

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

March 2019

Board Meeting Highlights

New Board Jumps into Action

By Lucy Fried

The February BOD meeting was big in every way – big agenda, big audience turnout, big dollar projects to approve, some big surprises – and the directors wasted no time jumping in.

The first surprise for many was an announcement that Facilities Engineer Martin Breit had given notice and was leaving the next day for a new job closer to home. His departure leaves a huge void, and Operations Manager Sheri Giles is searching for a replacement.

Pet Rule Changes

For the 40-50 people who had packed the Clubhouse that evening, the biggest item was a proposed rule requiring upper unit pet owners to cover their floors to reduce pet noise in the units below; most had urged the board to oppose it. However, the directors removed the item from the group of pet rule changes and did not vote on it at all. Instead, they welcomed a DRC announcement that the committee would resume its investigation of other sound amelioration options.

Directors then moved to the pet rule changes that had already received preliminary approval. As they prepared to vote, Joe Khoury moved to **make no changes to the original pet rule.**

Joe likened today's contentious pet rule arguments to 10 years ago when he and fellow director Daniel Millner were trying to develop pet rules. "Owners were at each other's throats," he said, "and we worked long and hard to construct a middle ground we could all live with." The vote was 5-3-1. *Thus, the board made no changes and added nothing to the pet rule policies in the Village Green Handbook.* This may have been the biggest surprise of the evening.

Approved 2019 Major Maintenance Projects

Moving on, the new board authorized eight expenditures for 2019 maintenance work. The largest are:



Photo by Zig

Buildings 6, 7, 13, 31, 52, 59, 71, 74, 81, and 87:

Insulation: \$144,952 (Everguard Insulation);

Exterior painting: \$204,810 (Alex Painting);

Exterior carpentry: \$34,605 (Becker Enterprises).

Buildings 68, 75, 76, 77, 78, and 95:

Copper Re-piping of Interior water lines: \$195,630 (California Coast Plumbing and Re-piping).

Other Approved Resolutions

Electrical Service Upgrade Project: From directors Steve Haggerty, Cole Garrison, and Haleh Shoa - a plan to move forward with the electrical service upgrade project, authorizing staff to proceed with Objective 1: "To determine the cost and timing to upgrade to current electrical codes the electrical infrastructure within each building from the unit's meter to the unit's electrical panel, to each outlet." One building of each of VG's eight types will be investigated.

Way-finding Signs: From DRC, a proposal to proceed with fabrication and installation of already approved historical signage in the garage courts to help people more easily find the addresses they're looking for.

Common Areas Photo-Voltaic Installation Exploration: From DRC, to authorize DRC/management to release common area electrical bills to SunWorks for a no-charge feasibility study/estimate for installing PV on Village Green's garages. □

Public Security Report

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

January 17 - February 15, 2019

Jan 27 **BARKING DOG COMPLAINT.**

Court 10, 7:45 pm.

A resident reported a barking dog she said is regularly left alone and barks day and night.



Feb 12 **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.**

East Circle, 1:05 pm.

The property manager reported a collision between a visitor's car and a cart driven by a Village Green employee while the visitor was exiting the parking lot. No one was injured.

Feb 14 **STOLEN ELECTRICAL CART. East Circle, 4:15 pm.**

A resident reported three teens stealing a Village Green maintenance cart from in front of the office. Suspects eluded a search team, but LAPD later found the cart a mile and a half east of the Green, parked and vandalized with spray paint. It was driven back to the property. □

March Foot Beats Schedule

A project of the VG Safety Committee.

Tuesday, 3/12, 7:00pm: Meet at Clubhouse, walk west area.

Wednesday, 3/20, 9:00am: Meet at Court 4 entrance, walk central area.

Thursday, 3/28 9:00am: Meet at Clubhouse, walk east area.

Friday, 4/5, 7:30pm: Meet at Court 17 ent., walk west area. □



FEBRUARY MANAGER'S REPORT

From Sherri Giles, Operations Manager

Electronic Work Order System:

Courts 1-7 owners who opted in have received their log-on credentials. Courts 8-10 have been asked to update their contact information so they can get their credentials. The rollout of courts in numerical sequence continues.

Arborist Report:

Arborist Cy Carlberg noted that there is currently no sign of Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer presence in the forest, but that, "as the California sycamores exit their dormancy stage and begin to foliate, they will require monitoring".

Carlberg said that this year she hopes to concentrate on the "complete pruning" of the older, larger trees (ash and sycamore) in the three main greens.

