

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
NORTHRIDGE WEST  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 6:30 p.m.  
Beckford Avenue Elementary School**

**1. Candidate Forum:**

Each of the candidates was given the opportunity to address the board and stakeholders in attendance. After which the board and stakeholders were given the opportunity to ask the candidates questions. DeYoung pointed out that four of the eight seats up for election had no candidates.

<i>At-Large</i>	- Pamela R. Bolin - Leonard "Len" E. Effron
<i>Community &amp; Faith Based General Business (2)</i>	- Glen A. Wilson - Thomas Johnson - <b>NONE</b>
<i>Homeowner</i>	- Juativa Spurlock - Gerry R. Malais (Write-in)
<i>Education</i>	- <b>NONE</b>
<i>Renter</i>	- <b>NONE</b>
<i>Northridge Fashion Center</i>	- <b>NONE</b>

Presentations by above candidates began at 6:35 pm and ended at 7:02pm.

**2. Call to order. 7:02pm.**

**3. Roll call**

**Board members present**

Dennis DeYoung  
Glen Wilson  
Jerry Bloom  
Pam Kramer  
Beverley Adler  
Ken Futernick  
Tom Johnson  
Craig Michayluk  
JoAnn Phillips  
Neil Perl  
Rosanne Dwyer  
Meg Augello

**Board members not present**

Daniyel Gordon

**4. Acceptance of minutes**

Futernick motioned that the minutes be approved. Augello seconded the motion. **Vote was unanimous to accept the January 12, 2010 minutes** as presented.

**5. Senior Lead Officer, LAPD Devonshire Division - Officer Kathy Bennett**  
Not present. No report.

**6. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) - Thomas Soong**  
Not present. No report.

**7. CD12 Councilman Greig Smith's Representative - John Bwarie**

- City Council has begun special meetings which will continue until the budget crisis is resolved.
- Community projects discussed. NWNC Beautification Grant not funded. Northridge Centennial discussed.
- Discussed Councilman Smith's position on NCs. He has vowed to support NCs, but due to the budget crisis, we're not sure what that support will look like in the future. He is considering short term sacrifice in order to achieve long term stability; however, in

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terms of rollover funds, he will not reallocate funds which have been promised to specific projects.

- Prop. R discussed. "Subway to the Sea" 5 year project to begin this year. Not City funded, so Bwarie had no specific information.

**8. Guest Speakers**

None

**9. Treasurer's Report – Neil Perl**

a. Treasurer's report. Expenditures reviewed. Michayluk moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Augello seconded the motion. **Vote was unanimous to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.**

b. Report on funding situation for Neighborhood Councils for this Fiscal Year. Rollover funds continue to be frozen. The slow and painful process of demand warrants discussed. Discussed the proposal on the table to cut NC funding from \$45,000 to \$22,500. Reviewed how this would affect the NWNC accepted budget. The treasurer recommended that until the Rollover Funds are released to the NCs that actual expenditure of funds previously encumbered by the board not be spent. He also stated that although everything is ready the funding of NWNC's \$25,000 share of the NE/W Vision contract with Mulholland Institute is being held up. Removed from list of obligated funds for the final invoice from Daniel Design and those held for the Beautification grant that was denied.

**10. Committee Reports**

- a. Beautification Committee – Beverley Adler. No report.
- b. Budget / Finance - Neil Perl. No report.
- c. Bylaws – There will be a need to consider changes to the bylaws covering the election stipulations and the annexation of CSUN and Northridge Park. Other topics for possible change are removal of the Education, Renter and Northridge Fashion Center positions on the board and replacing them with At-Large Positions.
- d. Education – Ken Futernick. Met with Kiwanis re: Northridge Centennial. Discussed Science Fair concept. Enthusiastic support from this Kiwanis.
- e. Elections – Neil Perl.

