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|  | City Seal - B&W **Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council**  **Monday, May 12, 2014**  **Board Meeting** |  |

**Minutes**

1. The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Ron Ziff at 6:32 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll call**

Present: J. Beeber, T. Capps, C. Casavan, J. Gervais, J. Kalban, H. Katchen, S. Lax, R. Marciniak, M. Preston, N. Roden, S. Steinberg, R. Tash, R. Ziff

Absent: D. Crisci, C. Freedman, L. Petrus, M. Plotkin, S. Revord, J. Banks Barad

1. **Introduction of elected officials, staff, LAPD Senior Lead Officers**

* Field Representative Steven Butcher of State Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian office announced a Red Cross-sponsored emergency preparedness class in Studio City.
* LAPD Sr. Lead Officer Trent Berry announced an Open House at LAPD’s Van Nuys Division celebrating the division’s 50th anniversary. The public is invited to the Open House, June 7th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. He said crime in the Sherman Oaks area is down 20% year-to-date, but he warned that vehicle break-ins especially around the Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park are still a problem.
* Tommy Newman from Councilmember Tom LaBonge’s office announced the streets around the Library Square neighborhood will be resurfaced.

1. **Public Comment:** Comments from candidates seeking office.

* Deputy District Attorney Carol Najera introduced herself and announced her candidacy for Superior Court Judge, Seat 117. Election is June 3rd.
* Shelia Irani, former project director for Councilmember Tom LaBonge, introduced herself and announced her candidacy for City Council seat District 4. Election is next year, March 3, 2015.
* Bob Hertzberg, former Speaker of California State Assembly, announced his candidacy for the San Fernando Valley’s new 18th State Senate District, which will include Sherman Oaks. Election is June 3rd.

1. **Approval of the Minutes** from the April 7, 2014 meeting. (Taken out of order due to lack of quorum.)

* April 7 meeting minutes amended to include swearing in of the Executive Members of the Neighborhood Council. Motion to approve by N. Roden, seconded by R. Marciniak.  *Motion unanimously approved.*

1. **Guest Speaker – Widening and Improvement of Moorpark Street between Woodman Avenue to Murietta Avenue**, presented by Ramnik Munra, Dept. of Public Works – Bureau of Engineering, and Michael Hunt, Dept. of Transportation.

* The City will begin widening and adding sidewalks on Moorpark Street as part of a $3.8 million project beginning September 2014. The 10-month construction project will widen the roadway to 61-feet to 66-feet from the existing 50-foot width, widen existing sidewalks, add new sidewalks on the north side of the street, and create intermittent parking lanes on both sides of the street. Residents in the area will be notified at least 30-days in advance of the project start date. Construction hours will be 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Street trees will be removed, and replaced adjacent to the new sidewalks. M. Hunt said the improvements would increase safety for drivers and pedestrians.

1. **Public Comment:** Comments by the public on non-agenda items within SONC’s jurisdiction.

* Douglas Bott from Kester Elementary School PTA requested financial assistance for the startup costs of a new Farmers Market, proposed for Saturdays at Kester Elementary. R. Ziff requested Mr. Bott discuss the request with the Finance Committee, which can bring it back to the full board.
* Zachary Zabo is seeking interviews with SONC board members as part of his Master’s Thesis at California Lutheran University.
* Rick Rabins, president of Village Gardeners announced the celebration of the completion of the steel head mural, part of the ValleyHeart Riverwalk Greenery Project, on Saturday, June 21 at 11 a.m., at the intersection of Valleyheart and Ethel.
* Amber Meshak of the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) introduced herself as new to the south Valley.
* Lydia Grant, commissioner on DONE’s Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, welcomed the new SONC board members.

