

## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

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Francois Verin



## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday,  
August 13, 2025 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  
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818-357-2446

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.

The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council does not condone disrespectful and/or harmful speech. We apologize in advance to those attending this meeting who may hear such language during any public comment. We are obligated to uphold an individual's right to free speech. However, we want to be clear that all comments made at this meeting must be in the jurisdiction of this body, directed to this body as a whole, and, if made during any time other than General Public Comments, must be specific to an agenda item.

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.).**

Stakeholders are asked to respect the timekeeper when you are alerted that your time has expired.

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Board Members are reminded not to cut off, interrupt, or otherwise engage with Stakeholders during their allotted time for public comment.

**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).**

Stakeholders are welcome to offer comments -- both during General Public Comment and Public Comments on specific agenda items -- but the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council requests that Stakeholders do not disrupt the meeting for other Stakeholders in attendance. We ask that Stakeholders refrain from calling out or participating in behavior that would disrupt the Board Meeting of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council. Stakeholders will be given an initial warning. There may be two additional warnings before the stakeholder is asked to leave the meeting due to disruptions of the meeting.

All public comments must be made into the microphone at the lectern to facilitate the capture of a clear recording of the meeting.

**1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Reports from LAPD and LAFD**

a. **Report from LAPD** Van Nuys Division - <https://vnnc.org/resource/>

b. **Report from LAFD**

**3. Reports from other Government officials (2 min each)**

- Council District 2
- Council District 4 – Taleen Keuroghlian [taleen.keuroghlian@lacity.org](mailto:taleen.keuroghlian@lacity.org)
- Council District 6 – Paulina Alvarado [paulina.alvarado@lacity.org](mailto:paulina.alvarado@lacity.org)  
(818) 778-4999
- Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – John Darnell  
[john.darnell@lacity.org](mailto:john.darnell@lacity.org)
- Mayor’s office – Betsaira Aguilera [betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org](mailto:betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org) (213) 257-0224
- LAUSD Board District 3, Scott Schmerelson [scott.schmerelson@lausd.net](mailto:scott.schmerelson@lausd.net)
- Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) – Karen Dominguez  
[KDominguez@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:KDominguez@bos.lacounty.gov)
- Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Clarissa Gomez  
[Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov)
- Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) –Alex De Leon [Alex.deleon@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Alex.deleon@sen.ca.gov)

- California Congressional District 29 – Cynthia Becerra  
[Cynthia.Becerra@email.house.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Becerra@email.house.gov) (818) 253-3535
  - Metro staff: Construction updates regarding the ESFV Light Rail transit project – Joanna Amador (with special emphasis on closure of one traffic lane each direction and closure of parking lanes due to blocking off with K-rail of the east side of Van Nuys Blvd, from Gault St. (just south of Sherman Way) to Arminta (just north of the railroad overpass) for two years)
  - Metro staff: Construction updates regarding construction in Van Nuys related to G Line Improvements – Rosalba Gonzalez
4. Discussion and possible action to make two appointments to fill vacant positions.
    - a. School Representative: Nina Caslavka  
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Nina-Caslavka-VNNC-Board-application.pdf>
    - b. At Large: Brandon Gruzen  
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/B-Gruzen-Boardmember-Applic.pdf>
  5. Shared perspectives regarding dispute about access to public parking in the area around Sylvan and Van Nuys Blvd.
    - a. Statement by representative of local merchants (2 minutes).
    - b. Statement by representative of local church (2 minutes).
    - c. Statement by staff from Council District 6 (2 minutes).
  6. **Budget & Finance Committee items that require a roll call vote.**
    - a. Discussion and possible action to approve the June 2025 MER (Monthly Expenditure Report).  
 NOTE: MER reports that the VNNC ended Fiscal Year 2024/25 with a balance of \$9,864.87. This is the approximate amount of rollover funds that the VNNC will be able to add to the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget once advised by the City Clerk NC Funding staff that these funds are available.  
[https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/VNNC\\_MER\\_June2025.pdf](https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/VNNC_MER_June2025.pdf)
    - b. Discussion and possible action to approve a revised version of the 2025/2026 budget that moves \$200 from the Outreach budget line to the budget line for Neighborhood Purpose Grants (see p. 10).
    - c. Discussion and possible action to approve an NPG application from Columbus Ave. Elementary School for \$2200 for a school sign to be posted on the back fence of the school site. “Hanging the letters on the rear fence of our school along Lemay St. allows the community to know that the school is part of the neighborhood by putting this signage within the neighborhood. It also may deter any onlookers from believing the rear of the school is empty or unoccupied.”

