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Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Kathy Schreiner
kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org
President

Maduka Nkuku
maduka.nkuku@vnnc.org
Vice President

John Hendry
john.hendry@vnnc.org
Secretary

David Harari
david.harari@vnnc.org
Treasurer

Myrra Bolla
myrra.bolla@vnnc.org
Parliamentarian

Members

Samuel Apikyan
Hakop 'Jack' Azatyan
John Camera
Josue Chavez
Brian Edelman
Ann Kalb
Yena Kim
David Kopelev
Jarred Piña
Britt Vaughan
Cyle Zezotarski

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday, January 10, 2024
7:00PM

Conference room of the
Marvin Braude Constituents
Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd,
Van Nuys, CA 91401

(SE corner of Van Nuys Blvd. and
Sylvan St.)

Van Nuys
Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 3118
Van Nuys, CA 91407-3118

Email: info@vnnc.org
www.vnnc.org

818-357-2446
(effective 12/4/23)

Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting.

Public comment is limited to a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker per item with a maximum of 10 minutes total per meeting, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. **Actual time for each comment will be recorded in 30 second increments (i.e., 30 sec., 1 min., 90 sec., 2 min.).**

Speakers shall limit their comments to matters relevant to the item on the agenda. The Chair may rule that the speaker is out of order if the comments are not germane to the item under consideration. Speakers shall direct their comments to the Board (not to an individual).

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Reports from Government officials: (2 min each)

- a. LAPD Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/>
LAFD Station 39
- b. Council District 2 – Arus Grigoryan arus.grigoryan@lacity.org 818-210-1504 (cell)
Council District 4 – Ryan Ahari ryan.ahari@lacity.org 213-473-7004
Council District 6 – Brian Patton brian.patton@lacity.org Office: (818) 778-4999, Cell: (818) 270-1931
- c. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – Alfonso Manzo
alfonso.manzo@lacity.org
Mayor’s office – Michelle Vergara michelle.vergara@lacity.org (213) 400-9816
Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) –
Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Clarissa Gomez Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov
Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) – Jasmin Hernandez jasmin.hernandez@sen.ca.gov
California Congressional District 29 – Laura Juarez laura.juarez@mail.house.gov

3. Tentative: Report from Councilmember Imelda Padilla of CD 6.

4. Officer Reports

- a. President
 - A printed copy of VNNC agendas and linked files can be reviewed in a reference notebook that will be located at the Van Nuys Branch Library.
 - February Board meeting will be on February 28 (to avoid having a meeting on February 14).
 - Participated with LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (LANCSA) in development of comments on the Draft Vision Plan for the Sepulveda Basin. The 260+ page plan can be accessed from the project website: bit.ly/sepulvedabasinvp
- b. Vice-President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Parliamentarian

5. Procedures regarding limits and timing of Public Comments.

Discussion and possible action to adopt a new Standing Rule regarding the amount of time allocated for individual public comments and method for tracking individual time.

Background: Each Neighborhood Council can develop a set of Standing Rules that specify procedures to be followed by the council. Standing rules are more flexible than Bylaws and may be adopted and changed by a majority vote of the Council. The VNNC Standing Rules were last modified in 2018 and no longer match the actual procedures of the council. A link to the current Standing Rules and the specific rule applicable to VNNC procedures regarding public comments is attached at the end of the agenda.

The current policy followed during VNNC Board and Committee meetings is printed on the first page of each VNNC agenda:

Public comment is limited to a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker per item with a maximum of 10 minutes total per meeting, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

Based on experience in the past few months, many minutes are being consumed in recording time per topic and tracking time per individual commenter. To simplify the process of recording and tracking time, it is proposed that additional language be added regarding how time per comment will be tracked. This will simplify the amount of time a Board volunteer has to spend on timing each comment, recording time per comment, and summarizing how much time is left when asked by a stakeholder.

Proposed new language: **Actual time for each comment will be recorded in 30 second increments (i.e., 30 sec., 1 min., 90 sec., 2 min.).**

6. Discussion and possible action to vote to fill vacant Board seats.

a. ANNOUNCEMENT: In accordance with Section 7F of the Bylaws, the five (5) Board seats that are currently vacant have automatically become at-large seats. The 5 seats are:

- At-large Representative (Seat 2)
- Non-Profit Representative (Seat 2)
- At-large Industrial Representative (Seat 2)
- School Representative
- Youth Representative

b. Discussion and possible action to appoint **Sohrob Tahmasebi**, a resident of Van Nuys who has applied for and meets the qualifications for At-Large Representative (Seat 2). The candidate will be asked to give a 2-minute self-introduction, followed by questions from Board members.