1. **President’s Report/Appointments,** 1st Vice President R. Ziff

* Ron announced President Banks Barad appointed Jason Gervais to the open position on the Land Use Committee replacing Craig Buck. Ron Ziff was reappointed chair, and the position of vice chair has not been filled
* Green & Beautification Committee: Carolyn Casavan was reappointed chair; committee will include Matt Plotkin and Jessica McCarthy.
* Finance Committee: Treasurer Howard Katchn is chair; committee will include Danny Crisci, Matt Plotkin, Carolyn Casavan, Richard Marciniak and David Bustan.
* Government Affairs Committee: chair is Jay Beeber; committee will include Cindy Wu Freedman and Sidonia Lax.
* Outreach Committee: Tom Capps and Sherry Revord are co-chairs; committee will include Cindy Wu Freedman, Carolyn Casavan, Neal Roden and Jessica McCarthy.
* Rules & Election Committee: Jay Beeber is chair; committee will include Sue Steinberg and Neal Roden.
* Ron urged the council members to sign up for the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committees.
* Primary Election is June 3rd. The League of Women Voters is inviting the public to a workshop on ballot propositions at the Sherman Oaks Library, May 22, at 6:30 p.m.
* Mort Allen, a local real estate company owner, passed away this month.
* SONC Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 1t 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Sherman Oaks Hospital.
* Ron announced he and Lisa Petrus met with representatives of Sherman Oaks Homeowners’ Association (SOHA) to discuss contributing money to get trees trimmed. SOHA said they had no money, but would try and raise it.

1. **Treasurer’s Report/Finance Committee,** H. Katchen
   1. Review, discuss, and approve current financial reports and monthly reconciliation for April’s expenditures. Motion to approve financial report, moved by N. Roden, seconded by J. Beeber. Motion unanimously approved.
   2. *Action item:* Reconsider incorporating $4,950 approved for tree trimming on Ventura Boulevard into funds to be transferred to Bureau of Street Services to trim, prune trees, fill pot holes and repair sidewalks in Sherman Oaks commercial and residential areas. Motion by H. Katchen, seconded by R. Marciniak. Discussion ensued. Motion failed: 1-11-0. (T. Capps not voting until Ethics Training is complete.)
   3. *Action Item:* Approve request from North West Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Watch Group for up to $500 to purchase eight neighborhood watch signs, 150 window watch decals and rivets used to install signs. Motion unanimously approved.
   4. *Action item:* Approve $297 to pay The Web Corner for SONC website maintenance for July, August, and September. Motion unanimously approved.
   5. Fiscal year end deadlines: Demand warrants due May 15 and purchase card deadline June 13.
   6. *Action Item:* Election or nomination of two SONC Budget Representatives for fiscal year 2014-2015. Appointment of H. Katchen, motion by N. Roden, seconded by R. Marciniak. Motion unanimously approved. Second seat remains open.
   7. *Action item:* Approve Board Resolution in support of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates’ White Paper and to file Community Impact Statement under Council File 14-0600, and to request the city council instruct the CAO and CLA to report back within 30 days on the Budget Advocates’ findings. Motion made to support the board resolution with the exception of the Administrative Code Recommendation. Discussion ensued. *Motion unanimously approved.*
2. **Committee Reports/Updates**
3. Land Use Committee –Ron Ziff, Chair.

* *Action Item:* Motion to support the effort of EnrichLA to create a park called “Landbridge at Figueroa” on existing historic Figueroa Bridge that spans the Los Angeles River. Presentation from Tomas O’Grady. Bridge is scheduled to be demolished and a new one for vehicles will be built nearby. The park would be similar to the Highline Park in New York, which is built on elevated rail line. *Motion unanimously approved.*
* Land Use Committee Updates: Winetasting at Ralph’s Supermarket, AT&T cell antenna array at 14748 Burbank Blvd., and condominium conversion at 5300 Sepulveda Blvd.
* Next LUC meeting May 15 at the Sherman Oaks Library to hear an application for renewal of liquor license and for longer hours at Blue Dog Café, and a sushi bar at 13704 Ventura Blvd.

1. Government Affairs Committee - Jay Beeber, Chair

* Will call a meeting to discuss Parking Reform Initiative.

1. Green and Beautification Committee - Carolyn Casavan, Chair.

* Next committee meeting May 28 at 13907 Ventura Blvd. Suite 104, discussions to include storm water, Los Angeles River, and EnrichLA.

1. Rules and Elections - Jay Beeber, Chair.

* Will call a meeting of Rules and Elections Committee to review SONC by-laws.

1. Outreach Committee - Tom Capps, Co-Chair

* No report.

1. **President’s Report/Appointments** (This portion of item taken out of order).

Ron announced President Jill Banks Barad’s appointments of Richard Marciniak to vacant SONC seat representing Community Interests-3, and Sherry Revord to vacant SONC seat representing Community Interests-5. *Approved: 12-0-1 (Katchen)*

Adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by:*

Sue Steinberg, Secretary