

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village  
Board Meeting  
04-28-04**

12-0  
Minutes

**Draft**

Meeting was called to order by NCVV Board President Peter Sanchez at 6:41 pm.

Mr. Sanchez welcomed all in attendance to the meeting, noting that the size of the crowd was unprecedented for the few months that NCVV had been in existence. Mr. Sanchez apologized for the late start, explaining that the by-laws of the organization require that a quorum include three officers. For those new to the process, Mr. Sanchez explained the history of Neighborhood Councils, the purpose of the elected bodies, their role in the community and city government, and the importance of the community's involvement as volunteers and advisors. Mr. Sanchez explained the definition of stakeholders and their importance to the NC process, and then stated the goal of NCVV, to be one of the top ten NC's in the city of Los Angeles.

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcoming Remarks.** Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to call roll. Board members in attendance were: Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Ms. Debra (D.J.) Harner (cultural organization), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (community senior organization), Ms. Jody Hidey (residential homeowner), Mr. Walter Katz (residential renter), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Mr. Tom Paterson (residential renter), Mr. Nick Pool (business), Ms. Breice Reiner (community service organization), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Dr. Daniel Wiseman (faith based). Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large) arrived at 6:50. Board members excused absent were Mr. Chris Pechin (residential homeowner), Ms. Ann Hull (business). Ms. Reiner noted that Ms. Hull was out of town competing in The Boston Marathon.

Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to call the agenda posting roll for the April meeting. Beth Hillel Temple, (Mr. Simen), yes; Shaarey Zedek Congregation, (Dr. Wiseman), yes; The Hemster, (Ms. Hidey), yes; East Valley Senior Center, (Ms. Hatfield), yes; Jon's Market, (Mr. O'Connor), no; Steven's Nursery, (Mr. Simen), yes; Valley Photo, (Ms. Hull), absent; Marie et Cie, (Mr. O'Connor), yes; Bank of America, (Mr. Braswell), yes; Botique Voila, (Ms. Hull), absent; 7-11, (Mr. Pool), yes; Newspapers, (Ms. Reiner), yes.

Mr. Sanchez thanked the Board members for their help distributing the agendas. He then reviewed the agenda for the community members present and commented that anyone desiring to speak to an agenda item must complete a speaker card. Given the unusually high attendance, the secretary asked that those wishing to speak sign one of three "sign-in" sheets at the entrance to the room.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the March meeting were sent by email to the Board, and copies were available for the public at the meeting. *A motion was made by Mr. Simen to accept the minutes and seconded by Ms. Hidey. The minutes were approved by a vote of 12-0.*

**Agenda Item 3 – President’s Comments, Introduction of Distinguished Guests.**

Fortuna Ipolita was recognized from Councilman Jack Weiss’ office, and she thanked all in attendance and reminded the Board that she attempts to attend Board meetings every second month. Mr. Sanchez recognized Mr. Dale Thrush from the City of Los Angeles Planning Department.

**Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment on Agenda Items.** Mr. Sanchez thanked the large number of persons present for their attendance, and explained that anyone who signed the speaker’s cards (or the speaker’s list) would be given 2 minutes to address the Board. Given the time constraints of the meeting, Mr. Sanchez asked that 10 persons speak at the present point in the agenda, and that anyone else who was not able to speak at that time would be allowed to speak at the conclusion of the agenda.

Noting that most of the speakers were there to speak on behalf of Kulak’s Woodshed, Mr. Sanchez asked that Paul Kulak speak first, and then designate nine others who would have 2 minutes each to speak. Mr. Kulak addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to speak, and expressed his appreciation to those in the audience who were there to support Kulak’s Woodshed. He stated that he has been asked by the city to get a zoning variance to continue to operate the business. The main issue is that he has been told that Kulak’s Woodshed does not have sufficient parking for the current business. The venue can accommodate 50 persons, and average attendance is 25 to 30 per night. The space is 1700 square feet, and 1000 square feet is used for concert space. The City of Los Angeles requires 30 – 40 spaces for the type of licensing currently required. His question was “is it ‘ok’ to continue what we’re (Kulak’s Woodshed) is doing?” He said the city has taken a position against Kulak’s Woodshed. A packet explaining the business was distributed to the Board. Mr. Kulak stated that he was told by The City that he needs the approval of NCVV to continue his business.

