

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village  
Board Meeting  
11-30-05**

**Draft**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution and Welcoming Remarks.** The meeting was called to order by Peter Sanchez at 6:45 pm.

Mr. Sanchez welcomed the Board and stakeholders in attendance. He mentioned the difficulty of the date and expressed his appreciation to all in the audience and on the Board for being at the meeting. A brief history and purpose of Neighborhood Councils was given. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that the elections still have not been certified and that until they are, the current Board would maintain their seats. He advised 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 (business), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (senior based organization), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at-large), Ms. Harriet Newton (faith based), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Bill Santoro (residential homeowner), Dr. Dan Wiseman (cultural). Excused absent were Ms. Breice Reiner, Mr. Tom Paterson, Mr. Stuart Simen (business). Absent was Ms. Ann Hull (business), Mr. Walter Katz (residential renter), Mr. Nick Pool (business owner)

The Posting Roll was called – posting requirements for the meeting were met (7).

Mr. Sanchez recognized and introduced the four Board members-elect in the audience; Mr. Paul Weiner, Mr. Ben Lautman, Mr. Johnathan Kahnrose, and Mr. Morris "Fritz" Friedman.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes.** *Dr. Wiseman motioned to approve the October minutes, Mr. Santoro seconded the motion. Approved 8-0-0.*

**Agenda Item 5 – 2005 Election Results.** Mr. Sanchez reviewed the 2005 NCVV Election results, and the results of the recount. Both should soon be posted on the web site. Elected to the Board were Paul Hatfield-at large (354), Ben Lautman-business owner (352), Fritz Friedman-business owner (364), Stuart Simen-business owner (345), Jonathan Kahn-Rose-renter (395), Tony Braswell- renter (404) and Paul Weiner-renter (404). Mr. Sanchez explained that there has not been resolution to 6 challenges filed related to the election, and until those are settled the election cannot be certified. A letter has been sent to NCVV asking for 15 additional days to investigate the challenges.

**Agenda Item 3 –** Mr. Sanchez introduced Chris Olsen from Wendy Greuel's office.

**Agenda Item 6 – Finance Report.** Mr. Paul Hatfield presented a summary of NCVV financials and a petty-cash/debit card reconciliation (attached). Mr. Hatfield recommended that there be an allocation of the remaining \$900 in Outreach funds already approved by The City. Mr. Santoro asked if the money could be spent now. Yes. Mr. Friedman asked if current unspent allocations impact the next allocation? No. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that only Board members may be reimbursed for approved expenses that are related to NCVV business. Not committee members. Dr. Wiseman asked if the expenses could be retroactive and how far? No limit, but Mr. Hatfield does not wish to accept anything older than 2 years. He would also take a hard look at anything over one year. He believes we should be reasonable- he does not want anyone to personally absorb acceptable expenditures. It is imperative that receipts with explanations be submitted in all cases. If the purpose of the outlay cannot be determined, reimbursement will be denied.

**Agenda Item 7 – Mayor’s Budget Questionnaire.** Mr. Sanchez introduced Deanna Stevenson from DONE. She spoke regarding the Mayor’s budget questionnaire. She reviewed the importance of feedback from stakeholders and Board members in the process. Dr. Wiseman stated that most Board members had received and returned their surveys. He advised the board that the budget revolves around 4 priorities – public safety, neighborhood issues, transportation and all others. The city budget is \$6 billion, and the charter requires that all NC’s be asked for their priorities in the budget process. Ms. Hatfield asked who is representing NCVV in the budget process? Mr. Hatfield and Dr. Wiseman. Ms. Stevenson distributed additional questionnaires and Mr. Braswell agreed to put a summary of Board input together and forward to Ms. Stevenson.

