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Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council
Parks, Open Space, and Environment
Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2022
at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting online or by telephone
Please click the link below
to join the Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86182632536>

Dial **(669) 900-6833** to join the meeting
Enter Meeting ID: **861 8263 2536**
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In Conformity With The September 16, 2021 Enactment Of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) And Due To Concerns Over Covid-19, Parks, Open Space, and Environment Committee Meeting Of Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Will Be Conducted Telephonically And Internet Based Via Zoom.

Members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting or participate in public comment to the Committee via telephone should call (669) 900-6833 or one of the following Toll-Free Telephone Numbers: (833) 548 0282, (888) 475 4499 and use Meeting ID No. **861 8263 2536** ; then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID. When you have a question for the Host, you can Raise Hand by pressing *9, when called on to talk, you can mute/unmute by pressing *6.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS The public is requested to dial *9 if participating by phone or "Raise Hand" if participating by computer, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. 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.

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.

AB 361 Updates -

Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting; only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned

Chair of Parks, Open Space, and Environment Committee: Kathy Schreiner

Members of Parks, Open Space, and Environment Committee: Hakop Azatyan, John Camera, John Hendry, and Danielle Rouillard.

Stakeholder Members: Michele Gregory, Quirino de la Cuesta

1. Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call.
2. Chair Comments
3. Report and discussion regarding activities and staffing at Recreation Centers in Van Nuys.
 - a. Thomas Ortiz, Facility Director, Van Nuys Recreation Center.
 - b. Oscar Cardenas, Facility Director, Delano Recreation Center.
4. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (2 min per stakeholder).
5. Discussion and possible action regarding enhancing the tree canopy in Van Nuys and prioritizing native trees.
 - a. **Special Guest: Joanne D'Antonio**, Chair of the Trees Committee, will discuss some of the practical challenges to be addressed before we can initiate a tree planting project.
 - b. Discuss who to coordinate with regarding the idea of filling vacant tree wells around Van Nuys High School.
 - c. Research the Tree inventory to identify vacant tree wells on Sherman Way.
 - d. Discussion of ways VNNC could advocate for prioritizing planting of native trees and plants and educating Van Nuys stakeholders about the value of planting native trees and plants.

6. Discussion of VNNC participation in the NC Sustainability Alliance and issues under consideration by the alliance.

a. Discussion and possible action regarding Zoo expansion plan, Alternative 1.5

Background: The City's Bureau of Engineering is conducting a Focused Recirculated EIR process for the L.A. Zoo's Vision Plan Alternative 1.5. Neighborhood Councils and the public are encouraged to provide comments about Alternative 1.5.

Joanne D'Antonio will share concerns from NCSA discussion. Individuals may send personal comments on the plans to Norman Mundy (contact info to be provided).

b. Discussion and possible action regarding taking a position on the draft Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance

Background: Los Angeles City Planning (City Planning) released the proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance (Oil Ordinance) for public review and feedback. In response to City Council File No. 17-0447, the proposed Oil Ordinance would amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit all new oil and gas drilling activities and make any existing extraction a nonconforming use in all zones of the City.

The proposed Oil Ordinance would phase out these oil drilling activities, which are known hazards to public health and safety, by immediately banning new oil and gas extraction and requiring the removal of existing operations after an amortization period.

NCSA adopted the following position statement on Sept 11th:

The NCSA applauds the city on its proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance. We urge the city to enact it promptly. We also urge the city to:

- Phase out oil wells on a schedule similar to Culver City's five year phaseout. That city's amortization study found that most older wells had already paid off their costs. Los Angeles is performing its own amortization study as required by council motion 17-0447, but it would be surprising and disappointing if LA's phaseout was much slower than Culver City's.
- Promptly plug and abandon each phased out well at the operator's expense.
- Engage public health experts to report on community impact of [highly toxic substances such as hydrofluoric acid](#) used in oil wells, and draft regulations to prohibit any which pose a significant risk to the surrounding neighborhood.
- Encourage redevelopment of well sites in a way that benefits the community, with neighborhood input.

7. Identify topics related to City of LA Parks that we would like to learn more about:
 - a. Rec and Parks plans for capital expenditures at Van Nuys and Delano Rec Centers (Measure A, etc.).
 - b. How are decisions made about using the funds developers pay in lieu of providing park space.
 - c. Others?
8. Discussion on topics suggested for consideration by John Hendry
 - a. Research options to beautify the streets and planting on Sherman Circle – possibly refer to Beautification Committee
9. Member comments and suggestions for future agenda items.
10. 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 calling: (818) 533-8662 or via email at: info@vnnc.org

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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>

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.

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.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.