

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village  
Board Meeting  
06-23-04**

**Approved 07-28-04, 12-0**

The meeting was called to order by NCVV President Peter Sanchez at 6:31 pm.

Mr. Sanchez thanked Mr. O'Connor for his work with Ms. Reiner in securing the use of Colfax Elementary School for the NCVV summer meetings. He reminded the Board that all in attendance would need to remain behind to help clean up after the meeting was ended. A question was asked if the meeting still needed to end by 9:00 pm? Mr. Sanchez replied yes.

Mr. Sanchez thanked the public for their attendance and asked that they sign a speaker card if they wished to speak to any agenda item or any other issue during public comment.

Mr. Sanchez expressed his appreciation to the Board members for their continued hard work, and stated his desire that all Board members remain courteous in their dealing with each other. While there are many who wish to speak to each issue, time constraints require him to keep the agenda moving, so please be courteous to other Board members in the length of and content of comments on all issues.

**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. D. J. Harner (cultural organization)(arrived at 6:43 pm), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (community senior organization), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), Ms. Jody Hidey (residential homeowner), Mr. Walter Katz (residential renter), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Mr. Chris Pechin (residential homeowner), Mr. Nick Pool (business), Ms. Breice Reiner (community service organization), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Dr. Daniel Wiseman (faith based). Board members excused absent were Mr. Tom Paterson (residential renter) and Ms. Ann Hull (business representative).

Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to call the agenda posting roll for the May 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), yes; 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.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the April 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 Mr. Pechin. The minutes were approved by a vote of 12-0.*

**Agenda Item 3 – Chairman’s Comments, Introduction of Distinguished Guests.** Mr. Sanchez thanked Senior Lead Officer Manny Arreygue for joining the meeting. He mentioned that the Board was expecting representatives from Wendy Greuel’s and Zeb Yaroslavsky’s offices.

Mr. Pool asked if the meeting time could be added to the agenda. Mr. Sanchez asked the secretary to add the time to the agenda for future meetings.

**Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment on Agenda Items.** There were no public comments on Agenda items.

**Agenda Item 5 – Executive Committee Report.** Ms. Reiner provided an update on the effort to secure office space for NCVV. A meeting was conducted with NCVV, Midtown NC, Studio City NC and Toluca Lake NC at which the issue of office space at CBS was discussed. The current tenant in the space that CBS has committed to the NC’s has not vacated the space. At this time it will probably be August before the space is available to the four NCs. Mr. Pechin asked if the space was actually on CBS lot? Yes. Ms. Reiner stated that the space seemed very nice and reminded the Board that it had elected to participate in the space at this time, and if we found we did not need it we could vacate it later without any financial harm to the other NCs. Mr. Sanchez asked Ms. Reiner for clarification on the participating NCs – along with NCVV they are Midtown/North Hollywood, Studio City and Toluca Lake.

Ms. Hatfield asked if NCVV has stationery and cards yet? Mr. Sanchez replied no, that we are awaiting final design of the logo. Ms. Reiner stated that the logo should be completed in July.

**Agenda Item 6 – Request to Video Tape Meetings.** Mr. Sanchez reported that he has requested specific answers to four questions from Deanna Stevenson, DONE representative for NCVV. The questions are: 1. what notification is required in order to legally record meetings – including notification for Board members and the public; 2. does The Brown Act apply to our Board as we are volunteers and not paid employees of the City of Los Angeles; 3. how does this impact members of the Board who are associated with Unions that have specific rules governing the use of their images; and 4. is there guidance to help the NCVV Board ascertain and govern the use of the reproduced image?

Ms. Harner arrived at 6:43.

Ms. Stevenson replied to Mr. Sanchez that she will research the questions and provide feedback for Mr. Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez also found that NC Toluca Lake has voted to allow video taping and audio taping. The issue has never been raised with North Hollywood or Studio City NCs.

Mr. Katz volunteered to assist with exploring what legal issues are involved in this matter. Mr. Pool stated his concern about the "use" of the video tape, especially related to the vocation of the person who requested permission to tape the meeting.

Mr. Sanchez stated that the occupation of the person requesting permission to electronically record any meeting is not relevant to their request. Ms. Reiner asked if the NCVV Board is in a different position as volunteers than employees of the city? She stated that The Brown Act was created to bring transparency to the business of The City. She expressed concern that this issue was stepping on the Board member's right to privacy.

