



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #3
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

ZOOM ONLINE MEETING

<https://simivalley.zoom.us/j/95017680422>

Or by Telephone: Dial US: +1 669 900 9128, Webinar ID: 950 1768 0422

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE STAY AT HOME ORDER AND THE COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH OFFICER DECLARED LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY AND STAY WELL AT HOME ORDER RESULTING FROM THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, THE CITY IS NOT CONDUCTING IN-PERSON MEETINGS. TO FIND OUT HOW YOU MAY ELECTRONICALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING AND PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT, PLEASE REFER TO ITEM 5 OF THIS AGENDA.

AGENDA

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| NC #3 Chair | Jeff Pollack |
| NC #3 Vice Chair | Julia Feig |
| NC #3 Secretary | Fred Peterson |
| CS Coordinator | Emily Habib |
| City Council Liaison | Council Member Ruth Luevanos |

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Agenda Review
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Revised Approved Minutes of November 12, 2020
 - b. Draft Minutes of January 14, 2021

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 three (3) minutes per speaker.

NEW COMMENT PROCEDURE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Neighborhood Council in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items.



The following options allow for public participation:

- a. Watch the Neighborhood Council Meeting live online at Zoom:
<https://simivalley.zoom.us/j/95017680422>
Or listen by telephone: +1 669 900 9128 Webinar ID: 950 1768 0422 and raise hand with *9
- b. If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please sign-on via this Zoom Link: <https://simivalley.zoom.us/j/95017680422> and use the raise hand function when this agenda item is called. If you wish to make a public comment, you must be signed into the meeting and available at the time this agenda item is called.
- c. Or, if you are unable to sign-on to Zoom and wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the Neighborhood Council meeting to the Community Services Coordinator at ehabib@simivalley.org and include the Agenda Item topic and/or your comments. These emails will be provided to the Neighborhood Council prior to the meeting and made a part of the record.

6. Informational Presentation

Simi Valley Transit: How does it run?

7. New Business

Election of Officers

8. Community Services Coordinator's Report

9. 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.

10. Adjournment: Thursday, March 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

/s/

Yvette Moore
Administrative Officer

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

REVISED APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

Community Services Coordinator Emily Habib called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. She also confirmed that a quorum was present.

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Julia Feig | P | Rebecca Miller | A |
| Benjamin Panama | P | Jeff Pollack | P |
| Fred Peterson | P | Vacant | |
| Mary Poitier | P | Vacant | |
| Tamara Wirtz | P | Vacant | |
| Vacant | | Benjamin L. Ramirez | P |
| Vacant | | P=Present; E=Excused; A=Absent | |

2. Agenda Review

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes

The October 15, 2020 minutes could not be approved. Due to the changes in Neighborhood Council boundaries on November 1, 2020, different Executive Board members were present at the current meeting than those at the previous meeting. The minutes will remain in draft form.

4. *Correspondence*

A letter, dated November 9, 2020, was received from a citizen, Theresa Jordan. It is attached.

5. Public Statements/Comments

Council Member Elaine Litster introduced herself as the City Council member in District 3.

6. Informational Presentations: None

7. New Business

- a. Request to construct a 2,697 square foot commercial building and operate a vehicle service business on a 0.14-acre lot at 838 E. Los Angeles Avenue

Questions/comments from the audience and responses from the applicant:

How will grey/black water be contained?

Very little gray/black water will be produced. Since the project is not in a flood zone, the City has not applied any specific conditions for treatment or disposal of grey/black water. However, a clarifier drain will be installed.

Questions/comments from the Executive Board and responses from the applicant:

Since only three parking spaces are being proposed, do they anticipate cars parking into the adjacent alley?

No, they do not. The proposed number of parking spaces was deemed adequate according to the City Development Code. There is also no requirement for designating the spaces for specific uses.

What businesses are on either side of the proposed project?

There is an auto repair business on one side and an air conditioning establishment on the other side.