**Agenda Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports - Outreach.** Mr. Sanchez reported for Ms. Reiner. The meeting was held November 28<sup>th</sup>. There has been progress on the welcome sign at Laurel Canyon and 101 Freeway. Still have no construction date for installation and some discussion is still going on related to who will pay for the expense. Mr. Olsen added that the design has been approved, and that the costs are higher than anticipated. The street services team has been given approval to install the new design and must wait until there is space on their schedule to do this. It was noted that there is another committee working on the other Valley Village entry point. Discussion about plants led to agreement that there will be minor changes made in partnership with Stevens Nursery.

*A motion came from the committee, read by Mr. Robert Pine, for NCVV to help sponsor an event with the Valley Village Homeowners Association in winter, similar to the community based 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. At this time those in charge are exploring options that include a seated meal. They only seek approval of the concept. There was discussion about other opportunities, admission charges, etc. Ms. Mary Preston expressed concern that charging admission would not be appropriate to the entire community. Mr. Lautman stated that the concept was good, and suggested that adding a tribute to the troupes abroad might make the event more meaningful to all. Ms. Dinkin noted that the menu would allow all of our community to participate. Dr. Wiseman asked*

if there were a date established? February 25. *The question was called and the motion was approved 8-0-0.*

**Agenda Item 8 – Standing Committees – Elections.** Ms. Hatfield had no further report.

**Agenda Item 8 – Standing committees – Short Term Projects.** Nothing to report but there will be a substantial report at the December meeting.

**Agenda Item 8 – Standing committees – Long Term Projects.** Dr. Wiseman reiterated the importance of the Budget process - \$6 billion in the total budget, \$1 billion for operating expenses and over 36,000 employees. Mr. Braswell asked Ms. Stevenson to clarify how the input from NC's would be used – is it better to send individually or composite? She did not know. Mr. Friedman asked how cumbersome last year's process was? Mr. Sanchez noted that it was more complicated and involved spreadsheets provided by the Mayor's office. There was extensive discussion on how best to respond. It was decided that Board members should send in their individual responses, and that Mr. Braswell would also accept a fax of Board member responses and compile for the December Board meeting. Mr. Braswell will send out a scan copy of the survey.

Soundwalls are still in limbo according to Dr. Wiseman. The Orange Line has been a great success, with ridership exceeding expectation. Sidewalks on Chandler Boulevard are progressing as an issue. Several key parts of Chandler that do not have sidewalks were noted by Dr. Wiseman, and three in particular were mentioned as goals of the committee to have paved. The Long Term Projects Committee felt the Board should step in and provide “seed” money to help this happen. *A motion was forwarded to provide a certain amount of money to be allocated as seen funding to stimulate the completion of sidewalks along Chandler, specifically at Wilkinson, from Morella to Carpenter, and Ben to Gentry.* Mr. Braswell asked if there is a specific amount being requested? No. It is however approximately \$50-\$100 per linear foot of sidewalk. Mr. Santoro stated he is in full support of the concept of complete sidewalks, but not sure this can be done with seed funding. Ms. Newton asked if this is an appropriate expenditure? Yes per Mr. Hatfield. Dr. Brody felt the motion might be too open ended without an exact amount requested. Mr. Friedman expressed concern related to other issues such as prioritization, liability, etc. *Mr. Sanchez asked for a second to the motion. Hearing none the motion failed for lack of a second.* Mr. Braswell noted that the Committee should hear that the Board supports the concept, but wants more details before taking action. *Dr. Wiseman re-introduced the motion with a request to allocate \$2500 for general funds to support the construction of sidewalks. There was no second; as such the motion failed.*

Further discussion on the sidewalk issue was held. It was felt that the concept was strong, but execution of the idea must be carefully considered. Priorities of selection, management of process, total funds allocated were all discussed. Mr. Friedman suggested writing a very forceful letter related to the issue to the City. Dr. Wiseman stated that would be helpful.

**Agenda Item 8 – Standing committees – Planning and Land Use.** Mr. Sanchez noted that the Committee Chair has resigned and the next meeting will be in December. The meeting is always held the second Wednesday of the month.