Dr. Wiseman stated that many neighborhood councils tape their meetings. He said there is very clear precedent in The Brown Act as we are unpaid public officials of The City. This goes right up there to the issue of free speech. He stated that he had contacted city officials for their opinion on this issue as well. Mr. Sanchez thanked Dr. Wiseman and other NCVV Board members who had called Ms. Greuel's office on this issue, and asked that the Board wait for the city's opinion.

Mr. Sanchez then stated that this brings up another issue – NCVV Board members shouldn't make multiple calls to the city on any issue. It was stated at the May meeting that Mr. Sanchez would follow up with The City on this issue, and that we should be cautious about placing multiple calls on any issue that might be under consideration by The Board. Mr. Sanchez asked the Board to allow him to complete the follow-up on the issue of recording meetings. Dr. Wiseman stated he would be happy to help Mr. Katz follow up on legal issues related to the matter. Mr. Sanchez noted that there are specific questions that DONE needs to answer (he restated the four questions he provided to Ms. Stevenson). Mr. Katz agreed to offer legal expertise as well.

**Agenda Item 7 – Treasurer's Report.** Mr. Hatfield reported to the Board that after the hard work of his committee and the Board to "jump through the many hoops" required to approve the encumbrance of funding, the city issued a statement that encumbrance was not required and withdrew their guidelines related to the request. The fourth quarter funding in question would remain with NCVV and did not need to be committed through an encumbrance. NCVV Board does need to approve a resolution to commit first quarter 2005 funding in the amount of \$12,500. *Mr. Hatfield made a motion to approve funding for the first quarter 2005 in the amount of \$12,500 to be allocated among Office Administration, Outreach and Beautification. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hidey.* Dr. Wiseman stated that these 3 areas are essentially our budget. He offered a friendly amendment that this motion include a budget to be formally prepared by the Treasurer. Mr. Hatfield stated that the report would be submitted to the city with a budget, within the template provided by the city, but not specify exact spending amounts in any category. He has very good financial information related to specific projects and felt that keeping the spending amounts flexible would not commit funds to any particular project and would allow the Board the maximum flexibility in spending the funding once it was approved. The action requested of the Board was to approve the resolution necessary to request the NCVV funding from The City. Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Hatfield if he

accepted the amendment, and Mr. Hatfield expressed his thought that the amendment might not be necessary. Dr. Wiseman withdrew the amendment.

The motion was approved 13-0.

Mr. Sanchez directed the Board to an article in Wednesday June 23 Daily News that discussed the city's funding allocation process. He gave the article to Mr. Hatfield.

Mr. Pool asked if NCVV currently has any funds? Yes. Mr. Pool asked if a financial summary could be provided to the Board at monthly meetings. Mr. Hatfield agreed that it would be beneficial to provide the reports beginning in July.

Mr. Hatfield then noted that he had formally expressed concern to the city finance department regarding the short notice that was given to NCs related to the encumbrance policy, and that the timing was not practical. He hoped that they would take the comments to heart next year.

Dr. Wiseman stated that there was feedback at the Tuesday June 22 City Council meeting and that it was agreed that not only was the encumbrance request unfair but also the timing was unfair as well. He noted that a discussion was held that reviewed some new ideas related to funding, including the possibility of implementing a two year cap.

Mr. Hatfield closed his presentation by noting an email he received Friday, June 18 that notified the Board of a hearing on the Mayor's budget. He asked for 2 or 3 persons to participate with him in the representation of NCVV. The question was asked if the Board needed to vote on who would be the persons serving with Mr. Hatfield in this effort? Mr. Sanchez stated the Board should discuss who is attending these budget meetings and what priorities they would convey on behalf of the Board. He reminded the Board of the funding priority survey conducted during the October 2003 election.

Dr. Wiseman suggested that the Board designate a specific person to represent NCVV at these meetings. Mr. Hatfield volunteered to fill that role, and Dr. Wiseman and Mr. Pool agreed to serve as alternate representatives.

*Mr. Simen made a motion that the Board designate Paul Hatfield to be NCVV representative to the Mayor's budget hearing, and that Mr. Pool and Dr. Wiseman serve as alternates. Mr. Pechin seconded. Ms. Reiner asked if the motion should be amended to add that the representative took their instruction from the NCVV Board? Mr. Simen accepted the amendment, adding that he believes any committee of the Board should take instruction from the Board, and felt that the amendment might not be necessary but would accept. The motion and amendment were approved 13-0.*

Mr. Katz expressed concern that there was vagueness in the language. Does this mean there must always be unanimous consensus on an issue? Mr. Hatfield stated no, and that the group would be a means for taking information to the Mayor and bringing information back to NCVV.

