

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
9-27-06**

Draft

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order by Peter Sanchez at 6:56 pm.

Mr. Sanchez provided an explanation of the role of Neighborhood Council as well as the history of Neighborhood Council Valley Village. Anyone who wished to speak to any issue on the agenda was encouraged to complete a speaker card. It was noted that the meeting would be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and within the guidelines of The Brown Act.

The roll was called. Board members present were: Mr. Tony Braswell (residential renter), Mr. Fritz Friedman (business), Ms. Ginny Hatfield (senior based), Mr. Paul Hatfield (at large), Mr. Ben Lautman (business), Ms. Harriet Newton (faith based), Mr. Greg O'Connor (education), Mr. Peter Sanchez (residential homeowner), Mr. Bill Santoro (residential homeowner), Mr. Stuart Simen (business), Mr. Paul Wiener (residential renter). Absent were Dr. Alan Brody (residential homeowner), Mr. Yoni Kahn-Rose (renter), Ms. Vanessa Lopez (student), Ms. Breice Reiner (community service). The Posting Roll was called – posting requirements were met (7).

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of August Minutes. *Mr. Ben Lautman motioned to approve the August minutes, Mr. Bill Santoro seconded the motion. The August 23 minutes were approved 7-0-0.*

Agenda Item 3 - President's Comments, Introduction of Guests. Mr. Sanchez recognized Leyla Campos, DONE Project Coordinator for Valley Village. She reminded the Board of the Mayor's Day of Service. Also reminded the Board of the Mayor's Budget Survey which is available on-line (DONE's website) for all Board members to complete. She asked that the Board designate representatives to be part of the 2007 Budget process. The deadline is November 15.

Ms. Campos informed the Board that she will be relocating positions within the City, and introduced the new Project Coordinator, Taneda Larios. Ms. Larios thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with them, and gave her email address taneda.jordan@lacity.org and her phone number (818-374-9892). Ms. Hatfield asked if the change was effective immediately? Yes.

Mr. Sanchez introduced Nancy Hernandez from Councilwoman Wendy Greuel's office. She announced the upcoming safety fair, distributed recycling bins information.

Charlotte Laws was introduced as the new Valley representative to the City of Los Angeles 912 Commission. She encouraged the Board to contact her as she undertakes this task. There will be two public forums – October 30 in Reseda and November 30 at the Van Nuys City Hall. www.talking912commission.com for more information.

Agenda Item 4 – Process for Reconsideration. There will be a future discussion on this request from an NCVV stakeholder.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment on Agenda Items. No comment cards from the public were submitted.

Agenda Item 9 – Parking of Trucks and Trailers on Residential Streets. Mr. Santoro introduced the discussion, mentioning that there have been concerns expressed regarding a transport truck that parks on his street and adjacent streets after hours, for extended periods of time. The truck is large, noisy and seems to be commercial and should not be parked in a residential area.

Mr. John Curtain from the City attended the meeting to address the issue. The truck probably falls into a gray area; and unless it exceeds a certain height/length limit, or is labeled for commercial use, could be able to park in the neighborhood. He encouraged Board members to advise Stakeholders to contact 311 if they have concerns about any traffic/parking violations. He also gave the communications center number – 818-752-5100 and option #2 for Board members to use. Another number that might be contacted is the Division office, 818-756-8438. The Captain's name is Emma Walker. A final number is an evening contact number 818-756-8405. There should be someone at one of these numbers 24 hours per day who can assist. John's email is johncurtain@lacity.org.

Mr. Santoro asked that the Board consider a motion to amend the city ordinance establishing the municipal code that governs parking. Mr. Hatfield asked that the issue have some further discussion before action is taken so that more facts can be known by the Board. Mr. Lautman stated that it would be helpful to find out what other neighborhoods have done regarding this issue. Mr. Sanchez recommended that this be forwarded to the Long Term or Short Term Projects Committee for their next agenda. He noted that their next meeting is a combined meeting. Mr. Curtain was asked if any restrictions would be "trumped" by special permits that might be acquired? Yes.

Agenda Item 9 – Planning and Land Use. Mr. O'Connor announced two vacancies on the PLU Committee. Mr. Dave Gruner has resigned, and Mr. Tom Paterson has resigned.

There was a presentation regarding 11941-55 Magnolia Boulevard. The request is to remove 2 apartment buildings that currently exist and build a 96 unit condominium complex. There are no exceptions to the Specific Plan requested for the project.

A motion was brought forward to accept the plan as presented.

Mr. O'Connor was asked who approved the proposal? PLU Committee. A resident who lives on Weddington expressed concern that the height and scope of the project would impede a current view. Mr. O'Connor explained the PLU process, that involves vetting proposals as they comply to the Specific Plan. Aesthetics, while very important to the Committee and Board, are often out of the purview of the Committee. Mr. Sanchez reminded the stakeholder that the Board functions in an advisory capacity to the City and the requests regarding density change must be approved by the City.

The developer explained that he and the owner are requesting a density change to merge two zoning areas, and R4 and and R3, to spread the present density over the entire property. The developer feels that will allow for a more visually pleasing construction. Mr. Lautman asked how this has been received by the neighbors? There has only been one call from Lori Dinkin. Mr. Hatfield asked about the condition of the buildings that will be torn down? They were built in 1950 and need to be re-conditioned. The cost of maintaining would be very high, and they are not earthquake conforming. Ms. Hatfield asked if the new residents have been told and offered assistance? Yes, through the LA City Housing office. No complaints have been made to the owner. Ms. Hatfield asked how many residents would be displaced? 36. Will they be offered assistance? Yes.