**Agenda Item 9 – Liaison Reports.** Ms. Hatfield reviewed a meeting sponsored by The City of Los Angeles on sex trafficking. She reviewed how serious the problem is in Los Angeles, how it impacts women and children, and suggested that it be a topic for discussion at a future NCVV Board meeting.

Dr. Wiseman will represent NCVV at the DWP hearing related to a memorandum of understanding to raise water rates 3-5% over the next 5 years.

Van Nuys City Hall has opened. Mr. Sanchez stated that there is office space available that could be useful for NCVV offices on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. He is investigating the opportunity.

**Agenda Item 10 – Neighborhood Council Congress.** Dr. Wiseman reviewed the materials sent to all Board members related to the movement to establish and Congress of Neighborhood Councils. This is allowed in the city charter. It would supplement the NC structure and give a clearing communication link to city hall. It will also provide a focal point where city departments can access NC's. There have been 15 NC's who have approved this action. When 20 Neighborhood Councils approve the process it is activated under city charter. *Dr. Wiseman motioned that Neighborhood Council Valley Village move to ratify the concept of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Congress. Mr. Braswell seconded the motion.* Mr. Hatfield appreciated the improvement in communication this might bring but expressed his concern about resources that might be allocated to this body away from individual Neighborhood Councils. Mr. Sanchez clarified that this vote supports only the concept, not a commitment of resources. *The motion was approved 5-2-1.*

**Agenda Item 10 – Other Items for Discussion Per Mr. Sanchez.** Mr. Sanchez noted that there is a conflict with the scheduled date of the December meeting. *It was motioned by Harriet Newton and seconded by Mr. Braswell that the December meeting be held December 21. The motion was approved 7-1-0.*

Mr. Sanchez informed the Board that the NoHo Police Department has asked NCVV to support a walk/run to raise funds and awareness in the area. Toluca Lake and North Hollywood NC's are being asked to be involved as well. Mr. Hatfield asked who will benefit? North Hollywood Youth Fund. Can we add our name to the event? Yes.

Dr. Wiseman reminded the Board of upcoming editions of Your Neighborhood Council.

**Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment.** Lori Dinkin commented on the proposed storage unit for Laurel Canyon. There is a concern on the part of the Homeowners Association that the wording in the agreement has been changed; instead of gates there are now

fences and there is a change in the “Q” condition. There has been no response from the PLUM committee, and there has not been a posted time of the next meeting. She requested a \$75 contribution from NCVV to help support holiday baskets given by LAPD to families in need. Concern was expressed about the number of trees in the gateway island and the slow progress of the completion of the project. Also noted was the accident where the car went off 170 freeway and into the residential area below. It was requested by Ms. Dinkin that careful thought be given to financial commitment to sidewalks – this might open a “pandora’s box” for future funding. What happened to the Neighborhood Watch signs? Mr. Sanchez stated that over half of them have been put up.

*Dr. Brody motioned and Ms. Newton seconded that NCVV contribute \$75 to help purchase holiday baskets from North Hollywood Police Department. The motion was amended to ask the Treasurer for compliance that this is an appropriate allocation of funds. The motion was approved 8-0-0.*

Ms. Hatfield noted that Mr. Paterson is a member of the NCVV Planning and Land Use Committee and could represent NCVV before the PLUM committee on the issue raised by Ms. Dinkin. *Ms. Hatfield motioned and Dr. Brody seconded that Mr. Paterson represent NCVV on the issue before PLUM. It was amended that Mr. Paterson must agree to serve in this capacity and that this should be relevant only to this particular issue. The motion was approved 8-0-0.*

Mr. John Mozzer asked if the agendas could be posted at libraries? Yes. Mr. Braswell will add libraries to the list of distribution for agendas. Mr. Mozzer will ask the head of the library if this would be appropriate.

**Agenda Item 13 – President’s Closing Comments.** There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.