<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-10-SohrobTahmasebi.png>

7. Discussion and possible action to approve a CIS to [CF 23-1114](#) to authorize the use of teleconferencing for Van Nuys Neighborhood Council meetings, including board meetings and committee meetings, in accordance with the rules established by Senate Bill 411 and the subsequent motion passed by the City Council on November 1, 2023. The VNNC wants to take advantage of the special teleconferencing rules available to Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils in order to enable access to meetings by individuals who are unable to participate in-person and to encourage broader participation of Stakeholders who are more willing to attend when a meeting allows virtual access.

Voting "yes" would permit the VNNC to hold hybrid meetings (i.e., with participation on Zoom by a few members and stakeholders who cannot attend in person), as well as to have the option to hold some 100% virtual meetings.

NOTE: A 2/3 affirmative vote is required by SB 411 in order for a Neighborhood Council to take advantage of teleconferencing. **City Attorney and DONE say that the VNNC must have 14 positive in-person votes to approve (i.e. 2/3 of 21 seats).**

8. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – maximum of 2 min per stakeholder (Note that topics discussed must be within the jurisdiction of the VNNC.)

9. Action items from the Budget and Finance Committee requiring roll call votes.

a. Discussion and possible action to approve the November 2023 MER (Monthly Expenditure Report)

Beginning Balance	Total Spent	Remaining Balance	Outstanding	Commitments	Net Available
\$30,730.90	\$1,366.48	\$29,364.42	\$120.45	\$0	\$29,243.97

https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/VNNC_MER_112023.pdf

b. Discussion and possible action to approve reimbursement to David Harari for \$75.00 for purchasing food for the VNNC Board Retreat on October 28th. (Note: Receipts add up to more than \$78.35, but the BAC was approved for \$75.00 so that is the reimbursement request.)

https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/VNNC_Harari_Reimbursement.pdf

c. Discussion and possible action to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$150 for the VNNC to provide refreshments on the evening of January 23rd for the volunteers who will participate in the 2024 Van Nuys Homeless Count. Refreshments will be provided at the central deployment point, which will be the Mid-Valley YMCA.

10. Discussion and possible action to agree to support a CD 2 Candidate Forum that is being organized by the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council.

The tentative date under consideration is February 6. The tentative site is NoHo Senior Center. No funding from the VNNC will be required.

11. Discussion and possible action to approve establishment of two new VNNC Committees.

NOTE: Each Board member must serve on at least one committee.

a. Public Safety, Human Services, and Animal Welfare Committee.

This committee will consider issues and action items that can enhance personal safety of residents, safety of neighborhoods, support for local police, support for City initiatives to help people move from living on the streets into interim housing (including Inside Safe, Circle, and Council Office activities), and support activities to improve the welfare of feral animals.

b. Parks, Public Spaces, and Sustainability Committee

This committee will consider issues and action items that can improve the cleanliness and visual environment in Van Nuys, encourage greater use of reporting through 311, increase open space, enhance the tree canopy, and support initiatives to preserve and increase natural resources (such as native plants, groundwater storage, etc.) and address climate change.

12. Updates on unresolved topics.

a. Waiting for response from DONE and City Attorney regarding issue that led to the resignation of Studio City NC members.

13. Identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting.

14. Adjournment

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting VNNC by via email at: info@vnnc.org

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 72 horas antes del evento. Por favor contacte a info@vnnc.org por correo electrónico para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS – VNNC agendas are posted publicly near the front door to the conference room of the Marvin Braude Constituents Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401 and also online at www.vnnc.org. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas>

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non- exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91401, at our website: <http://www.vnnc.org/> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact via email: info@vnnc.org

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS - For information on the VNNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNNC By-laws. The By-laws are available at our Board meetings and our website <http://www.vnnc.org>

Notice to Paid Representatives - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

Neighborhood Council Board Member Oath

I pledge to represent my neighborhood with dignity, integrity, and pride.
I will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own.
I will respect, value, and consider everyone's opinion.
I will find the good in my neighborhood and praise it and promote it.
To my neighbors, and to neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles, I pledge to do this to the best of my ability.

Attachment A

For most recent version of Standing Rules, see:

<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/VNNC-Standing-Rules0405181.pdf>

Current rule on Public Comment (from 2018):

Standing rules supplement the official bylaws and may be revised at any time by a majority vote of the Board.

Standing Rule on Public Comment

The Procedures for Public Comments are intended to accommodate input from community residents in a fair, reasonable, and orderly fashion.

1. Stakeholder comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction, are permitted during "General Public Comment" and will be allocated up to two (2) minute per speaker to address the Board.
2. Stakeholders will be provided the opportunity to comment up to one (1) minute per speaker, per item, with a maximum total of 10 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the facilitator/President.
3. The Board President will ask if anyone wishes to address the Board and will determine the order in which speakers will be recognized