

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Christian Rubalcava

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Andres Rubalcava

Communications: Maria Silva

SECRETARY: Michelle Underwood

TREASURER: George Ortega



Office: 13521 Hubbard Street
Sylmar, CA 91342

Mailing: P.O. Box 921023
Sylmar, CA 91392-1023

Telephone: (818) 833-8737

E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org

Website: www.SylmarNC.org

**Sylmar Neighborhood Council
General Board Meeting – Draft Minutes
Thursday, February 27, 2020 – 6:30 PM
Sylmar Charter High School- Spartan Hall
13050 Borden Ave. Sylmar, CA 91342**

Boardmember	Roll Call	Funding Vote Eligible*	Category
Acevedo, Brielle	Present	Yes	At-Large
Allen, Rex	(Appointed Item 9)	No	At-Large
Bloom, Kathy	Absent	Yes	CBO
Blose, Cheri	Absent (arrived at 6:40PM)	Yes	ER
Cabrera, Hector	Present	Yes	At-Large
Durio, Chad	Absent (arrived at 6:40PM)	No	At-Large
Floresta, Lucille	Absent	Yes	Business
Gonzales, David	Absent (arrived at 8:45PM)	Yes	Renter
Lara, Carlos	Present (left at 8:45PM)	Yes	Business
Magana, Veronica	Absent	Yes	CBO
Montano, Guadalupe	Present	Yes	Home/Condo
Nazario, Roxann	(Appointed Item 8)	No	At-Large
Opperman, Bob	Present	Yes	Home/Condo
Ortega, George	Present	Yes	Recreation
Pacheco, John	Present	Yes	At-Large
Rubalcava, Andres	Present	Yes	Home/Condo
Rubalcava, Christian	Present	Yes	Renter
Silva, Maria	Absent	Yes	Home/Condo
Underwood, Michelle	Absent	Yes	Business
Velasquez, Jose	Present (left at 8:48PM)	Yes	Education
Zelaya, Donald	Present	Yes	At-Large
TOTAL: 19	PRESENT 11, Absent 8		

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM by Mr. C. Rubalcava. There were 25 stakeholders present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. C. Rubalcava. Mr. C. Rubalcava announced that representatives from our elected officials would arrive late and that refreshments were available to all.
2. Roll Call - was called by Mr. C. Rubalcava there were 11 Boardmembers present and quorum (11) was met.

SNC ITEM 2 Roll Call	
Present –11 at Roll Call - One Youth Rep Seat Vacant	Absent-08
Acevedo, Cabrera, Lara, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Zelaya, Velasquez	Bloom, Blose, Durio, Floresta, Gonzales, Magana, Silva, Underwood

3. Housekeeping and Welcome from Facility Host -The bathrooms are open and refreshments are here.
4. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations:
 - a. LAUSD - Kelly Gonez – absent
 - b. Congressman Tony Cardenas - Michelle Vergara - Their office is there to assist at the Federal level such as IRS, Medicare. The Coronavirus is alarming and they are working with the County and City to assure safety for everyone. They have handouts from the CDC at their office. Her business card is available. They recently gave recognition to Hector Francisco Cabrera during the Saddle Ridge Fire.

Cheri Blose arrived at 6:40PM
Chad Durio arrived at 6:40PM

- c. Mayor Garcetti - Caroline Menjivar said this is her first visit to Sylmar. She focuses on three issues: Veterans, LGBTQ, and Environmental Justice. They are working on a tool kit for Neighborhood Councils. The Bridge Home project at the Sylmar Armory has been pushed back but is set to open late spring. It will be only for women. Other housing projects: 13574 Foothill - 50% complete, Permanent Supportive Housing. Lobby floor open 24/7 and wraparound services. Many other valley projects. Solid Ground Program is for families who need extra help so they don't fall into homelessness. Will cover utilities and other costs and will start in mid-March. Census 2020 starts next month and Sylmar is historically underrepresented in the multi-family areas. It effects one day old to 99 years. There will be trainings on March 10, 2020, regarding the Census and you can earn \$100.00. If you attend as a non-profit, the non-profit can get \$500.00 Dinner will be provided. Organizations talk to 40-50 and take a picture. Individuals need to talk to 10-15 people, take a photo and submit. Q&A: To receive the donation, they have to be there on behalf of the organization. An organization can only apply once, must stay for the entire training.
- d. Assemblywoman Luz Rivas: Brenda Yanez Zamora said that Assemblymember Rivas introduced a total of 17 bills this session and two ACRs through the process. She discussed some of them: AB1858 – CA Youth Advisory Board to empower underrepresented youth to be civically engaged in California because not much participation is from children. This will help youth to be civically engaged regardless of their status. AB1995: free school lunch for low income students. AB125 Juvenile Cal Grants for youth in the juvenile justice system. AB2335 – Juvenile Justice Youth for Youth in Community Colleges can better serve Juvenile system. AB2046 is the Protect the Pony Bill. After she led a coffee with Lake View Terrace and Sylmar constituents, the measure will increase equestrian safety to require youth wear helmets at all times. Law enforcement will be required to report and collect the data to the transportation agency. Ms. Rivas is co-hosting an event on March 12, 2020 with Congressman Cardenas on immigration and there will be a resource fair regarding new laws to begin their pathway to citizenship. RSVP directly or to the office. Q&A: Does she continue the school site work? Yes, contact Brenda. Is the fair to help people get legal status?

