



Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")

13654 Victory Blvd., #136, Valley Glen, CA 91401

www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Valley College, Administration and Career Advancement Building, Room 2504
5800 Fulton Avenue Valley Glen, CA 91401

Officers

Sloan Myrick	President
Derek Iversen	Vice President
James Casey	Treasurer
Mickey Jannol	Secretary

Board Members

Brian Allman	At-Large Rep	Malky Kertis	District 4 Rep
Joseph Barmettler	At-Large Rep	Jah Milton	Education Institutions Rep
James Casey	District 6 Rep	Artur Manasyan	Youth Rep
Julie Casey	District 6 Rep	Cosmo Moore	District 4 Rep
Joanne D'Antonio	District 1 Rep	Sloan Myrick	District 5 Rep
Carlos Ferreyra	District 2 Rep	Peter Nasi	District 3 Rep
Stanley Friedman	Religious Institutions Rep	Thomas Newton	Community Organizations Rep
Hrach Hambartsumyan	Merchant Rep	Jon Pelletier	At-Large Rep
Walter Hall	Community Organizations Rep	Marco Recio	District 2 Rep
Derek Iversen	District 5 Rep	Alex Silva	District 1 Rep
Mickey Jannol	Commercial Property Rep		

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Required Disclosures:

- 1) A Quorum of at least 13 Board members present is needed to discuss/consider/vote on Official Actions.
- 2) With a Quorum, Official Actions other than Bylaw changes are approved by Majority of the sum of Ayes and No votes cast. Abstentions are not considered. Bylaw changes require a 2/3 vote of the seated Board.
- 3) Each Agenda Item shows the "No, Abstention, and Ineligible" votes by each Board Member. If the Board member's name does not appear, it means that the Board member voted Aye.



Secretary's Note: Each item # below matches the item# that appeared in the published agenda for this meeting.

1. **Call to Order** was at 7:05 p.m. and commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Board Roll Call**. Seventeen (17) members present: Allman, Barmettler, James Casey, Julie Casey, D'Antonio, Ferreyra, Friedman, Hall, Hambartsumyan (but Ineligible to vote on motions pending training), Iversen, Jannol, Kertis, Milton, Myrick, Nasi, Recio, and Silva. Absent (3): Moore, Newton, and Pelletier. A quorum of 17 was achieved.
3. **Board approval of January 2019 Special Meeting minutes**. Motion made to approve minutes as presented made by Jannol. Seconded by Iversen. Public Comment. None. Board Comment. None. Without objection, President Myrick called the question. Non-Funding Action. Voice Vote. 17 Ayes, 0 Nos, 0 Abstentions, 1 Ineligible (Hambartsumyan). Motion passes.
4. **Treasurer's Report – James Casey, Treasurer**. Treasurer Casey reported that before any actions on this evening's money motions, \$17,793 remains to be spent until the end of this fiscal year – June 30, 2019.

A. Motion for Board approval of December 2018 MERs for as per DONE requirements.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/NCFundPortal/display.cfm?id=1677&type=5>

Motion made by James Casey. Seconded by Myrick. Public Comment. None. Board Comment. None. Without objection, President Myrick called the question. Funding Action. Roll Call Vote. 14 Ayes, 0 Nos, 2 Abstentions (Allman and Nasi), 2 Ineligible (Manasyan and Hambatsonyan). Motion passes.

B. Budget Advocate Report. Freddie Cupen Ames, Budget Advocate was not present to provide a report.

5. **LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Report.**

SLO Perez reported that crime is down in the GVGC area but there are recent reports of MS-13 tagging on walls and garage doors. SLO Perez indicated that some arrests have been made but that many of these taggings are not necessarily gang related activity. These may be individual non-gang members who wish to gain attention. Nevertheless, this is a crime. SLO Perez took questions from the Public and the Board. There were questions about how SLOs participate in Nextdoor.com comments and/or reports. SLO reminded all attendees that LAPD does not participate in Nextdoor.com postings or discussion. SLOs check Nextdoor.com periodically but not daily. If a stakeholder has an immediate non-emergency need, they should email or call their SLO.

