Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, December 10, 2012

6:30 pm

Sherman Oaks Elementary School Auditorium

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jill Banks Barad at 6:30 pm
2. Roll Call
   1. Present: Bartley, Beeber, Brooks, Casavan, Ebenstein, Hutchinson, Kalban, Katchen, Lax, Marciniak, Plotkin, Preston, Revord, Roden, St.John, Ziff, Banks Barad
   2. Absent: Calne
3. The minutes of the SONC Board meeting of November 12, 2012 were accepted with correction of the proposed sales tax increase in Item 4.b. to read $0.5 instead of $0.05.
4. Introduction of elected officials, staff, LAPD Senior Lead Officers.
   1. Carolyn Ramsay, Chief of Staff for Councilmember LaBonge gave an update. Sherman Oaks Park improvements are proceeding, fitness equipment to be installed by end of the month, lighting to be replaced with private funding (LED lighting requested) and an artificial turf soccer field is to be installed using Quinby funds. Toluca Lake event with the CD4 office was a success and would like to do something similar in Sherman Oaks.
   2. SONC’s shared space with CD4 was discussed at length. Howard Katchen had several questions, which were discussed.
5. Public Comment:
   1. Paul Serbin, a resident, spoke about a foreclosed home at 14547 Greenleaf St. Squatters have been evicted but trash, rats and an unsafe situation remains.
   2. Janna Shadduck-Hernandez, another resident, spoke about the same house. She contacted code enforcement over a month ago but the situation remains. Health and Safety issue.
6. Guest Speaker : Captain Ivan Minsal, Captain Van Nuys Division LAPD

Captain Minsal addressed the vacant house issue with recommendations to contact City Building and Safety, CD4 office, and Code Enforcement. He then presented an overview of activities in the area, violent crime is down 3%, Senior Lead Ron Carter will be retiring. Captain Minsal can be reached at 818-374-1970.

1. President’s Report
   1. Special Presentation – Board Member Tony St. John will be resigning from the Board due to his moving to France. President Jill Banks Barad and other members of the Board commended Tony for his service on the Board and the great work he has done as the Chair of the Public Safety Committee.
   2. The President appointed Jeff Kalban as Vice- Chair of the Land Use Committee.
   3. Reminder of the SONC Board Retreat- Saturday, January 12, 2013, 8:45am-1:30 pm SO Hospital. Grayce Liu will be attending.
   4. Update: shared office space with CD4 in Alliance bldg.,5121 Van Nuys Blvd. The shared office space was discussed further with answers to some questions and others to be answered as agreement is finalized. Jeff Brill of DONE is putting the agreement together. Alice Roth, who will be one of the CD4 staff at the office, introduced herself. Her cell phone number is 213-359-0032. Matt Plotkin requested that the Board take a harder look at the duration of the agreement (1 year).

**Action Item: Richard Marciniak moved and Jay Beeber seconded that we enter into the agreement of shared space with Council District 4, at 5121 Van Nuys Boulevard, Sherman Oaks, and fund up to $6,000 per fiscal year to pay the rent. Approved unanimously vote with no abstentions.**

1. Treasurer’s Report/Finance Committee—Howard Katchen
   1. SONC account balance $32,099.08 as of December 10, 2012, halfway into the fiscal year. Howard Katchen recommended that we find beneficial ways of spending the money.
   2. Two $500 grants to the Naval Sea Cadets to subsidize the cost of winter and summer training for cadets were requested. Romero Caberas, Executive Director, gave a presentation on the benefits of the program.

**Action Item: Howard Katchen moved and Tony St. John seconded that the Board approve two grants of $500 each for a total of $1000 in funding be provided to the Naval Sea Cadets program. Approved unanimously with no abstentions.**

* 1. Report of Mayor’s Community Budget Day – Lisa Samson, Budget Advocate, gave an update on the budget advocacy program.

1. Committee Reports/Updates
   1. Land Use Committee –Ron Ziff ,Chair

Update regarding Hamburger Hamlet cell towers and Rim of the Valley, and special LUC meeting to discuss possible uses of the $50,000 Buckley funds.

***Action Item* from LUC: OPPOSE the cancellation of Metro Route #761 to UCLA/VA as it will be a serious disturbance to travelers heading to the Westside and increase traffic on the 405 freeway and on Sepulveda Blvd. Approved unanimously with no abstentions.**

* 1. Public Safety-Tony St. John, Chair

Tony thanked the Board for a great 6 years. Tony noted that [Albert.Torres@lacity.com](mailto:Albert.Torres@lacity.com) is the person the Board needs to contact to get the emergency services ham radio station up and running at Sherman Oaks Park. Jay Beeber said that he will follow up on this. Equipment and materials were turned over to other Board members: Banner to Neal Roden, sound equipment and ham radio equipment to Ron Ziff.

* 1. Neighborhood Services—Jeff Ebenstein, Chair

***Action Item*** from Executive Committee: Motion to allocate $1000 for Sherman Oaks median maintenance with the condition that SONC’s name receive recognition.  **This item was tabled as it needs to go to the Finance Committee before coming to the Board.**

* 1. Government Affairs- Jay Beeber, Chair

Proposed Sales Tax Ballot Measure on the March 5 ballot to be discussed at the January 14 SONC Board meeting. Jay asked for recommendations from the Board. The County stormwater property tax measure notice was also discussed.

* 1. Rules and Elections- Arthur Hutchinson, Chair

Arthur reminded everyone of the requirements to take Ethics Training. Board Members seated in October must complete Ethics Training before the January Board Meeting in order to be able to vote.

* 1. Green Committee—Carolyn Casavan, Chair

Planning joint committee meeting with Beautification and Neighborhood Services in January 2013.

* 1. Beautification and Arts Committee—Matt Plotkin, Chair

Planning joint committee meeting with Green and Neighborhood Services committees in Janaury 2013.

1. Announcements from the Board on subject matters within SONC’s jurisdiction
   1. VANC meeting, Thursday, December 13, SO Hospital Conference Room, 6:30 p.m

Councilman Paul Krekorian,Chair Budget Committee for LA City Council, to discuss proposal for sales tax on March 5, 2013 ballot

1. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.