

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
2-23-05**

Approved March 23, 14-0

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order by NCVV President Peter Sanchez at 6:37 pm.

Mr. Sanchez briefly reviewed the agenda, noting that there was much to report and there would be an election held. He recognized Ms. Hatfield to explain the stakeholder voting registration procedures. Mr. Sanchez stated for the record 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), Dr. Alan Brody (residential homeowner), Mr. Michael Drachkovitch (student representative), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (community based senior), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), Ms. Ann Hull (business), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Mr. Tom Paterson (residential renter), Mr. Nick Pool (business representative), Ms. Breice Reiner (community based organization), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Bill Santoro (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Dr. Daniel Wiseman (cultural). Mr. Walter Katz (residential renter) arrived at 7:30 pm.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes. Mr. Simen motioned to approve the December minutes, Ms. Hull seconded the motion. Approved 13-0.

Agenda Item 3 – President's Comments, Introduction of Guests. Mr. Sanchez moved the agenda to item 4.

Agenda Item 4 – Election for 2005 Faith Based Council member. Mr. Sanchez reminded the audience of the need to obtain a stakeholder validation form and ballot to be able to vote. Mr. Sanchez explained the need for the special election to fill the faith based seat after the resignation of Rev. Dan Clark. Mr. Sanchez introduced Elections Chairwoman Ginny Hatfield.

Ms. Hatfield explained the election procedure – each candidate would be allowed to address the audience, then all eligible stakeholders would vote. The candidate receiving the most votes would be seated immediately upon election. Two candidates qualified for the election; Mr. Israel Hirsch and Ms. Harriett Newton. Each candidate was given two minutes to address the audience.

Ms. Hatfield asked all who had registered to vote as stakeholders to please cast their ballots. The ballots were collected by Ms. Hatfield and Mr. Drachkovitch.

Agenda Item 8 - Standing Committees – Limited Projects – Preservation of The Depot. Mr. Sanchez recognized Mr. Richard Hilton who gave a presentation on the history of the Original Lankershim Train Depot and asked for NCVV support of an effort to preserve the Depot. The presentation is attached. Mr. Hilton asked that the Board support the effort and that all present in the audience sign a petition of support for the preservation fight. It was noted that Studio City Chamber of Commerce and Universal Neighborhood Council had already given their support.

Mr. Sanchez asked if Midtown/North Hollywood had given their support yet? No. Mr. Hilton is presenting to their Board next. Dr. Wiseman asked if printed materials would be distributed? Yes. He reminded the Board of the roles that Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and MTA play in this decision. *Ms. Hull motioned that the Board endorse the preservation of the North Hollywood/Lankershim Train Depot. Ms. Hatfield seconded the motion.* Discussion – Mr. Hatfield asked if the current structure is protected from rain? That is believed to be correct. Mr. Santoro asked if the Depot would be the termination point for the Orange Line? Actually the depot is located just North of the Orange Line termination/origination point. Ms. Hull asked what size is the property you are seeking to protect? Only a portion of the actual lot houses the Depot structure. *Dr. Wiseman asked that the Board consider postponing the motion until more information could be reviewed. There was no second to the motion. Mr. Braswell called the question. The motion was approved 9-2-1.*

Agenda Item 3 – President’s Comments, Introduction of Guests. Mr. Sanchez noted that Chris Olsen from Councilwoman Wendy Greuel’s office had joined the meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Election for 2005 Faith Based Councilmember. Ms. Hatfield announced that the election was completed, and had been very close, with no provisional ballots. Ms. Harriet Newton was elected to the faith based community seat on NCVV. Mr. Sanchez thanked those in attendance for voting, thanked Mr. Hirsch for his candidacy, and asked Ms. Newton to take her seat on the NCVV Board.

Agenda Item 5 – Public comment on Agenda Items. Mr. Sanchez noted that all speaker cards were to address the ad hoc committee report and asked that they be held until that point on the agenda.

Agenda Item 6 - Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Hatfield announced that the 2005 budget for NCVV was approved. He presented the financial statements and pointed out that it has been reformatted for the approved budget. The remaining funds for the current fiscal year are approximately \$58,000 inclusive of the approved carry-over from 2004. He also noted that NCVV needs to move forward with approved projects to begin expenditure of funds; and presented a request for infrastructure spending to repair sidewalks in the Valley Village park area.

