

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: NC Valley Village

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Type of NC Board Action: Against Proposal

Impact Information

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Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

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Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: Neighborhood Council Valley Village opposes the Mural Ordinance as it now exists. Our community is a fervent supporter of Arts in Los Angeles. We have first-hand experience with inappropriately placed murals, specifically on private homes. We favor council action that allows for beautification through original art murals, but the current ordinance is too broad. We believe that the matter should be reconsidered with input from NCs and HAs.

Additional Information

**Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Board Meeting
March 27, 2013
Draft**

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Distribution, Welcoming Remarks and approval of February Minutes - Mr. Braswell called the meeting to order at 6:35 and thanked everyone for coming out to attend the meeting. He asked speakers to fill out a speaker card and please limit their comments to two minutes. He reminded the audience that the meeting will be conducted under the Brown Act and within the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order.

The roll was called. Board members present were Tony Braswell, residential renter; Cathy Flynn, education; Ginny Hatfield, residential homeowner; Paul Hatfield, at large; Suzanne Lewis, residential renter; Paulette Stokes, residential renter; Steven Stokes, residential renter; Charles Sulahian, business owner; Marc Woersching, community based.

Board members excused were Dorothy Apple, residential homeowner; Dave Bate, business owner; Sandy Hubbard, residential homeowner; Dr. Joshua Levy, faith based; Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, at-large; Jeff Walker, homeowner.

There were three motions to amend the agenda. *Motion from Mr. Woersching to add a discussion of Proposition C; Motion from Ms. Stokes to add a discussion of cat trapping on her street; motion from Mr. Braswell to change the Walter Reed request for support from "up to \$1800" to read "up to \$2000."* The amended agenda was approved 9-0-0.

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of February Minutes - The February minutes were amended by Mr. Stokes and Ms. Hatfield and the amendments were given to Ms. Apple. The amended minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment on Agenda Items (limited to two (2) minutes per speaker, and must fill out a speaker card) –

Michael Gaiter asked for help with parking on his street, Whittsett at Radford. Street parking is difficult because of the 2 hour time limit. He asked that residents be given permit parking. The residents on the street have sent out petitions and have 65% approval from stakeholders. Nikki Ezhari and Tony Braswell will follow up.

Nikola Cline asked the Board for help regarding vehicle traffic on the grass in Valley Village park. She reported that her son was almost run over by a vehicle driving on the grass to load/unload picnic supplies. She brought pictures to show the Board where the incident occurred. The Board will work with CD2 to investigate the opportunity to put up traffic barriers at the road entrance to the park (next to the play equipment). Ms. Cline was asked to come back to the April meeting for follow-up.

Brandon Pender reported on the Neighborhood Budget Advocate meetings. They met on March 27 with the Mayor's office and the meeting did not produce much hope for the next year's financial situation. There is still considerable push from the Mayor's office to reduce funding for NCs. Mr. Pender thanked Valley Village stakeholders for participating in the Budget Survey.

Steven Butcher, Field Representative for State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian introduced himself to the Board. He gave an update on the Committees Mr. Nazarian has been named to, and invited the community to participate in a Senior CarFit event on April 12 at East Valley Senior Center.

Brian _____ from the office of Congressman Tony Cardenas introduced himself. They have a Valley office open. Mr. Cardenas' website is cardenas.house.gov

Agenda Item 4 – Finance Report, Mr. Hatfield – Mr. Hatfield gave an update on the financial report and submitted a copy for the record. The financial report was approved 9-0-0. Mr. Hatfield also reported on the city budget process and the difficult financial circumstance the city is facing. He gave feedback on how this might impact NCs in FY2014.

Mr. Hatfield also reviewed the need to spend remaining funds prior to FY end as there will be no carryover this year. Ms. Hatfield and Mr. Braswell reviewed the remaining requests for funding that are expected before year end. Mr. Hatfield appropriately noted that the amount expected is very close to the funds that remain for FY 2013.

Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Braswell asked that the fiscal decisions made by the Board in the March 2013 meeting be predicated on two premises. First, they will all be subject to funds available. Second, the Board will delegate to the Executive Committee the ability to make adjustments in funding decisions based on the balance of remaining NCVV funds. This was motioned by Mr. Hatfield and seconded by Mr. Stokes and the motion was approved 9-0-0.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Committee Report – Mr. Braswell, Ms. Hatfield – Information from the Executive Committee is included in the Committee reports.

Mr. Braswell asked that the Board move to agenda item 10. There was no objection to the request.

Agenda Item 10 – Committee Reports –

Information from the Executive Committee is included in the Committee reports. Mr. Braswell and Mr. Hatfield discussed

Agenda Item 10 – Planning and Land Use –

Mr. Woerschling and Mr. Braswell reported for Mr. Bate. Planning and Land Use met with Starbucks representatives to review the conditions for the new store on Burbank at Laurel Canyon.

