Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC)

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 11, 2013

6:30 pm

Sherman Oaks Elementary School Auditorium

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jill Banks Barad at approximately 6:35 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: led by a representative from the Betsy Ross Division of the U.S. Navy League Cadet Corps who meet at the Patrick Henry Army Reserve Center in Sherman Oaks.
3. Roll call: There was a quorum: 13 Present; 4 Absent
   1. Present: Banks Barad, Ebenstein, Hutchinson, Katchen, Plotkin, Bartley, Beeber, Revord, Lax, Ziff, Calne, Roden, Kalban.
   2. Absent: Casavan, Brooks, Preston, Marciniak
4. The minutes of SONC Board meeting of February 11, 2013 were approved as corrected. Motion made by Katchen, seconded by Beeber. Corrected section 4.d. from “Ron Ziff recommended that notice of the closure be posted on the 101 to alert drivers before exiting at Coldwater Canyon” to “Jay Beeber recommended that notice of the closure be posted on the 101 to alert drivers before exiting at Coldwater Canyon”.
5. Introduction of elected officials, staff, LAPD Senior Lead Officer, etc.
   1. Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry for northern Sherman Oaks, spoke and provided his contact number 818-731-2563. Reported that crime is down 12% from last year but still seeing a lot of petty theft of personal property.
   2. Steven Butcher of State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian’s office (AD 46) introduced staff members Mindy and Dora. Gave an update regarding the 20 Bills being proposed. Some highlights include: tobacco-free schools, recovering minimum wage previously not paid, outreach to parents of students on health care services, transportation bill to remove ban on light rail, etc.
   3. Alice Roth of City Councilmember Tom LaBonge’s office (CD 4) spoke on the development of a Sherman Oaks emergency preparedness plan and a damaged bridge gate east of Woodman St. Alice’s email address is alice.roth@lacity.org
   4. Captain Stacy Gehrlic from LA Fire Station 88 announced the free Fire Department CERT emergency preparedness training. Visit: www.cert-la.com/EmergPrepBooklet.pdf
   5. The Special Manager for Director of Bureau of Sanitation gave an update on City’s single-use plastic bag ordinance. Announced that a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is in work and is expected to be final in May. Comments and feedback welcome.
6. **Public Comment**: Andrew Loccisano, who lives near the Sunkist building, was concerned about what would be located there after the property was sold and was referred to the Land Use Committee who will be taking up this topic.
7. **Guest Speaker**:,Rrepresentative from Office of State Board of Equalization was absent due to the flu. Tax Workshop was postponed to a future meeting.
8. **President’s Report** – Jill Banks Barad, President discussed how the City was threatening to lower the Neighborhood Council annual budget by $7,400 to pay for conducting NC elections because Ballot Measure A did not pass which would have increased sales tax revenue. Currently the NC budget is $37,000.
9. **Treasurer’s Report** – Howard Katchen, Chair.
   1. Howard encouraged everyone to take the Mayor’s Budget Survey and attend the Regional Budget Day on March 16.
   2. Presented current financial report and balance of $29,091.78, purchase card expenditures since last Board meeting of $238.78, 1st Quarter (Jul-Sep) purchase card expenditures of $1,553.26, and 2nd Quarter (Oct-Dec) purchase card expenditures of $920.37. Motion to approve moved by Plotkin, seconded by Hutchinson. Passed unanimously.
   3. Briefly discussed requirements for Board members out of pocket reimbursement.
   4. Howard noted the funding request deadline for this fiscal year is May 15, 2013. This applies to Demand Warrants and Neighborhood Purposes Grants. Unspent money will not roll over into the next fiscal year.
10. **Committee Reports/Updates** 
    1. Neighborhood Services—Arthur Hutchinson, Vice Chair. Arthur reported that there was a joint committee meeting with the Green and Beautification Committee held on March 5th, at the Senior Center on Van Nuys Blvd. A non-profit organization attended and discussed the graffiti removal and sanitation services that they provide for the city and will be providing a proposal that can be presented during the next Finance Committee meeting.
    2. Land Use Committee (LUC)– Ron Ziff, Chair.
       1. il villaggio Toscano (IVT) project (project applicant is M. David Paul Associates) was heard on February 19th by the City Planning Commission. They heard testimony and took it under advisement. The report should be out in mid-April. The next hearing will be on April 25th at the Van Nuys City Hall.
       2. The next LUC meeting will be March 21st at the Senior Center. Will be hearing a follow up to the Notre Dame High School project covering the landscaping plan and a service building, a 24 unit condo complex at 5300 Sepulveda, and a Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant with a liquor license at the Galleria.
       3. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Reserve announced the final mortgage abuse settlement last Thursday, which includes these banks: Aurora, Bank of America (which includes Countrywide), Citibank, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, JPMorgan Chase (which includes Washington Mutual), MetLife Bank, Morgan Stanley, PNC, Sovereign, SunTrust, U.S. Bank (which includes Downey Savings), and Wells Fargo. There are 4 million homeowners that will be eligible. The payments will be up to $125,000 each. They will be handled by Rust Consulting Inc., which specializes in class action settlement administration.
    3. Government Affairs--Jay Beeber, Chair. Jay reported that the City is proposing an Administrative process for ticketing called ACE.
    4. Arts Committee—Matthew Plotkin, Chair. Matt reported that the Arts and Outreach Committees are working together and looking at participating in a Memorial Day event being held by City Parks and Recreation at Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Park.
    5. Green and Beautification Committee—Carolyn Casavan, Chair. Carolyn was absent; see Neighborhood Services Committee report above.
    6. Rules and Elections—Arthur Hutchinson, Chair. Gave an update of Board members who have taken ethics training since October 2012 when he took office as 2nd Vice President: 13 have taken, 4 remain to take the training or have taken it within the last 2 years, but have not provided documentation to the 2nd VP. The 13 Board members are: Hutchinson, Katchen, Casavan, Plotkin, Bartley, Beeber, Brooks, Lax (live training on Feb 21), Preston, Ziff, Calne, Roden, and Kalban. In addition, LUC member Craig Buck has provided documentation showing he has taken the training.
11. The following announcements were made on subject matters within SONC’s jurisdiction
    1. Jill announced that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) 10th Anniversary Mixer, will be held on March 14, at CBS Radford Studios, Studio City.
    2. Jill announced the VANC Candidates’ Forum for Citywide Candidates in May 21 runoff election, will be held on Saturday, April 27 at CBS Radford Studios, Studio City 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. and Dan Schnur will be the Moderator.
12. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Arthur Hutchinson for

Carolyn Casavan, Secretary