Mr. Sanchez reminded the audience of the funding provided to NCVV each year. He asked that the sidewalk proposal be forwarded to the Limited Projects Committee for consideration. Mr. Braswell asked if the Gateway sign had been considered for funding?

That will be addressed later in the meeting. Ms. Hatfield asked for clarification between Limited Term and Long Term projects? Long term implies ongoing or continued involvement, Limited term can be addressed in one or possibly two years.

Ms. Hull asked that the city be pressured to maintain our community infrastructure before we commit NCVV funds to projects. Ms. Reiner stated that there will be many projects we should consider and asked that we apply ourselves to outreach to get as many ideas as possible listed and then prioritize the opportunities. Mr. Paterson stated that this is funding from the city to support community-based projects.

Dr. Wiseman motioned to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted, and Mr. Santoro seconded the motion. The motion was approved 14-0-0.

Agenda Item 7 – Ad Hoc Committee Report. Mr. Sanchez noted that Mr. Katz was in route to the meeting and asked that this agenda item be held until he arrived.

Agenda Item – 8 - Elections. The elections were held earlier in the meeting and there was no further report from Ms. Hatfield.

Agenda Item – 8 – Limited Projects. Preservation of the Depot was given earlier in the meeting. Mr. Sanchez recognized Mr. Drachkovitch to present his Student Outreach report. Mr. Drachkovitch distributed an application form for the student seat. His plan is to identify qualified candidates in the community and ask them to complete the application to be considered for the seat. Mr. Simen commended Mr. Drachkovitch on his hard work and suggested that the essay be limited to 150 words. *Mr. Braswell motioned to accept the application as presented.* Ms. Newton asked if the grade point average for the applicant should be requested? *Dr. Wiseman asked that the motion be amended to change "high school" to school in recognition that some schools are not in the public school system.* *Ms. Reiner asked that NCVV request passing grades instead of the actual grade point average.* *Mr. Braswell accepted Dr. Wiseman's and Ms. Reiner's amendment requests, and asked that Mr. Drachkovitch's suggestion of 300 words be maintained in the motion.* *Mr. Santoro seconded the motion. The motion was approved 14-0-0.*

Agenda Item 8 – Long Term Projects. Dr. Wiseman reported that a formal meeting of the committee had not yet been held but was being scheduled. He stated that there were four priorities at this time of particular importance to NCVV. First, the city budget is under consideration and NCVV needs to have a representative at the March 2 DONE meeting to represent our interests. Mr. Sanchez stated that he has appointed Mr. Pool to that position. The budget must be in process prior to April 15.

Second, the Orange Line construction is nearing completion and the community should begin to "integrate it into our lives." The third priority for the committee is the issue of maintaining the heritage of our community. And finally the committee will work on involving the youth of our community into the development of Valley Village. Mr. Paterson asked for an update on the letter to the MTA requesting that no route changes be

made to the Orange Line per the NCVV board vote at the January meeting. Mr. Sanchez and Dr. Wiseman are working together to draft the letter. Dr. Wiseman provided an update on the Orange Line progress. It was stated that the station at Laurel Canyon and Chandler will officially be named the Valley Village – Laurel Canyon station. Ms. Hatfield asked for the status of the prior approved action items given to the Long Term Projects Committee (before the committee was formed) and Mr. Sanchez agreed to review the minutes and report back to the full Board on the particular projects approved.

Agenda Item 7 – Ad Hoc Committee Report. Mr. Katz thanked all in attendance who were there with an interest in the ad hoc committee. He recognized the committee members who served, and he reported to the Board the details of the meetings that had been held, and the motions considered by the committee and the actions taken:

Motion #1 – “The ad hoc committee recommends that the zoning administrator approve the variance application for 5230 and 5230 ½ Laurel Canyon Boulevard without condition.” This motion failed 0 yes, 5 no, 1 abstain, 1 recusal.