6. **Government Representatives Reports.**

A. EmpowerLA Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, Gibson Nyambura. Gibson reminded Board members to keep up to date on their Ethics and Funding training. Also Board members should be using their City email for email correspondence on GVGC matters. Gibson noted that EmpowerLA is mailing out public notices regarding the upcoming neighborhood council elections. Please be prepared if your neighbor gets a notice and asks you for information. Finally, Gibson announced that EmpowerLA appreciates all the CIS, community impact statements, originated by GVGC. [Secretary's Note: Board member Hall noted that GVGC #2 top producer of CIS' in the entire 90+ neighborhood council system.

B. LA City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, District 2 Field Deputy, Sahag Yedalian. Sahag's key points were to thank all attendees for coming to the recent LAPD Town Hall at LA Valley College. He indicated that a City vendor will be installing neighborhood watch signs in areas of GVGC area that requested them. Sahag thanked Board member D'Antonio for her work on the tree/landscaping and other issues at the Cinemark Theater property. The next speed hump application round will start May 1, 2019. Interested neighborhoods should contact Sahag for information on how to get these. The Storm Water Capture Project for the north side of the Victory medians is gaining momentum. Sahag will let GVGC know when public meetings will be planned. He anticipates some activity by May 2019. Construction would be another year or two in the future. Sahag made all attendees aware of some construction going on at the intersection of Victory and Lankershim Blvds. It's water related work. This may cause traffic problems. Sahag announced that the shade cloth structure will be installed at Valley Glen Community Park this summer. Sahag thanked the District 4 neighborhood just west of LA Valley College for their help in notifying Sahag and LAPD about tagging of several garage doors in a nearby alley. The tagging was painted out. He specifically resident Larry Stevenson for sending him and LAPD several photographs on this matter. Sahag invited questions from the Public and Board. There was a question from the Public about the 50/50 Sidewalk Program. Sahag indicated that this program was discontinued due to funding but there was interest. He indicated he will let the Board know if the program starts again. Recio asked



if it is possible for a street with no curb and sidewalk improvements to get sidewalks. Sahag said it would be very difficult to achieve based on his experience with the Ethel Avenue (between Oxnard and Victory) grant application for Federal funding of curbs and sidewalks. This grant failed, particularly due to not enough neighborhood enthusiasm for the project. Hall raised a concern about FilmLA as to what appears to be a failure to inform all nearby neighbors about filming activity.

C. Office of Congressman Tony Cárdenas, Rep Nigel Sanchez. Nigel reminded all attendees that the local office in Van Nuys is there to service the needs of constituents as it relates to assistance with Federal matters. This ranges from IRS issues to Social Security, immigrations and other matters where the Federal government has authority.

D. Office of Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, Rep Vanessa Carr. Not present.

E. Other Government Reps. None.

7. **Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda.** Mary Galistian, resident of District 5 (north and northeast of LA Valley College) indicated the City has not been responsive to their requests to trim trees on Atoll Avenue north of Oxnard and south of Erwin Street. This is causing branches to fall on cars. Sahag will look into this matter. Andra Moldav, volunteer of Food and Water Watch asked the GVGC to support a letter to the Mayor to stop investing in natural gas/other fossil fuel plants, and to invest in renewable energy plants for the City's power needs. Board member Iversen suggested that she contact the GVGC Government Relations Committee to hear her request. Anabelle Whetham of District 6 reported on her progress with the Regional Water Quality Board on the collection of water on her street. President Myrick suggested she share this information at the next GVGC Public Safety Committee. She also reported Sylvan street east of Whitsett Avenue will receive speed humps. As well, so will the area east and south of this neighborhood on Laurel Grove Avenue as it heads south to the Laurel Grove Park.