Mr. Sanchez explained to the Board and audience that NCVV customarily would entertain a request for support of only those projects that have paperwork filed at the appropriate city agency and for which endorsement of the Board was being requested, and only after the paperwork was in place. Mr. Kulak stated that he was instructed differently, and Mr. Sanchez stated that there were city officials in the audience who could help explain the process more clearly. He thanked Mr. Kulak for his presentation and then asked that he identify nine speakers for the issue.

Mr. John McEuen identified himself as a lead singer of The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and customer of Kulak’s Woodshed. He stated that without a business like this, there would be no venue to develop artists like Jackson Browne or Linda Rondstat. There are few places that allow artists to develop their act and “what it brings to the community can only be done in a place like that”.

Mr. Jay Sloat, stated he has been a customer of Kulak’s Woodshed for several years, and asked for the Board’s support of the business. There is no real parking problem and most customers are there between 8 pm and 10 pm. The business is a cultural asset to the

community, “a passionate hobby that is operated by love.” There are few businesses that host music and are not connected to a bar or restaurant. He is able to bring his 5 year old daughter to performances. He also noted that the business raises funds for charities in the Valley Village area.

Derek Sivers operates CD Baby record store, and currently lives in Portland Oregon. He said it is hard to know how significant something is when it’s in your backyard. Many people around the world tune into the webcasts from Kulak’s Woodshed. The business is very important to the independent music scene.

Freebo has been playing Kulak’s Woodshed for 3 and one half years. He has never had a problem with parking, which he finds very convenient and safe. The business is a treasure to the community, and the webcasts are available worldwide. “It is about the music, not the money”. The venue is very safe, acoustic and artistic. “The venue should not be allowed to sink into the wilderness. We’re begging you to please help us out.”

Mike Gormley is an artist manager, and former Vice President of a record company. Kulak’s Woodshed is something very special and positive, nothing negative about it. There has never been a parking problem, the business is attractive and good for Valley Village. It is too positive to let go over a couple of parking spaces.

Julie Chadwick stated that Kulak’s Woodshed brings the beauty of reaching out through music, and also Paul’s vision was to reach out to and support 501(c)(3) (non profit) organizations. Kulak’s Woodshed has helped to save hundreds of dogs by reaching out in very positive ways and asked that the Board help to keep it open.

Jerry Day is a television producer who has filmed several documentaries on emerging artists. His first documentary followed Kulak’s Woodshed and won an Emmy award. He has never had a problem with parking and never heard a complaint from the community. He asked if there was anyone in the room that was present to complain against the business. Mr. Sanchez stated that was an inappropriate comment and that his statements should be directed to the Board. Mr. Day asked that there be a note in the minutes that no one answered his request, and Mr. Sanchez said there could be a note in the minutes that no one spoke when Mr. Day asked if anyone was at the meeting to speak against Kulak’s Woodshed.

Morgan Ames stated that in the current environment of budget cuts, especially for the Arts, programs like Kulak’s Woodshed are drying up. Kulak’s Woodshed is part of a free arts program for children and adults.

Tommy Luna is a teacher at LA City College and also teaches Jazz Orchestra. Many students go to Kulak’s Woodshed for music research, and it is a very positive influence for the area. He lived on Corteen Place for many years and there was always plenty of parking on the street and at neighboring businesses for customers of Kulak’s Woodshed. The bottom line, he said, is that it would be a shame over bureaucratic process that something so positive with no alcohol would be shut down.

Mr. Sanchez thanked all who spoke, and again thanked the community for their attendance at the meeting. He restated that due to time constraints, the Board would only be able to take ten public comments at this point but would remain at the end of the meeting for anyone else who wished to speak. He then asked Dale Thrush from City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel's office to address the issue. Mr. Paterson asked that Mr. Thrush also address the variance process.

Mr. Thrush introduced himself, and stated he did not have a definitive response to the specific zone variance for parking required by Kulak's Woodshed. He said there may be some need for consistency for use between the site plan and the business. The city has land use control documents that constitute the policy of land use for an area. If any business is inconsistent with the policy, the business must get around that or close. For a variance there would be a hearing with zoning administration and ability of the public to comment. A specific plan exception could also be required. A variance is "not a small thing". It's a big deal. Councilwoman Greuel's office has been impressed with Kulak's Woodshed and agrees the business is very unique. In order to move forward, there needs to be strong community support. It was recommended to the group (Kulak's Woodshed) that they go to NCVV and ask for support.