Motion #2 – “If the Zoning Administrator approves the variance application, the ad hoc committee recommends that the following conditions be attached to the variance:

- a. acceptable sound levels*
- b. restricted hours of operation as stated in the applicant’s application*
- c. installment of litter abatement program in the vicinity of the location*
- d. recording of a parking covenant with the county recorder*
- e. periodic review by the appropriate city department(s).*

This motion passed 5 yes, 1 no, 1 recusal.

Motion #3 – “It is the sense of the committee that Kulak’s Woodshed is a unique cultural asset to the community. This motion passed 5 yes, 1 no, 1 recusal.

Mr. Sanchez thanked Mr. Katz for his work, and reviewed the procedure that the motions come to the Board for a vote. He asked for clarification on what “appropriate” means in the recommendation to the zoning administrator. Mr. Katz stated that the Committee went to “great pains” to not consider the approval of the variance, but to represent the feelings of the community on the issue. Mr. Paterson also said that the committee was not tasked with approving the variance, but instead to recommend conditions that should be met if the variance were approved. *Mr. Braswell motioned to accept the report of the committee. Mr. Simen seconded the motion.* Dr. Wiseman reminded the Board that we are not a judicial body, and took this opportunity to bring the issue to the community for any related input. *Mr. Simen clarified that the Board does not need to second an action brought forward by committee – it is presented as a motion with a second.*

Mr. Sanchez opened the floor to public comment.

Mr. Paul Kulak thanked the Board for spending so much time on the issue.

Mr. Charles Peyton stated that this is not a good precedent for the Board to set for the community; allowing approval of an illegal business. The ad hoc committee said it does not support the variance as it was submitted. The ad hoc committee then said if it was approved there are conditions that should be met. No business should be allowed to move into the community and operate illegally, and then apply for a variance to approve its' operation.

Mr. Andy Rigrod said that he was very impressed with the thoroughness of the committee.

Mr. Jim Britton had not comment.

Mr. Sanchez asked for a Board vote on the motion. *The motion was approved 11-0-3.*

Mr. Sanchez thanked the committee for their work.

Mr. Katz motioned to dissolve the ad hoc committee now that their report is complete.

Mr. Simen stated that there is no need for a formal motion to accomplish that.

A question from the audience was raised related to the videotaping and what would be done with the tapes? Mr. Sanchez explained that the meetings are governed by the Brown Act which allows audio and videotaping, and that this is being done by members of the community, not NCVV. There is no recording by any Board member of the meetings. The meeting notes are maintained by the secretary in the form of minutes.

Agenda Item 8 – Outreach. Breice Reiner presented the new NCVV newsletter, The Bridge. Mr. Sanchez thanked Ms. Reiner and Mr. Santoro for their hard work in accomplishing the effort. Ms. Reiner and Mr. Santoro opened a discussion related to distribution of the newsletter. Mr. Paterson asked for clarification, reminding the Board that each possible distribution has advantages and disadvantages. Ms. Hull stated that Valley Glen relies heavily on retail distribution. Mr. Braswell stated that the NCVV Board had secured a proposal from Walking Man for the last election. Ms. Reiner and Mr. Santoro stated that this is the first newsletter and “we need to get it right”. Mr. Sanchez asked when the newsletter would go out? It is ready now. Mr. O’Connor asked that the first issue be sent by first class mail. Mr. Paterson said that he has concerns about distribution to the rental community. Mr. Sanchez stated there are 22,000 mail recipients in Valley Village. Mr. Simen said the last Walking Man distribution did not go well; many homes were skipped. Dr. Wiseman reminded the Board that there is a much larger community than just residents, including businesses, schools and faith based organizations. Ms. Hull stated that particular attention must be paid to including condos and apartments. Mr. Sanchez stated that the distribution needs to be done before the next Board meeting. Mr. Santoro added that it is important to consider first class mailing.

Mr. O’Connor motioned that the distribution be done by first class mail. Ms. Hull seconded the motion. Mr. Hatfield stated that this is the most important outreach we have and will do. We should use all means of distribution that would be effective. Mr.