8. **Planning and Land Use – J. Pelletier, Chair**

A. Committee Report. Chair Pelletier was absent. No report was submitted.

B. Motions. There were no motions.

9. **Outreach Committee – C. Ferreyra, Chair**

A. Committee Report. Chair Ferreyra reported that he arranged for a one-page ad in the Valley Glen Voice promoting the elections. The Valley Glen Voice issue should be coming out in the next 2 weeks. Chair Ferreyra is also working on completing the translation of GVGC promotional materials into Spanish and Armenian. He reported that Iversen is working with Wendy Moore, webmaster, on updating the GVGC website to further promote the elections. It was already updated in January to provide notice that elections are coming, and candidate filings are now open. With the election coming on May 16, 2019, Ferreyra asked Board members who are not running for office to consider being a volunteer at the election to support the City Clerk at the polling place. There were other questions from the Board (none from the Public). Board member Hall asked about the Caucuses and Ferreyra responded that the ad hoc Bylaws committee will take up the matter.

B. Motions. There were no motions.

10. **Government Relations Committee – W. Hall, Chair**

A. Committee Report. Chair Hall indicated he is working with the GVGC webmaster to get reports posted to the website faster. The Public and/or any Board member will be able to locate these reports on the website faster.

B. Motions.

Motion 1. The GVGC approves a contribution of \$500.00 to the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) in support of the 16th Anniversary Mixer to be held on March 14, 2019 at CBS Studio Center in Studio City. [assuming in fact the \$250.00 for the Election Forum was not made and this can be confirmed at the meeting]. Motion made by Hall. Seconded by Ferreyra.

Public comment. None. Board Comment. There was Board clarification that given that GVGC had not paid the previous \$250.00, this motion was in fact for \$500.00. Jannol commented that it was not clear to him whether VANC's meetings/events are indeed open to the public and asked if GVGC could use funds for events with restricted attendance. Board members indicated they believe that VANC events serve an excellent purpose of discussing



common issues with nearby neighborhood councils and have been open to the public. Gibson Nyambura from EmpowerLA will investigate this matter. Without objection, President Myrick called the question. Funding Action. Voice Vote. 14 Ayes, 3 Nos (Jannol, Myrick, and Silva), 0 Abstentions, 1 Ineligible (Hambartsumyan). Motion passes.

Motion 2. The GVGC endorses the motion of the Board of Public Works regarding the development of a comprehensive urban forest management plan. Motion made by Hall. Seconded by D'Antonio.

Public Comment. None. Board Comment. None. Without objection, President Myrick called the question. Non-Funding Action. Voice Vote. 17 Ayes, 0 Nos, 0 Abstentions, 1 Ineligible (Hambartsumyan). Motion passes.

Motion 3 and CIS. The Greater Valley Glen Council supports reporting by Animal Services on regulations, current practices, and alternative options for coyote management including trap and release. This report should be done cost-effectively and in-house with a due date certain agreed to by parties involved. (CF16-0585-S2). Motion made by Hall. Seconded by Iversen.

Public Comment. None. Board Comment. None. Without objection, President Myrick called the question. Non-Funding Action. Voice Vote. 16 Ayes, 1 No (Milton), 0 Abstentions, 1 Ineligible (Hambartsumyan). Motion passes.

Motion 4. On May 1, 2018, the Council adopted the recommendation (CF 18-0054) of the Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee directing the CLA to report back within 30 days on the establishment of a Climate Emergency Mobilization Department and separately, working with the CAO, to report on creating a stakeholder commission to oversee this proposed department as well as the current status of governance of climate issues within the City. Neither of these reports has been posted under this council file. The GVGC respectfully request the completion of these reports and proper posting on LA City Clerk Connect. Motion made by Hall. Seconded by Myrick.

Public Comment. None. Board Comment. None. Without objection, President Myrick called the question. Non-Funding Action. Voice Vote. 17 Ayes, 0 Nos, 0 Abstentions, 1 Ineligible (Hambartsumyan). Motion passes.

C. DWP representative report. Hall to submit a report the next time this group meets. It will appear on the GVGC website.

D. City Sustainability report. D'Antonio commented how the Department of Urban Forestry's budget needs to be increased. She submitted a report that will appear on the GVGC website.