Mr. Paterson stated that the Board needed clarification. First, does Mr. Kulak need a variance? Second, if yes, a variance from what? He asked for an administrative opinion on both questions. Mr. Thrush stated that it was important to get some community feedback first. The next step is to meet with city officials to get an idea of what is really needed.

Mr. Sanchez asked for Board comment. Mr. Hatfield stated that his last visit to Kulak's Woodshed was a recent Saturday night and there was no parking problem. He added his compliments to the business and stated that parking is never a real issue.

Ms. Harner stated as cultural representative to the Board, she was excited to see the turnout of support for Kulak's Woodshed. She is affiliated with Eclectic Theater Company (nearby business) and that parking has never been an issue for her or neighboring businesses. She is appalled that this is happening.

Mr. Katz asked if there is any provision for non-profit request for a variance that would reduce the high associated costs? Yes there is. He understands that Kulak's Woodshed is asking that we do more than approve their request, and that this might be an opportunity to partner with one of our neighbors.

Mr. Pool stated that five of his grandchildren are in a bluegrass band, and doesn't understand why parking should be an issue for this business. He operates a business in the area and has never had a problem with parking for Kulak's Woodshed. We should find a way to help, parking is not an issue.

Mr. Braswell stated that community involvement is very important and encouraged all present to send their comments by fax or phone to their elected officials.

Ms. Reiner stated that she felt it was not a “given” that a variance was needed. It behooves the group to find out how they can proceed within the planning rules that are now in place.

Ms. Hidey stated that she felt the passion of the group. She extended her appreciation for the time all took to attend the meeting and voice their support.

Ms. Hatfield stated for the audience the phone number to Councilwoman Wendy Greuel’s office, 818-755-7676. She stated that she is a patron of Kulak’s Woodshed and that it is a very unique cultural opportunity in Valley Village and recommended that the Board visit the business.

Dr. Wiseman thanked the audience for their attendance, and stated that they are what neighborhood councils are all about. “You are empowered, and your presence here is what Valley Village is about. This is what a neighborhood council should do. I can’t imagine that the Board is opposed to what you’re after, but it has to be kept alive and function but within the rules of the city.”

Mr. O’Connor asked for permission to meet with Mr. Kulak after the meeting to discuss permitting needs and legal needs related to permitting.

Mr. Paterson stated that his role is to be “devil’s advocate” and that no matter how tough they are, the rules must be followed. One route is to go without a variance, and if a variance is required, it is expensive and it just has to be done.

A member of the community (unidentified) asked who is opposed to this? Dr. Wiseman asked for a point of order and that the process for consideration not be circumvented. The audience member stated that the Board didn’t fill out speaker’s cards so that they (Board members) could speak. Mr. Sanchez replied that the Board did not need speaker’s cards to speak to an issue. Mr. Kulak made less than positive comments regarding his opinion of the Board’s process and directed them to Mr. Paterson’s comment, to which Mr. Sanchez replied that he felt there was support from the Board on this issue, and that Mr. Paterson’s comments were in support of the project but only through adherence to the city’s process.

Mr. Sanchez closed the Board and public comment on the issue, and again thanked all in attendance. He expressed his regret that all could not speak at this time, and that the Board would remain at the end of the meeting for anyone who wished to speak to this issue but had not yet had the opportunity.

**Agenda Item 9 – Car Wash Update.** Mr. Sanchez asked that the Board move to agenda item 9 as Mr. Thrush was already before the Board. Mr. Thrush gave an overview of events at the last City Council meeting related to the proposed car wash on Laurel

Canyon. A week prior to the NCVV Board meeting the PLUM committee met to hear the appeal of the owners of the property related to the car wash. The owner has considered withdrawing the appeal in order to open a storage facility on the property. Mr. Thrush spoke with the attorneys and the committee and the hearing was continued from April 21 to June 9 to consider this action.

