

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
3-23-05**

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order by NCVV President Peter Sanchez at 6:35 pm.

Mr. Sanchez reviewed the agenda. He 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), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (community based senior), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), Ms. Ann Hull (business), Ms. Harriet Newton (faith based), 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). Excused absent were Dr. Alan Brody (residential homeowner), Mr. Michael Drachkovitch (student representative), and Mr. Walter Katz (residential renter).

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

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes. Mr. Simen motioned to approve the December minutes, Ms. Hull seconded the motion. Approved 12-0.

Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment. There was one member of the audience who asked to address a specific agenda item and Mr. Sanchez asked that she speak during that agenda item. There was no other public comment.

Agenda Item 5 - Finance Committee Report. Mr. Hatfield presented the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, incorporating the current finances into the report. The Bridge was budgeted for \$3600. He recommended that the expenses related to Neighborhood Night Out be accelerated to move them into this fiscal year. He asked all Board members to send budgets for any approved projects so that the expenses could be incorporated into the budget. Mr. Braswell asked if the expenses for the Gateway sign have been projected into the budget? No. *Ms. Hull motioned, with second from Stuart Simen and accepted amendment from Ginny Hatfield, that expenses not exceed \$5,000 in total expense per issue of The Bridge, accepted amendment from Paul Hatfield that the motion be applied to the remaining quarter of the fiscal year and revisited in the 2006 fiscal budget, and approved 12-0-0.*

Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment. Ms. Randye Sandel expressed her concern related to building oversized houses in Valley Village, and stated there is a passionate effort to develop homes within the context of good taste for residential development in the area. She contacted Bonnie Kopp and got no response and would like to ask NCVV for help.

Mr. Sanchez stated that this would be reviewed further on agenda item 7.

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

Agenda Item 6 – The River Project. A presentation was made by Melanie Winter, Executive Director of the organization. The objectives are to increase groundwater recharge, optimize water reuse, improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat and create recreational opportunities. Their phone number is 818-980-9660, web site is theriverproject.org. Ms. Hull asked that the group remember the lack of running trails and pedestrian areas and parks in the Tujunga basin. Mr. Hatfield stated that as a member of Lake Tahoe League he can validate the importance of drainage design. Angela Moda was introduced from Mayor Hahn's office. She announced that the Mayor's office has established the Environmental Affairs and Sustainability to promote green areas and sustainable growth. Mr. Paterson noted that a median on Laurel Canyon similar to the one on Ventura would help the aquifer. Ms. Hatfield asked if one of the goals was to de-concrete the LA River? Yes. Mr. Sanchez asked if any NCVV Board member should serve on the River Project committee? Yes. Mr. Hatfield would like to do this but will miss the first two meetings.

Agenda Item 7 – Elections. Ms. Hatfield is working with Mr. Simen on bylaw revisions, and has tentatively scheduled a meeting for the election committee to begin work on the 2005 elections. There is a new schedule from DONE requiring 120 day planning period.

Mr. Sanchez stated that two of the three current committee members will run for re-election in October so the committee needs new Board members.

Agenda Item 7 – Limited Projects. Mr. Santoro presented the report from the first meeting of the Limited Projects Committee (attached). They are finalizing a proposal for freeway entrance/exit beautification and artwork for underpasses. Mr. Paterson reminded the Board that CalTrans must give permission for any work related to the underpasses. Mr. Sanchez asked that any other ideas be forwarded to Mr. Santoro.

Ms. Hatfield gave an update on the student outreach Teens Choose Peace. Will be held at North Hollywood High School April 16.

Agenda Item 7 – Long Term Projects. Dr. Wiseman reported on the list of projects under review by his committee – Soundwalls, Water Management, Five Year Tree Planting Plan and the Mayor’s Budget Process. They also remain involved with The Orange Line. Related to the Orange Line the committee is still working to pressure MTA to include more consideration for walking paths/sidewalks in the Valley Village portion of the Orange Line, and respect the needs of the Orthodox community. Dr. Wiseman distributed for Board signature a letter asking for more consideration of pedestrians along the Chandler corridor. Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Hatfield asked that the full Board have time to review the letter for formal action at a later meeting. The request was postponed.

Mr. Sanchez followed up informing the Board that the motion from NCVV February meeting to send a letter regarding route 156 was done. There was a letter in the Daily News that indicates the changes suggested to route 156 will be adopted.

Agenda Item 7 – Outreach. Ms. Reiner reported that The Bridge went out and was very well received. Feedback has been great, and delivery seemed to be very successful. The next issue will be going out soon and Board members were encouraged to author articles. Mr. Braswell proposed a welcome packet for new residents of Valley Village that would include a copy of the The Bridge and other information related to NCVV and LA City services. Mr. Pool will help get business information for the packets.

Agenda Item 7 – Planning and Land Use. Mr. Paterson reported that The Bridge triggered an email response to the issue of mansionization that has invoked a call from Dale Thrush for a Town Hall meeting to discuss the issue. Once the date is received the Board should host a formal meeting related to mansionization. Much will relate to the Specific Plan, which has been sitting in city offices for four years pending approval. Mr. Paterson requested that funds be allocated to advertise the meeting once the date is set. *He motioned for \$3000 to be used to announce and publicize the Town Hall meeting. Ms. Hull seconded and amended the motion to \$3700, to match the amount spent on an issue of The Bridge. The motion was approved 12-0.*

Dr. Wiseman cautioned about what the meeting is called (Town Hall meeting). A discussion was held about the format for and name of the meeting. It was determined that the meeting would be a formal meeting of the Board (a called special meeting) and that it would be a Community Forum. *Mr. Paterson motioned that there be a special called meeting of the Planning and Land Use Committee to address the issues. After extensive discussion there was no second. Ms. Hull motioned that NCVV call a special meeting of the Board to address the issue. Mr. O’Connor seconded. Ms. Deanna Stevenson advised the Board on DONE’s position on hosting such a meeting. The motion was approve 9-2-1.* Mr. Sanchez noted the extensive discussion and advised the committee that if they are going to have a meeting on April 28, they have much to do.

Agenda Item 7 – Volunteer Opportunities. Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Reiner distributed a report on volunteer opportunities for NCVV and how they fit into committee structure (attached).

Ms. Newton reported on a request from Beit Midras on Chandler to get sidewalks on their section of the road. Mr. Paterson will follow up with his committee – there might be ownership issues.

Agenda Item 8 – Board Liaison Reports and Materials for Distribution. Mr. Sanchez distributed Board mail. There is a request for NCVV Board to be represented on the issue of animal welfare. Mr. Sanchez reported on a meeting with Mayor Hahn about city management of land use. Ms. Hatfield commended DASH services connecting seniors.

Mr. Pool attended the Mayor’s budget conference. Mr. Hatfield will attend a meeting on April 26th with DONE and Laura Chick about budgeting. Mr. Sanchez will attend a meeting March 24 related to the \$100,000 offered by Mayor Hahn’s office for street maintenance.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items. Colfax Spring Fair, Mr. O’Connor. LAPD Golf fundraiser will be April 4. Rain damage to Valley Village roads, Ms. Hull.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Comments. There were no other comments.

Agenda Item 12 – President’s Closing Comments. Mr. Sanchez thanked the Board for their hard work and reminded that much need to be done to prepare for the Community Forum.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment. Mr. Simen motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Hull seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.