Board Meeting - Neighborhood Council, Valley Village

 February 22, 2023 1. Board Minutes

 The minutes for January were unanimously approved without objection.

2. Public Comment

 Stephanie Lopez supported the Burbank Elementary School grant application.

3. Burbank Elementary School Grant Application

 Amy Cooper presented the request for $2,500 for a community garden that is supported by

 Burbank Elementary School PTA. There are 350 students at the school with 72% of them being low

 income. Burbank Elementary has very little open space. The cost of the garden is $14,000. The PTA

 has allocated $8,000 to the garden. The Valley Village Residents Association has contributed $2,500.

 Students living in nearby apartments will now have access to the garden. It will be a learning environ

 -ment. Technical assistance is being provided by Enrich LA. The garden will be located on the west

 side of the school and in the rear.

 Ginny Hatfield asked will any asphalt be moved and how many trees will be provided? No asphalt

 will be removed but three trees will be planted. Jeff Camp with C.D. 2 can assist with obtaining

 three trees. Maribel Ulloa-Garcia asked whether the proponents of the project have a web site to

 assist with getting the word out and fundraising? Yes, there is a web site. Sandy Hubbard asked

 whether this is a phased project? Yes, it is. Enrich LA will do the project in increments during the

 spring. Is there a project manager? Yes, the manager is Thomas O’Grady. Tony Braswell asked how

 the gardens will be maintained? The PTA will provide the funding and grants will be applied for.

 Tony noted that we have contacts with SEGO Nursery. Jeff Camp is helping with the fund raiser on

 April 28. L.A. Beautification has a program for tree planting with LAUSD. Stephanie Lopez supported

 the grant application. It has a lot of support from parents. Jennifer DiLorenzo commented that this

 is an amazing project. It is exciting.

 Sandy Hubbard moved and Maribel Ulloa-Garcia seconded to approve the request for $2,500 for the

 garden for Burbank Elementary School. The motion was approved 12-0-3 and 3-0-4 by the Student

 Committee.

 Tony Braswell observed that this is a good marketing opportunity for our neighborhood council.

 Paul Krekorian should be invited to the ribbon cutting.

4. Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield

At the meeting of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Congressman Brad Sherman substituted for the main speaker who could not attend. He discussed Valley projects, including the

Sepulveda Transit Corridor. S.B. 404 by State Senator Portentino would allow for on line meetings by neighborhood councils. Christina Holland brought in an engineer who spoke about the Los Angeles Aqueduct and whether too much water has been diverted from Mono Lake. The level of the lake is too low. 6,000 acre feet is being diverted. The Mono Lake Committee has appealed the diversion to the State Water Board.

Of neighborhood councils 80% are ADA certified for handicap access. DONE will be requiring Covid

vaccinations and mask wearing but neighborhood councils will not have to check for vaccinations and masks. We will be meeting in person in March or April. Ethics reform is getting support from the neighborhood councils. Redistricting reform to have an independent commission to draw City Council district boundary lines has been proposed. A candidates’ forum for the vacant C.D. 7 City Council seat was held on February 18. It was well planned and executed. Ten questions were asked. There were ten candidates and seven write in candidates.

5. Finance Report - Dorothy Apple

For February $2,331.58 was spent. The beginning balance was $28,104.91 and the remaining balance was $25,793.33. The net available funds are 24,835.83. For next year’s budget up to $10,000 will be rolled over from this year’s budget allocation.

6. NCVV In Person Meetings - Jake Yocham

S.B. 411 would make the temporary Covid on line meetings permanent. Accessibility by the public

is required. There are two Council motions to support amending the Brown Act. Community impact statements have been filed by the neighborhood councils. On line meetings have resulted in more public participation. Should we support one or more Council motions? Suzanne Lewis thought that committee meetings should be addressed as well. It probably covers committee meetings. Jeff Camp agreed. Tony Braswell thought that there will probably be quarterly meetings in person with two on line meetings between the quarterly meetings. Ginny Hatfield felt that it may be a choice between all in person or all on line meetings. Tony Braswell favored having flexibility as to on line verses in person meetings. We are still in the Covid period and need to be flexible. On line meetings are more efficient, result in more public participation and much less driving. In March BONC will decide on whether the neighborhood councils can meet on line in.

7. 2023 Board Election - Ginny Hatfield & Jake Yocham

 Candidate filing starts today through April 8. We need to recruit candidates by approaching people.

 Social media, E mails and a candidate forum will be used. Getting out the vote will be done. Events

 are good opportunities to get the word out. Jake Yocham showed the web site, EmpowerLA, org.-

 Elections, with information on how to apply and the requirements to be a candidate. Voting will be

 in person or by mail. The voting starts on April 23. The candidate forum will be in April. Tony will

 contact us on the Board and find 2-3 candidates for each position.

 8. Committee Reports

 City Services - Suzanne Lewis

 A motion would allocate $1,000 to Muralism to repaint two utility boxes that were damaged by auto

 accidents. The motion was approved 14-0-1 and 6-0-1 by the Student Committee.

 A second motion to approve $ 250 for the event Coffee With a Cop at Gelsons on May 13 was

 approved 13-0-2 and 5-0-2 by the Student Committee.

 On the Al Fresco dining proposal most speakers at the hearing were opposed to it. Suzanne Lewis

 gave a good presentation at the hearing. Most of those opposed were restaurant owners. A

 memorial to Dale Neglia will be held in the Council chamber. Jim Hill died after getting into a fight

 while walking his dog.

 Student Committee - Carol Convey

 The next meeting is on March 8. The April meeting has been delayed by spring break. The next

 meeting will be about recruiting new Student Committee members to replace those who have

 graduated. Alice Hart checked on the trees at North Hollywood High. The concrete is being

 poured. The trees look fine. The branches are intact. The Coast Live Oaks along Magnolia look fine.

 The improvement project at North Hollywood High will be completed in 2026.

 Planning & Land Use - Sandy Hubbard

 Two duplexes and an ADU are proposed at 5319 Ben Street. There was no presentation from the

 developer due to it being identical to another project. A six unit, small lot subdivision is planned

 on Riverside. A presentation on the expansion of Valley Torah School is scheduled for the March 8

 Committee meeting.

 Emergency Preparedness - Paulette Stokes

 A Thank You celebration of the 30 CERT trainers will be held. A banner will be prepared. Eric will

 create a banner. The CERT training scheduled for this Saturday has been postponed to March

 Community Improvement Committee - Ginny Hatfield

The light fixture on the Laurel Canyon/101 gateway sign is still in place but the light bulb is gone. Two of the letters on the sign were removed by shaking them until they came loose. The landscaping has deteriorated and needs improvement. Ginny is trying to get the status on the second sign planned at Coldwater/Chandler. Regarding landscaping the Tujunga Wash, Jeff Camp of C.D. 2 is trying to arrange a meeting with their staff person assigned to beautification projects.

Events & Outreach - Maribel Ulloa-Garcia

 The Committee is preparing for the Earth Day event on April 22. Maribel listed the items needed for

 the event - trees, seeds, a shredder, food. There will be exhibits of environmental projects.

 The motion to authorize the April 22 Earth Day event was unanimously approved.

 The motion to authorize up to $2,500 for the Earth Day event was approved 14-0-1 and 5-0-2 by the

 Student Committee.

9. Reports from DONE and Elected Officials

 Mario Hernandez of DONE - Information sessions being planned will help Board members transition

 back to in person meetings. Masks will be optional but proof of vaccination may be required.

 Jeff Camp of C.D. 2 complemented us for being a pleasure to work with.