Comments:

A number of Executive Board members expressed support for the project.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, the following motion was made by Jeff Pollack and seconded by Benjamin L. Ramirez:

Recommend that the Planning Commission approve the Request to construct a 2,697 square foot commercial building and operate a vehicle service business on a 0.14-acre lot at 838 E. Los Angeles Avenue as presented.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Executive Board vote: | 7 Ayes; | 0 Noes; | 0 Abstentions |
| Audience vote: | 1 Aye; | 0 Noes; | 0 Abstentions |
| Unincorporated Area vote: | None | | |

The motion passed.

- b. Discussion/Action on Municipal Code amendments for establishing standards for bee keeping (Apiculture) activities in single-family zones

Questions/comments from the audience and responses from the applicant:

What is the expected cost of a permit?

An administrative level permit would cost approximately \$1,000, while a Zoning Clearance would cost \$100.

Questions/comments from the Executive Board and responses from the applicant:

Can a decision made at the administrative level be appealed?

Yes, such a decision can be appealed to the Planning Commission or even to the City Council.

Have there been many requests for bee keeping permits?

No there have not. The City anticipates receiving only 2-4 per year.

How will permit conditions be enforced?

Enforcement will be complaint based.

What department will inspect properties and enforce the permit conditions?

The Code Compliance Division will enforce the permit conditions, but County Animal Control could also be involved since bees come under their purview.

Can a permit be issued to either a property owner or a renter?

A permit can be issued to a property owner. It may be determined that a permit can also be issued to a renter with permission of the property owner.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, the following motion was made by Julia Feig and seconded by Mary Poitier:

Recommend that the Planning Commission approve the Municipal Code amendments for establishing standards for bee keeping (Apiculture) activities in single-family zones as presented.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Executive Board vote: | 7 Ayes; | 0 Noes; | 0 Abstentions |
| Audience vote: | 1 Aye; | 0 Noes; | 0 Abstentions |
| Unincorporated Area vote: | None | | |

The motion passed.

c. Election of Officers

By consensus of the Executive Board, Jeff Pollack was elected Chair, Julia Feig was elected Vice Chair, and Fred Peterson was elected Secretary.

8. Community Services Coordinator's Report

Emily Habib noted that the Neighborhood Councils would most likely not be meeting in December. She informed Executive Board members that the recruitment for the March 2021 term would begin shortly. She also discussed a press release on an upcoming Metrolink upgrade of approximately two miles of railroad tracks in the city.

9. Executive Board Comments

Executive Board members introduced themselves.

10. Adjournment: Thursday, December 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

By the consensus of the Executive Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Jeff Pollack called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He also confirmed that a quorum was present.

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Julia Feig | P | Rebecca Miller | A |
| Benjamin Panama | P | Jeff Pollack | P |
| Fred Peterson | P | Vacant | |
| Mary Poitier | E | Vacant | |
| Tamara Wirtz | P | Vacant | |
| Vacant | | Benjamin L. Ramirez | P |
| Vacant | | P=Present; E=Excused; A=Absent | |

2. Agenda Review

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jeff Pollack and seconded by Benjamin L. Ramirez to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Public Statements/Comments: None

6. Informational Presentation

a. The City's Home Rehabilitation Program- Loans for Health and Safety Related Repairs

Eric Chen, Associate Planner, made the presentation. The Home Rehabilitation Program offers a 2% deferred interest loan, up to \$50,000, with no monthly payments. Full repayment is required when the property is sold, refinanced, leased, or when the property changes title. To be eligible for the program, the applicant must be the occupying homeowner and meet the income standards specified by the Home Rehabilitation Program guidelines. Eligible properties must be single-family detached homes located within Simi Valley city limits.

7. New Business: None

8. Community Services Coordinator's Report

Emily Habib updated the Executive Board members on recruitment for the March 2021 term. She noted that at the most recent City Council meeting, the interview

panels for the current recruitment were chosen, with interviews taking place at the end of January/beginning of February. All four Neighborhood Council districts were expected to have enough applicants to fill the available seats.