E. VANC report. Barmettler submitted recent reports that will appear on the GVGC website.

11. Omitted on Agenda

12. Omitted on Agenda

13. Parks, Community Improvements, and Medians – S. Myrick Chair

A. Committee Report. Chair Myrick had no report and moved on to motions.

B. Motions.

Motion 1. The Parks committee requests GVGC board approve expenditure of up to \$300.00 to Diana Zogran with "It Takes A Garden", a local horticultural organization, for consulting activities pertaining to Victory Median and Whitsett Median mulching needs as well as misc. insight around median plant/tree health. Motion made by Myrick. Seconded by Barmettler.

Public comment. None. Board Comment. Chair Myrick indicated that this expenditure will be in the form of a contract. Without objection, President Myrick called the question. Funding Action. Roll Call Vote. 12 Ayes, 3 Nos (Allman, Friedman, Milton), 1 Abstention (Kertis), 2 Ineligible (Manasyan, Hambartsumyan). Motion passes.

14. Arts and Education – Julie Casey, Chair

A. Committee Report. Chair Julie Casey reported that on 2/19/2019, the Committee will look at prospective sign drawings with the hope of presenting motion(s) for this matter at the March Board meeting. She encouraged all to attend.

B. Motions. There were no motions.



15. Community Safety Committee– T. Newton, Chair

A. Committee Report. Chair Newton was absent. No report was submitted.

B. Motions. There were no motions.

16. Ad-hoc By-Laws Committee– D. Iversen, Chair

A. Committee Report. Chair Iversen had no report. Given that there are some Bylaw amendment motions, Jannol asked what would constitute a 2/3 majority vote (numerically) to pass a Bylaw amendment; 2/3 of the potential Board of 25 members or 2/3 of another number. Gibson Nyambura from EmpowerLA provided guidance that the 2/3 would be based on the current seated Board or 2/3 of 21 members seated. This means 14 Aye votes would be necessary for passage of an amendment. Gibson also indicated that any approved amendments need to be submitted to him, as EmpowerLA Rep, so that EmpowerLA can determine if the amendment can be approved in-house by EmpowerLA or needs to be approved by the City's Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. With clarification from EmpowerLA, Chair Iversen then moved on to motions.

B. Motions.

Motion 1.

Request Board approve amend GVGC Bylaws "ARTICLE II PURPOSE" from:

A. The GVGC shall seek to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life of the community, to preserve and enhance its character, and prevent its deterioration.

B. Methods to achieve objectives:

1. Identify issues affecting the community, gather information concerning these issues and serve as a forum for the discussion of such issues.
2. Strive to reach general agreement among the Community Stakeholders concerning the community's issues and priorities.
3. Seek resources that will benefit the community.
4. Foster cooperation between community organizations, area businesses and institutions
5. Serve as a link between the community, its elected representatives and government agencies.
6. Advise and advocate Community Stakeholders' concerns and priorities to other elected representatives.
7. Prohibit discrimination against any individual or group in our operations based on race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, income or political affiliation.
8. Utilize the Early Notification System to inform our Neighborhood Council of matters involving the City of Los Angeles and our community in a way that is tailored to provide opportunities for involvement in the decision-making process.

To read:

A. The GVGC shall seek to make City government more responsive to Greater Valley Glen stakeholders, and to accurately represent the interests, concerns and aspirations of Greater Valley Glen stakeholders to City government.

B. The GVGC shall fulfill its Purpose via the following methods:

1. Promote more citizen participation in government.
2. Include representatives of the many diverse interests in Greater Valley Glen.
3. Prohibit discrimination against any individual or group in our operations based on race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, income or political affiliation.
4. Perform an advisory role to city, county, state and federal government on issues of concern to the neighborhood.
5. Monitor the delivery of city services in Greater Valley Glen.
6. Hold periodic meetings with responsible officials of City departments, subject to their reasonable availability.
7. Serve as an information clearinghouse for community issues to Greater Valley Glen stakeholders.
8. Utilize the Early Notification System to inform our Neighborhood Council of matters involving the City of Los Angeles and our community in a way that is tailored to provide opportunities for involvement in the decision-making process.

Motion made by Iversen. Seconded by Hall.

