

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
12-21-05**

Approved 10-0-2

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order by Peter Sanchez at 6:50 pm.

Mr. Sanchez welcomed the Board and stakeholders in attendance. Mr. Sanchez noted that this was the first meeting of the newly elected Board, and the final meeting of the current Board. A brief history and purpose of Neighborhood Councils was given, and it was noted that the meeting would be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and within the guidelines of The Brown Act. Anyone wishing to speak to any issue was invited to complete a public comment card.

The roll was called. Board members present were: Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (senior based organization), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at-large), Ms. Harriet Newton (faith based), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Mr. Nick Pool (business), Ms. Breice Reiner (residential homeowner), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Bill Santoro (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Dr. Dan Wiseman (cultural). Absent were, Dr. Alan Brody, Mr. Tom Paterson, Ms. Ann Hull (business), Mr. Walter Katz (residential renter). Newly Elected Board members present were Fritz Friedman (business), Yoni Kahn-Rose (residential renter), Ben Lautman (business) and Paul Weiner (residential renter).

The Posting Roll was called – posting requirements for the meeting were met (8).

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes. *Mr. Pool motioned to approve the November minutes, and Mr. Santoro seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 9-0-0.*

Agenda Item 3 – President's Comments, Introduction of Guests. Mr. Sanchez introduced Chris Olsen from Wendy Greuel's office.

Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 5 – Appreciation for Retiring Board Members. Mr. Olsen recognized the current Board for their service as Neighborhood Council Board members, and presented proclamations to each who were present. It was stated that those absent would be presented their proclamations at a later date.

Agenda Item 6 – Seating of New Board, Swearing In. Mr. Sanchez asked the new Board members to take their seats, and Chris Olsen swore into city service the newly elected Board.

Agenda Item 7 – Welcome to the New Board, Introductions to Community and Stakeholders. Mr. Sanchez introduced the new Board members, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Kahn-Rose, Mr. Lautman and Mr. Weiner.

Agenda Item 8 – Officer Elections. The floor was opened to nominations for officer positions for the 2006 Board. Nominations for President were: Fritz Friedman (Dan Wiseman), Mr. Friedman declined; Mr. Sanchez (Ginny Hatfield), Mr. Sanchez accepted; Ben Lautman (Dan Wiseman), Mr. Lautman declined; Paul Weiner (Dan Wiseman), Mr. Weiner declined; Yoni Kahn-Rose (Dan Wiseman), Mr. Kahn-Rose declined. There were no further nominations. Dr. Wiseman motioned that Mr. Sanchez be elected President by acclamation. It was unanimously approved, and *Mr. Sanchez was elected President.*

Nominations for Vice President were: Ms. Reiner (Mr. Sanchez), Ms. Reiner accepted. There were no further nominations. Mr. Simen motioned to close nominations, and Mr. Santoro seconded the motion. *Ms. Reiner was elected Vice President 11-0-0.*

Nominations for Treasurer were Mr. Hatfield (Mr. Santoro), and the nomination was seconded by Dr. Wiseman. Mr. Hatfield accepted. Mr. Weiner motioned to close the nominations, and Mr. Santoro seconded the motion. *Mr. Hatfield was elected Treasurer 11-0-0.*

Nominations for Secretary were Mr. Braswell (Ms. Hatfield), Mr. Braswell accepted. Dr. Wiseman motioned to close nominations and Mr. Santoro seconded the motion. *Mr. Braswell was elected Secretary 11-0-0.*

Ms. Reiner addressed the Board, and thanked the new Board for their hard work, and challenged the Board to accelerate efforts to increase outreach. Mr. Sanchez stated that he wished this to be “the year of outreach” for the Board, and that committees should have outreach as their primary focus. Dr. Wiseman stated that the new Board members should be added to the distribution list and to the website.

Mr. Lautman had a prior family commitment and asked to be excused at 8:00 pm.

Agenda Item 10 – Standing Committees – Short Term Projects. Mr. Santoro presented an overview of current short term projects. He also presented the Banner project to the Board. There are 72 banners planned along Chandler/Laurel Canyon corridors. The banners will promote Valley Village and NCVV. Thanked his committee members. Mr. Jay Werner, member of the committee, presented the concept to the Board.

