**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council**

**Monday, September 10, 2012**

BOARD MEETING

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Jill Banks Barad at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jeff Ebenstein.

Calling of the roll affirmed that the Board had a quorum of 13 Board members in attendance: Jill Banks Barad, Arthur Fields, Howard Katchen, Jay Beeber, Jeff Ebenstein, Sherry Revord, Sidonia Lax, Richard Marciniak, Ron Ziff, Alicia Bartley, Arthur Hutchinson, Neal Roden, and Anthony St. John.

The following members were absent: Michael Preston and Max Calne.

Motion to approve the July 9, 2012 minutes was made by Neal Roden and seconded by Richard Marciniak, and the Board approved the minutes as written by unanimous vote.

**Updates from Ron Carter, LAPD, Senior Lead Officer**: Property crimes are up in the area. Thieves are opportunistic. Do not leave items visible in unattended cars. Also, for stagnant pools at vacant properties that attract mosquitos, dial 3-1-1 and ask for the City’s mosquito abatement unit.

**Public Comment** **on non-agenda items**: William Rattner of Survey LA requested to work with a committee on the City’s first City-wide survey of historic resources. Ron Ziff directed Mr. Rattner to the Land Use Committee.

Elke Heitmeyer spoke in favor of allowing vote-by-mail for next Neighborhood Council election. She also announced that Zev Yaroslavsky would be speaking at the next SOHA meeting, on Wednesday, September 19, 2012. A short ceremony for Ellen Vukovich was also planned.

**Guest Speaker** was Ron Olive from the Bureau of Street Services. He discussed the 90 day study period to determine the need for and feasibility of establishing assessment districts or bonds to fund sidewalk repairs. With no clear direction from the Council Office, the Bureau of Street Services proposes to recommend a pilot study to extrapolate to the rest of the City.

Government Affairs Committee presented a **Motion to approve the Community Impact Statement** it prepared **opposing the transfer of financial responsibility for sidewalk repair due to root damage back to property owners.** Complete Community Impact Statement is attached. **All Board members present voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions**.

**Candidates Forum:** SONC candidates seeking election on September 20, 2012 were provided the opportunity to make brief introductions, and were asked to respond to the following questions:

* What skills can you bring to the Neighborhood Council?
* How have you dealt with specific controversial issues, either on the NC Board or elsewhere?

The candidates then made closing statements.

**President’s report** : SONC is to be awarded the ***Empower LA Award*** for the South Valley Planning Area at the 2012 LA Congress of Neighborhoods on September 22, 2012. Additionally, the Sherman Oaks “Spotlight Award” Committee has been reinstated and Richard Marciniak appointed Chair.

**Treasurer’s Report: Howard Katchen** presented a **Motion from the Finance Committee to Approve the payment of $598.56 to Andy** **Gump to provide porto-potties at the “5K Run for Conor” event at VNSO Park on October 14, 2012. All Board members present voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions**.

**Howard Katchen** presented a **Motion to approve additional vendors to encumbrance who will be used in election outreach**: including, but not limited to Horace Heidt Productions, Ralph’s, Pavilions and Party City. The motion was subsequently amended by Howard as follows: Motion to approve additional vendors to encumbrance lost who will be used in election outreach: including Horace Heidt Productions, Ralph’s, Pavilions, Party City, Goodway Print & Copy and Jill Banks Barad. **All Board members present voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions**.

**Land Use Committee Report:** **Ron Ziff, Chair**, reported that the Committee previously approved the proposed expansion of Buckley School, and that Ron attended the dedication of one new building on September 9, 2012. Ron additionally reported:

* Proposed California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) reform bill was not passed by the Legislature.
* A proposed pawn shop on Ventura Boulevard went to public hearing on August 31, 2012. LUC opposed the proposed use, and the Planning Department denied the applicant’s request for a Conditional Use Permit for the use.
* On September 27, 2012, Metro is scheduled to vote on direct service from Sylmar to Century City.
* The next LUC meeting will be on September 27, 2012, and the Committee will consider renovation of Notre Dame High School and a conditional use permit for the sale of beer and wine at an existing restaurant on Van Nuys Boulevard.

**Public Safety Committee Report: Tony St. John, Chair**, reported that there have been a 35% to 40% decline in property thefts. LAPD has implemented a program to distribute “lock it, keep it” flayers at local businesses and restaurants.

**Neighborhood Services Committee Report: Jeff Ebenstein, Chair,** reported that “Carmegeddon II” is scheduled for the weekend of September 29, 2012. For information regarding the closures, visit metro.net/405.

**Jill Banks Barad** announced that the VANC meeting will be on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at the Sherman Oaks Hospital at 6:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Submitted by, Alicia Bartley