



Northridge West Neighborhood Council Joint Land Use and Government Affairs Committee

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday April 2, 2013 at 7PM

North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (NWNC Office)

9401 Reseda Blvd. Northridge, CA 91324

Enter from rear parking lot.

Note NWNC maybe sound recording this NWNC committees meeting as back up information for NWNC minutes.

NWNC will provide water at this meeting.

LEGALLY REQUIRED OFFICIAL POSTING: Please do not remove until AFTER above date and time.

The NWNC Agenda is posted for public review at the following Northridge locations below and posted on NWNC website www.NorthridgeWest.org

Beckford Avenue Elementary School 19130 Tulsa St.
The Discovery Shop 9719 Reseda Blvd.
Galleria Market 10201 Reseda Blvd. (new) Posted on south side of market and on Community Bulletin inside.
North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce 9401 Reseda Blvd.
\$10 or Less Bookstore 19500 Plummer St. (new) on Bulletin Board inside store near Super King Market
Shell Service Station 8900 Corbin Ave.
Topeka Drive Elementary School 9815 Topeka Drive

For more information about NWNC call (818) 886-3534 and ask for Glen.

All actions at this meeting comply with the Brown

Land Use and Government Affairs Committees – Chair for both is Glen Wilson

1. Call to order and roll order.
2. Discussion, recommends or/and possible NWNC Board Agenda for NWNC April 9, 2013

General Meeting is:

- a. NWNC recommend on “Bonfish Grill” Suite #218 (in Northridge Fashion Center and south of Yard House) permit hearing is April 16, 2013 on Case # ZA 2013-313 needs ABC Type #47 (restaurant with full line of alcohol). Updates by Tom McCarty.
- b. NWNC recommend on proposed restaurant “Taps Gastro Pub” at 18673 Devonshire St. (was Hot’s Cantina) Case # ZA 2013-497 needs CUP permit to sell beer and wine on-sit. Updates by Brett Engstrom for Art Rodriguez and Associates
- c. NWNC recommend on 9423-B Reseda Blvd. as retail market is opening in that tenant space and they are requesting the ability to sell beer and wine which is part of the Meridian Place mixed use development. Brett has the Dept of ABC stats, and the area is not considered over-concentrated or high-crime with hearing scheduled for April 19th. Updates by Brett Engstrom for Art Rodriguez and Associates
- d. NWNC recommend on proposed “PetSmart” OF A PET BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH A PET STORE WITH VETERINARY, PET TRAINING AND ADOPTION SERVICES Case# ZA-2013-484-ZV at 19320 NORDHOFF ST. (was Tower Records store), Northridge, CA 91324 for ZV-ZONE VARIANCE in Northridge South NC area.
- e. NWNC recommend on proposed 9248 Vanalden Ave, Northridge, CA 91324 house which is second house south of Prairie St. (currently lot is 110’ x 480’ and lot area 52,457.7 Sq. ft.) with project dividing the lot into 2 lots as front lot 90’ x 195’ = 17, 550 SF (present use single family) and rear (flag) lot with 20’ driveway = 34,907.7 sf. (proposed use as new

- single family house). Master Land Use Permit application dated March 5, 2013 with case # AA 2013-586-PMLA for tract/parcel map (existing Zone RA-1).
- f. NWNC recommend on construction of Signage associated with mixed-use (residential/retail) development on 19600 Plummer St. (retail on Plummer St. and residential on Corbin Ave.) to grant relief from P (Parking) Zone to allow for three monument signs and 12 banner pole signs (18'tall) on 9400 Corbin Ave. (called Terrena Apartment Homes) and 19600 Plummer St. (called Collection) which is CASE# ZA 2013-672-ZV.
 - g. Update about empty Albertsons Supermarket on Devonshire St.
 - h. NWNC Ambassadors to Adjacent NC's (NWNC needs two person per NC to go to other NC's).
 - i. Updates and comments on Northridge Vision, Oakridge Estate Park, LANCC, PlanCheckNC, VANC, L. A. City Community Care Facilities Ordinance and others.
 - j. NWNC recommend Resolution to Implement Motion 07-0699 to Fine the Parkway & Sidewalk Violators:

Whereas, Motion 07-0699 was unanimously passed by LA City Council May 2007, almost six years ago, and this motion would give the owner/renters time to clean up their parkways and sidewalks to fully comply with LAMC 56.08 and if not cleaned, the violators will be fined \$50, \$100 and finally \$150.

Whereas, City Clerk's status of this Motion indicates it has been lingering with the City Attorney for almost SIX years waiting for the legislation to be written.