Mr. O'Connor asked if this needed to be an official (standing) committee? Mr. Simen stated that the prior vote actually did that for the Board. Mr. Hatfield reminded the Board that this committee could only give the Mayor input, as this was still the Mayor's budget process.

Mr. Sanchez noted to new members of the audience that they are welcomed to speak to any agenda item by completing a comment card and giving to any Board member.

**Agenda Item 8 – Web Site.** The website is moving along, and Mr. Ciccarelli should have a presentation at the July meeting. Mr. Sanchez stated that his email service would be changing and his new email address is [petermshancez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petermshancez@sbcglobal.net). He asked that anyone who sent information for the web site please resend it to his new email address as soon as possible. Ms. Hatfield asked how much the website would cost NCVV? \$0. Mr. Sanchez stated that Mr. Ciccarelli is a resident of Valley Village and was doing this as a volunteer. Mr. Sanchez also reminded the Board to keep their email addresses with the secretary up to date. Ms. Hatfield asked if the website could have a link to Neighborhood Watch. Mr. Arreygue said yes. Ms. Hidey stated that the Neighborhood Watch newsletter should be linked to the site, as should a review of crime statistics.

**Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports. Planning and Land Use.** Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that Mr. Paterson was not present, and that his committee report would be given in July.

**The Orange Line/MTA Update.** Dr. Wiseman introduced Ned Racine from MTA. He stated that there were several people who had promised to be at our meeting but noted none of them were present. He thanked Mr. Racine for attending. Dr. Wiseman distributed a letter that was sent to City Council, MTA and County Supervisors requesting that the Laurel Canyon station be named the Valley Village Station. He was told by Devon Brown that the decision was to be made by the MTA Board.

Mr. Sanchez added that he had been told that Ms. Greuel was in favor of this proposal. Mr. Pool mentioned that he spoke with Mark Van Gessel who confirmed "this would not be a problem, it should sail right through with our letter."

Dr. Wiseman asked Mr. Racine to give his presentation for the Board. The presentation was an update on the status of the Orange Line Project. Afterward Mr. Racine accepted questions from the Board and the audience.

Ms. Harner – What is the travel time from end to end? 35-40 minutes. Mr. O'Connor – Were the buses in the distributed packet designed for the Orange Line? Yes. Ms. Hatfield – Who is the manufacturer of the buses? North America Bus. Mr. Pechin – Are the buses diesel? No, natural gas. Dr. Wiseman – Are the buses handicapped accessible? Yes. Dr. Wiseman – Two questions – For the constituency I represent does final proposal include the sidewalk between Chandler and Ethel, and pedestrian intersections have always been a problem in that our neighbors have crossed the tracks and will no

longer be able to do this – we need an outreach to the community related to these changes. Mr. Racine invited Dr. Wiseman and the full Board to look at the conceptual plans he provided that detailed the full construction project. Mr. Simen – What is the width of the buses? 13' in each lane. Bus lane is 26'.

Mr. Racine thanked the Board for the opportunity to present, and Mr. Sanchez thanked him for taking time to do the detailed presentation.

Dr. Wiseman added that there would be a landscape meeting in the very near future, and reminded the Board of our stated goal to make the Valley Village section of the Orange Line look as beautiful as the section after Ethel.

Mr. Pechin left at 7:45.

Dr. Wiseman distributed The Orange Line: Analysis & Recommendations from the NCVV Ad-Hoc Committee. Mr. Sanchez pointed out that on page four there are specific recommendations related to the project and its impact on Valley Village.

Ms. Donna Gooley, resident of Valley Village, stated that there are 2 signal lights at Laurel Canyon where the wiring is very bad. It is not secure and hangs down such that it can be reached by someone standing on the ground. She tried to call her City Council office and they would not return her call. Mr. Racine took Ms. Gooley's number and agreed to speak with her directly regarding the matter.

**Signature Event.** Ms. Harner stated that all elements are in place to successfully host Valley Village movies in the park. The lone exception is that the parks department denied the application to use the park, based on the issue of amplified sound. Wendy Greuel's office stated they would help but have not done so. There is a new staff member who promised to contact Ms. Harner on Thursday "without fail". The committee is looking at other possible venues for the event, including using an athletic field at one of the schools. The Presbyterian Church has offered their auditorium to host the event. Several Board members expressed concern at hosting the event in a private venue not managed by The City of Los Angeles.

Ms. Hatfield asked what was the specific objection that caused the denial? Ms. Harner explained that amplified sound is the issue, and that there are several residents in our part of the valley, not all in Valley Village, who are constantly complaining about noise. She gave the pool pump at the North Hollywood pool as an example. To get around the objection the Parks Department asked Ms. Harner to obtain consent signatures from any home within five houses of the park.

