



**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #4**  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015, 7:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM  
2929 TAPO CANYON ROAD

AGENDA

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NC #4 Interim Chair	Karen Thornton
NC #4 Interim Vice Chair	Ed Abele
NC #4 Interim Secretary	Lisa Morrison
NC Coordinator	Emily Habib
City Council Liaison	Council Member Glen Becerra

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1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions
2. Agenda Review
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Public Statements/Comments  
This is the time allotted for public statements or comments on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the Executive Board not on the agenda. Statements and comments are limited to no more than five (5) minutes per speaker.
6. Police Liaison Report
7. Informational Presentations
  - a. The HomeShare Program- Matching People with Places to Live
  - b. The Drought, El Nino and You- Water Conservation Update
8. Continued Business: None
9. New Business: None
10. Neighborhood Council Coordinator's Report

11. Executive Board Comments

This is the time allotted for Executive Board member statements or comments on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the Neighborhood Councils, to request a future agenda item, or to give an Ad Hoc Committee Report. This is also the time to make any announcements related to community events and other items of interest

12. Adjournment: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Oyler  
Deputy Director/Citizen Services

If any interested individual has a disability that may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Neighborhood Council Coordinator at (805) 583-6756. Upon advance notification, reasonable arrangements will be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

Interim Chair Karen Thornton called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Interim Secretary Lisa Morrison noted that a quorum was not present.

Ed Abele	P	Reggiena Abaca	A
Hal Bloom	P	Gloria Bowman	P
Isaac Burleigh	E	Skip Faria	A
Mazal London	A	Bob Powers	A
Lisa Morrison	P	Sean Smollen	A
Manuel Alvarez	A	Gregory Yacoubian	A
Karen Thornton	P	P=Present; E=Excused; A=Absent	

2. Agenda Review

By consensus of the Executive Board, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

Due to lack of a quorum, the September 15, 2015 minutes will be approved at the November 17, 2015 meeting. Gloria Bowman noted that she commented about the YES Board at the September meeting. The comment will be added to the September 15, 2015 minutes.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Public Statements/Comments

A member of the public expressed his belief that the Police Officers Association has too much influence over City Council elections. He was also concerned that there is no mechanism in place for City Council members to be removed from office because there is not a Code of Conduct specific to them, only the general City of Simi Valley Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected Officials and Members of Appointed Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

6. Police Liaison Report

The Community Liaison Officer was unable to attend and report at the meeting.

7. Informational Presentations

a. The Samaritan Center – How They Help the Homeless Help Themselves.

Betty Eskey, Executive Director of the Samaritan Center, explained that the organization's goal is to help the homeless help themselves through a self-sustaining approach. Due to the financial crisis, the center changed in 2008. It went from a "safe haven" for a few hours to offering services geared towards helping people out of their homeless condition, such as getting jobs and keeping their homes. The Samaritan Center has a wrap-

around case management program and services are suspended if the participants don't work with the program.

Ms. Eskey outlined the winter Public Action to Deliver Shelter (P.A.D.S.) Program that offers a place to sleep each night during the cold months. There is a serious concern with possible El Nino conditions. She asked Executive Board members for assistance with collecting jackets, socks and blankets, and concluded with handing out a packet with program details and requested donation list.

b. Update on proposed Increases to Water Service Rates

At the request of the City Council, Joe Deakin, Assistant Public Works Director, gave an update about the proposed increases to water service rates. The differences between this presentation and the August 2015 presentation are as follows:

Bimonthly Service Charge- The previous proposal recommended an immediate jump from \$33.38 to \$54.75 in January 2016, then much smaller increases to \$58.00 by 2020. The current proposal recommends raising rates more slowly, in increments of \$7.00-\$9.00 per year, to \$61.00 by 2020.

Commodity Charges- The previous proposal recommended continuing the 3 tier system, while the current proposal recommends a single rate system to go forward.

8. Continued Business: None

9. New Business

a. Appointment of a representative to the Special Event Support Review Committee

Due to lack of a quorum, no appointment could be made. However, Ed Abele volunteered to be the representative.

b. Appointment of representative to the Taskforce on Homelessness

Due to lack of a quorum, no appointment could be made. However, Lisa Morrison volunteered to be the representative.

10. Neighborhood Council Coordinator's Report

Emily Habib informed Executive Board members that emails with their mentee's names had been sent as well as updated rosters, which include two new Neighborhood Council #4 members, with four seats still vacant. She also noted that volunteers are needed for the Community Development Block Grant and Youth Employment Services boards. She also encouraged all members to attend the November 17 meeting because the new members will be starting, and it is intended that there will not be a meeting in December.

11. Executive Board Member Comments

Ed Abele thanked outgoing member Gloria Bowman for her dedicated service to the Neighborhood Councils.