Four trees have been recommended for pruning: #674 (carrotwood), Court 9; #1474 (carob), Garage Court 2; #1485 (carob), Garage Court 6; #1089, American sycamore, Court 14. Two trees are recommended for removal: #673 (American sycamore), Court 9 (irreversible health decline); and #1353 American sweetgum, Court 17 fungi.

Proposed 2019 Major Maintenance:

Proposals for this year's concrete repairs have been requested. Ten buildings are proposed for insulation, painting, and carpentry repairs. Six buildings are proposed for copper piping. See Board Meeting Highlights on page 1 for details. □

Lawn De-thatching and Aeration Completed



After de-thatching the three main greens, GreenCrew aerated them as well as the garden courts and Hauser/Coliseum corner.

Facilities Engineer Martin Breit photographed the aeration machine and described it as, "a rotary tool with spikes that is pulled along the turf behind a tractor, making holes and removing plugs of grass as it goes. The water jugs on top provide ballast (weight) so the spikes can penetrate the turf."

Highlights extends a special appreciation to Martin for his consistent support throughout his tenure. □

VG Election Inspectors Share Experience with Community

By Robert Creighton, Election Inspector

The inspectors of election are appointed by the Board of Directors each year to oversee and run the election process, including counting and tabulating the votes. Each year we provide an election report to the board, and this year we also wanted to share our notes with the community to help everyone understand the process better.

The goal is for every vote to count. In past years, we have consistently run into problems with the proxy form being used incorrectly and with confusion about the directions for the envelopes. With that in mind, and with the board's approval, we have made some changes over the last two election cycles in the documentation that is sent to all homeowners in the election packet. We continued those changes this year. We removed the proxy form from the documentation, and we had instructions printed directly onto the white "secret ballot" envelopes with the hope of reducing spoiled ballots.

This year, we received 319 envelopes. We had 4 fewer spoils than last year which is an encouraging sign. However, as you can see from the numbers below, we still need to get more owners to vote and continue to work towards reducing the number of spoils. We will work next year to encourage greater voter turnout and plan to write an additional article prior to the election to remind everyone how to vote properly.

We had a smooth election this year. Thank you for your help making the election successful. A special thank you to those who helped with the ballot counting.



2019's Ballot Counters

From left: Cynthia Cyrus (inspector); Lloyd Parish; Karen Bragg; Debra Ziegler (Zig); Marlene D'Aunoy, Bernie Montolla; Michael Schodorf (inspector); Meliba Bell; Rob Creighton (inspector); Heide Oglesby (inspector).

Photo by Sherri Giles

About the quorum:

Village Green has 629 total units;

46 units were ineligible to vote (per Ross Morgan);

576 units were eligible to vote;

Quorum: $629 - 46 = 576 / 2 = 291.5 + 1 = 293$ units;

319 Envelopes were received by the deadline, 12:00 pm on February 2nd.

Inspectors go through these steps once the polls close:

Round 1 (count yellow envelopes): 10 spoiled;

1 - did not include owner information on yellow envelope;

1 - no yellow envelope included (dropped into slot at VG office);

3 - ineligible owners;

5 - received after deadline;

Therefore, 309 yellow envelopes counted towards the quorum.

Round 2 (open yellow envelopes): 8 spoiled;

8 - ballots in the yellow envelopes (no white secret ballot envelope);

This leads to 301 white secret ballot envelopes.

Round 3 (open white secret ballot envelopes) - 1 spoiled:

1 - voter marked 6 candidates;

So we had 300 eligible ballots for counting

Your Inspectors,

Robert Creighton, Michael Schodorf, Heide Oglesby, Cynthia Cyrus



Solving the Mystery of the DWP Crews Not Easy

Compiled by Lucy Fried

Coliseum residents have grown accustomed to seeing DWP crews working on the property for months now. But it's been hard to learn what they're doing, and they don't always seem to be there for the same reason. Here are two examples.

(1) Court 4 resident Diann Dumas reported that on Sunday, February 10, DWP workers were working in Courts 8 and 9. An employee told her that two activities were taking place. Crews were replacing old cable, he said, and he himself was trouble-shooting, hoping to fix a problem without having to shut the power off. He also said the rains had left a lot of water in the ground where the cables are, and water was getting into them.