Mr. Simen stated he felt there were significant liability issues with using the park. If anyone gets hurt, before during or after the event, there could be legal action. Ms. Harner stated that the city insurance would cover the legal issues. Mr. Harner stated that if the event were held in an auditorium there could still be an activity before in the park. Ms. Reiner advised that she had met with Reverend Clark related to other NCVV business

and that he and his congregation were very interested in becoming more involved with NCVV. He will be presenting to the Homeowners Association in July.

Mr. Sanchez thanked Ms. Reiner and Ms. Harner for their research, but advised he felt personally the event should be held on city property. Mr. Simen and Mr. O'Connor agreed. Ms. Hatfield asked if the Committee would consider post-poning the event until September, and give the Board some time to assist Ms. Harner with the approval process. Ms. Harner and Mr. Braswell will follow up.

Mr. Hatfield reminded all Board members with pending projects that they should not commit funds to any group before they meet with him. Ms. Hidey noted that the City of Burbank has a movie night at IKEA and it is very successful. Dr. Wiseman stated that he favors using one of our local schools. He added that Coastal San Pedro has a "new" serious problem in that they are making money on their movie night, and there is no clear guidance from DONE on what to do if a NC because making money.

Mr. Sanchez asked Dr. Wiseman to secure a name for Ms. Harner to call to help with the appeals process.

**Neighborhood Watch.** Ms. Hidey thanked Officer Arreygue for coming to the meeting. She is meeting with him on July 6 at 6:00 pm at the North Hollywood Police Station to discuss plans for National Night Out. The evening is August 3. It has not been very successful in Valley Village. They are considering suggestions to boost participation, including blue porch lights, and distribution of Neighborhood Watch signs. Ms. Hull has suggested to Ms Hidey in her committee meeting that NCVV consider customizing the Neighborhood Watch signs posted in Valley Village. She asked for help with the wording that would customize the signs. NCVV originally planned to purchase 250 signs, but Officer Arreygue stated we only need 50. We currently have \$4100 budgeted for signage, and we could customize the signs and lower the amount purchased and stay well within the budget. Mr. Sanchez asked Ms. Hidey to look into the cost of purchasing blue light bulbs.

Mr. Sanchez also stated that he recently heard a radio advertisement for Neighborhood Watch that stated the success of another city in using donated remote radio for neighborhood patrols. This is clearly being done successfully elsewhere, and he offered to follow up with more specific details for the Committee. Mr. O'Connor asked if there were any statistics that proved that NW signs work (to reduce crime)? Officer Arreygue stated yes, as did Ms. Hidey.

Mr. Braswell asked if there could be a mass distribution or mailing before the event, possibly door hangers? Ms. Simen reminded the Board that door hangers are not particularly effective for apartments.

Ms. Harner stated that in her research for the Signature Event she had identified a company that would distribute information to all of Valley Village for \$572. Mr. O'Connor advised that his experience was that it is more effective to stamp and mail to

an existing listing of addresses. Mr. Sanchez agreed, and cautioned against using bulk mailing. *Mr. Braswell motioned to allow Ms. Hidey's committee to identify a manner to communicate National Night Out (mailing or other) to residents of Valley Village and present to Mr. Hatfield for funding. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hatfield. Motion was approved 12-0.*

**Soundwall.** Mr. Pechin had to leave the meeting early but will be presenting a soundwall summary at the July meeting.

**Agenda Item 10 - Board Liaison Reports.** Ms. Hidey asked for a summary sheet showing who the liaisons are for NCVV. Mr. Braswell will provide to the full Board.

Ms. Hatfield stated that The Senior Expo will be held October 3 at Westfield Mall, and asked that NCVV be a sponsor of the event at the non-profit rate of \$95. *She motioned that the NCVV Board approve sponsorship of NCVV for the event at \$95 and staff an exhibitor booth from 11-5 on October 3. Motion was seconded by Mr. Simen. The motion was approved 12-0.*

Mr. Braswell raised the recent issue of email lists being declared public information by the city attorney's office. Dr. Wiseman stated that the issue had been raised by neighbors in Van Nuys, specifically by Jim Alger. The questions involved were what can Neighborhood Councils do with mailing lists, and how are they to be used properly and by whom? The city attorney is investigating and will release a formal opinion. One of the immediate findings has been that NC's can't protect stakeholder information maintained in their electronic data base. Mr. Katz stated that if DONE is this concerned they should advise us on the wording that should be posted at all meetings to advised the public about the use of email addresses. This is outside the purview of the NCVV Board.

