



Meeting Report for May 21, 2012

By Denny Schneider

Valley VOTE Board members, community leaders, and concerned citizens convened on May 21 at Galpin Ford to hear from our featured speaker, mayoral candidate Jan Perry. In addition brief reports from Valley VOTE committee leaders on a variety of subjects were presented.

Councilwoman Jan Perry, Candidate for LA City Mayor

Jan Perry described her background and ties to Los Angeles. She moved here to attend USC in 1974. Her father was in public service back east and she was motivated to serve her new community. She participated in several volunteer opportunities in South Los Angeles. She earned a Bachelor's Degree and then Master's Degree in Community Planning from USC. Soon after graduation she married and began working as a paralegal. After fourteen years in the private sector, she became a Planning Deputy in the Office of Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Woo. In 1993, she served as Chief of Staff the former Councilwoman of the Ninth District. Then in 2000, she became Council member for the Ninth Council District serving South LA communities and the downtown area. Jan Perry secured over \$70million for park and recreation facilities to improve her District. She has worked with developers to foster construction of 5,000 units of affordable and supportive housing for families, seniors, and the homeless. She stated of residential communities neighborhood character protection is important. Jan also stated that she continues to support adaptive reuse and has worked to reinvigorate areas where industrial and commercial uses displaced single family neighborhoods. Jan Perry's eye is on the upcoming March 13 primary for Mayor. She wants to do more for her City. Her prime focus is to improve the business climate and increase jobs in Los Angeles. She supports changing the Business license tax. She mentioned the Blue Sky report opposes a gross receipt tax. She favors a phased roll back to ensure revenue stream for the City, but mentioned no specifics. For real estate, we need to encourage reinvestment and to allow a profit; a measured approach to tax. She has advocated for elements as the Expo line, JW Marriott, and LA Live which bring jobs back to LA. She wants to increase training opportunities to ensure that compatible support services are available. Transportation and infrastructure planning is important to Jan and noted that the LA Mayor is a rotating leader of MTA which deserves high priority. Jan stated that a mayor should also be active in education i.e. funding adult Education (and alternative education). She would like to see the Mayor become an ex officio member of LAUSD. Everyone should have basic skills. This is important to all society and for job creation. We also need to be adaptive to allow for non-college career paths. Jan acknowledged the importance of our community colleges. Because of poor student preparation, colleges have had to focus on learning basics instead of higher education. She described a program she supported in which Trade Tech accepted high school level students to

provide specialized training. Jan responded to a question about Proposition 13 and the split tax roll by noting that there are some important studies currently being conducted about this issue. She is waiting for the study recommendations before taking a firm stand. She noted that we can't tax our way out of the economic troubles we face. She told us that we need to figure out other ways to finance the massive infrastructure repairs needed. Jan opposed closing the Valley's Bradley Center because local government is critical. She supports and appreciates Neighborhood Councils and noted that proposed, severe funding cuts for NCs is a bad idea; she doesn't expect it to happen. She expects the City to find a way to pay for NC elections. When asked about closed land fill mitigation money and the lack of transparency regarding its use, Jan offered to help find answers. She said that as Mayor she would have the CLA prepare regular reports and be preemptive in tracking these funds. When asked how we could improve efficiency, she said that she would hold Department Heads accountable and select people from a perspective of service. She is supportive of programs that will bring businesses back to LA. Some department reorganization is possible but noted that 70% of the budget is for fire/police and must be spent. Fire response time must be improved. Jan supports Farmers Field – expecting 23,000 new jobs. She wants an Authority Board established to ensure all community and commercial uses are scheduled fairly in the new Convention Center. Everyone was encouraged to send Jan questions and to go to her website: **JanPerry.com**

Valley VOTE -Committee Reports

Vic Viereck

New Residential Carbon Dioxide Detector Requirements

In May 2010, the state of California enacted a law requiring home owners to install carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. According to the California Air Resources Board 30 to 40 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning. The senate bill, also known as the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act, states that those deaths were avoidable. According to the bill, the California law will help prevent further deaths and increase awareness. Although the bill was signed into law in 2010, California residents must have carbon monoxide detectors in their homes as of July 1, 2011. This timeline applies only to single-family homes that have appliances that burn fossil fuels or homes that have attached garages or fireplaces. For all other types of housing, such as apartments and hotels, detectors should be in place as of January 1, 2013. Types of fossil fuels include wood, gas and oil. According to the senate bill, the detector must sound an audible warning once carbon monoxide is detected. It also must be powered by a battery, or if it is plugged in, have a battery for a backup. The detector also must be certified by national testing labs, such as the Underwriters Laboratories. The packaging on the carbon monoxide detector will state this. If the CO detector is also a smoke detector, it must still meet the above standards and must sound an alarm that is different than the smoke alarm. Carbon monoxide detectors typically can be purchased for about \$20 and up. http://www.ehow.com/list_6674598_california-carbon-monoxide-detector-requirements.html#ixzz1vFPLioX4

