



**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS**

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #1**

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM

2929 TAPO CANYON ROAD

AGENDA

---

NC #1 Chair	Todd Taylor
NC #1 Vice Chair	Debbie Gainey
NC #1 Secretary	Cameron Thompson
City Council Liaison	Mayor Pro Tem 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(s)

a. Drops of Change – Strategies for Water Conservation

7. New Business: None

8. City Staff Comments

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 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

/s/  
Mara Malch  
Deputy Environmental Services Director

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

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome

Chair Todd Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He also confirmed that a quorum was present.

Todd Taylor	P	Dwight Thompson	P
Debbie Gainey	P	Carol Thomaier	E
Cameron Thompson	P	Suzanne Thuotte	P
Alan Mann	P	Elsa Dreckman	A
Will Marmolejo	P	Mark Luker	P
David Mosso	P	Vacant	
Frank Perrotta	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 Alan Mann and seconded by Dwight Thompson to approve the February 8, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Public Statements/Comments

A resident suggested a community garden possibility at the Houghton-Schreiber Park. Executive Board members informed him that a community garden does exist. City Staff, Kelly Duffy, emailed the resident information on the Sinaloa Community Garden.

6. Informational Presentation(s)

a. State of the Region

Samantha Argabrite, Assistant City Manager, delivered the State of the Region Report, distributing State of the Region books to attendees. In 2021, the county's population was 845,225 with a median age of 38.7. Birth rates are decreasing in Ventura County with 8,785 babies born in 2021. Public school and community college enrollments are declining. Income disparities persist, with men earning more than women across all education levels. In 2021, the per capita income was \$41,863, and the median household income was \$94,150. Political affiliation leans towards Democrats, except in Simi Valley, where Republican hold the majority. Ventura County's gross product was \$58.3 billion in 2021, yet the high cost of living persists, with soaring home prices exceeding \$1 million in some areas of the county. Rental rates remain steep and remote work is on the rise. Agriculture

remains a significant sector, with strawberries generating \$662.7 million in revenue in 2022. Employment trends show a strong recovery from pandemic losses. After a 7% decline in jobs from 2019 to 2020, the county saw two years of solid job growth, capped by 4% growth in 2022; the best single year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Despite job growth post-pandemic, industries with higher compensations are shrinking. The county's nonprofit sector employs over 10,000 individuals but offers below-average wages. The county faces challenges, including high rates of opioid deaths, COVID-19 fatalities, and a growing population experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness. Despite these challenges, Ventura County maintains a low crime rate, making it one of the safest large counties in California.

7. New Business

- a. Nomination of a representative and alternate to the Committee for Community Rating System (CRS) and Program for Public Information (PPI)

Upon conclusion of the discussion, Mark Luker moved and with a second from Dwight Thompson to nominate Todd Taylor as the representative and Cameron Thompson as alternate to the Committee for Community Rating System (CRS) and Program for Public Information (PPI). The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Nomination of a Representative to the Community Projects Grant (CPG) Review Committee

Upon conclusion of the discussion, Mark Luker moved and with a second from Dwight Thompson to nominate Suzanne Thuotte as the representative to the Community Projects Grant (CPG) Review Committee. The motion failed with five votes in favor and five opposed.

Upon further discussion, Debbie Gainey moved and Will Marmolejo seconded to nominate David Mosso as the representative to the Community Projects Grant (CPG) Review Committee. The motion passed with a vote of nine in favor and one opposed.

- c. Discussion of June and July meeting dates

Upon conclusion of the discussion, David Mosso moved and with a second from Debbie Gainey to hold the regular meeting in June and cancel the July meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

8. City Staff Comments

Kelly Duffy announced recruitment for new Neighborhood Council Executive Board members will conclude on Friday, March 29, 2024. She asked Executive Board members to continue to share the recruitment with neighbors. The Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center Foundation Board is accepting applications. The deadline is Friday, March 29, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. The City is having a free Landfill Day on

Sunday, March 17, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The City of Simi Valley hosts free Household Hazardous Waste events on the third Saturday of every other month. All appointments are currently filled this month, but the City will begin taking appointments for the Saturday, May 18, 2024 event on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Kelly Duffy announced there is a Housing Rights Workshop at the Simi Valley Public Library on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Flyers were made available for the workshop. Free Easter Breakfast for seniors is hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Simi Valley, on Sunday, March 31, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Simi Valley Senior Center. The Senior Valley Council On Aging (COA) will host their Bingo Bonanza at the Simi Valley Senior Center on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

9. Executive Board Comments

Dwight Thompson announced that Little House on the Prairie still needs volunteers. Go to the Chamber of Commerce to sign up.

Cameron Thompson asked for the City Staff Announcements to be emailed to her. Kelly Duffy sent the announcements.

Mark Luker announced Council Member Elaine Litster spoke about the Amphitheatre Feasibility Study at the last City Council Meeting.

10. Adjournment: Thursday, April 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

By consensus of the Executive Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.