Resource Fair is to help with information. Field Deputy Juan Solario, Monica Rodriguez's office-announced CD7 will be holding a series of meetings on 2020 Community Visioning Workshop, March 17, 2020 6:00PM-8:00PM. Folks can provide comments. Thank you to neighbors who contacted their office regarding bulky items, and a stop sign being down. If you have an issue, please reach out to their office. The wash on Bledsoe and DeGarmo, a resident reached out and they were able to mobilize resources to clear out the wash with weed abatement, encampments, tree removal, tons of debris removed in Dec. and Jan. The city has not completed the south portion of that wash. Thanked the SNC for Community Impact Statement. Award presented in collaboration with Assembly Member Rivas and Councilwoman Rodriguez to Sean who owns the Sylmar KFC for the lunch support for Hope of the Valley. KFC served lunch to about 100 on the last Thursday of each month. A neighbor contacted CD7 about a mosquito problem and encourages contacting CD7 for assistance. He Complimented the SNC for connecting stakeholders to CD7.

- e. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Absent
 - f. Field Rep. Michelle Vergara, Congressman Tony Cardenas- Absent
 - g. Benita Trujillo, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl- absent
 - h. Representative East Valley, Office of Mayor Garcetti – Absent
 - i. FD Eveline Bravo-Ayala, Senator Hertzberg's Office-Absent
 - j. FD Jarrod Degonia, County Supervisor Kathryn Barger-Absent
 - k. Senior Lead Officers-Absent
 - l. FD Michael Menjivar, LAUSD District 6-Absent
5. Public Comment on non-Agendized Items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.
- a. Michael Gusik running for Congress against Tony Cardenas There's five main issues he will focus on while I'm in office: Housing as a right, Creating affordable housing, Tuition free public college and eradicating student loan debt, Gun safety including universal background checks with psychiatric evaluation, and finally climate change. The Saddle Ridge Fire was caused by PG&E. They are the second largest donor of both of our congressmen. He said is for climate change but he takes money from fossil fuel companies. I'm here because I want to serve you all. Voting ends on Tuesday
 - b. Ann Job - wants to remind all to vote on Tuesday. It is very important and it's important to be registered to vote. Remind people that their vote does count. It would be great to have a real spike in voters in Sylmar.
 - c. Jose Velasquez - Principal - At few of our elementary schools there is a Way Station for the Monarch Butterflies. I want to make sure that I could request from the council, that you would allow us to promote them. We want to encourage it and make sure that we do those things to make sure we keep life simple and not always get so complicated. Number one I would like to make the request to the board so we can just promote our School Police. They come to my campus with positive events for the children. When there's tension sometimes just their presence helps de-escalate things. They're overworked underpaid doing their best to help our little children.