<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Columbus-Ave.-ES-Neighborhood-Council-NPG-Application-for-Grant-2025.pdf>

**7. Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee actions that require a roll call vote and/or discussion.**

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve sending a letter to City Planning stating that the VNNC Board supports the application of the Van Nuys Masonic Building Association for a Zoning Variance to permit the development of a community adult day care facility for 100 adults at 14750 Sherman Way (which would make use of building spaces Monday through Friday only).

Digital copies of project documents can be found at:

<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/search/casenumbr/ZA-2025-1248-ZV> (In box on top right of screen, click on “Initial Submittal Documents” to find links to documents related to application.)

- b. Discussion and possible action to send a letter to Councilmember Imelda Padilla (1) stating that the VNNC supports the request by the Kester Ridge Neighborhood Collective for the purchase of land and development of a new pocket park and (2) calling attention to the need for the addition of more park space in Van Nuys (given that Van Nuys has already been designated as having a “very high need” for parks and that the need will increase as we anticipate more building that will increase population density).

See Advocacy Letter from Kester Ridge Neighborhood Collective on pp. 11-12.

- c. Discussion and possible action to approve a CIS that supports CF 25-0002-S19, which proposes that the City of Los Angeles take a position of opposition to SB 79 unless amended to exempt municipalities with a state-approved and compliant Housing Element.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=25-0002-S19>

Excerpt from Council Motion:

WHEREAS, SB 79 establishes new state zoning standards around train stations and major bus stops (bus rapid transit stops) that allow for multi-family homes up to seven stories near immediately surrounding major transit stops, with lower height standards extending up to half a mile away from such stops; and

WHEREAS, while the intent of SB 79 may be to address issues around the supply of housing, the bill’s provisions further undermines local governance, circumvents local decision-making processes, and imposes unintended burdens on communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has a strong interest in maintaining, what little remains, of local control over land use and zoning laws to best serve the needs of its residents, ensure community input, and protect the unique character of its neighborhoods while still complying with state housing needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-26 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION for SB 79 (Wiener) unless amended to exempt municipalities with a state-approved and compliant Housing Element

- d. Introduce topic of the Metro Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project and discuss whether to hold a Special Board Meeting on August 27 to discuss the alternative routes and determine (1) if the VNNC wants to change its original support for Alternative 6 and (2) whether there are other types of comments we want to make as a Neighborhood Council to submit by the August 30 deadline for comments on the Draft EIR.

Background: The Sepulveda Transit Corridor is a high capacity rail line being planned to connect the San Fernando Valley and the Westside (with a future link to LAX). All five alternatives begin at the Metrolink station in Van Nuys and end in West LA at the Expo Line. In 2022, the VNNC took a position to support Alternative 6 (heavy rail running under Van Nuys Blvd.).

A Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (DEIR) for this project was released a few months ago. The final date for public comments to be submitted on the DEIR is August 30<sup>th</sup>. Metro has held informational public meetings online, in the San Fernando Valley, and in the Westside since May to inform the public about the latest stage of planning for this major transit project.

A public meeting/hearing on the Draft EIR will be held by Metro on Monday, August 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center, 5056 Van Nuys Blvd., Building B, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. VNNC Board Members and Stakeholders are encouraged to attend this meeting.

More information about the project can be found on the project website:

<https://www.metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor/>

8. Discussion and possible action to fill the following positions:
  - a. Secretary
  - b. Chair of the Outreach Committee and at least two members.
9. Discussion and possible action to create an ad hoc Bylaws Committee for a six-month duration and appoint Parliamentarian Cyle Zezotarski to chair the committee. The purpose of the committee will be to consider potential revisions to the VNNC's Bylaws and Standing Rules.