(2) On the same day, resident Mickey Fielding posted to VG's closed Facebook group a report that resident John Legaspi had sent to Nextdoor.com: "... at about 1:00 pm, I had a conversation with one of the supervisors for the LADWP crews that are in and around the Village Green area. I was told that they're going to start testing for faulty circuitry/power lines between Hauser and La Brea within the next 30 minutes. In order to do so, they're going to be shutting down power to each section that they

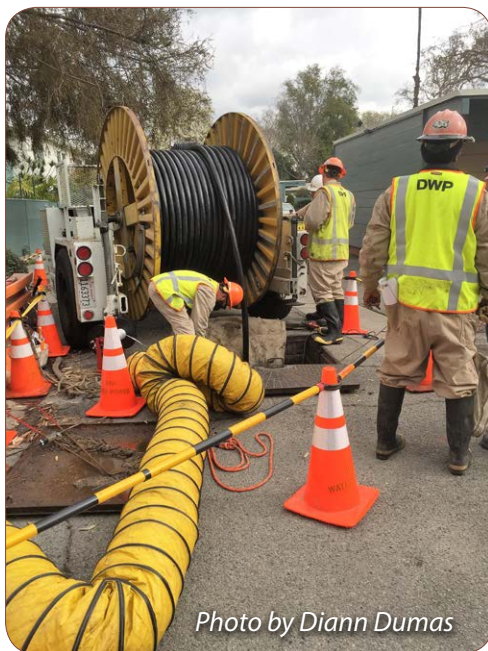


Photo by Diann Dumas

believe to be faulty for approximately five-minute intervals ..."

That afternoon, Diann reported a brief power shut off in Court 4. So did other Coliseum residents.

No doubt whatever DWP is doing is all to the good. But what ARE they doing? Is it related to the electrical upgrade we need? **Highlights** asked VG facilities engineer Martin Breit if he could shed some light. Here's what Martin said:

"DWP advised VGOA facilities staff

last year that they would be performing work in the vaults along Coliseum in an effort to update some faulty wiring and help expedite return to service in the event of an unplanned outage. Last year, I was also able to speak to a DWP engineer and confirm that they were trying to make some upgrades to the electrical grid. However, the engineer would not say how this would affect VGOA residents except that in the case of an unplanned outage, power should be able to be restored more rapidly than in the past. Management does not have a direct contact at LADWP."

Martin also pointed out that the DWP is legally permitted to access the electrical vaults located in the garage courts with or without VGOA permission or notification. They are not obligated to explain what they're doing, and the field crews do not always have access to the best information.

As to whether or not the work DWP is doing is related to a future electrical upgrade, Martin suggested it is unlikely, since we would need to first upgrade our 1940s electrical infrastructure, including re-wiring our buildings and units, before the utility would install new equipment to provide greater power. □

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

We cannot find in Section 14.7A in the 2018 **Handbook** or anything else a reference to an in-unit smoking exemption, as the February **Highlights** states. Is the description in the **Highlights** accurate?

Thank you,
Karen & Lloyd, Court 14



Correction:

Thank you for your letter. You're right! The original rule did not prohibit smoking in any unit, so there was no exemption. The editor regrets the error and the confusion it caused. villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com □



Garage Damage

On Saturday evening, March 2, this huge eucalyptus branch in Court 1 suddenly broke off and fell on the garage building right next to the community garden. It caused substantial damage to the roof and part of a winter vegetable harvest.

Photo by Yasuchi Ishida.

Sustainability: Economic and Financial

By Colombene Gorton

Today, we are faced with the need to make changes in response to deep problems in our society and environment.

“Sustainability” refers to the ability to meet current needs without depriving future generations. Our current levels of carbon-based energy usage and material consumption are unsustainable. Resource depletion needs to be curbed drastically or phased out to mitigate increasingly severe consequences for food and water systems and plant, animal and human habitats.

“Sustainability” can also refer to finance. Having more and greater outflows with no increase in inflows is unsustainable. At Village Green, how do we sustain our community and character while addressing our diverse residents’ needs?

Local Community Solutions Can Improve Lives

It may feel like what’s happening out there is something that someone high up in government needs to fix. However, many innovative ideas (often reminiscent of old ways) are being implemented locally in cities and neighborhoods in our country and around the world. Village Green is at a scale and level of interdependence to really make a difference.



Sustainable Systems Through Community

Many engaged, talented people here are contributing all the time. How might we rethink our habits and perspectives and coordinate to build on that?

Over 50 suggestions came in at February’s Annual Meeting. What if we could generate our own electricity with solar panels? Or build our own WiFi network and cut the cord with cable companies? How about growing and sharing food? Or buy locally in bulk? Increase composting and graywater reuse. Do more to share or trade seldom used items.

Maybe we can slow down the local traffic. We see the bike or scooter shares - can we do something similar? Call a neighbor for a ride to the airport instead of Uber. Hire a neighborhood kid instead of using an app. Keep more money in our community. We are bombarded with messaging to do it alone with offers of short-term convenience or bargains. But we pay a much bigger price in the long run.