Mr. Sanchez asked if there was public comment. Mr. Robert Lamishaw with JPL Zoning services asked to address the Board on the issue. His company has been retained by the owners to propose an alternative use for the property. They are suggesting a low traffic alternative use with low parking demand. They are looking for feedback from the community and want this to be an interactive process, to find a compromise that pleases everyone. He distributed pictorial examples of a similar facility on Ventura Boulevard.

The property on Laurel Canyon is really four separate lots, 2 zoned commercial and 2 parking lots. There is a defined setback for the property, and they are proposing parking on two sides and traffic circulation behind the building. The ultimate solution to meet the owner's economic needs would require some below grade storage to make the project economically feasible.

Mr. Sanchez asked the Board for comment. Ms. Hatfield asked if the company was a consultant on the original project? No. Does the new plan require a traffic light? No.

Mr. Simen stated that the specific plan for Valley Village does not address the limits of underground use. Mr. Lamishaw said that was being done only for economic reasons. Mr. Sanchez asked if there were any other comments, and hearing none closed discussion.

Mr. Sanchez asked what variances would be needed. Mr. Lamishaw said to meet the specific plan there would need to be a variance for storage of household goods, land use other than C-4, and insufficient parking. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that the primary opposition has been to the visual spirit of the plan and issues related to traffic. Mr. Hatfield commented that this was a much better concept for the space. Mr. Pool asked if the Homeowners Association has been consulted? Ms. Dinkin said the concept would not be opposed. She was not certain what restrictions needed variances, but the one that was absolutely not breakable was the limit of 36' height. "We don't want to open Pandora's Box on exceeding the construction height restriction. And no dead bodies in storage." She has lost many night's sleep on this issue. She is hoping that the fat lady will sing regarding the storage facility. We have been fortunate to have the support of Wendy Greuel's office behind us.

**Agenda Item 5 – Executive Committee Report.** In the interest of time, as Executive Committee issues were covered in other parts of the agenda, Mr. Sanchez asked that Ms. Ipolita be recognized to speak at this point on the agenda. She mentioned there would be a coffee with Councilman Jack Weiss May 23 at 6:00 pm at the home of Ms. Breice Reiner. She also asked to address the board with clarification regarding a letter to the editor of The Daily News from a resident of Valley Village regarding Earth Day Clean-

Up activities in another area sponsored by the Councilman's office. The letter was very critical that a similar activity was not held for Valley Village. Ms. Ipolita contacted the author of the letter who stated she only wanted to get attention for Valley Village. Ms. Ipolita explained to the Board that the Councilman's office is committed to offering a similar activity within Valley Village, that the Board just needs to ask and it will be done. She mentioned the broad commitment of volunteers from the city and youth groups who support this effort.

**Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer's Report.** The first quarter's funding has been received by Mr. Hatfield and deposited into the NCVV account. Mr. Hatfield reminded the Board that the fiscal year is April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005. There is \$12,500 currently in the account. He is in possession of the NCVV debit card. He also reminded the Board that there is discount pricing for office supplies through a city relationship with Office Depot. Mr. Hatfield encouraged the Board to present ideas for uses of the funding.

Ms. Hatfield asked if a form was needed for reimbursement of expenses. Mr. Hatfield stated that an explanation would need to be submitted to him with an appropriate receipt. The debit card should only be used for expenditures for Board related activities. Any project that would be undertaken by the Board or a Board member would need to be approved in advance and have an approved budget. Also a spending plan would be required, stating the resources the project would require. Mr. Hatfield will track the expenses of any approved project against the budget.

**Agenda Item 7 – Web-Site Presentation.** Due to illness of Mr. Ciccarelli this was postponed until the May meeting.

**Agenda Item 8 – Neighborhood Watch, Introduction of Block Captains.** Mr. Sanchez thanked all in attendance from the Valley Village neighborhood watch program, and asked that all block captains introduce themselves. He briefly stated the purpose of neighborhood watch, and that he desired the Valley Village neighborhood watch program be one of the top ten in the city. He then asked for public comment from those in attendance.

Mr. Hatfield reminded the Board of the discussion that brought this item to the agenda, stating that there had been interest in organizing an informal patrol for the neighborhood, encouraging reporting of crime and enlisting extra sets of "eyes" for our area. He mentioned his personal effort to try to look for any criminal activity on his drive home from work each evening.

Ms. Harner asked if we could use our NCVV website to post information on criminal activity in the area.

