



**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS**

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #4**  
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016, 7:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM  
2929 TAPO CANYON ROAD

**AGENDA**

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NC #4 Chair	Karen Thornton
NC #4 Vice Chair	Ed Abele
NC #4 Secretary	Ron Knepper
NC Coordinator	Emily Habib
City Council Liaison	Mayor Pro Tem Keith Mashburn

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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. Informational Presentations
  - a. The City's Code Enforcement Division: What Do They Do?
  - b. The City's Cultural Arts Center: 20 Years of Entertainment
7. Continued Business: None
8. New Business: None
9. Neighborhood Council Coordinator's Report



10. 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

11. Adjournment: Tuesday, April 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/Introduction

Vice Chair Ed Abele called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Secretary Ron Knepper confirmed that a quorum was present.

Ron Knepper	P	Vacant	
Sharon McCann	P	Vacant	
Ed Abele	P	Vacant	
Hal Bloom	P	Vacant	
Isaac Burleigh	E	Vacant	
Lisa Morrison	P	Vacant	
Karen Thornton	E	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 Hal Bloom and seconded by Lisa Morrison to approve the January 19, 2016, 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 Crime Analysis Unit  
The presentation was postponed to the April 19, 2016 meeting.

b. The City's Cultural Arts Center: 20 Years of Entertainment  
The presentation was postponed to the March 15, 2016 meeting.

7. Continued Business: None

8. New Business: None

9. Neighborhood Council Coordinator's Report

Emily Habib requested that the Executive Board provide feedback on the future direction of the Neighborhood Councils in light of the fact that the City is basically built out and there will be fewer development projects going forward. She also asked for input about ways to inform the public about the Neighborhood Councils in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Executive Board members made the following points regarding the direction of the Neighborhood Councils:

Sharon McCann stated that the lack of development projects on the agenda may be part of the reason for poor attendance by the community. She also felt the meetings might be starting too late in the evening for some people. Ed Abele and Hal Bloom agreed.

Mr. Bloom felt the agenda needed to be written to perhaps "romanticize" the issues to bring more of the community to the meetings. He also suggested that students could bring flyers home to their parents. Other members of the Executive Board suggested doing this electronically. He also suggested that people with young families may be civic minded, but unable to attend because of family obligations.

Lisa Morrison felt that the Neighborhood Councils should be involved with the redevelopment of Simi Valley. She felt social media is a strong way to bring issues to the community. She suggested broadcasting the Neighborhood Council meetings on television and/or Station 99.1 on the radio. She advocated electronic submissions by the community for the agendas/discussions and also advertising on the sides of public buses.

Ms. Habib brought up using the social media site "Next Door".

Ron Knepper informed the Executive Board that he had posted on "Next Door". He also discussed his handing out of the meeting flyers at the local Vons and Rite-Aid, and meeting people face-to-face. He felt this was a good method for future distribution, as many of the people he met really didn't seem to be aware of the Neighborhood Councils. He also suggested brochures for the local realtors to include in the package for home buyers and renters in Simi Valley. Ms. Morrison, a local realtor, stated she would bring this up to the Board of Realtors. Mr. Bloom suggested a printed article in the Star or Acorn would make the community more aware of issues involving Neighborhood Councils.

Ms. Habib brought up the question of the Neighborhood Councils being involved with public service activities such as a food drive. Ms. McCann pointed out that there are other service groups in the community already dealing with such issues. Ms. Morrison felt there could be fundraising for neighborhood concerns such as more waste receptacles throughout the community for dog waste and trash.

Ed Abele stated that he had three major issues to discuss regarding the future of Neighborhood Councils. He felt the agenda should energize the community, estimating that only about 200 to 300 people are involved in the community and its changes as it matures. He felt there were significant issues such as sanitation and water rate increases, which were presented as informational items, but in reality, are tax increases. He felt the Neighborhood Councils should be able to

make official recommendations on such controversial issues that affect the community.

Mr. Abele brought up the fact that recently, presenters haven't shown up at many Neighborhood Council #4 meetings. Also, he did not feel that it is the best use of people's time to attend meetings mainly to hear informational presentations. He suggested that the number of meetings might need to be reduced.

He felt that it was the Neighborhood Council's job is not to participate in such community service projects, but to serve the City by reviewing development projects and acting as a liaison between the City and the community.

Ms. Habib informed the Executive Board that six new Executive Board members will be appointed at the March 14, 2016, City Council meeting and would be attending the March 15, 2016, Neighborhood Council #4 meeting.

10. Executive Board Member Comments

Ms. Morrison discussed the recent Task Force on Homelessness meeting that she attended. The Taskforce wants to create a campaign to get homeowners to open their spare rooms to individuals who need a place to live. There was a presentation about the county's efforts to improve the system to assist the homeless. One model presented was an overview about the Housing and Urban Development's Housing First Program which puts people in homes first, then provides wraparound services.

There was a discussion about collecting data to determine the cost of homelessness for Simi Valley, but it was determined not to be necessary since many such studies already exist. Mayor Pro Tem Mashburn and Councilmember Judge brought up the subject of disbanding the Task Force as the stated goals had been met. However, Task Force members felt strongly that it should continue because incidents of homelessness are still such a prevalent issue in Simi Valley.

11. Adjournment: Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

By the consensus of the Executive Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.