Mr. Santoro asked who is helping with the relocation assistance? True Blood Real Estate. Ms. Newton asked if this in fact means more units for the property? No – if built under current guidelines there would be one large building and one small building with a similar amount of units. The maximum density that is allowed currently is 101 units.

A question was raised about parking? There will be 2 spots per unit – with 50 guest spots. More discussion was raised about the total number of units that would be built – Mr. O'Connor reminded the Board that the zoning approvals would be obtained from the city, and the NCVV PLU could only advise on the feedback of the community and the compliance with the Specific Plan. Mr. Friedman asked for clarification on the actual footprint of the building, now versus the planned construction? There is currently 134,000 square feet of allowable construction, and they are asking to develop 127,000 square feet. Mr. Steve Simen asked what the price of the new units would be? Market price would be sought, around \$500k per unit. How long with the construction take? 14 months. There is a public hearing on October 3. A

question was raised about the height of the building? 36' feet will be built. The interior ceilings will be 8'.
The motion was approved 8-0-1.

Agenda Item 6 – Finance Report. Mr. Hatfield reported \$3433 in expenses for the quarter, with some expenses still outstanding. Mr. Hatfield asked if the NCVV contribution the police car camera was a “dead issue?” No. Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board that \$4000 was approved to be directed toward purchase of a camera for a police car to be used in our area of the Valley. Mr. Sanchez also reminded the Board there are two more editions of The Bridge that will be coming out before year end.

Agenda Item 7 – Elections. Mr. Braswell reported that the sample ballot has been mailed and that all candidates have been certified. The write-in application deadline is October 17 at 5:00 pm.

Agenda Item 7 – Short Term Projects. There were no meetings held this month. There will be a combined meeting in October and anyone interested in being a part of the committees should contact Mr. Friedman or Mr. Weiner. Mr. Santoro asked for clarification of the reason to combine the committees? There are some common issues that could benefit from adding stakeholders. The combination of the committees would not be permanent, and there will be some synergies that will come out of a combined meeting. was not present (excused) and there was no report.

Agenda Item 7 – Long Term Projects. Mr. Friedman reported that the committee is pleased with the repaving of Whitsett. They continue to work on soundwalls for highway 170 and adding a crosswalk at Bluebell and Magnolia.

Agenda Item 7 – Outreach. The Election issue of The Bridge was completed and mailed.

Agenda Item 8 – DWP Increases. Mr. Lautman shared his story of the rate increase experienced last month in his household. He has been told by other stakeholders that many feel the DWP is taking advantage of residents. He believes NCVV could support a resolution to ask the City Attorney to investigate the increases that are being implemented by DWP. *He introduced a motion to ask NCVV to contact, insist and place priority on the Los Angeles City Council to work diligently to encourage DWP to refrain from increasing their rates. Furthermore, NCVV would ask the City Council to return with a full accounting and report with regard to the impact of the DWP increases and share their analysis with the Neighborhood Council.*

Ms. Hatfield expressed her concern regarding DWP increases, and asked if NCVV could ask someone from DWP to attend our next meeting to discuss the rate structure. Mr. Weiner stated that the Board should persuade DWP to start repairing their infrastructure. Mr. Braswell asked if the motion could be amended to add a request for a presentation? Mr. Lautman asked that the motion stand as presented. Mr. Hatfield stated that he would prefer a presentation before NCVV took action on a motion. Mr. Lautman was concerned that the presentation would just be DWP coming in “to justify their position.” The motion resulted in a tie vote, 4-4-1. The chair, under the bylaws, was required to cast a deciding vote. Mr. Sanchez voted no, and the motion failed 4-5-1.

Mr. Braswell motioned that the Board request a presentation from Laura Chick's office and reconsider the motion after the presentation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hatfield, and approved 10-0-0.

Ms. Newton asked that the Board consider the issue of poor or non-existent lighting on crosswalks on main streets in Valley Village. She reported that a woman was hit by a car in the crosswalk at Riverside and Laurel Grove 2 weeks prior, and that while her injuries were not life-threatening it is another sign that the crosswalk is dangerous and needs to be addressed. Mr. Sanchez asked that this be referred to the combined meeting of the short and long term committees. Ms. Newton reported that there has been a letter sent from the President of Temple Beth Hillel to the Councilpersons expressing concern about the issue.

Agenda Item 10 – Current Board Liaison Reports and Materials. None.

Agenda Item 11 – Other Items for Discussion Per President. Mr. Sanchez noted that the Police Activity League asked that NCVV put an ad in their next event program. Mr. Santoro motioned to repeat an ad similar to the one done in 2005. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. Mr. Hatfield asked which account to use? Outreach. The motion was approved 9-0-1.

Mr. Sanchez informed the Board that he will not seek re-election to his seat as a homeowner. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and expressed his intention to stay involved. Mr. Friedman asked if he would consider accepting a write-in nomination? Mr. Sanchez expressed his thanks but stated no.

Agenda Item 13 – Future Agenda Items. A meeting date must be determined for the November and December meetings as they conflict with holidays. Mr. Braswell asked if the Board could investigate the opportunity to award \$1000 grants for pilot projects within NCVV boundaries. Ms. Hatfield mentioned that we need to secure a student member, as Ms. Lopez has resigned. Ms. Hatfield stated that there will be CERT refresher course in October. Mr. Ken Bernstein is auditing buildings of historical significance and could present to the Board. Mr. Santoro will contact him. The Board would like an update on the gateway signs.

Agenda Item 14 – Public Comment. none

Agenda Item 15 – President’s Closing Comments. None.

Agenda Item 16 – the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.