## **10. Board Officer Reports**

### **a. President**

- Proposing to hold a Board Retreat on Saturday, September 13. More details will be forthcoming.
- The VNNC has been asked to participate in and table at "Saluting Our Firefighting Heroes – Breakfast with the Brave" on Saturday, August 23 at Van Nuys Fire Station 39, 14615 Oxnard from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Need members to volunteer.
- Asking Board Members to consider interest in Committees that have openings (see list on p. 9) and notify Committee Chair of their interest in joining one or more committees. The Bylaws require that each Board Member serve on at least one committee.
- Presentation on regulations that apply to sidewalk vendors and how to report violations has been postponed to the September meeting.
- Next steps on LA Park Needs Assessment: Monitor website.  
<https://needs.parks.lacity.gov/>
- From the LA Public Library: Take the Library's community survey to ensure that our future reflects the community's needs and aspirations. Your responses will help us continue to grow in ways that reflect what matters most to you. Complete the survey for a chance to win a \$200 gift card: [https://gensler.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9yOxduGYgGbEReu](https://gensler.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9yOxduGYgGbEReu)
- A printed copy of VNNC General Board Meeting agendas and linked files can be reviewed in a reference notebook that is located at the Van Nuys Branch Library.
- For information on upcoming local events and services, look under the Events list on the right side of the homepage of the vnnc.org website and on the calendar.

### **b. Other Officer Reports**

## **10. Consent agenda**

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve minutes from the July 9<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting.

[https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/VNNC\\_07092025\\_GBM\\_Draft\\_Minutes\\_Final.pdf](https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/VNNC_07092025_GBM_Draft_Minutes_Final.pdf)

- 11. Discussion and possible action to file a CIS in support of City Council motion CF 25-0600-S7 to increase funding per Neighborhood Council for FY 2025/26 to \$32,000 and to continue to allow use of rollover funds.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=25-0600-S7>

**12. 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.)

**13. Update on unresolved topic.**

- a. Need to delay vote on SB 411 meeting option until can get 14 Board Members available to attend a meeting.

**14. Announcements and identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting.**

**15. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 <https://ethics.lacity.gov/lobbying/>. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto: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.



## **VNNC Committees**

Article VII of the VNNC Bylaws addresses Committees and Their Duties. It can be found on pages 15 - 17 at <https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/VNNC-Bylaws-Approved-05162022.pdf> Each Board Member is required to be an active participating member of at least one Committee. (Article V Governing Board, Section 5 Duties and Powers, p. 8)

### **Standing Committees**

#### **Executive Committee**

The Officers of the VNNC shall constitute the Executive Committee, which shall be responsible for the administration of the VNNC. The Executive Committee shall set the agenda for each VNNC meeting.

#### **Budget and Finance Committee**

Reviews financial reports. Creates annual budgets. Receives, reviews, and submits stakeholder grant applications to the Board for consideration.

Chair	Current Members	Number of openings
David Harari	Pam Bingham, Kathy Schreiner	2 openings

#### **Outreach Committee**

Works to promote and inform the community about the activities of VNNC and encourage stakeholder participation. Develops and vets community outreach events, projects, and initiatives to participate in and support.

Chair	Current Members	Number of openings
TBD	TBD	TBD

#### **Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee**

Oversees planning, zoning, and land use issues affecting the VNNC, including proposals for new developments, zoning and planning, land entitlements, conditional use permits, special uses, alcohol license, design and policy.

Chair	Current Members	Number of openings
Quirino de la Cuesta	Brian Edelman, Ann Kalb, Kathy Schreiner	1 opening* (have one potential volunteer)

#### **Additional Committee approved by Board**

#### **Public Safety, Human Services, and Animal Welfare Committee**

Identify significant issues and needs of the Van Nuys community related to City services in the areas of public safety, homelessness and human services, and animal welfare. Make recommendations to the Board on policy positions to recommend to the City Council and on advocacy/requests to be submitted to Council Offices and/or City Departments.

