Board Meeting - Neighborhood Council, Valley Village

February 23, 2023

1. Executive Committee Report - Ginny Hatfield

The meeting marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood

Councils. Janice Hahn was the main speaker, who served on the elected Charter Reform Committee.

Her goals for the newly formed neighborhood Councils was to give citizens an opportunity to be heard, make the neighborhood councils all inclusive and to file community impact statements to be included on City Council agendas. The budgets allocated to neighborhood councils started at $50,000 per year and then were reduced to $32,000 due to the 2008 and 2020 economic downturns. The head of DONE should be made accountable to the neighborhood councils and the DONE bureaucracy should be limited. The head of the Hollywood Neighborhood Council recounted that takeover of the neighborhood council by DONE, which required mandatory expenditures and attendance at events, causing all 14 members of that neighborhood council to resign. Mayor Bass would like a reconsideration of the neighborhood council system. At a previous effort in 2013 representatives of the neighborhood councils met for over six weeks to draft recommendations for revisions to the system. Suzanne Lewis mentioned a rumor that the City Attorney will abolish the neighborhood prosecutors. So far, there is no evidence to support this rumor. The reforms recommended were: no funding cuts, that trainings be voluntary, that there be no forced attendance at event and that the influence that other departments have over DONE be reduced. There will be a new general manager for DONE. Vanessa Serrano is the acting general manager. She has held various posts and has been promoted up the ranks.

2. Finance Report - Dorothy Apple

In February $1,859.44 was spent with a remaining balance of $23,933.89. The Board approved the

Finance Report by a vote of 12-0-3 and a vote of 2-0-5 by the Student Committee.

A motion to reimburse Paulette Stokes $63.49 for the cost of Pizza Hut meals was approved by a vote of

12-0-3 by the Board and a vote of 2-0-5 by the Student Committee.

A motion to reimburse Paulette Stokes $77.47 for the cost of items from Staples was approved by a vote

of 12-0-3 by the Board and 2-0-5 by the Student Committee.

Tony Braswell indicated that $8,500 to $9,100 will likely be carried over to the next year.

Suzanne Lewis proposed a celebration of the Board’s 20th anniversary with a list of our accomplishments

on a poster board. Tony Braswell assigned the creation of a poster Board to a special committee to be

headed up by Maribel Ulloa-Garcia.

1. Meeting Space for April Meeting

Mario Hernandez reported that DONE and the City Clerk are discussing whether the church has sufficient

bathroom accommodations for wheelchairs for the handicapped and will decide whether we can

continue to use the church in the near future. A Brown Act amendment requires some in person

meetings.

1. Reports From Elected Officials and DONE

Jeff Camp of C.D. 2 reported that a homeless person at the corner of Tujunga and Riverside has accepted housing and services. The homeless person at 1235 Magnolia has resisted housing and services. His dog was abused and was taken away from him. There are two other homeless “hot spots” in the district. The tiny homes are full, perhaps due to the weather. Some of those in the tiny homes have moved on to permanent housing. C.D. 2 has enough housing and services for its homeless.

Jeff will be on vacation from March 24 to April 3. Tony Braswell said that he has received a number of

phone calls about potholes. The most potholes were reported here, in Valley Village. A claim can be

filed with the City for damage from potholes. Ginny Hatfield noted that the section of Magnolia from

the 170 Freeway to Tujunga is full of cracks and fissures. Is it on Street Services’ list for resurfacing?

Jeff will look into it.

Mario Hernandez of DONE reported that the DONE Commission has voted to allow virtual meetings

only through the end of March with in person meeting to start in April. Mario will be attending our

meetings. Filing for the election for the Neighborhood Council seats has started and will continue

through April 8. Mario will meet with Ginny Hatfield to do canvassing for the election. There has been

an increase in online scams. There is no update on State bills for online meetings.

1. Committee Reports

Elections and Bylaws - Ginny Hatfield

There is a motion to approve up to $8,000 for the election budget. Candidates are needed, particularly

renters. The Empower LA.org/Elections has all the information needed to file to be a candidate. The

Coffee With A Cop event had election materials. A flyer has been developed for distribution at the

Earth Day and other events. A get out the vote event will take place in May. A sample ballot will be

distributed. A volunteer is needed for canvassing with Ginny. The City will also be mailing out

postcards about the election.

The motion to approve up to $8,000 for the election budget was approved by a vote of 13-0-2 and

2-0-5 by the Student Committee.

Student Committee - Carol Convey

Applications for the Committee can be turned in starting on April 15.