- d. Les Eisenman – I am here to speak for one more underserved portion of our community, the seniors. The Senior Committee has been without a chairman for several months now. The Senior Committee was a program of excellence. People aren't even used to coming anymore. I am concerned that we will now go through another month without a meeting. The normal meeting time is on the first Monday which is around the corner and we still don't have a committee chairman or anyone to act in that capacity. While I can understand the president's desire to pick the person to do that I must confess that I'm a little out of sorts about the fact that no one was allowed to act and no one was allowed to create a meeting with all of the people that have been attending regularly. It was a well attended group that was beginning to have an impact. I'm concerned that by the time a new chairman has gotten into place and by the time that they get themselves together and put out an agenda for a meeting with one another it will be the end of the year. This is not a standing committee unfortunately and it will be delayed again. A Boardmember volunteered to run the committee. He doesn't want to diminish the work accomplished so far but needs help to organize and asks for Mr. Eisenman's help, who spoke positively. President Rubalcava stated he has never stopped anyone from having a meeting.
 - e. Stakeholder: Requested for \$2,000 for a sponsorship for the Empowerment Conference for Women on March 27, 2020 at Mission College.
6. President and Executive Committee Report - C. Rubalcava -not much to report. We want to show our appreciation for those who are working hard to bring in presenters, open houses at the office, Make Your Horse Count. LAPD is using our office for CERT training and more organizations are using our office space so it can be used on a consistent basis.
7. Committee Announcements and Reports
- a. Emergency Preparedness, Pacheco - CDC brochure is out – it is the same flyer they use for flu. Coronavirus is spread the same as the flu virus. The idea is that you want to prevent your exposure to that virus. Good hand washing, use hand sanitizer and get Lysol. There is no quarantine at this time. Don't go out to big events as often, at this time. Stock up on items from the store to prevent little trips. The board should have hand sanitizer and masks here and at the office. We could purchase them for under \$50.00. If things do get worse we might want to do some of our meetings by phone.
 - b. Senior Committee - Jose Velasquez will get this committee up and running.
 - c. Equestrian Committee - There have been a couple of horse accidents in the Lake View Terrace area. There was a meeting that was poorly organized with too many speakers and not enough room to stand or sit so we couldn't stay as nothing would be accomplished. For our Make Your Horse Count event we are ahead of schedule. We've provided reflective equipment for horses but the fact is it's not being used. Expect it will become a law. On our brochure we have a statement that horses should be required to have the same as a vehicle. Appreciate that Sylmar have been at the forefront of getting this information out.
 - d. Outreach - Open House, April 4, 10:30AM-12:30PM. The topic will be how to get involved in SNC committees and meet board members and see how you can get involved in Sylmar Neighborhood Council committees. There was discussion to create a group to report things to 311. If anyone interested to take the lead, let him know.

e. Homelessness, Acevedo- She will be attending the Homeless Liaison Meeting next week. Ms. Acevedo attended the Community Input meeting with LA Family Housing. The temporary women’s shelter will include escorts and no loitering around this facility. Great to see members of the Homeowners Association attend. She will be hosting next Homeless Committee meeting on February 3, 2020. She is looking for members to join the committee.

8. Presidential appointment of Roxann Nazario as the new At-Large Representative (formerly Youth Representative). Ms. Nazario has lived in Sylmar in one of the oldest homes in the community. Deeply rooted in the community. She has done a lot of work in public education and is a parent organizer. She educates parents on the LAUSD system, teaches them to work within to get children the services they need. Ms. Nazario is also interest in the arts. Things that inspire you give you a positive outlook to beautify our community. There’s a fine line between beautifying the community rather than gentrification. We don’t want to push people out and supporting our local businesses.

Public comment: none

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 8. Motion to approve the appointment of Roxann Nazario by President Rubalcava				
Yes –12	No- 00	Abstain–00	Ineligible-00	Absent – 07
Acevedo, Blose, Cabrera, Durio, Lara, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Zelaya	None	None	None	Bloom, Floresta, Gonzales, Magana, Silva, Underwood, Velasquez

9. Presidential appointment of Rex Allen as the new At-Large Representative (formerly Senior Representative). He is a 10 year resident of Sylmar. Mr. Allen moved into The Cascades and is on the Board of Directors there. He would like to get more involved in the fire station, homeless and traffic issues.

Public comment: Stakeholder said the Senior Position has been vacant for over 60 days. He is very concerned about not having a Senior Representative on this board. Where in the Bylaws does it say they “must” be converted in that manner? C. Rubalcava read from the Bylaws. The seat has been vacant since December 19, 2019. We’ve had a standing agenda item for a Senior Representative since that time. The two new Boardmembers were sworn in by President C. Rubalcava and explained the training requirements before they can vote on Board agenda items.

