**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council**

**Monday, July 9, 2012**

BOARD MEETING

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Jill Banks Barad at 6:40 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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, Michael D. Preston, Richard Marciniak, Ron Ziff, Max Calne, Neal Roden, and Anthony St. John.

The following members were absent: Arthur Hutchinson and Alicia Bartley.

Motion to approve the May 14, 2012 minutes was made by Sidonia Lax and seconded by Tony St. John, and the Board approved the minutes as written by unanimous vote.

Motion to approve the June 11, 2012 minutes was made by Howard Katchen and seconded by Richard Marciniak, and the Board approved the minutes by unanimous vote.

**President’s Opening comments** were made by Jill Banks Barad, who protested personal attacks made against her reputation by proponents of Il Villagio Toscana in the weeks leading up to the evening’s pending discussion of the project and vote for Reconsideration. Ron Ziff complained of the same unfair vilification, citing the hard work put into study and evaluation of the project by the Land Use Committee over one and a half years.

**Updates from staff of elected officials**: Pearl Ricci from Congressman Howard Berman’s office announced upcoming community meetings to be held by the Congressman on July 30 and August 6, to discuss general community concerns and proposed legislation to mitigate helicopter noise.

Teddy Davis from the Mayor’s office discussed the federal loan to Los Angeles to accelerate transit system expansion and the need to pass Measure R. He also mentioned the upcoming MTA Board vote on Ron Ziff’s proposal to get a bus line running from the Valley to Century City.

Jonathan Brand, planning deputy for Tom LaBonge CD4, announced that Alice Roth would be our field deputy in Sherman Oaks. He detailed community beautification project funding for debris removal in the district, and stated that it was too early for CD4 to take a position on IVT with no final EIR to judge.

Matt Margolis from Congressman Brad Sherman’s office described their constituent services program, with a focus on seniors having problems with federal programs. He also announced upcoming town hall events to be held by the Congressman on August 4 to address mortgage relief and another on August 5.

**Public Comment** **on non-agenda items**: Jane Martin outlined the services of Phoenix House, a residential and out-patient substance abuse program.

**Guest Speaker** was Ron Macias from Metro, who discussed the 10-mile 405 construction project in Sherman Oaks. The end result will be widening of the east side of the freeway to be completed in early 2013. The west side of the freeway is in preparation for widening of the Mulholland overpass and the Skirball bridge. Megan Rhett also spoke for Metro. Public questions concerned perceived lack of coordination between CalTrans and Metro over the course of the work.

**President’s report** : from Exec. Comm: Jill announced that Board member Jeff Ebenstein is being redesignated from SONC Area 3 Business Rep. to Area 3 Community Interest Rep. because of his change in status. The Business seat in Area 3 is now vacant, SONC elections are coming up September 20.

**Treasurer’s Report: Howard Katchen** detailed that the close-out of the fiscal year 2011-2012 SONC budget left a $4,040 remaining balance. $18,000 of that has been encumbered for outreach use during SONC elections. The FY 2012-2013 budget approved by the city is reduced 8.8% over the previous year, now amounting to **$37,000** total. The current allocations are in line with last year’s, with an increase in the amount budgeted for refreshments at SONC Board meetings**. A vote was taken on the new fiscal year budget. All Board members present voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions**.

**Land Use Committee** action item followed, with a high number of community stakeholders in attendance to speak on the issue. The proposed motion would have amended the Board’s previous recommended approval of the Il Villagio Toscana development, to delete the seventh and eighth floors of the project, reducing the number of dwelling units by 101 and reducing the building height to 75 feet.

Being an issue of contention in the community, the President asked for respect for Robert’s Rules of Order during the discussion. Since there had been questioning of the validity of SONC’s right to reconsider the previous Board approval of IVT, she detailed a conversation with Capri Maddox of the City Attorney’s office verifying the right for Reconsideration as valid and the procedure followed by SONC in bringing it before the Board and the public to be correct. Ms. Maddox’s supervisor Darren Martinez concurred with this determination.

Attorney David Goldberg opened the discussion for IVT developer M. David Paul. He protested the Board’s reconsideration after 18 months of hard work with the SONC LUC on the project, with many concessions having been made of the part of MDP during the collaborative discussions. Ron Ziff, LUC Chair, reiterated that sentiment, stressing the involved procedure that led to the LUC’s initial vote to approve the project and bring it before the Board for approval, which had already been given.

Approximately 90 minutes of public comment on the project followed, of the 43 speakers and those who submitted written statements to be read into the record, 29 were in favor of the proposed Motion for Reconsideration and 14 were opposed.

Board discussion of the proposed motion to approve the project with a reduction in height and a subsequent vote resulted in a tie, defeating the amendment to SONC’s previous approval of the project. **The vote was as follows: 5 Yes, 5 No with two absentions.**

**YES**: Barad, Ebenstein, Lax,Marciniak, Revord **NO:** Fields,Ziff,Calne,Roden. Beeber

**Abstain**:Katchen,Preston

Other scheduled committee reports were foregone given the unusual length of the Board meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 10pm.

Submitted by, Sherry Revord, Acting Secretary