Bart Reed

Transportation

Transit Coalition Executive Director Bart Reed updated the audience on transportation happenings across Southern California. First, Reed announced that Metro inaugurated part of Expo Line Phase I, from Downtown LA to Jefferson/La Cienega, on Saturday, April 28. Two more stations, one in Culver City and another at Farmdale Ave., will open in the summer. Also opening in the summer is the Chatsworth Extension of the Orange Line busway.

Next, Reed elaborated on milestones and challenges of the Westside Subway. In April, the Metro Board certified the final EIR for the project, which would extend the Purple Line subway to the VA Hospital. However, only the first portion of the subway, to Wilshire/La Cienega, was approved for construction. This is in response to a request by the City of Beverly Hills to hold a Metro Board meeting on route options through Century City. The meeting was held on Thursday, May 17. The Metro Board could approve a route as early as its next meeting on Thursday, May 24.

Finally, Reed discussed ongoing Transit Coalition campaigns. The advocacy group continues to call for Metro to build two distinct SFV rapid transit projects (one on Van Nuys Blvd., the other through the Sepulveda Pass) as one rail line, with a possible subway component. Also, the Coalition's nascent student internship program is growing, with the CSUN Transportation Tiger Team having met Metro CEO Art Leahy on Monday, April 30, to discuss findings from their recent transportation field survey. Additionally, the Tiger Team drafted a report that describes the viability of a streetcar project in the San Fernando Valley.

Maria Fisk

Community Care Facility Ordinance CF#11-0262

Many larger California municipalities have enacted ordinances that regulate Boarding/Rooming Houses and Licensed Community Care Facilities serving greater than 7 residents. Due to the flawed State prisoner release program, several cities have new ordinances regulating parolee houses as well. Because of the influx of 9,000 (yearly) released prisoners to LA County, this issue has taken on a new dimension and is becoming even a more urgent matter of Public Safety. Illegal group/boarding houses have affected most communities, citywide. For example in Devonshire Division alone, LAPD has mentioned there are as many as 43 unregulated group houses and the number is growing.

The benefits of the proposed CCFO:

"Current regulations date back to the 1950's and will be updated. There is a clearer definition of boarding/rooming houses, where they are prohibited and the designated zones where they can locate. Part of the reason for the exponential proliferation of illegal group/boarding houses is the lack of written stipulations. Once enacted, LADBS and other Safety Officials will have established guidelines as a basis for enforcement.

Currently, there are no limits as to how many tenants (commonly 16-60) can reside in a house in areas zoned low density residential. The single lease agreement that defines a boarding/rooming house will limit this illegal activity. A boarding house business is a commercial venture. It is common land use practice to limit commercial enterprises within areas zoned low density residential.

"Many parolees/probationers reside in group/rooming houses. There are regulations (some requiring a Conditional Use Permit) on where Parolee/Probationer group housing can locate. Safety officials have reported that there has been continued substance abuse (despite claims of sober environment), assaults, rape, predatory rental schemes, filth, and vermin within these unregulated houses. This ordinance will not only offer protection for those who live in group arrangements but to the surrounding communities as well.

Other cities (Santa Monica, Oakland, Pasadena, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, etc.) have enacted similar ordinances long ago. Their code/ordinances are much more restrictive than what the City of Los Angeles has proposed. This Community Care Facility Ordinance is a start, and perhaps the City of Los Angeles will continue to work towards regulations that will be more comparable and aligned with what other municipalities have enacted.