Mr. Friedman asked if there could be corporate sponsorship for the project to raise participation and additional funding? Yes. He also asked about the life expectancy of the banners, and the total cost of the project. The banners should last 12 – 18 months and the entire project is budgeted at \$8000 and expected to cost \$6123.60. Mr. Friedman asked if the banners could extend outside Valley Village? That is possible but was not in the

original scope of the project. Mr. Santoro noted that the project as presented is in a “manageable” scale and that the committee would be studying how the effort was received. Ms. Newton noted that this is a much more attractive design than a similar effort by a neighboring Neighborhood Council. She stated the design is “a knockout”.

Ms. Reiner asked that the Board and committee use The Bridge to measure awareness of the banners. Mr. Hatfield stated that he supports the project, but annually this and the scheduled publications of The Bridge consume one-half of the NCVV budget. Mr. Friedman asked if myvalleyvillage.com could be added to the banners. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that the concept comes forward from the committee in a motion, and that the Board should vote on the project as proposed.

The motion, from Short Term Projects Committee, is to request \$8,000 from Neighborhood Council Valley Village to fund the NCVV Banner Project as presented. Mr. Braswell called the question. Mr. Lautman asked for explanation of any other expected expenses that might preempt this allocation. Mr. Hatfield stated that for this year and next we are in good financial condition with \$70,000 to spend and \$18,000 in expected expenses. If this were to become an annual project it would be cost prohibitive.

The motion was approved 7-1-3.

Agenda Item 10 – Standing committees – Outreach. The next edition of The Bridge is scheduled for February. The deadline to send in articles is January 23.

Discussion was held related to the Valley Village Dinner being organized by the Valley Village Homeowners Association and members of the NCVV Board. *A motion was made by Ms. Reiner and seconded by Stuart Simen to allocate \$3000 to support the event as an outreach effort.* The amount represents approximately half of the expected cost of the event. Mr. Lautman asked to see a budget of the full cost of the event. Mr. Hatfield requested a full accounting of the event prior to and after before the actual allocation was made. Ms. Reiner noted that the process for planning/executing the event required a commitment of participation from the NCVV Board. The event is scheduled for Saturday, February 25. Mr. Friedman asked if the boundaries of VVHA are similar to NCVV? Yes.

Mr. O’Connor arrived at 7:50.

Ms. Hatfield asked that the presence of NCVV include an information table at the event. Mr. Hatfield reminded all involved to save details and receipts. Ms. Newton called the question. *The motion was approved 10-0-1.*

Mr. Kahn-Rose asked if there were specific topics to be covered in this edition of The Bridge? Ms. Reiner advised that there is still room for more articles and encouraged submissions.

Ms. Reiner reported that there has been some progress on the gateway sign. Mr. Olsen stated there is a meeting scheduled for January with Mr. Guitierrez of Street Furniture Department to expedite this issue. Mr. Lautman recalled that the cost to replace the sign was approximately \$25,000, and asked if other sources could be accessed, or if there were insurance for the act of vandalism. Mr. Sanchez reviewed the city's self-insurance and advised that the costs must come from Wendy Greuel's office. Mr. Lautman again stated that the city should consider paying for this. Mr. Olsen stated that their office is moving this forward as quickly as possible. Dr. Wiseman stated there are indeed reserve funds that can support this project, but they must be budget approved and spent to the dollar.

Mr. Sanchez welcomed Ms. Deanna Stevenson from DONE. She congratulated the Board on the successful election and wished all great success in the new Board year.

Agenda Item 10 – Standing committees – Planning and Land Use. Mr. Sanchez reported there is currently no chair for the committee. The major topic of the last meeting was a rezoning request from The Country School to expand. They have acquired parking on the south side of the property and wish to renovate their buildings, to add expand to 8th grade. There was discussion about available parking for the existing school and for the expansion request. Mr. Kahn-Rose asked for the scope of the project? To expand to add 8th grade. Is there a restriction on parking in the proposed project? No. Is there planning for parking in the expansion request? The city will require a parking plan as part of the approval process. Dr. Wiseman asked for the current quorum of the committee? 5. Should a chair be appointed at the current time? The committee has nominated a chair, and Mr. Sanchez needs to meet with her/him to discuss the position. Mr. Friedman asked if the north parking lot was lost (by the school); would the entire property be in violation of zoning? It is thought yes. The details were to be discussed at the next meeting of The Planning and Land Use Committee before a recommendation was brought to the entire Board.