Mr. Simen asked what would happen if a Board member left the Board, would their email address come off the city web site – this has not been done very quickly in the past. Mr. Katz again stated that this should be handled by the City Attorney. Mr. Sanchez asked if any Board action was needed? Dr. Wiseman stated that this will be an issue any time the Board does outreach to the community. Ms. Hatfield felt the NCVV Board should state that we are formally interested in this issue. Dr. Wiseman agreed to be the point person on the issue to the city.

**Agenda Item 11 – Proposal for one-half Cent Sales Tax.** Ms. Hatfield stated that last week County Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office asked that the Board of Supervisors add this issue to their agenda to be put before the public for a vote. By the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors Ms. Hatfield would like to have a presentation for NCVV Board on the pros/cons related to this issue. Mr. Pool appreciated the effort but felt it would be detrimental to the NCVV Board if we take a stand on this. No matter the position we take we will make someone unhappy. Mr. O'Connor felt it was still important to hear a presentation on the issue, restricted to the pros/cons. Ms. Reiner offered to contact the League of Women Voters as they have a very good reputation for presenting unbiased information on issues like this and presenting thorough accounts of both sides.



Mr. Sanchez stated he is favor of a presentation. Mr. Katz noted that he is not in favor of taking a position on this or any issue that is political, and that it would be wise to host an event that offered a forum for people to learn about the issue. Dr. Wiseman reminded the Board of the pending issue of Inclusionary Zoning which still must be addressed by the NCVV Board. He felt that the Board should consider a program committee that would provide informational services to our community.

Mr. Pool stated there are numerous forums on these political issues, and again cautioned that he felt it was inappropriate for NCVV to get into political issues. Dr. Wiseman stated he was not encouraging that NCVV get involved but encouraging that we promote information and getting out the vote related to political issues. Mr. Simen stated that if the objective is to get out the vote then our objective is to find the people who can't get out and help them to vote. We are a quasi-city agency and we can't take stands on these issues.

Ms. Reiner stated that there should be a future debate about how we want to aim our interests, and that there is good opinion on both sides. She agreed with Mr. Pool that we should be cautious about taking positions on issues. She advised that we follow more closely what we were originally chartered to do and go with that until we have more experience in our work. Ms. Hidey concurred, and stated that no matter how non-partisan we try to be we will need to be very careful of the perception that we are taking a stand on any issue. Our mission statement is the focus of what we should do – and we are still somewhat “green” at this.

Mr. Simen reminded the Board that NCVV must hold an election in October. Ms. Hatfield asked that the discussion on this issue (position on political issues) be postponed to the next meeting.

**Agenda Item 12 – Public Comment Portion of the NCVV Agenda.** In Mr. Paterson's absence, Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that Mr. Paterson wanted to talk about the placement of public comment on the monthly Board agenda. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that the public is invited to speak freely for two minutes on any issue at the beginning and end of the agenda, and if they complete a speaker's card, can speak to any specific agenda item as it is raised by the Board for review.

**Agenda Item 13 – Other Items for Discussion.** Mr. Sanchez asked Mr. Simen to review the issue of October elections. Mr. Simen and Mr. Braswell reviewed the recently distributed guidelines for election from DONE, and reminded the Board that the Homeowners (3), Education Representative (1), Cultural Representative (1), Community Senior Representative (1), Faith Based (1) and Community Service Representative (1) must run for re-election. Mr. Simen was advised by Mr. Katz that he felt it would be inappropriate to ask publicly the intent of all those who are eligible to be re-elected, and Mr. Simen agreed to do so personally after the meeting. *Mr. Braswell motioned that a plan be completed for the July meeting that assigns Mr. Simen the task of chairing the*

*election and asks the League of Women Voter's to govern, and adheres to the guidelines as submitted by DONE. Mr. Pool seconded the motion. The motion was approved 12-0. Ms. Hatfield volunteered to help with the election.*

**Agenda Item 14 – Future Agenda Items.** Mr. Pool asked that maintenance of city owned bus stops be added. Ms. Harner asked that Reverend Clark be allowed to address the Board. Ms. Hatfield asked if we could have a discussion on the gateway sign to Valley Village. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that Mr. Pechin would provide a soundwall update. Dr. Wiseman asked for a discussion on Inclusionary Zoning.

**Agenda Item 15 – Adjournment.** *A motion was made by Ms. Hatfield to adjourn, and seconded by Ms. Hidey. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.*