Chair	Current Members	Number of openings
Pam Bingham	Brian Edelman, Delilah Perez-Vigo, Mindi Gonzalez	1 opening* (have one potential volunteer)

#### **Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee**

Chair	Current Members	Number of openings
TBD	TBD	TBD

**Van Nuys Neighborhood Council**  
**Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

	Approved TBD	Proposed Changes	Revised Budget
<b>Annual Budget Funds</b>	\$25,000.00		\$25,000
<b>Rollover Funds</b>	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Total Annual Budget Funds</b>	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00
<b>Office/Operational Funds</b>			
Storage Locker (All Right Storage)	\$2,340		\$2,340
Printing and Photocopies for Meetings	\$1,100		\$1,100
Food, Refreshments for General Board Meetings	\$1,500		\$1,500
Zoom Licenses	\$400		\$400
Canva License	\$130		\$130
Note-taker for Meetings	\$3,000		\$3,000
Administrative Support/Bridgeway	\$3,000		\$3,000
Office Supplies	\$400		\$400
Web Hosting and Maintenance, E-blasts, Agenda-Posting (Moore Business Results)	\$7,000		\$7,000
GoDaddy web hosting, email addresses, and software utilities	\$1,350		\$1,350
Mailbox at Van Nuys USPS	\$310		\$310
Board Retreats	\$300		\$300
Councilmember Bus. Cards/Nameplates/Nametags	\$100.00		\$100.00
Facility Rental for Meetings	\$0.00		\$0.00
Telephone service	\$600		\$600
Total Office and Operational Expenditures	<b>\$21,530.00</b>		<b>\$21,530.00</b>
<b>Outreach Expenditure Category</b>	<b>\$1,470.00</b>	<b>- \$200</b>	<b>\$1,270</b>
<b>Election Expenditures Category</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) Expenditure Category</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>+ \$200</b>	<b>\$2,200</b>
<b>Community Improvement Project (CIP) Expenditure Category</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Expenditures for the Fiscal Year</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>		<b>\$25,000.00</b>

Advocacy Letter regarding the need for a park  
from the Kester Ridge Neighborhood Collective

Nina Caslavka

Sunday, May 4th, 2025

RE: Letter of Support for Proposed Park in Kester Ridge, Van Nuys

Dear Council Member Imelda Padilla,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed park in the Kester Ridge neighborhood of Van Nuys. As a resident of this community, I have seen firsthand the critical need for accessible green spaces in our area and wholeheartedly endorse the efforts of the Kester Ridge Neighborhood Collective to bring this vision to life.

Van Nuys is one of the most park-deficient areas in Los Angeles County. According to the 2016 Park Needs Assessment conducted by the County Department of Recreation and Parks, our community has only 0.2 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents—far below the county average of 3.3 acres. Additionally, only 17% of our population lives within a half-mile of a park. The Kester Ridge neighborhood, located near Kester Avenue and Vanowen Street, was specifically identified in the study as a high-priority area for new park development (“Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment”).

Despite being classified as a High Need Zone nearly a decade ago, there have been no Measure A-funded park projects initiated in the Van Nuys–North Sherman Oaks area to date. Meanwhile, our community continues to grow. Major developments like the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project, the G Line Bus Rapid Transit improvements, and a new 400+ unit housing project on Sepulveda Boulevard are increasing both our population and our need for open, safe, and green public space.

The proposed park would serve as a much-needed resource, particularly for families and students at Columbus Avenue Elementary School—where 94.5% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch and nearly half are English Language Learners (“California Department of Education”). The school currently sits on an unshaded, paved playground that creates dangerous heat conditions during much of the year. A nearby park would provide not just recreational relief, but a healthier and more equitable environment for children and families alike.

This initiative is a grassroots effort driven by local mothers and caregivers who are deeply invested in the future of our neighborhood. The Kester Ridge Neighborhood Collective has already identified three potential park sites, engaged local elected officials, and secured the support of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council.

I fully support this effort and urge you to partner with the Kester Ridge community to help create a park that reflects the needs, values, and aspirations of its residents. This project represents

an opportunity to address long-standing disparities in park access and invest in a healthier, more connected Van Nuys.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nina Caslavka  
Co-Leader of the Kester Ridge Neighborhood Collective-Park Proposal Committee

#### Works Cited

“California Department of Education.” School Profile: Columbus Avenue Elementary,  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sdprofile/details.aspx?cds=19647336120679>.

“Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment.”  
lacountyparkneeds.org,  
<https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/FinalReport.pdf>