Agenda Item 10 – Standing committees – Elections. Ms. Reiner had no report. She noted that the Board needs to appoint a Student into the Student Seat.

Mr. Friedman stated that due to confusion and disenfranchisement from the last election the bylaws should be revisited to determine who is eligible to vote and to clarify election procedures.

Mr. Sanchez advised that the chair of the committee, Ms. Hatfield, will be eligible for election in 2007 and there will need to be a co-chair or new chair named to the committee. He agreed that there needs to be clarification of election concerns/issues, but asked that it be done through the committee and not through the bylaws.

Ms. Hatfield asked that the specific concerns be emailed to her and she would bring them to the committee for review.

Mr. Sanchez asked that all Board members review the standing committees, and be prepared to discuss where they would like to serve in the new Board year. All Board members must serve on at least one committee.

Dr. Wiseman asked that committee assignments and chairs be made at the January meeting.

Agenda Item 10 – Standing committees – Long Term Projects. There was no meeting in December, the committee is still advocating for sidewalk completion on the Chandler corridor. The committee has three major issues of concern at this time – sidewalks and The Orange Line, soundwalls, and budgetary issues.

Mr. Sanchez and Dr. Wiseman noted that the Board had submitted feedback to the Mayor's office from individual Board members regarding the Mayor's budget process. It was noted by many Board members that the survey tool was not adequate to express their own thoughts on the budget and the budget process. A further discussion ensued that concluded the concerns with the process were not budgetary issues, but more closely related to the tool asked to measure the issues. *A motion was made by Mr. Braswell and seconded by Mr. Friedman to send a message to the Mayor's office and to DONE that there is a concern regarding the tool, not the data.* It is difficult for the Board to reach consensus on budget issues related to NCVV with this tool.

Ms. Hatfield noted that these measurement tools are difficult to produce and implement. Mr. Hatfield stated that it still could be a valuable planning tool if developed and used properly.

Dr. Wiseman amended the motion to state that the budget planning process should involve Neighborhood Councils from the start. The amendment was accepted. The motion was approved 11-1-0.

Dr. Wiseman asked for a discussion related to a section of Chandler Boulevard from Ethel to Coldwater that needs to be added to the areas under review for sidewalks. After discussion about whether the space actually is in Valley Village, *Mr. Simen motioned to postpone the issue until the Long Term Projects Committee meets with the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council to get their involvement. Ms. Reiner seconded the motion. The motion was approved 8-2-0.* Mr. Simen explained to the Board the difference between postponing a motion to a future time and tabling a motion.

Agenda Item 9 – Finance Committee. Mr. Hatfield reviewed the "carryover" allowance for the current budget, and noted that there is approximately \$61,000 in carryover at this time. He reminded the Board that this money will not be available on an ongoing basis, and the Board needs to allocate funds in the current and future years mindful of the distinction between carryover funds and annual budget.

Agenda Item 11 – Liaison Reports and Material Distribution. Mr. Sanchez reminded all Board members of the Board's responsibility to be liaison between the community and

individual city departments. He will work closely with Board members to match their interest with liaison responsibilities, and asked that all Board members review the list of city departments on the web site to see what departments need to be represented. Mr. Friedman asked for clarification about whether this meant departments or the City Council? Departments. He then stated that he wished to raise concern that Mr. Weiss' office does not send a representative to the NCVV Board meeting. Mr. Sanchez advised he would call and follow up with Mr. Weiss' office.

Agenda Item 12 – Other Items for Discussion Per Mr. Sanchez. None.

Agenda Item 14 – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item 13 – Future Agenda Items. Office Space. Commission to review Neighborhood Councils. Neighborhood Congress and a representative from NCVV to the Neighborhood Congress. February party (under Outreach). Culture of Peace Event. Disaster Preparedness. Possible purchase of Board seating.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.