Mimi O'Keefe, Morrison Street Block Captain, was recognized to speak. She stated that her conversations with the North Hollywood Police Department revealed that most criminal activity occurs in the "graveyard" hours, which would be the most useful time to have a citizen patrol.

Ms. Briena Lameda invited all of the Board to attend the Valley Village neighborhood watch meetings. Mr. Sanchez asked when and where the meetings are held? Meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at Victory Elementary School on Radford Street.

Mr. Paterson asked if a criminal activity map is still being distributed? Yes.

Mr. Sanchez noted that Manny Arreygue, Senior Lead Officer, had planned to attend the April NCVV meeting but had a last minute family emergency that kept him from joining the meeting.

It was stated that every quarter, a Police Community Representative (PCR) meeting was held with all Senior Lead Officers. The next meeting is May 18.

Mr. Steve Simon stated that the median age of the neighborhood watch groups “is around 70” and up. He said we need younger people in the group.

Ms. Ipolita said that she had found success in other NC’s that made their meetings more social, and encouraged food as a way to bring more people to the meetings.

Mr. Katz said that one of our NCVV Board members should attend a neighborhood watch meeting in another neighborhood and report back to the full Board. Mr. Sanchez agreed and asked the Board members who are block captains coordinate such attendance and a report back to NCVV’s Board.

*Ms. Reiner motioned that a committee be formed to figure out what the neighborhood needs to do to have a more viable neighborhood watch program for Valley Village. Ms. Hidey seconded the motion.*

Mr. Pool asked if the North Hollywood police station supplied the resources necessary to create and sustain such a program? No.

Ms. Hatfield asked if the website should have a section on neighborhood watch? This might be tough politically, as many people do not want their personal information revealed.

Dr. Wiseman stated that whether the committee is named, or a natural committee made up of existing Board members who are block captains, the issue should not be micromanaged by the NCVV Board. We should use the four Board members who are active block captains to build our committee and our plan. They should identify what elements are in place, what might be missing, and how the gaps can be filled in. Apathy is the biggest challenge and we need to find an effective way to reach out to the community and allow ourselves to “be reached back to”.



Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board there was a motion and a second. Mr. Pool asked for further clarification on the support of the North Hollywood Police Department. Ms. O’Keefe stated that if there are specific requests made of them, they are quick to help, such as copying, and mailing. Mr. Pool offered to be a Board liaison to the Police Department.

*With no further discussion, the vote was held approving the motion 13-0.*

Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Pechin, Ms. Hatfield, Mr. Pool and Ms. Hidey to meet to present a strategy for the May NCVV Board meeting.

Ms. O’Keefe asked if it were possible to have a formal event in the park to celebrate neighborhood watch and help recruit new block captains? Could there be funding to help pay for food? Yes. Can we buy neighborhood watch signs for the community? That could be considered. Mr. Sanchez stated that there should not be limits for the committee when they “brainstorm” on how to make the neighborhood watch program more effective.

**Agenda Item 10 – Orange Line Update.** Dr. Wiseman reviewed the background of events to date related to The Orange Line. The ad-hoc committee met, and has been in contact with MTA officials and with Supervisor Zeb Yaroslavsky’s office. The committee recommends action on three items, with no specific plan of attack. The items are:

1. Beautification of the street: including landscaping, type of plants used, abatement of lead and arsenic in the areas, with the goal that we should support the concept that beautification of Valley Village (Lankersham to Ethel) be as attractive as Ethel to Van Nuys Boulevard.
2. Safety: with a specific focus on street crossings (there are six crossings). The MTA says there is no specific plan, and there are no visible materials for us to review. But what we are seeing now is not promising. Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s office will be at the next committee meeting, and we will expect specific recommendations from them at that time.
3. Comfort Stations: at this time there are no plans for comfort stations in any areas of Valley Village. Viacom Decaux is offering to place pay toilets in our stations. They are very attractive. The details, however, are still not complete. Do we want to support the idea and move forward?

Overriding goal for the committee is that The Orange Line be attractive, safe and convenient for our community.

Mr. Sanchez asked if the committee had received the requested information from Mr. Gonzalez with Viacom Decaux? No. Mr. Sanchez conveyed concern about the tone of the March presentation from Mr. Gonzalez to the NCVV Board.