Sanchez asked if that were an amendment? Mr. Hatfield stated that the committee should be given a sufficient budget to use whatever means appropriate for distribution, and raised the proposed budget to \$6000. A question was raised about overlap of mailing. It was agreed that overlap would be acceptable in this instance. Mr. Paterson stated that he is working with Mr. Santoro and Ms. Reiner to identify possible mailing houses to help. Mr. Katz asked about bulk mail through the city? It was deemed too labor intensive based on the bulk mail for the 2004 NCVV election. Does the \$6000 include printing? No. *Mr. Hatfield asked that the motion be amended to state that Mr. Santoro and Ms. Reiner be given a maximum amount of \$10,000 to produce the newsletter, inclusive of printing and distribution. The motion was approved by a vote of 10-3-1.* Ms. Hull reminded the committee that a strategic mix of distribution would get The Bridge to the most people.

Mr. Sanchez closed discussion on The Bridge.

The Board and audience were reminded to visit myvalleyvillage.com for new updates and new information that has been added.

Agenda Item 8 – Planning and Land Use Committee. Mr. Paterson gave an overview of a meeting with he, Dan Wiseman, Peter Sanchez, Lori Dinkin and Wendy Greuel. Councilwoman Greuel was receptive to the idea that future projects proposed for Valley Village be passed through NCVV prior to approval. An interim control ordinance was requested with Dale Thrush present. It was stated that the interim control ordinance used by Sun Valley is not appropriate for Valley Village.

Planning and Land Use Committee met last week and all current projects at that time were in compliance. The committee is securing information from other areas related to interim control ordinances.

Mark Woershing was added to the Committee.

The city has refused to issue a specific plan report for the 5 unit complex at Hesby and Colfax. NCVV PLU continues to state that the site does not conform to the specific plan.

Mr. Sanchez thanked Mr. Paterson for the report, and reminded the committee that one of the most important issues he continues to be asked about is mansionization. He felt Ms. Greuel understands the issue. There were no questions for the chairman of the committee.

Agenda Item 10 – Other Items for Discussion per NCVV President. Jeff Sage presented the new concepts for the Valley Village gateway sign at Laurel Canyon and highway 101. He reviewed permitting for signage, landscaping. The city is studying the final costs and will reply to Mr. Sage regarding our possible need to participate financially in the project. Ms. Reiner asked if the city committed to consider NCVV requests for landscaping? Yes. Mr. Braswell asked what needs to be done to move this forward? The city has to answer some questions and decide where the money is coming

from before that can be answered. Mr. Sanchez added that there will probably be a need for additional financial support. Mr. Santoro asked if the landscaping would be handled by professionals? The city will be in charge of the sign installation as well as the landscaping. Ms. Hatfield asked if river rock will be maintained in the new plan? Yes.

Mr. Sanchez thanked Mr. Sage for his hard work and excellent presentation.

Agenda Item 9 – Liaison Reports. Mail was distributed by the Board President. Ms. Hatfield did not have further news to report on the high school based Peace event. Dr. Wiseman reminded the Board that the mayoral debate was upcoming, but cautioned that it only involved the five major candidates and not six others who are on the ballot. Mr. Hatfield reported that he will attend Laura Chick’s budget meeting on Saturday, February 26. Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Reiner will attend Councilwoman Greuel’s quarterly meeting Saturday February 26 for NC reps. Mr. Simen reported that the Board bylaw revisions have been formally approved.

Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda Items. Election procedures for student seat, Mr. Drachkovitch, Mr. Simen and Mr. Braswell. Bylaw revisions (8 year limit change to recognize those elected in an “odd” number year; change to allow any person elected to fill an unexpired term to fill the entire unexpired term). Beis Midrash (Ms. Newton). Outreach for NCVV community (Ms. Reiner and Mr. Drachkovitch). List of approved projects (Ms. Hatfield). For the April meeting, an outreach effort to the business community to encourage identification with Valley Village (Mr. Sanchez, Mr. Pool and Ms. Hull). Landscaping ordinance for the Valley Village business corridor (assigned to PLU).

Agenda Item 12 – Public Comment. There was no further public comment.

Agenda Item 13 – President’s Closing Comments. Mr. Sanchez noted that the meeting was adjourning 3 minutes early. He reminded the Board that the 2005 goal is to be a top 5 NC.

Agenda Item 14 – Adjournment. Dr. Wiseman motioned to adjourn, Mr. Paterson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57.