

## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



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### 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 Executive Committee Meeting AGENDA

Tuesday, January 2, 2024  
6:00PM

Van Nuys Branch Library  
Community Room  
6250 Sylmar  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

On the Civic Center Plaza

Van Nuys  
Neighborhood Council  
P.O. Box 3118  
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Email: [info@vnnc.org](mailto:info@vnnc.org)  
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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 minutes segments.**

**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. Discussion and possible action regarding potential Items for the Agenda of the GBM (General Board Meeting) on January 10 – see separate list of items starting on page 5.
3. Logistics for January 10 General Board meeting
  - a. Food – Pizza again?
  - b. Room setup.
4. Discussion and possible action to recommend updates to the Board for the VNNC’s Standing Rule on Public Comment. Add a rule about how the time used by each stakeholder is measured and recorded.

For most recent version of Standing Rules, see:

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

Current rule:

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 provide 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

5. Assuming that the VNNC is able to meet the 2/3 in-person requirement “required” per City Attorney and vote to approve implementation of SB 411 provisions to make it possible to allow teleconferencing during Brown-Act governed VNNC meetings, discuss how decisions might be made regarding which meetings will be held (1) fully in person, (2) hybrid (i.e., mix of in-person and on-line participation), and (3) fully virtual. Identify implementation issues for further discussion.
6. Discuss whether to recommend to the Board action on the potential removal of Board Member Samuel Apikyan for 3 unexcused consecutive absences.

Facts:

- Board member Apikyan joined the Board in July (following election to the seat of Commercial Representative #2). He attended the Regular Board meeting on July 12, the Special Board meeting on July 27, and the Regular Board meeting on August 9. Although he did not attend the Special Board meeting on August 23, Mr. Apikyan advised the President by email that he would not be able to attend.
- Mr. Apikyan did not attend the regular Board meetings on September 13, October 11, or November 8 without any prior communication to the President that he would be absent. (The November 8 meeting had to be cancelled after it was determined that a quorum was not present.)
- On the afternoon of November 8, the President sent an email to Mr. Apikyan’s personal email address, noting that he had missed the September and October Board meetings and the October retreat without providing any advanced notice of not being able to attend. She stated: “I am wondering if you are letting us know that you want to resign from the VNNC. If this is the case, please send me your notice of resignation.” She noted the need to meet a quorum on November 8 and said it would be helpful if he could attend. Mr. Apikyan did not respond to this email.
- Realizing that Mr. Apikyan might not have initiated his vnnc.org email, the President asked Ms. Moore to have GoDaddy send him a new password so that he could set up his vnnc.org account. On December 4, the President sent Mr. Apikyan an email addressed to his personal email account advising him that he would be receiving a message from GoDaddy. The President’s email included this request: “Please reply to Wendy and me to let us know if (1) you receive a password from GoDaddy today or tomorrow, and (2) if you are able to set up your vnnc.org email account.” No response was received.
- On December 12, the President sent an email to Mr. Apikyan’s personal email address asking him to confirm whether he would attend the December 13 Board meeting. Mr. Apikyan replied: “Dear Kathy, nice to hear from you. Sorry, I can not attend the meeting this time.
- President will send Mr. Apikyan a copy of this Executive Committee agenda and invite him to either attend in person or express by email his intent regarding ongoing participation on the VNNC.

**VNNC Bylaws Section 7: Absences**

Any Director who misses three (3) unexcused consecutive Regular Board Meetings in any six (6) month period may be subject to removal by majority vote of the Board.

Absences for all Directors shall be recorded in the VNNC’s meeting minutes or other manner of Council record keeping. Upon missing the stated number of board meetings, the President shall notify the Director of his/her absences and place the removal of the Director on the agenda of the next General or Special Board meeting, scheduled and noticed as per the Brown Act, whereupon the Board shall determine the validity of the absences before taking action to remove the Director.

7. Committee meeting schedule.

Since the GBM meeting date for February has been moved to February 28, this allows more time for scheduling committee meetings that will be forwarding items to the Board for consideration. Discuss potential meeting dates and locations.

8. Telephone number and Vonage account. (It was decided at the last Executive Committee meeting that the President and the Treasurer would share the responsibility to respond to voicemail messages.)

9. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (2 min per stakeholder)

(Note that topics discussed must be within the jurisdiction of the VNNC.)

10. Identification of topics Board Officers would like to discuss at a future meeting.

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

Items to be Considered for the Agenda of the VNNC January 10, 2024 GBM (General Board Meeting)

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Government Official Reports (Will try organizing in 3 groups again. Group A will include LAPD and LAFD. Group B will include CD 2, 4, and 6 representatives. Group C will include all other representatives of government officials.)
3. Possible Special Speaker: Imelda Padilla
4. Board Officer Reports
5. **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 Van Nuys Resident Sohrob Tahmasebi to fill vacancy for At Large Representative #2 seat.
6. Discussion and possible action to determine if the VNNC will choose the option of holding some meetings with virtual participation (as made possible through SB 411 and an enabling action by the City Council). Voting "yes" would permit us 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. **City Attorney and DONE say that the VNNC must have 14 positive in-person votes to approve (i.e. 2/3 of 21 seats).**
7. General Public Comment on non-agenda items
8. Consent Agenda: Review/approve minutes from December 13 meeting.
9. Action items from the Budget and Finance Committee requiring roll call votes.
  - a. Approve November MER
  - 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.)
  - 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 review and endorse public comments made by the President as an individual on the Draft Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan.**

The last date to formally submit comments was January 2, 2024.

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

Tentative dates under consideration are February 6 and 13. Tentative site is NoHo Senior Center.

**12. Discussion and possible action to join with the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council in requesting that the City place a moratorium on any new projects at the Van Nuys Airport until the vision and site-specific plans are completed.**

**13. Discussion and possible action to establish two new VNNC Committees and appoint Committee Chairs.**

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.

**14. Discussion and possible action on formalizing priority issues and target projects discussed at the Board Retreat on 10/28.**

**15. Potential discussion about Attendance at Board and Committee meetings required to maintain eligibility as a Board member.**

**16. 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.