12. Adjournment: Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

It was noted that the meeting ended at 9:08 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gloria Bowman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Secretary Karen Thornton confirmed that a quorum was present.

Ed Abele	P	Reggiena Abaca	P
Hal Bloom	E	Gloria Bowman	P
Isaac Burleigh	E	Skip Faria	E
Mazal London	E	Bob Powers	P
Lisa Morrison	P	Sean Smollen	P
Manuel Alvarez	A	Gregory Yacoubian	P
Karen Thornton	P	P=Present; E=Excused; A=Absent	

2. Agenda Review

By consensus of the Executive Board, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Bob Powers and seconded by Gregory Yacoubian to approve the August 18, 2015, minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Public Statements/Comments: None

6. Informational Presentations

a. The Simi Valley Police Department's Traffic Unit

Commander Robert Arabian described the Traffic Unit and their duties. The Unit has five motorcycle officers and four cars. He also stated they have a data base available to track and monitor high areas of accidents and citations. Up to about two years ago, their focus was on ticketing violators. Since then, their focus has been citing hazardous drivers, usually DUIs, to prevent accidents. For the upcoming school year, the officers will provide education to parents about the need to remain vigilant about the safety of pedestrians and traffic laws. They will have extra patrol officers at the schools to monitor traffic issues and take required measures to enforce traffic violations.

b. The Simi Valley Senior Center

John Williams from the Council on Aging gave the presentation. The Senior Center opened in 1984, and has evolved into a 22,000 square foot

enrichment and learning center for adults. The Center is committed to offering people fifty years of age or older lifelong learning programs, exercise classes, meal programs, health services, trips to places such as Las Vegas and Alaska, computer classes, book clubs, support groups, a billiard room, social services, art classes, and much more.

7. Continued Business: None

8. New Business

- a. Discussion of Proposed Changes to Transit Fares and Senior Service Age
- Mara Malch, Senior Management Analyst, provided a presentation about the proposed changes to Transit Fares and Senior Service Age. Due to state legislation, the City is now required to recover a 20% portion of fixed-route expenses, and 10% of ADA Paratransit/DAR expenses through fare revenue. These requirements are currently not being met and Simi Valley Transit last revised the fares in 2003. It is proposed to increase the eligibility age of senior riders from the age of 60 to 65, to provide consistency with other local transit agencies. The proposed changes will allow Simi Valley Transit to provide comparable services and fares on a regional basis and further the City's ability to meet state requirements.

**Questions and comments from the audience/responses from staff:**

None.

**Questions and comments from the Executive Board/responses from staff:**

**Will these fare increases completely close the gap between revenues and costs?**

No, they will only partially close the gap. A consultant has been retained to review the entire Transit program, and they may recommend future fare increases.

**Will any of the additional revenue go towards personnel costs?**

The City Council is considering funneling a portion towards salaries and benefits for hourly employees.

**Is a portion of the fixed route capacity not being used?**

Yes, and as part of the review of the Transit program, some routes will be altered in order to maximize capacity use.

**In addition to the current proposed rate increases, could there be annual fare increases in the future?**

It's possible that after a consultant reviews the entire Transit program, more increases may be recommended.

**Comments:**

One Executive Board member recommended that all fares be reviewed annually for necessary increases.

One Executive Board member expressed concern that increasing ADA/DAR IntraCity fares from "donation" to \$2.00 could hurt seniors who truly cannot afford to pay the extra money.

**Upon conclusion of the discussion, the following recommendations were made:**

**The following motion was made by Ed Abele and seconded by Bob Powers:**

**MOTION: Recommend that the Senior Service Age be raised from 60 to 65 and allow the Dial-a-Ride users who are between the ages of 60 to 64 to be grandfathered in so that they can continue to use the program.**

**Executive Board vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstentions**  
**Audience vote: None**  
**Unincorporated Area vote: None**

**The motion passed.**

**The following motion was made by Josh Lorencz and seconded by Lois Lengel:**

**MOTION: Recommend that all fixed route bus fares be increased by \$.25.**

**Executive Board vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstentions**  
**Audience vote: None**  
**Unincorporated Area vote: None**

**The motion passed.**

b. Election of Interim Officers

By consensus of the Executive Board, Karen Thornton was elected Interim Chair, Ed Abele was elected Interim Vice Chair, and Lisa Morrison was elected Interim Secretary.

9. Neighborhood Council Coordinator's Report

Emily Habib discussed the current recruitment period for the term that begins on November 1. She stated that interviews for the six openings on Neighborhood Council #4 will be held at the end of September/beginning of October.

10. Executive Board Member Comments

Board member Karen Thornton voiced concerns that even though there may be an increase in fares, there is no guarantee that rider's incomes will increase, thus putting a burden on some riders on fixed incomes, or families with numerous children riding to school, or minimum wage workers going to or from work.

11. Adjournment: Tuesday, October 20, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

By the consensus of the Executive Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.