Denny Schneider **Airports Report**

The current news item on local airports is that LAWA (Los Angeles World Airports) continues to resist giving control of LA/Ontario International Airport back to the City of Ontario. Residents local to Ontario are demanding local control because the airport has lost about 40% of its passengers in the last three years. LAWA blames the economy, but the locals don't agree that this is the whole story. They complain that LAWA is not marketing adequately and that the City of LA is not as concerned about their major economic engine as it is about diverting flights to LAX. Over 80 entities have passed resolutions calling for divestiture including Southern California Association of Governments. Flights from ONT to Mexico were recently lost because Federal Inspection Services (Customs) was not willing to accommodate. Ontario officials have estimated that this causes increased traffic to LA by about 1.3million cars per year clogging our freeways. Although Federal law prohibits sale of airports or taking funds generated by airport operations for any other use, Ontario has offered \$50 Million to LA City for its general fund if it cancels its MOU to operate ONT. This would help with the major budget short fall. Meanwhile, LAX has increased its regional market share to over 75% of all passengers. Terror attacks are not the only concern. There are at least two earthquake faults at or near LAX. A few months ago the entire south complex was closed for several hours by a wind storm. Ground traffic around LAX can be bad enough that one accident caused 30,000people to miss a flight. LAX being down without a backup would have dire economic impacts. There is a redesign of the Southern California air space planned to start later this year. This could cause If the FAA projection for LAX of an increase from 600,000 ops/year to a million occurs many more people to be impacted by aircraft noise and pollution. The FAA reports that the traffic will be handled by better flight controls of NEXTGEN. In previous reports I mentioned aircraft spacing as an issue. Last week the FAA significantly reduced the safety distance required between aircraft in

flight as a measure to help increase traffic capacity. A concern raised was what would be done if NEXTGEN, a GPS controlled traffic director, fails. Last month GPS control signals were jammed in the Korean airspace for a couple weeks. Fortunately, old style radar systems were still functioning. For more info: DennySchneider@WeLiveFree.com or www.RegionalSolution.com

Guy Weddington

Weddington Golf and Tennis Property

The Weddington Sheep ranch was opened at the turn of the 20th Century. The Weddingtons were one of the major developers of Lankershim, which became North Hollywood in 1927. Universal came here in 1912 and formed Universal City in 1912 and Studio in 1915. Studio City was formed in 1928. The sheep ranch turned into a normal ranch in 1955. An actor know as Joe Kirkwood, who played boxer Joe Poluca, signed a contract to lease the property and develop a nine hole golf course on the 17 V2 acres. In 1971 the new leases built a 20 court tennis complex. A few years ago a LA Fire Station was built on 1.1 acres of the property leaving 16.1 acres for tennis courts. The Weddington Family proposed to develop the tennis courts into 300 condos 11 years ago. The number of units currently planned is 200 units. We are moving forward with the proposed project. An Environmental Impact Report should be completed within four months and we have a slightly revised plan. The condos will replace golf course holes 4-7 and 14 of the tennis courts. The five other holes will be kept intact and the golf course will be kept open. Golfers will repeat the course to complete nine holes. The Studio City Residents Association, SCRA, for the first 9 years with their political influence, and the Council influence, tied up our project. The SCRA changed their position several years ago, tied in with conservationists, and are attempting to take our property to make it into a National Park along the LA River. If these Conservationists are successful in having the Park Service eminently domain the area, the entire golf course would be removed and a bird sanctuary would replace it. We expect birds would likely multiply into the local neighborhood. On part of the land near residences their project would require land scramblers to be installed to scrub the water. I understand that these activities are noisy and will be heard in the neighborhoods. The water table is high in the area and could lead to complications of flooding from the new use. If the Park Service re-evaluates the flood zone, and they take out the river channel, the area could be considered in a flood zone, which could lead to very expensive costs to all on our home insurance. The City is planning to make special laws that will affect all properties within 2,500 feet of the river. This will affect both businesses and residential property. The politicians at the City, State, and Federal levels are showing strong support for the LA River and National Park Project. It was stated to complete the River Revitalization could cost \$1 billion and up. Today, everyone is broke, right?: So I guess we the tax payers will pick up the tab. It also means that today everyone's private property is in jeopardy. **Contact - Guy Weddington for more information.**

The next regular monthly meeting of Valley VOTE will be on Monday, June 18, 2012 at Galpin Ford.

Valley VOTE Mission Statement

Valley VOTE, a diverse coalition of San Fernando Valley Residents, business people, educators, community activists and organizations, is committed to exploring and fostering the implementation of programs that empower the people of the San Fernando Valley and the city of Los Angeles, to improve local governance, education and public participation on policy matters. Please forward this Email to interested individuals and organizations. If you would like to be removed from our distribution list please send an email to javittisr@cs.com.