Mr. Katz expressed his support for two of the three proposals, but stated the Board should be careful what they asked for, that toilets would be a problem.

Ms. Harner stated that were she a resident of Chandler, she would not want to look out from her home onto a public toilet.

Mr. Pool stated he was originally in favor of public toilets but after talking with other people in the community, he felt the opportunity was too great that they could become a hangout for criminal activity and vagrants. Also he stated there is no "escape" clause, that if we make a bad decision we can't forego it.

Ms. Reiner added that it is very hard to get the toilets removed once they are installed. She stated that beautification is still most dear to our hearts, and that it seems there may have been some underestimation of the limitations of space in the planting plans. She mentioned the disappointing appearance of the island at the entrance to Valley Village on Laurel Canyon as an example of the need to be very involved in beautification.

Mr. Paterson restated his support for a restroom and encouraged that it continue to be considered, possibly at the Red Line station. (Clarification submitted by Mr. Paterson. There should be restrooms at main transit portals like the NOHO red line station, where multiple bus lines converge at the station site. Mr. Paterson does not support a restroom at the planned Laurel Canyon station).

Mr. Sanchez stated that the Homeowners Association voted to oppose restrooms in Valley Village. He also stated that the Mayor's office is allowing input on the naming of stations, so the Laurel Canyon station could be named in honor of Valley Village.

Dr. Wiseman added that there would be opportunity in the near future to see a restroom that was opened and in use, and that we can wait to see how they work.

Mr. Sanchez reviewed the committee's recommendations. They are focused on three areas, beautification, safety and comfort stations.

Mr. Pool motioned that there be no restrooms at Laurel Canyon. Dr. Wiseman asked if that should be an amendment to the action items moved forward as motions from his committee. Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Pool for clarification and he restated the motion as opposition to any bathrooms in the Valley Village portion of The Orange Line.

Mr. Sanchez then asked that each recommendation from the Committee be considered separately. That along with the other issues raised brought five issues to the Board for action.

*Issue 1 - Beautification, including encouraging proper landscaping and selection of plants/trees, abatement of lead/arsenic, and support of the concept that Lankershim to Ethel should look just like Ethel to Van Nuys Blvd.*

*approved 13-0*

*Issue 2 - Safety, to encourage a focus on street crossings and making them safe, to act quickly on the recommendations from the next committee meeting. Particular focus on six crosswalks in Valley Village.*

*approved 13-0*

*Issue 3 - Comfort stations, no plans at this time but Viacom-Decaux is offering to install toilets – request of NCVV Board to support this idea.*

*denied 12-1*

*Issue 4 - Develop a specific information program to inform the community regarding the final product we call the Orange Line.*

*denied 2 yes, 4 no, 7 abstain*

*Issue 5 - oppose toilets on the Orange line within Valley Village*

*approved 10 - 2*

Mr. Sanchez offered additional comment, specifically related to issue four. The NCVV Board is the mechanism through which much of this information should be given to the community. Dr. Wiseman and his committee work to gather the information, and our job is to get the information out to the community. Mr. O'Connor asked if The Orange Line was consistent with the specific plan for Valley Village. Dr. Wiseman stated that there are some inconsistencies and problems with the existing plans of MTA, and that his committee and NCVV want to push hard on the concept, not specifics.

Ms. Hatfield encouraged a joint effort between NCVV and The Homeowners Association.

**Agenda Item 11 – NCVV Logo.** Ms. Reiner reminded the board of the previous discussion on this issue, and distributed two examples of logos that had been refined since the March meeting. Mr. Sanchez sent around an NC business card, as an example of how the logo might be used publicly. Mr. Sanchez asked that the Board move to agenda item 12 so that all had time to look at the logo examples. As each Board member is looking, they should prepare to vote yes on example one, or yes on example two, or no on both. Each Board member may only vote one time.

**Agenda Item 12 – Signature Event.** Ms. Reiner stated there are two possibilities that have been brought forward for consideration. First is a neighborhood watch party, and second is an outreach party (fall Olympic tie-in). Mr. Braswell suggested that the event should be used to draw much needed attention to the neighborhood watch program. *He*

*motioned that the signature event be in the park and used to organize neighborhood watch. Ms. Hidey seconded.* A suggestion was made to use the space of The Celtic Arts Center. Mr. O'Connor mentioned that there is a spring fair at Colfax School May 22 and we should have a representative there.