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 9. Motion to approve the appointment of Rex Allen by President Rubalcava				
Yes –12	No- 00	Abstain–00	Ineligible-01	Absent – 07
Acevedo, Blose, Cabrera, Durio, Lara, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Zelaya	None	None	Nazario	Bloom, Floresta, Gonzales, Magana, Silva, Underwood, Velasquez

10. Meet and Greet (15 Minute Break) Break 7:53PM Returned at 8:05PM

Meeting reconvened after break at 8:05PM (21 Board Members Present)

Roll Call-14	Absent – 07
Acevedo, Allen, Blose, Cabrera, Nazario, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Durio, Velasquez, Zelaya	Bloom, Floresta, Gonzales, Lara, Magana, Silva, Underwood

11. Discussion and possible action on approving a letter from the PLUC committee relating to 5 Acre parcel APN: 2580-004-016. 12541 W. Gridley St. The PLUC is proposing a recommendation to oppose amending the current General Plan or changing the Zoning designation for this site. PLUC was approached by the owner who recently purchased the site. It is zoned open space and it has A1-1XL zoning (one house for every 2-½ acres). Owner wanted to get feedback on what the community thought could be done with the property. 70 people attended. Not much support for the development of the property. Impacts to the hand gliders an issue. Could build by right for equestrian. He would have to apply for a General Plan Amendment. He could make it a nursery or stables. To build homes the PLUC felt to communicate the community's position at this time. Invited him to meetings. He said he didn't apply for the GPA. Oliver has contacted the equestrian committee and he wants to see the different kind of stables, high end to normal. Advised that a lot of the land is not buildable. He would need a good exit plan before he can do anything. He does not have knowledge about equestrian issues. There are also no trails to ride out to. The owner is not sure what he's able to do and why we are taking pre-emptive action. Comment that it is good to have support before preparing any plans for development. The letter is based on the community meetings and various discussions. Our community plan was established in 2012 and we've taken a rigid stand on not approving zone changes and we're trying to protect our community from developers buying and building on Ag property. The property is also included on the Pacoima Beautiful Wash Plan and it's shown to be a pocket park or access path and there's information that this buyer should have been aware. As a community we've gathered information and the sense is that we do not want development there. Someone said his plan was to put 23 homes and the sale of the property came with that plan. He came during escrow and he made neighbors aware. There are things he can do by right. He could build two homes on the property if 5 acres. One acre is in the wash.

Public comment: Ms. Job- Is this zoned Open Space?

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 11. Motion to approve the letter from the PLUC Moved: Blose Second: A. Rubalcava				
Yes –12	No- 00	Abstain–00	Ineligible-02	Absent – 07
Acevedo, Blose, Cabrera, Durio, Lara, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Zelaya	None	None	Nazario, Allen	Bloom, Floresta, Gonzales, Magana, Silva, Underwood, Velasquez

12. Presentation by Volunteers of America on what they do to assist with the Homelessness Crisis. Commends Sylmar where the homeless count has gone down from 2019. Volunteers of America founded in 1896 will celebrate 125th anniversary. Focus is broad youth and adult services. They are the fourth largest Head Start provider in the County. Adult Services include access centers, street outreach, rapid re-housing in SFV, homeless youth, youth Opioid addiction, drug education, LGBTQ, human trafficking, behavioral health services. Largest homeless services are their shelters. There are no shelters in SFV. They have 800 beds throughout the County. The biggest are S. LA Womens, Pathways to Home: Pomona, it is large in terms of shelter footprint. There is a Safe Parking program in Van Nuys with LAHSA. There is Transitional Living Program, Womens Care Cottage, N. Hollywood Apts. with 472 units of workforce housing for the NoHo and Van Nuys area, with lower rents for people who cannot afford. There is Focus on At Risk Youth. They are hoping to bring another Safe Parking Program. Homeless are transient, which is a challenge. **Q&A:** Can anyone volunteer? VOALA.org indicates volunteer opportunities. It's a strange reality but everyone on staff is paid staff. There are specific opportunities for volunteers but there are services that VOA provides. They find very little connection with the schools and these organizations. What is in the VOA system to assist the stabilization of families with children in school? As a large Head Start provider they use that program to connect the children and their families and stay with them. They try to create a continuum and stay

connected with those families. They try to link health care services to the Head Start services. Regarding the Safe Parking Program, 38% of homeless are in RVs, which is unique. They are hoping to bring another safe parking program to SFV. The larger the lot, the more accommodating it can be. It's difficult to find them. Jose Velasquez confirmed that the Seniors Committee meeting is next week at the office, 6:00 PM. The Intent is to regroup and get started.