Whereas, many owners and renters with control over parkways and sidewalks flagrantly violate LAMC 56.08 leaving these areas looking disgraceful.

Whereas, the weeds grow tall and trash collects along most major streets in Northridge, and this wrecks quality of life.

Whereas, trees and shrubs sprout up through sidewalk cracks, and this unchecked growth increases the rate of infrastructure wreckage which is costly to Los Angeles tax payers.

Whereas, the two choices we, almost-the-highest-taxed in the nation, have been given is: a) deliver Did You Know (DYK) letters informing the violators they are responsible to clean up their own messes, or b) clean up our violating neighbors' parkways and sidewalks ourselves.

Whereas, Operation Clean Sweep volunteers have delivered hundreds of DYK letters which are mostly ignored.

Whereas, Operation Clean Sweep volunteers have been cleaning our violating neighbors' parkways and sidewalks every Thursday for almost three years, and for the first year, we even cleaned these messes TWO days a week.

Whereas, LA City Bureau of Street Services Investigations and Enforcement's Tom Caraballo has been so drastically cut that they do not effectively enforce the existing code and they have indicated fining the violators is the only way to effectively enforce LAMC 56.08.

Whereas, the taxpayers, and especially the hard working volunteers, have waited long enough for our misdemeanor-committing neighbors to clean up their own messes, and we don't want to wait for Administrative Code Enforcement(ACE)Program to be implemented because we have already waited long enough - six years is enough.

Whereas, the messy parkways and sidewalks significantly lower quality of life and property values.

Therefore, NWNC directs City Attorney, Carmen Trutanich, to write the legislation to immediately implement the unanimously-passed Motion 07-0699 and provide a letter to Northridge West Neighborhood Council president, Gerry Malais, indicating the anticipated date said legislation will be effective; include a list of all steps required to implement Motion 07-0699 with estimated completion dates for each step.

Therefore, City Controller, Wendy Gruehl, will immediately upon establishment of said legislation will create the new account to collect these fines.

Therefore, Bureau of Street Services Investigations & Enforcement staff will start fining the violators as soon as possible after all implementation actions have been taken.

Here is the Motion; everyone please read it before reviewing above resolution:

<http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=07-0699&CFID=18996578&CFTOKEN=1efcad71182dd946-75544B81-CBBD-23D9-EDEFFE2B69B5158D&jsessionid=f030427bb55624b45166472f2434b362f6c4>

- k. NWNC recommends that the FY2013-2014 City Budget include provisions to restore the annual allocation of all 95 NCs to \$ 50,000 per year. This is from West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting which was passed on Wed. March 13, 2013.
- l. NWNC recommends that the FY2013-2014 City Budget include provisions to support and fund the 95 NCs' scheduled elections in 2014 (without diminishing the DONE budget proposal or the NCs' allocation). This is from West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting which was passed on Wed. March 13, 2013.
- m. NWNC recommends that the FY2013-2014 City Budget include provisions to approve of the FY2013-2014 DONE Budget as proposed by GM Grayce Liu. This is from West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting which was passed on Wed. March 13, 2013.
- n. NWNC recommends that, in FY2013-2014, the Controller's Office continue its efforts to define the advantages and disadvantages and the Cost/Benefits of creating a Centralized Collections System for the City of Los Angeles. This is from West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting which was passed on Wed. March 13, 2013.
- o. Should NWNC recommend or change wording on the resolution below for NWNC to vote on. NCs are supposed to advise LA City council what their stakeholders want and expect... by NWNC Stakeholder.

NWNC Resolution would go something like this:

Whereas, LA City has misplaced priorities and has slashed services.

Whereas, pensions and benefits consume so much of LA City's budget that they had to reduce street sweeping from every 4 weeks on Open Routes to about every 20 weeks; significantly reduced storm drain cleaning, sidewalk repairs, and tree trimming.

Whereas, LA City is too broke to cut down dead pine trees and so those bark beetles are going from tree to tree killing many of these beautiful trees.

Whereas, LA City is too broke to properly enforce LAMC 56.08, the ordinance that requires owners of parkways & sidewalks such as along our major streets such as Tampa, to mow weeds and keep the area clean and clear. LA never takes these violators to step 2, Administrative Hearings.

Whereas, the drastic service cuts and the resulting disgraceful appearance of our town, is ruining the quality of life in Northridge.

Whereas, LA City lay off 5,000 workers so obviously, those services are gone.

Whereas, LA City taxpayers pay almost the highest, if not the highest taxes in the entire country.

Whereas, adjacent cities have lush, beautiful medians and well maintained parkways, streets and sidewalks, but yet those taxpayers pay much lower taxes.