Mr. Katz asked that a committee be formed for the event. Ms. Harner stated that the Celtic Arts Center was a small venue and might not be a good venue for the event. *An amendment was offered by Mr. Braswell to ask that the committee bring back a recommendation by May and was seconded by Mr. Katz.* Ms. Harner agreed to head the committee and Mr. Braswell agreed to serve. *The motion and amendment were approved 11-0.*

**Agenda Item 11 – Logo for NCVV.** Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that they must vote yes for example one, or yes for example two, or yes for a “no” choice that neither design is appropriate. *Design 1, 8 yes votes. Design 2, 3 yes votes. Neither design, 2 yes votes.* The first design was selected as the logo for NCVV. Ms. Reiner thanked Mr. Pechin as well as her daughter Ellen for their hard work on this difficult task.

**Agenda Item 13 – Board Liaison and Committee Reports.** Ms. Hatfield stated that Bella Vista Senior Group meeting (senior housing) would host an event October 3 at Fashion Square.

**Agenda Item 3 – Introduction of Distinguished Guests.** Mr. Sanchez introduced John Bwarie from Mayor Hahn’s office. He invited the Board to “Your Street & The Budget,” a meeting about street paving and maintenance issues, May 4 at 7:00 pm at Walter Reed Middle School. Bill Robertson from the City would host the meeting. At this meeting attendees would learn how decisions on street resurfacing and repaving are made.

Mr. Bwarie thanked NCVV Board for their hard work and commended their commitment to the community.

Mr. Sanchez added that he recently attended a DWP meeting where “Navigate LA” was reviewed, a software program that shows all projects in progress in the city.

**Agenda Item 14 – Follow-up on Soundwalls.** This was postponed until the May meeting.

**Agenda Item 15 – Other Items.** There were no other items for discussion.

**Agenda Item 16 – Future Agenda Items.** These were referenced earlier in the minutes.

**Agenda Item 17 – Public Comments.** Mr. Steve Simon stated that he felt there should be opportunity for the public to speak to any issue as it comes up before the Board for review. Mr. Stuart Simen reviewed the guidelines of Roberts Rules of Order and of the Brown Act under which NCVV meetings are conducted that clearly call for agenda items that specify when public comment on any issue is entertained. Mr. Sanchez explained

that he had expanded on that opportunity by placing opportunity for public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda. Mr. Steve Simon said he did not get an agenda and asked how could he know when he is to speak. Ms. Reiner stated that the agenda is posted at city approved locations and published in the newspaper. Mr. Braswell added that at all times there are 25 agendas for the public at the meeting but the unusually large turnout tonight meant not everyone could have their own agenda. Mr. Simon stated "you're supposed to represent the people but why can't the people talk to you". Mr. Sanchez again explained Roberts Rules and how the meetings must be conducted and thanked Mr. Simon for his attendance.

Mr. Rick Taylor asked to speak in favor of Kulak's Woodshed. He stated that the business is very special and unique, and commended the Board for their support. He stated "the behavior of Paul Kulak can be explained by his lack of social skills, but he has a strong passion for this business". He again commended the Board for their support.

Mr. John Gleiter asked if a future agenda item could be public utilities. Mr. Sanchez said there should be a specific reason for the item to be added or it could come under a committee report.

Dr. Wiseman asked that announcements be added to the agenda in the future. Dr. Wiseman also asked if the Board needs a legislative committee to consider position on pending political issues.

Ms. Hatfield stated that we need an agenda item for proposed specific uses of NCVV funds.

Mr. Paterson asked that an agenda item be added to consider all development projects within Valley Village and that they be submitted to NCVV for approval. Mr. Sanchez asked that this be an agenda item for discussion at the May meeting.

Mr. Sanchez stated that the meeting with Councilman Weiss at the home of Ms. Reiner is for Board members only.

Mr. Pool asked what had happened to the office space for NCVV? Mr. Sanchez said that the office space at CBS is a "go," and that we should have much more information in the very near future.

**Agenda Item 19 – Adjournment.** There being no further meeting items, a motion was made by Mr. Pool and seconded by Ms. Hidey to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.