9. Executive Board Comments

Julia Feig expressed concern about the safety of youth that routinely run across Los Angeles Avenue from the Berylwood Park skate plaza to the bushes next to the railroad tracks. She spoke to the Police Department, who suggested that she contact her City Council member. Emily Habib will discuss the matter with the Public Works Department and will report back to the Executive Board.

Ben Panama inquired about whether there is information on community volunteer opportunities on the City website. Ms. Habib replied that there is a page on the website with information on numerous community volunteer opportunities.

10. Adjournment: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

By the consensus of the Executive Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

[REDACTED]
Simi Valley, CA 93063
November 9, 2020

Neighborhood Council #3
Executive Board
Simi Valley City Hall
2929 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA 93063

Re: Agenda Item 7b(Discussion/Action on Municipal Code amendments for establishing standards for bee keeping (Apiculture) in single-family zones).

Dear Members of the Executive Board:

I am opposed to amending the Simi Valley Municipal Code to allow Apiculture(beekeeping activities) in single-family residential zones!!!!

On March 19, 2019, when the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors agendized beekeeping, I thought I was blessed that it was not our City Council undertaking the subject! My relief was short lived when the September 14, 2020 City Council meeting Agenda Item 8a(Beekeeping) came along!!!!

My family has lived in Simi Valley for 47 years. We have lived in our current home for 35 years. We have had bee infestations on our property professionally removed on three different occasions!!!!

I work around bees on days when I climb the slope on our backyard to weed, and trim bushes, and neighbors' overgrown plants(we have 5 neighbors). I am out at the crack of dawn in order to avoid, or limit my exposure to bees. I talk to the bees when they finally buzz around me! I cannot afford to be stung and fall down the 45 degree/90 feet wide/30+ feet high slope; last year I fell down 3 times coming down the slope; the last time I injured myself badly!!!!

During the past 10 years, our property is visited yearly from July through September by Cicada Killer Wasps; they lay their eggs on the lawn and I eradicate them as soon as these insects are not flying around!!!! This year their activity has been tenfold and continued into October!!!!

Bumble bees have also started visiting the backyard!!!!!!
At some point Californians might have to worry about the
"Murder Hornets"; the caught insects will be studied!!!!!!

About 6 years ago, our grand-doggy was visiting us. We were in the backyard when suddenly I heard buzzing!!!!!! A huge swarm of bees was traveling over the slope!!!!!! My instinct was bolt, scoop her up and run!!!!!! I kept still eyeing the swarm's flying pattern!!!!!! I ran when the swarm was away from my grand-doggy, grabbed her, and got into the house; we stayed inside! I was extremely cautious the rest of her visit!!!!!! On another grand-doggy visit, she kept acting up inside the house; we had just been outside! She was reacting to a bee I had on my top!!!!!! I ran outside and shook my clothes! She saved me from being stung, get an allergic reaction, or die!!!!!! Decades ago, a bee landed on my blouse driving home!!!!!! After thirty minutes, I was traumatized for the rest of my life!!!!!!

Killer Bees have been in California for years and as much as they are the Honey Bees enemies, I have read that there has been an intermingling of the two species!!!!!!

For years we have dodged night-time mosquitoes; not so lucky with the Aedes Aegypti day-time mosquitoes!!!!!! EpiPen type medical devices are extremely expensive!!!!!! People still have to seek emergency medical treatment even after using such devices; an added expense!!!!!! Folks with weakened immune systems are at a higher risk of getting severely sick from COVID-19; medical experts say!!!!!!

Require beekeeping applicants to inform their neighbors prior to being granted such use!!!!!! Set standards for neighbors using bees against each other!!!!!! There must be safe distancing from schools!!!!!! How many bees in a hive? How many hives in a single-family residence? Will honey production be allowed for commercialization? Pest control is year round in many neighborhoods to deal with ants!!!!!! Will the City or the County enforce complaint or legal action rules? How long do bees live? Please protect the people's health, safety, and welfare!!!!!! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Teresa Jordan