PLU asked that the Board approve their motion to *oppose* ZA-2013-177-CUB-CU for 12035 Magnolia Boulevard. Mr. Woerschling gave a brief overview of the project. Mr. Braswell reported that several PLU members have visited the location. Ms. Stokes expressed concern that the store is too close to NoHo High. Mr. Hatfield and other Board members discussed that this might not be an appropriate role for NCVV to insert itself into the operation of a private business. *Motion: NCVV opposes ZA-2013-177-CUB-CU for 12035 Magnolia Boulevard.* The motion was approved 5-3-1.

PLU forwarded a motion to approve the Troller Mayer proposal to produce landscape plans for the Tujunga Wash. The proposal was made in response to an RFP from NCVV issued in late 2012. There was discussion over the proposal, including questions about what areas would be covered, when would payment be made, how would payment be made, how would NCVV hold the firm accountable for the final plans, what exactly would NCVV receive in the way of plans and report. Mr. Woerschling provided input for the Board to address the questions. *Motion: NCVV approves the Troller Meyer proposal to provide landscape plans for the Valley Village portion of the Tujunga Wash, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.* The motion was approved 7-0-2.

Agenda Item 10 – Events and Outreach –

Ms. Lewis provided an update on the many upcoming events for NCVV. Earth day is Saturday April 13, and we need 40 volunteers to help plant trees. Mr. Braswell asked all Board members to be there to help support the event.

The City Attorney Debate is Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 pm at Colfax School. Dave Bryan from KCAL will host the debate. Everyone was asked to be there and to wear their NCVV nametags.

NCVV is hosting a blood drive at Colfax School on Wednesday, April 17 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. The blood drive is sponsored by Children's Hospital.

Several motions related to upcoming events were presented to the Board.

Motion: To support 2013 Colfax World Fair with \$2500 sponsorship. The motion was approved 9-0-0.

Motion: To support Walter Reed Affair of the Ages with a sponsorship of up to \$2000. The motion was approved 8-0-1.

Motion: To support June Valley Village Movie Night up to \$2700. The motion was approved 6-0-2.

Ms. Lewis mentioned that the Affair of the Ages mailing will go out this weekend, and will include an advertisement for the City Attorney debate. The mailing will go to 4500 Valley Village addresses.

Agenda Item 10 – Valley Village Vision Committee –

The Valley Village Vision Committee met last week. Their report will be forwarded by Ms. Hubbard for inclusion in the minutes.

Agenda Item 10 – City Services Committee -

The City Services report was presented by Mr. Braswell for Mr. Walker. The committee reported to the Board regarding the parking restrictions at Four 'n Twenty Restaurant. The city department of transportation is reviewing the request from the restaurant to allow non-peak parking closer to their location. Mr. Brian Gallagher reported to the Committee that the review is underway. Results will be reported to the Board.

City Services forwarded a motion to the Board to approve up to \$9500 for purchase of a radar speed sign to be used within the coverage area of the North Hollywood Police Department. Ms. Hatfield gave background the proposal, including information from neighboring NCs who are participating in the purchase. Mr. Braswell noted that Ms. Apple and Mr. Walker have attended NC meetings with Toluca Lake, Studio City and MidTown North Hollywood. All of these NCs have agreed to participate in the purchase. Mr. Hatfield asked for clarification about how the actual purchase will be made, and Mr. Braswell will follow up with DONE. Ms. Hatfield noted that the amount will probably be less than \$9500 as funding has now been approved by MTNOHO - \$5000, TLNC - \$5000, and SCNC - \$1000. Ms. Flynn advised the Board that there was press coverage of the purchase that noted the small amount from SCNC.

Motion: To approve up to \$9500 for purchase of Radar Speed Sign as presented. The motion was approved 8-0-1.

Mr. Braswell relayed the request from CSC to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding that would be "attached" to the purchase of the sign. The Board agreed that an MOU should be obtained. Mr. Walker, Ms. Hatfield and Mr. Braswell will work together on this. **Tony we actually passed a motion to this effect; you separated the two items. I proposed the motion and I forget who seconded; I think Suzanne.**

Agenda Item 10 – Communications Committee

Mr. Stokes reported that the Committee did not meet in March. There have been quite a few updates to the website, including stories on the Coldwater Canyon closure and listing of upcoming events. New banners were also purchased for NCVV.

Agenda Item 10 – Elections –

Ms. Hatfield's updates on election matters will be included in agenda item 6.

