to vote in person. Otherwise one can vote outside. Election information will be posted on the web site. A handbook with information is being prepared. Ginny Hatfield asked whether the filing period has been changed? No, it has not. Youth Board members are those aged 14-17. Regular Board members are ages 18 and above.

### 3. Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield

At the meeting of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils the main speaker was Jennifer Valdiva, the new BONC Commissioner for Regions 1 & 2 in the North Valley representing 17 neighborhood councils. At the VANC meeting there was a discussion of two motions that recommend amending the Brown Act to allow most neighborhood council meetings to be online virtual meetings. CF-23-002-17 by Blumenfeld, Krekorian and McOsker introduced on 1-10-23 would amend the Brown Act to allow local legislative bodies, including appointed, boards, commissions, advisory bodies and neighborhood councils to continue to conduct most meetings virtually in the absence of any special circumstances subject to appropriate safeguards to ensure full and robust opportunities for public participation, including by persons who lack means of digital access. Many neighborhood councils want to continue meeting virtually. CF-23-0002-S16 by Lee, Soto-Martinez and Yaroslavsky on 1-10-23 would amend the Brown Act to permit the neighborhood councils to choose to have remote, virtual meetings indefinitely. State Senator Portentino appears to be receptive to the motions. Our new Assemblywoman Laura Friedman and Senator Henry Stern will be contacted regarding the motions. The two Council motions will be put on next month's agenda. The \$6.7 million budget for DONE provides more money, \$450,000 for outreach, 15 new positions, and 7 regularized positions for a total of 55 staff persons. \$20,000 is allocated to the Civic University. A new CIS portal is being established, \$10,000 is allocated to the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. A graphic designer will be added for Communications. E mail addresses will be provided for all 12,500 neighborhood council board members. \$50,000 is allocated to Budget Advocates. The Cornerstone training program will be revamped by June. The Valley Village NC will sponsor a forum on Saturday, February 18 for six C.D. 6 candidates to replace Nury Martinez.

### 4. Finance Report - Dorothy Apple

For January \$4,470 was spent. The beginning balance was \$32,575.21 due to a \$10,000 rollover from last year and funds not spent on Light Up Valley Village. The remaining balance is \$26, 575.21

Tony Braswell favored using extra money to help the community, specifically assisting with adding a Garden for Burbank Elementary School. Use the credit card for payment of Neighborhood Council expenses rather than using one's own money. Reimbursement by DONE is difficult. Does a form have to be filled out? Mario Hernandez is uncertain. The Board approved the Finance Report by a vote of 13-0-2 and the Student Committee by 4-0-3.

## 5. Committee Reports

### Planning & Land Use - Sandy Hubbard

This is a second, follow up meeting to discuss changes to the project at 5199-5123 Colfax Avenue. The project consists of 15 units and an accessory dwelling unit which is three times the existing number of units. Trees will be added along the Hartsook and Colfax sides. They are considering breaking up the sidewalk with landscaping. There will be no balconies but instead interior open space. The project is consistent with the 36 foot height limit but does not have a sloped roof. It will have a high number of affordable units, five rather than the previously planned four units. Suzanne Lewis asked whether there will be parking as part of the project? Yes, there will be 27 parking spaces provided. Paulette Stokes asked how much storage space will be provided? Andrey, the project's representative, replied that there will be separate storage space for the renters. Sandy Hubbard noted that the developer is trying to provide affordable housing as well as developing a project that is profitable. Trees will also be provided. Paulette asked how much will the units rent for? Tony Braswell responded that the exact amount for the rent is not easy to determine. The Board approved the project by a vote of 10-3-1 and 4-0-3 by the Student Committee.

Recently a Director's Specific Plan Interpretation was issued regarding how tall a project can be above the height limit. Height increases were allowed based on the underlying height limit in the Specific Plan. The Board felt that the height increases for single family homes are unreasonable because elevators and stairwells are not needed for single family homes. The Board voted unanimously to issue a letter recommending that the additional height for shingle family homes be removed from the interpretation letter.

### City Services - Suzanne Lewis

There are potholes and downed trees from the recent rains. Volunteers are needed to identify potholes. A lower speed limit should be requested to lower accidents. Trees are endangered by the construction at North Hollywood High School. Scott Schmerlson is aware of this. Irrigation is needed under the trailers because the trailers are covering the grass. Jeff Camp of C.D. 2 noted that the project manager is aware that historic trees must be protected. The hole dug next to the tree did not uncover any tree roots. Jeff Camp was good at getting answers regarding the hole and tree protection. Sandy Hubbard reported a downed tree and potholes on Weddington. Also, a sink-hole is starting to appear. To obtain repairs one should report 10 different addresses rather than a section of roadway. Carol Convey reported that a key tree at Colfax Elementary was cut down. Alice Hart noted that a food truck is continuing to block a lane on Magnolia in front of Jons from 2-5 pm. An Al Fresco outdoor dining program which would allow outdoor restaurant dining permanently has been established. The Committee sent a letter to the City regarding outdoor dining.

#### Emergency Preparedness - Paulette Stokes

The CERT trainings are going well. Michael Perez and Curt Howard are good, engaging trainers. Three trainings have been done and there are four more to go.

#### Community Improvement Committee - Ginny Hatfield

The Community Improvement Committee did not meet this month but members did attend a meeting with City and County public works officials to discuss whether the Tujunga Wash landscaping project would qualify for Proposition W funding. It probably would not. Our project might not be the best for securing this type of funding so we need to explore what might be available from City programs and also from the State and Federal government. Two letters were removed from the Valley Village gateway sign. The groundcover for the sign has deteriorated. Then Councilwoman Wendy Gruel allocated \$14,000 for maintenance of the sign. Is maintenance of the sign a neighborhood council responsibility or the City's? It will cost \$1,000 to replace the stolen letters. The lights for the sign have been stolen as well.

#### Events & Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia

Light up Valley Village was a great success. Board members and residents volunteered for setting up, taking down and running this event. The next event may be an Earth Day celebration at Colfax Elementary. Carol Convey noted that additional volunteers will be needed besides the Board and the Student Committee. Ginny Hatfield advised calling a shredding company for one of the Earth Day exhibits. Jeff Camp has reached out to the Tree People.

#### Student Committee - Carol Convey

The Committee is reaching out to the schools regarding participation in the Earth Day event and to find three more committee members. Food for Earth Day is needed.

#### 6. Reports from DONE and Elected Officials

Jeff Camp - C.D. 2 Jeff Thanked those who participated in the homeless count last night. We got a good picture of the number of homeless in C.D. 2. Our homeless numbers are down. There have been changes to the C.D. 2 office due to Paul Krekorian becoming City Council President. Jeff will remain assigned to Valley Village along with Valley Glen and No Ho West.

Mario Hernandez - DONE Check with the City Attorney before the meeting regarding conflicts of interest. In person Board meetings to resume in March.

#### 7. Future Agenda Items

Several items were requested by Board members.

#### 8. Public Comment

Jon thanked us for our meetings.