

Minutes for the April 24, 2014 Executive Board Meeting of the NorthridgeWest Neighborhood Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM at the offices of the Northridge Chamber of Commerce located at 9401 Reseda Blvd. in Northridge, CA 91326.

Attendance

Executive Board members present: Tom Johnson (president), Peter Lasky (VP of administration), Glen Wilson (treasurer) and John Mah (secretary)

Executive Board member not present: Pam Bolin (VP for outreach) was unable to attend because of her appearance at a Budget Advocate meeting for the City of LA..

Stakeholders present: Mike Orkin and Crystal Mojica (a college student observing the meeting)

Setting Agenda for May Board Meeting

The matters presented below were discussed as potential agenda items for the May meeting.

Matthew Vallecilla's Comments Regarding April Board Meeting

In his email of April 9, 2014 board member Matthew Vallecilla proposed giving each board member 2 minutes to state his or her position prior to a vote. It was concluded that such a procedure would result in an undue consumption of time. For example, if each of the 13 board members spoke for 2 minutes prior to a vote, it would take 26 minutes. A procedure would be established whereby each board member would have the right but not the obligation to speak during discussions prior to a vote on a matter.

In his email Mr. Vallecilla proposed that a stakeholder wishing to comment on a motion be required to complete a speaker's card. It was concluded that such a requirement would violate the Brown Act.

Mr. Vallecilla proposed that all presentations by outside speakers be limited to 2 minutes regardless of who they are. The executive board concluded that the amount of time allocated to invited speakers will vary depending on the subject matter of the presentation.

Mr. Vallecilla's recommendation that the president read agenda motions at the board meetings without comment or editorializing was accepted by the executive committee.

Treasurer's Status Report

\$1,500 was moved from the operations account to the neighborhood purpose grants (NPG) account.

The status of the demand warrants for Topeka School and Callahan School was discussed.

A revised budget will be sent to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

Darrell Griffin's Proposal to Provide Outside Accounting Services for \$250 per Month

It was concluded that NWNC investigate the cost of a bookkeeping service rather than retain the services of a certified public account with an MBA degree.

It is imperative that NWNC meet its monthly accounting obligations to DONE.

Financial status of Remaining 2013-2014 Projects

Treasurer Glen Wilson reported on the financial status of the remaining projects for this fiscal year.

Northridge Senior Social and Nomination of a Stakeholder to be Honored as NWNC Senior of the Year

In past years the NWNC has provided financial support for the "Senior Dance," which is now billed as the "Senior Social," organized by the 12th Council District. Each neighborhood council in the 12th district has contributed \$500 towards the event.

In conjunction with the Senior Social, a senior stakeholder from each NC will be honored. Former NWNC board member Joanne Phillips, who is moving out of state, was recommended for the honor.

The Status of Bids to Clean and Maintain Reseda Blvd. Median between Kinzie and Superior Streets:

VP of administration Peter Lasky presented the 3 bids he received for clean-up of the Reseda Blvd. median between Kinzie and Superior Streets.

- A. 5 page bid from American Heritage Landscape which called for an initial sum of \$280 to remove weeds and trim vegetation, and \$200 per month thereafter for maintaining the median.

- B. The emailed bid of Trinidad Soledad/Pacific Paradise Landscape proposed an initial payment of \$500 for weeding and first cleaning of the median, then \$100 per month for “monthly service.”
- C. A bid of \$200 by Edgar Diaz Tree Service for the initial cost to clean the median of weeds, then an estimate of future costs would be given.

The executive board discussed the bids and the consensus was that the services of American Heritage Landscape would best meet the needs of the NWNC. The 3 bids will be presented to the full board for selection.

Establishing Procedures for Committee Chairs to report to the NWNC Board

Committee chairs will be given the opportunity to give a status report to the board on the activities of his or her committee if he or she desires.

NWNC Board Retreat and DONE Training

The consensus was that DONE be contacted about a training session of up to 4 hours regarding finance, how to hold a meeting, and outreach. A sum of up to \$250 was previously allocated for training. There was discussion today about an additional \$250 allocation to bring the total to \$500. The training will be open to all stakeholders.

Financial Support for the Congress of Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

The Congress of Neighborhood Councils (CNC) is held every year on a Saturday at City Hall. In past years NWNC has contributed \$250 towards the event. The consensus was that the NWNC contribute \$250 to the CNC, but no contribution to the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates which is a new and separate entity.

Northridge Vision Presentation at NWNC Board Meeting

Northridge Vision wishes to make a presentation at our monthly board meeting and to seek funding from the NWNC. The consensus was that Northridge Vision be permitted to make its presentation.

Other Topic: SOLID request for funding of up to \$1,000

Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID), the LAPD Devonshire Division law enforcement support group, is seeking a contribution of up to \$1,000 from the NWNC. Because there is no current available money for NPG allocations, the request will be deferred until July when the new fiscal year begins.

Adjournment at 7:53 PM.

John Mah, Secretary