Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 14, 2013

6:30 pm

Sherman Oaks Elementary School Auditorium

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jill Banks Barad at 6:40 pm.
2. Roll call

Present: Bartley, Beeber, Brooks, Calne, Casavan, Hutchinson, Kalban, Katchen, Lax, Marciniak, Plotkin, Preston, Roden, Ziff, Banks Barad.

Absent: Ebenstein, Revord.

1. The minutes of SONC Board meeting of December 10, 2012, were approved with corrections.
2. Introduction of elected officials, staff, LAPD Senior Lead Officers.
   1. Steven Butcher of Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian’s office (AD 46) was introduced. He gave an overview of recent budget activities, $3 billion added for education. The district office is in the State Building on Van Nuys Boulevard. They have just opened the office and will forward contact information to the Board.
3. Public Comment:
   1. Ray Verches of the SoCal Gas Company spoke regarding the Advanced Meter Project in Sherman Oaks. The overall project started in Los Angeles in November of 2012. Expect to be in Sherman Oaks in the 1st Quarter of 2013. The modules will be inserted in existing meter boxes and data collector units will be mounted on light poles. Existing light poles will be used in most locations. Additional poles will be erected only if needed. Notices and door hangers will be used to notify residents. A handout was provided, Advanced Meter Project Overview.
   2. Karin Flores, from the Friends of the Los Angeles River spoke regarding upcoming cleanup days in the Sepulveda Basin and Griffith Park. She also noted that they are putting together a Mobile Rover watershed model in a van.
   3. Uri Niv, a resident, noted that he is concerned about safety in the commercial area of Ventura Boulevard. He noted fights in the bar area, smoke shops, and adult businesses. It was recommended that he attend the Land Use Committee meeting to address these issues in more detail.
   4. Greg Bartz, of the LADWP, spoke regarding the Feed in Tariff program, energy efficiency in 2013, water conservation (the rebate for sod replacement has been increased to $1.50 /sqft), SFV recycled water project, sewer service charge reduction, and VerdeXchange conference on Feb. 3-5.
4. **Measure A: Proposed Half-Cent Sales Tax Increase on March 5 LA City Ballot**

Guest Speakers: FOR: Josh Geller, *Assoc. of LA City Deputy Attorneys,* AGAINST: Jack Humphreville, *Ballot signer against Measure* A

Jay Beeber, Government Affairs Chair, introduced the speakers and moderated the debate. Jay Beeber asked some prepared questions then took questions from the Board.

1. **Action Item: Jay Beeber moved that the Board Oppose Meaure A on the March 5 ballot.**

Discussion – Jay Beeber commented that raises were given to employees, now the city is in trouble, people need to give back. The more money we give to the City the more they spend. Sidona Lax commented that the City did not do the analysis to reduce the budget shortfall. Ron Ziff commented that the City needs to reform operations and become more efficient. Carolyn Casavan commented that the City should increase economic development in the City which will increase revenues through existing sources.

**Vote: Yes 13, No 2, Abstentions 0.**

1. The SONC Board meeting was adjourned.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

1. A SPECIAL MEETING was called to order by President Jill Banks Barad.
2. Roll Call

Present Present: Bartley, Beeber, Brooks, Calne, Casavan, Hutchinson, Kalban, Katchen, Lax, Marciniak, Plotkin, Preston, Roden, Ziff, Banks Barad.

Absent: Ebenstein, Revord.

1. Resolution on Postponement of Proposed $3 Billion Street Repair Bond Measure

***Action Item: MOTION* to request that the City Council delay any action**

**on $3 billion Street Repair Bond Measure, proposed for the May 21 LA City ballot, for at least 60 days to allow neighborhood councils to have the opportunity to provide input. Furthermore, the City Council should allow at least 60 days on any actions involving new taxes or bond measures to allow time for all segments of the public to provide input.**

**Moved by Richard Marciniak.**

**Vote: Yes, 15, No 0, Abstentions 0.**

1. Public Comment – None.
2. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

## SONC BOARD MEETING

1. The Board Meeting was reconvened by President Jill Banks Barad.
2. Roll Call

Present Present: Bartley, Beeber, Brooks, Calne, Casavan, Hutchinson, Kalban, Katchen, Lax, Marciniak, Plotkin, Preston, Roden, Ziff, Banks Barad.

Absent: Ebenstein, Revord.

1. President’s Report – Presented by Jill Banks Barad, President. Jill informed the Board Members that according to Robert’s Rules of Order, the President can call for a vote by either a show of hands or by roll call. For any vote, any member of the Board can request that the vote be taken by roll call rather than by a show of hands. This would require a majority vote of the Board.

Jill also noted that resigning Board Member, Tony St. John would be receiving a commendation from the City Council on Friday January 18.

1. Treasurer’s Report/Finance Committee—Howard Katchen
2. The Mayor’s Budget Survey was discussed. The survey is expected to come out in February. Board Members asked whether there would be an electronic means of taking the survey. Howard will check to see.
3. Carolyn Casavan asked about budget and funding request procedures. Howard provided a brief overview of this process and recommended that she attend the Finance Committee Meeting on the last Thursday of the month at the Senior Center.
4. Committee Reports/Updates
   1. Land Use Committee – Ron Ziff, Chair. The Il Villagio Toscano project will be heard by the City Planning Committee on Feb. 9th.

The Rim of the Valley planners want to include all of Sherman Oaks in the plan. LUC requested that they treat the Sepulveda Basin as an island instead. The Army Corps of Engineers “clearing” in the south basin area was discussed.

The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA) will fund night lighting on Ventura Boulevard from Sepulveda to Van Nuys.

At the next meeting, LUC will discuss the condominium/single family project proposed at Magnolia and an apartment building on Benefit conversion of recreation room to two units.

* 1. Neighborhood Services—Jeff Ebenstein, Chair. Absent, no report.
  2. Government Affairs- Jay Beeber, Chair. Provided an update on the Plastic Bag Ban. Contact Jay with items to add to their agenda.

* 1. Rules and Elections- Arthur Hutchinson, Chair.
     1. ***Action Item* from R&E Committee: MOTION to add the following language to SONC Standing Rules:**

**“All Land Use Committee (LUC) members shall take Ethics Training as provided by the City Attorney, within ninety(90) days of the first LUC meeting after being appointed or ninety(90) days after this rule passes the Board, and renew the training every four (4) years, or the member will lose their Committee voting privileges. Continued failure to complete Ethics Training may result in removal from the Committee.”**

**Vote: Yes 15, No 0, Abstentions 0.**

* + 1. ***Action Item* from R&E Committee: MOTION to add the following language to SONC Bylaws, Article XIV Compliance, Section 2: Ethics Training**

**“Continued failure to complete the required Ethics Training, may result in removal from the SONC Board.”**

**Vote: Yes 15, No 0, Abstentions 0**

* 1. Green Committee—Carolyn Casavan, Chair. Announced that a Joint Committee Meeting, Neighborhood Services, Green and Beautification and Arts, will be held Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 pm at the Sherman Oaks Library. Future meeting notices will be emailed to the Board as well as the public email list.

1. Beautification and Arts Committee—Matthew Plotkin, Chair. Reiterated Joint Committee Meeting.
2. The following announcements were made by Jill Banks Barad on subject matters within SONC’s jurisdiction

a. VANC Candidates’ Forum for Mayoral and City Controller Candidates,

Saturday, February 23 at L.A. Valley College, 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

b. VANC 10th Anniversary Mixer, March 14, CBS Studios

1. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.