If you are interested in building more sustainable systems through community, please consider joining a committee in an area of interest or attend the sustainability and community interest group. We’ll keep you posted. □

COMMITTEES Monthly Round Up MARCH

Budget & Finance: 3rd Thursday (3/21), 7:00pm.

Thanks to all who came out for February’s successful meeting with Ross Morgan. March is back to business as usual, as we review the most recent financials and consider resolutions to submit to the board.

Design Review: 1st Monday (3/4), 7:00 pm.

DRC is presenting the Wayfinding Sign resolution to the board. If passed, all courts will have directional signage that will be produced on light reflective signage which facilitate outside visitors find our units much easier.

Communications: 2nd Sunday (3/10), 12:00 pm.

Keep those letters coming! Also, we are still looking for a cartoonist and Kids Corner columnist. If interested, please come to a meeting or email villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com.

Landscape: 2nd Monday (2/11), 7:00 pm.

We submitted three discussion resolutions for the March board meeting regarding the RFP process for irrigation overhaul, the Hauser/Coliseum redo design, and carts on the lawns.

Safety: 2nd Wednesday (2/13), 7:00 pm.

Chin Thammasaengsri, South Bureau Coordinator for the L.A. Fire Department Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), has agreed to review our unapproved 2007 Disaster Preparedness Plan and suggest how to create a more usable and current plan.

Cultural Affairs: 4th Thursday (3/28), 7:00 pm.

We’re busy arranging our spring and summer events schedule.

Court Council: 1st Wednesday (3/6) 7:00 pm.

Trees: 2nd Tuesday (2/12), 7:00 pm. □

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Recycling Clean Up Event

Saturday, March 23, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm,

3800 Crenshaw Blvd. Line starts at Bronson & Coliseum. Drop off all hazardous waste, including electronics, sharps, medications and more.

Book Signing with VG author Kitty Felde

Saturday, March 23, 4:00 pm, Clubhouse.

Sponsored by Cultural Affairs Committee.

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 26th, Clubhouse.

Homeowner comments start promptly at 7:00 pm.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 7th, 2:00 pm, Clubhouse.

Sponsored by Cultural Affairs Committee. □



COMMUNITY NEWS

By Cynthia Singleton



Oil Field Odors

Village Green is now a member of the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) for the oil field's watchdog Community Standards District (CSD).

Last December, VG and Baldwin Hills residents requested an investigation into strange odors occurring in the early morning hours. The CAP asked that we track the dates and times these events occur. In February, residents from both HOAs met and kicked off a 90-day odor-tracking campaign using Odor Logs.

Please review and use the log that your court rep has delivered to you with this newsletter. (Please don't call about neighbors smoking, skunks, or strange cooking odors!) Logs are due in the VG office by May 30th.

Rodeo Name Change

In case you somehow missed it, Rodeo Road is no longer. The L.A. City Council voted to change it to Obama Blvd., and the road signs are scheduled to be changed this month. The 3.7mile roadway runs the same distance as Rodeo did.

Emergency Reminder

Our LAFD station chief, at a meeting, requested that callers give the court number when calling in an emergency. He also said that all new team members are given a walk around VG to familiarize themselves with it. □

PEOPLE OF THE GREEN

“Welcome to Washington, Fina Mendoza”

People of the Green contribution by Lucy Fried

Parents and teachers, grands and uncles and aunties, and all you book lovers out there, Hear ye! Hear ye! There's a new book in town, and it's written by Court 6's own irrepressible Kitty Felde.

Welcome to Washington, Fina Mendoza (great title, no?) is a mystery novel about a 10-year old girl who moves from L.A. to D.C. (because her father is elected to Congress) and is soon assigned the mission of solving *the mystery of the demon cat of Capitol Hill!* Seen through Fina's L.A. eyes, D.C. is a peculiar place with interesting and very human politicians.

Kitty is eminently qualified to write about Capitol Hill, having spent six years there as a news correspondent for public radio station KPCC. She and husband Tad Daley are finally back at the Green and the home they had moved into in 1999. Many Greenies fondly remember her talk show on KPCC, where she was named Radio Journalist of the Year three times.

Here's one of many enthusiastic reviews:

“The book is a marvelous introduction to the workings of government, and of a young lady of spunk and smarts.” - Susan Stamberg, NPR

Cultural Affairs is sponsoring a book signing on March 23rd, 4:00 pm in the Clubhouse; please come. You can also buy a copy now from Amazon. □

