



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #3
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
2929 TAPO CANYON ROAD

AGENDA

NC #3 Chair	Julie Bershin
NC #3 Vice Chair	Jeremy Yablan
NC #3 Secretary	Evelyn Gatewood
CS Coordinator	Emily Habib
City Council Liaison	Council Member Rocky Rhodes

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance
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 three (3) minutes per speaker.

6. Informational Presentation
City Budget Update
7. New Business: None
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 give an Ad Hoc Committee Report or to make any announcements related to community events and other items of interest.

10. Adjournment: Thursday, May 11, 2023, 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.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome

Chair Julia Bershin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She also confirmed that a quorum was present.

Rachel Bystrom	P	Jeremy Yablan	P
Cintia Gallo	P	Vacant	
Fred Peterson	P	Julie Bershin	P
Vacant		Evelyn Gatewood	P
Bridget Charboneau	P	Vacant	
Andy Hanna	P	Vacant	
Lyle Jackson	P	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 Jeremy Yablan and seconded by Bridget Charboneau to approve the February 16, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Public Statements/Comments: None

6. Informational Presentation

Karen Fraser, Executive Director, gave the presentation. Housing Opportunities Made Easier (HOME) was formed in 2001 as a housing committee of the Ventura County Economic Development Association (VCEDA) to promote a diversity of housing opportunities, essential for a healthy and sustainable quality of life in Ventura County. Each year HOME organizes the Ventura County Housing Conference, which addresses key housing-related focus areas such as availability, affordability, policies, economics, challenges, opportunities, etc. HOME also presents quarterly educational Housing Issues Forums, with guest speakers, presentations, and discussions surrounding pertinent housing issues and trends in Ventura County.

7. New Business

- a. Amendment to the Simi Valley Municipal Code to allow cargo containers as residential storage structures

Questions and comments from the audience and responses from City staff:

None.

Questions and comments from the Executive Board and responses from City staff:

How can people living in a container be prevented?

There is no way to prevent this. Residents should report any concerns to the City's Code Compliance Division, which will investigate the complaint.

Is there a requirement for some kind of foundation under the cargo container?

No, there is not.

If someone wanted to add a pitched roof to the container, that could make it taller than 10 feet. Would that be allowed?

Not under the proposed ordinance amendments. At that point, a building permit for a structure would become necessary, which Building and Safety would have to issue.

Will the bottoms of the containers be removed and replaced in case there are any toxins still present from previous uses?

There is nothing in the proposed ordinance that requires that, however, a recommendation could be made.

If someone moves, will they be required to remove the container?

No, the container would be a matter discussed between the buyer and the seller.

Can the entire height of the container be screened?

The City only allows for six-foot (6') high walls, which would not screen the entire container. This is why a five-foot (5') setback is being proposed.

Is the City pushing for adoption of the ordinance amendments?

No, requests were made by residents to City Council members and they asked that staff look further into the issue.

Is the City's intention for these amendments to be the first steps to allowing people to live in them?

No, they are not. The amendments specifically say that these containers are not habitable structures.

Comments:

- A number of Executive Board members expressed concern that the City does not proactively enforce City codes. They felt that containers could be dangerous, become eyesores or people could live in them, and the City would be able to do very little about it.
- An Executive Board member felt that 10,000 square feet was too small a lot size.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, the following motion was made by Jeremy Yablan and seconded by Andy Hanna:

MOTION: Recommend that the Planning Commission deny the Amendment to the Simi Valley Municipal Code to allow cargo containers as residential storage structures.

Executive Board vote:	9 Ayes;	0 Noes;	0 Abstentions
Audience vote:	0 Ayes;	0 Noes;	0 Abstentions
Unincorporated Area vote:	0 Ayes;	0 Noes;	0 Abstentions

The motion passed.

- b. Nomination of a Representative to the Community Projects Grant (CPG) Review Committee
By consensus of the Executive Board, Cintia Gallo was elected the representative to the Community Projects Grant (CPG) Review Committee.
 - c. Nomination of a Representative to the Program for Public Information (PPI) Committee
By consensus of the Executive Board, Jeremy Yablan was elected the representative to the Program for Public Information (PPI) Committee.
8. Community Services Coordinator's Report
Emily Habib welcomed the new members and discussed meeting procedures.
 9. Executive Board Comments
Julie Bershin informed the Executive Board that the Round-Up Country Music Festival would take place on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Rancho Santa Susana Park.
Bridget Charboneau noted that the Spring Street Fair would take place on Saturday, May 6, 2023, along Simi Town Center Way.
 10. Adjournment: Thursday, April 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
By consensus of the Executive Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.