Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**(Revised)**

Monday, November 12, 2012

6:30 pm

Sherman Oaks Elementary School Auditorium

1. The meeting was called to order by Jill Banks Barad at 6:30 pm.
2. Roll Call

Present: Jill Banks Barad, Alicia Bartley, Jay Beeber, Max Calne, Carolyn Casavan, Jeff Ebenstein, Arthur Hutchinson, Jeffrey Kalban, Howard Katchen, Sidonia Lax, Richard Marciniak, Matthew Plotkin, Sherry Revord, Neal Roden, Anthony St. John, Ron Ziff

Absent: Michael Preston

1. Minutes of SONC Board meetings of September 10 and October 8, 2012 were approved.
2. Introduction of elected officials, staff, LAPD Senior Lead Officers
   1. Carolyn Ramsey, Chief of Staff for Councilman Tom LaBonge, was introduced and gave an update on CD4. Alice Roth will be the new Field Deputy for the Sherman Oaks area and will be based at the Van Nuys Boulevard office. The replanting of the median strip along Ventura Boulevard was raised and Ron Ziff will contact CD4 office to discuss. Jeff Ebenstein noted that the Business Improvement District has met and expects to be operational by January.
   2. Teddy Davis, Press Secretary for Mayor Villaraigosa was introduced. He noted that the City faces a $200 M deficit in 2013. City Council will be taking a vote on whether to put a $0.5 sales tax on the ballot for March. Cost cutting reforms being considered include consolidation of Street Services and DOT, bringing permitting functions together, consolidating Economic Development entities, and privatize operation of zoo and convention center.
3. Public Comment – None.
4. President’s Report
   1. President Jill Banks Barad appointed Linda Brooks to the Area 4 Business seat with the approval of the Board. Linda Brooks was sworn in by Carolyn Ramsey, Chief of Staff for Councilman Tom LaBonge.
   2. The President appointed the following Committee Chairs:

Land Use – Ron Ziff, Chair

Rules and Elections – Arthur Hutchinson, Chair

Finance – Howard Katchen, Chair

Outreach – Sherry Revord, Chair

Neighborhood Services – Jeff Ebenstein, Chair, Arthur Hutchinson, Vice Chair

Government Affairs – Jay Beeber, Chair

Public Safety – Anthony St. John, Chair

Green – Carolyn Casavan, Chair

Beautification and Arts – Matthew Plotkin, Chair

A sign-up sheet for committees was passed to the Board and the public in attendance.

Board members were reminded to update their **Ethics training** which must be done every two years and to report completion of training to Arthur Hutchinson.

* 1. A report was given regarding the VANC Planning Forum held on November 8. The event was a great success with 160 people in attendance representing 33 of the 34 Neighborhood Councils in the Valley.

1. Treasurer’s Report- Howard Katchen, Treasurer
   1. Approval was received to charge the $6,000 printing cost for Elections against encumbered funds. Funds available for the current fiscal year are $37,000.
   2. Mayor’s Budget Day was discussed. Howard Katchen and Carolyn Casavan were appointed the Budget Representatives for SONC and Sidonia Lax was appointed as the Alternate. All three will be attending the Mayor’s Community Budget Day on Saturday, November 17.
2. Committee Reports
   1. Land Use – Ron Ziff.
      1. **Action Item from LUC**: **Motion to APPROVE renovations and parking lot** **landscaping at Gelson’s Market**, **4520 Van Nuys Boulevard**. Gelson’s presented their plans for outdoor renovations which will include landscaping and restriping the parking lot in front and in back, redoing the façade in front and back, and outdoor seating.

**Roll Call vote:** Aye – Bartley, Beeber, Brooks, Calne, Casavan, Ebenstein,

Hutchinson, Kalban, Katchen, Lax, Marciniak, Revord, Roden, St. John, Ziff,

Banks Barad. **Passed unanimously**. Plotkin recused himself from the

presentation and vote.

* + 1. Other discussion items included the proposed cell installation at Hamburger Hamlet, rezoning on McCormick and Magnolia, Rim of the Valley presentation Tuesday, Nov. 27, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Encino Women’s Club, $50,000 Neighborhood Protection Fund, and Metro Valley Board considering dropping 761 bus route. 761 bus route will be discussed in January. Teddy Davis will bring to attention of Mayor.
  1. Public Safety – Anthony St. John.

Knock-Knock burglaries, call 911 for suspicious behavior in neighborhood during the

day, Hurricane Sandy, LA RICS, rapid flashing crosswalks. Jay Beeber noted that LA

DOT has not logged in requests from previous meeting. Captain Mensal will be

at the December meeting.

* 1. Neighborhood Services – Jeff Ebenstein. Streetlight replacement, street services, applying for grants, stop sign request for the corner of ???
  2. Government Affairs – Jay Beeber. New issues, proposed forum with other NC’s to discuss tax measures, can take a position on ballot measures.
  3. Rules and Elections – Arthur Hutchinson. Bylaw review meeting to be held, bylaws are available on the website, the City Attorney’s office is working on “factual basis” definition, Arthur took roll call on Ethics training class.
  4. Green – Carolyn Casavan. Introduced Green Committee and objectives.
  5. Beautification and Arts – Matthew Plotkin. Introduced Beautification and Arts Committee and objectives.

1. Announcements

* **VANC Meeting December 13**, SO Hospital Conference Room, 6:30 pm
* **SONC Board Retreat**, Saturday, January 12, SO Hospital Conference Room
* The new Principal of Sherman Oaks Elementary School, Paula Denen was introduced by Jill Banks Barad.

1. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m..

Submitted by Carolyn Casavan, Secretary