Public comment. None. Board Comment. Chair Iversen walked the attendees through the requested changes and rationale behind the changes. Without objection, President Myrick called the question. Non-Funding Action. Without objection, Secretary Jannol requested a Roll Call vote since this is a Bylaw amendment. 17 Ayes, 0 Nos, 0 Abstentions, 1 Ineligible (Hambartsumyan). Motion passes.



Motion 2.

Request Board approve update of the following GVGC Bylaws Board Position verbiage from:

BOARD POSITION "Merchants and Business Persons Liaison" Change section "ELIGIBILITY TO RUN FOR THE SEAT" from: Community Stakeholder who is 18 years of age or older and who is an owner/employee or owner's representative of retail, wholesale, industrial or service business located within the GVGC community grid area on commercially zoned property.

To read:

Community Stakeholder who is an owner or the owner's representative of a business holding a current City of Los Angeles Tax Registration Certificate (otherwise known as a City of Los Angeles business license) with said license showing a business address within the GVGC boundaries.

Motion made by Hall. Seconded by D'Antonio.

Public Comment. None. Board Comment. D'Antonio sought clarification on how this affects home-based businesses. Ferreyra answered that home-based business would now be covered with this revised Merchant Reps definition. Without objection, President Myrick called the question. Non-Funding Action. Voice Vote. 17 Ayes, 0 Nos, 0 Abstentions, 1 Ineligible (Hambartsumyan). Motion passes.

Motions 3, 4, and 5 were withdrawn due presentation difficulty (missing exhibits).

17. **Board Comment on Items not on the Agenda.** President invited Joseph Lee from the US Small Business Administration to speak. Joseph was promoting the 7a, 504, and Disaster SBA loan programs and promotion of women-owned and minority-owned business. Ferreyra noted that Valley Glen Neighborhood Association will have its Board elections at its March 12, 2019 Town Hall meeting in the same building and room at 7:00 p.m. at LA Valley College. Ferreyra also requested a tally of GVGC Board attendance over the past year. Secretary Jannol is to prepare such a tally. Iversen spoke to promote having more women on the GVGC Board.

Board Recess. Without objection, President Myrick called a recess at 8:45 p.m. so that the Board could go into its Special Meeting.

The GVGC Board was called back into its Regular Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Board Roll Call: Seventeen (17) members present: Allman, Barmettler, Julie Casey, D'Antonio, Ferreyra, Friedman, Hall, Hambartsumyan (but Ineligible to vote on motions pending training), Iversen, Jannol, Kertis, Manasyan, Milton, Myrick, Nasi, Recio, and Silva. Absent (3): Moore, Newton, and Pelletier. A quorum of 17 was achieved.

18. **President's Motion.** This motion was withdrawn due to typographical error (it was a duplicate of Item 13B.1).

19. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn made by Myrick. Seconded by Jannol. Public Comment. None. Board Comment. Board members noted that there was no Board Comment on items not on the agenda. With no Board member having further comment and without objection, President Myrick called the question. Voice Vote: 18 Ayes, 0 Nos, 0 Abstentions, 2 Ineligible (Milton and Hambatsonyan). Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Next Regular Board meeting and location will be on March 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at Los Angeles Valley College, in the Administration Career and Advancement Building.

Submitted February 28, 2019

**Mickey Jannol
Greater Valley Glen Council Board Secretary**



Disclosures provided with the Agenda for the February 4, 2019 GVGC Regular Board Meeting:

The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board acting 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 items not appearing on the agenda within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment will be limited to two minutes per speaker, unless waived by the Board President. The President reserves the right to further limit public comment time, depending on number of speakers. No person may assign their speaking time to another.

This Agenda is posted for public review: on website www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org and at Uncle Tony's Pizzeria, 13007 Victory Blvd., in Valley Glen. Per Title 11 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate based on disability. Upon request, reasonable accommodation will be provided to ensure equal access to GVGC programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting EMPOWER LA at (866) 584-3577.

***PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS-** In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Uncle Tony's Pizzeria, 13007 Victory Blvd Valley Glen, CA 91606, at our website: www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org or at a scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Sloan Myrick, Board President, at (818-442-8924) or email at smyrick@greatervalleyglencouncil.org.