13. Presentation by Hope of the Valley on what they do to assist with the Homelessness Crisis. – Jonathan Leeper is the community engagement officer from Van Nuys and they believe the homeless situation has reached a critical struggle. They work to get people off the streets. In 2007 he moved from Pittsburgh and he was using addicted for 27 years of his life. He came to CA to continue his addiction. His family had shut down on him. There was a change that happened because he walked into a rescue mission and it turned his whole way of thinking because he had a practical work way of thinking. He was encouraged to help with the soup kitchen and going to classes. Its 13 years later and he’s now a productive citizen. People are disenchanted and is there any hope? Yes, there is hope. It happens, one life and one situation at a time and that the community comes in and surrounds that person to help them. The organization provides an access center to come off the streets and bring everyone in. They open their doors and treat them with compassion. They don’t accomplish this unless they have compassion and options. The community partners come together to provide services and turn lives around. Mr. Leeper extended invitation to come out and help and volunteer.

Carlos Lara left at 8:45PM
David Gonzales arrived at 8:45PM
Jose Velasquez left at 8:48

14. Announcement of a Coat Drive for the March and April Board Meetings by Homeless Services Chair, Brielle Acevedo. They will be donated to the Rescue Mission -We will also collect coats at the committee meeting on Tuesday at the office.
15. Discussion and possible action on supporting a public letter relating to Assembly Concurrent Resolution 125: Reducing Bias and Discrimination in Hiring.

Public comments: Watched the meeting last month on FB live and that there weren’t any CIS’s. Do we want to sign on as supporters of the measure?

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 15. Motion to approve a public letter relating to Assembly Concurrent Resolution 125: Reducing Bias and Discrimination in Hiring. Moved: Ortega Second: A. Rubalcava				
Yes –8	No- 03	Abstain–01	Ineligible-02	Absent – 07
Acevedo, Cabrera, Durio, Montano, Ortega, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Zelaya	Blose, Gonzales, Opperman	Pacheco	Nazario, Allen	Bloom, Floresta, Lara, Magana, Silva, Underwood, Velasquez

16. Announcement of a date change for Make Your Horse Count, from May 17th to May 10th. - Equestrian Chair, Cheri Blose said that there are other important members who put the event together. They are looking at May 24 or June 7, 2020 for the event. The date will be locked in by next week.

17. Discussion and possible action on approving a previous expense to come out of our office budget. The expense is for \$160 from Allen plumbing for a sink repair.

Public comments: none

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 17. Motion to approve a previous expense to come out of our office budget. The expense is for \$160 from Allen plumbing for a sink repair. Moved: Gonzales Second: Lara				
Yes –12	No- 00	Abstain–00	Ineligible-02	Absent – 07
Acevedo, Blose, Cabrera, Durio, Gonzales, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Zelaya	None	None	Nazario, Allen	Bloom, Floresta, Lara, Magana, Silva, Underwood, Velasquez

18. Discussion and possible action on approving \$225 from Office expenses for the purchase of a new flag and a new 8-foot office table.

Public comments: none

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 18. Motion to approve \$225 from Office Expenses for the purchase of a new flag and a new 8-foot office table. Moved: A. Rubalcava Second: Ortega				
Yes –12	No- 00	Abstain–00	Ineligible-02	Absent – 07
Acevedo, Blose, Cabrera, Durio, Gonzales, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Zelaya	None	None	Nazario, Allen	Bloom, Floresta, Lara, Magana, Silva, Underwood, Velasquez

19. Discussion and possible action on approving the January 2019 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER).

Public comments: none

Motion passed

SNC ITEM 19. Motion to approve the January 2019 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER). Moved: Pacheco Second: Ortega				
Yes –12	No- 00	Abstain–00	Ineligible-02	Absent – 07
Acevedo, Blose, Cabrera, Durio, Gonzales, Montano, Opperman, Ortega, Pacheco, A. Rubalcava, C. Rubalcava, Zelaya	None	None	Nazario, Allen	Bloom, Floresta, Lara, Magana, Silva, Underwood, Velasquez

20. Board Member Comments and Announcements – Update regarding Michelle. She broke her leg. We will place her attendance on the board agenda.

21. Future Agenda Items

22. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment- Meeting Adjourned at 8:48PM

The Next Sylmar Neighborhood Council General Board meeting will be: March 26th, 2020 at 6:30 pm
Location: TBA