Whereas, LA City employees' pensions and benefits are much higher than those of the private sector.

Therefore, NWNC resolves and directs LA City Council to immediately renegotiate the union pensions and benefits of current employees and include Fire and Police to bring these more in line with what the private sector provides. Further, LA City shall negotiate to retire city employees to retire at an older age.

- p. Discussion, recommend NWNC and wording for NWNC Resolution on City Proposing Funding Cuts to NC's could postpone 2014 elections to Fall or 2015 Potential Funding Cuts Proposed to Help Balance the City Budget**

We just got news from the Mayor's Office that because prop A did not pass, the City is facing a lot of new cuts, including cutting the NC elections next fiscal year unless the NCs fund it themselves with cuts to their yearly allocation. That would require an almost 20% cut to cover the election expenses as currently proposed. Other potential options are to move the elections to the fall of 2014 with partial cuts to the NC yearly allocation or pushing it to spring of 2015 with no cuts to the yearly allocation. There are pros and cons to each of these options.

The Mayor's Office has requested input from the NCs on this asp since they have to finish their budget numbers by the end of the month.

Your input is needed and quickly. Please be prepared to weigh in on the issue Again, the Mayor is attempting to take away our charter right to democracy by pushing off or eliminating our elections.

As the chair of the budget advocates, it shocks me to hear that the NC system will again be punished for the bad decisions of the elected officials, giving 25% raises at a time when the economy was sinking.

In L.A. Times, the Mayor is quoted as saying the deficit is not as bad as they had thought. This comes 2 days after losing Prop "A", which in his and Chief Beck's words will cost 500 LAPD jobs.....

The budget advocates have known for weeks that the pending defect of 220 Million was down to less than 110 million, yet the ads kept scaring the public into voting for Prop "A".

It is time for the NC system to stand up to the Mayor and the elected officials, and mandate they make the really tough decisions on how to fix the city budget without punishing 1800 neighborhood council VOLUNTEERS, while he continues to pay salaries, pension deposits and healthcare for the "city family", the employees of the city, and cutting our services to the bone and endangering lives with slow emergency response.

**Please email your response a.s.a.p. (note this item was email out to NC's sometime after Prop. A failed March 5, 2013)
Jay Handal Co-Chair NBCA-13**

- q. Discussion and wording for possible NWNC Resolution on a proposal to do away with the standard definition of “factual basis” stakeholder.” (You can read the full article and motion below.)

When this motion was introduced, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners specifically postponed the vote until their May 20th meeting so that every Neighborhood Council would have an opportunity to weigh in on it. No one is more committed to this process than you, so please encourage your Neighborhood Councils to agenda this issue for April or early May. That way, your Neighborhood Council can provide the Commission with feedback.

The more participation and involvement we have, the better.

EmpowerLA NEWSLETTER ARTICLE from March 22:

On Monday, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners took up the first recommendations of the NC Plan review working groups—a proposal to do away with the standard definition of “factual basis” stakeholder. The motion introduced would also eliminate the requirement that councils provide board seats for those who do not live, work, or own property within their boundaries. *Councils wanting to include board seats for those individuals would be allowed to write their own definition for “community interest” stakeholders.* (Thanks to Valley working group chair and VANC leader Jill Banks Barad for suggesting that “community interest” better describes those who have more than a tenuous connection to a neighborhood.)

All three of the working groups (North and South Valley; Central, East and North areas; and Harbor, South, and West areas) concluded that the current “factual basis” definition is not working. Each group, working independently, offered more or less the same answers to a series of questions regarding stakeholder status. The commission is now considering the following motion:

“Resolved, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners recommends that sections of the city’s Administrative Code which touch upon neighborhood council stakeholders be amended as follows:

- (1) Remove the requirement that neighborhood councils provide governing board positions for factual basis stakeholders;*
- (2) Allow each neighborhood council to determine the number, if any, of governing board seats that are allocated to factual basis stakeholders;*
- (3) Remove the current definition of factual basis stakeholder; and*
- (4) Allow each neighborhood council to adopt its own definition of factual basis stakeholder.”*

The commission heard from more than a dozen stakeholders during public comment on this item. It now wants to hear from the rest of you. The motion is continued to May when the commission will vote. Neighborhood councils desiring to weigh in should schedule votes for their April or early May meetings. Individuals desiring to offer their opinions can email commission secretary Janet.Lindo@lacity.org for distribution to the commissioners.

Joseph Hari, Policy Project Coordinator

- r. Brain storm ideas and comments on items not listed above.

3. ADJOURNMENT