Agenda Item 6 – Discussion of Mural Ordinance, 2014 Elections, NC Checking Accounts, Definition of Stakeholder, NC Funding

Mural Ordinance - Mr. Braswell reviewed the request that NCVV take a position related to the mural ordinance currently before the City Council. He reviewed the background of the ordinance and the matter of a Valley Village stakeholder who painted a mural on their fence and faced fines from the city related to the illegal nature of the mural. The ordinance that came from PLUM Committee and forwarded to the full council was altered significantly from the original text without appropriate

outreach to neighborhoods and NCs who would be impacted. NCVV received a letter dated March 18 from Councilmember Englander's office asking that NCVV consider opposing the current motion. It was also asked that NCVV request the Planning Department to re-visit the matter with input from stakeholders.

A motion was made by Mr. Braswell and seconded by Mr. Stokes to oppose the proposed "mural ordinance" amending LAMC (Los Angeles Municipal Code) Sections 14.4.2, 14.4.3, 14.4.4, and 14.4.20 and amending LAAC (Los Angeles Administrative Code) sections 5.111.2 and 22.116 and adding Section 22.119 to the LAAC to allow for the creation of new original art murals and the preservation of existing original art murals on private property. The motion was approved 9-0-0.

2014 Elections – Ms. Hatfield gave an update on the discussion of the 2014 elections. She reminded the Board that she is representing NCVV on the NC Charter Review effort. There has been extensive conversation about the 2014 elections. Some in the city are proposing that costs for the 2014 elections be passed along to NCs and deducted from the 2014 funding split evenly among each NC. There has also been discussion about delaying the elections until 2015, and about turning the elections back over to DONE. Ms. Hatfield provided the Board with the position of our Charter Review representatives.

And made the following motion: NCVV recommends that the City Council adopt an ordinance change to return the authority for NC elections to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment in order to conduct neighborhood council Board elections and to partner with the City Clerk for back office administrative services. Further, NCs should demand that the City fully fund the 2014 elections and conduct them in spring 2014 as planned. . The motion was approved 9-0-0.

NC Checking Accounts. Mr. Hatfield provided the Board with an overview of the background of the issue. Mr. Braswell reminded the Board that the matter was initiated by Mr. Hatfield over 2 years ago and that significant progress has come since that time, thanks to his leadership. DONE is recommending to the City Council that a new checking account system be implemented to allow NCs to make expenditures from their annual budget allocation. The new system will be managed by DONE and require monthly reconciliations from each NC. The new system would be implemented for FY 2014. Mr. Hatfield also advised that LANC and VANC are asking all NCs to request full \$50,000 funding for 2014. There was discussion about a motion to approve the checking account system. Mr. Hatfield proposed and Ms. Hatfield seconded the following motion.

Motion: NCVV endorses the new checking account system proposed by DONE to allow NCs to make expenditures from their approved annual budget. The motion was approved 9-0-0.

Related to 2014 funding for NCs, Ms. Hatfield advised that there has been discussion of a "tiered" system of funding based on size of stakeholders represented by individual NCs. This proportional funding idea has been floated for discussion purposes but no formal motions have been made. It was suggested that No NC would receive less than the current \$37,500 in the 2013 budget. The Board discussed this at length, and unanimously decided to allow Ms. Hatfield to use her judgment representing NCVV on this matter. There was unanimous consent that NCVV does not want to receive less in 2014 than they receive in the current fiscal year.

Definition of a Stakeholder. Ms. Hatfield reviewed the revised definition of a stakeholder that is currently proposed to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC). That new definition states that a stakeholder is someone who lives, works or owns real property in the neighborhood. The new definition would also remove the requirement for NCs to include factual basis stakeholders on their Board, and allow each NC to consider that matter individually. Motion from Ms. Hatfield and seconded by Ms. Lewis: NCVV approves the revised definition of a stakeholder. The motion was approved 9-0-0.

Agenda Item 7 – City Attorney Debate –

Ms. Lewis reviewed in her report.

Agenda Item 8 Executive Committee Report – NC Reform Initiative

Ms. Hatfield reviewed this in Agenda Item 6.

Agenda Item 9 – Update on Magnolia Traffic Accident Fund

No report was given.

Amended Agenda Item – Update on Cat Trapping

Ms. Stokes reported that the cat trapping in her area had been successfully and humanely completed.

Amended Agenda Item – Proposition C

Mr. Woerschling gave an overview of Proposition C which will be on the May City election ballot. The proposition requests that voters approve a city position to oppose Citizens United. Mr. Woerschling distributed an overview from the League of Women Voters. A motion was made by Mr. Woerschling and seconded by Ms. Hatfield: NCVV recommends a “yes” vote on Proposition C. The motion was approved 7-1-1.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment

There was no further public comment

Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.