**Northridge West Neighborhood Council Elections**

LAFD Station #70: Apparatus Room  
9861 Reseda Boulevard (At Lassen Street)  
Northridge CA 91324  
March 2, 2010  
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- i. Because nobody ran for the Renters, Education, Northridge Fashion Center and one of the Business positions, Vacancies will exist on the board when the new board is seated (probably at the April 13, 2010 meeting). With the resignation of Neil Perl as of March 15, 2010 one of the Homeowner positions will also be vacant. **If you wish to fill any of these vacancies please send your official request to the NWNC Secretary at [secretary@northridgewest.org](mailto:secretary@northridgewest.org) with a copy to the President at [president@northridgewest.org](mailto:president@northridgewest.org).**
- f. Grievance. No report.
- g. Planning / Land Use / Zoning – Tom Johnson. T-Mobile tower at Devonshire and Tampa Ave. (10335 N. Key West Ave.) to be placed on next month's agenda to take a formal position.
- h. Community Outreach - Jerry Bloom. No report.
- i. *ad hoc* CSUN/NWNC Outreach Committee – Jerry Bloom.  
The students at CSUN would only consider an Internship if they were paid.

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- j. *ad hoc* Neighborhood Enhancement Committee – JoAnn Phillips.  
Community Beautification Grant was rejected; however, JoAnn made calls to the city and they came to the specific location on Merridy and took care of about 70% of what the beautification grant was requesting.

**11. Public Comments-Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction.**

Stakeholder, Jhamed Babatunde-Bey, presented photos of streets near his residence where a repossession business, Southland Auto Recovery, is towing repossessed vehicles, boats, etc. and positioning them for up to 3 days near Topeka Drive and Vintage Ave. The stakeholder, on behalf of his neighbors, is looking for assistance in getting the business operator to cease and desist using this residential neighborhood of single family homes to temporarily store vehicles, presumably to save the cost of having an impound lot which the business would otherwise incur.

**12. Discussion and possible action items.**

- a. Motion by Neil K. Perl, Treasurer, to approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$250.00 for the design of a new logo in conjunction with Northridge East and the new (hopefully) Northridge South NCs. The idea is to design a single logo for the three NCs that can be separated into individual logos for each of them. For instance if the theme for the merged logo is to depict education, commerce, and recreation. One of those themes would be on each of the NC logos.

*Whereas the community is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year*

*And whereas the Northridge NCs are cooperating on many projects such as Reseda Boulevard Maintenance, NE/W Vision, Election Outreach, the Hawaiian Festival and the Senior Dinner dance*

*And whereas these collaborations can combine the funding from the three separate NCs*

*Therefore be it hereby resolved that the Northridge West Neighborhood Council approves the funding of an amount not to exceed \$250.00 for the design of a new logo in conjunction with the other Northridge Neighborhood Councils.*

Futernick seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to spend up to \$250.00 to design a new logo.

- b. Discussion of possible new location for posting NWNC agendas. New location at Northridge Fashion Center is not readily available to public.

Glen recommended using 8900 Corbin Ave. (Alliance Service Station). Northridge Fashion Center will continue to be used.

- c. Discussion of the departure of Neil K. Perl – Due to my planned move to San Diego in the near future the board must consider replacing me as 1) Election Chair, 2) NE/W Vision Alternate, 3) VANC Representative, 4) Website administrator, 5) Bylaws Chair and as 6) Treasurer (including chair of the Budget/Finance Committee and the ad hoc NPG Evaluation Committees). The escrow on my house is scheduled to close on March 15. And I am no longer able to perform my duties other than treasurer. I will remain as treasurer until I am no longer a stakeholder, but my replacement needs to be trained and certified by DONE. Motion by Neil Perl to appoint replacements for the offices he holds.

*Whereas Neil Perl will no longer be a stakeholder as of March 15, 2010*

*And whereas the offices held by Neil Perl need to be filled*

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*Therefore be it hereby resolved that the following board members are appointed*

<i>Election Chair:</i>	<i>JoAnn Phillips</i>
<i>NE/W Vision Committee Alternate:</i>	<i>Pam Kramer</i>
<i>Website Administrator:</i>	<i>Tom Johnson</i>
<i>Bylaws Chair:</i>	<i>Glen Wilson</i>
<i>North Valley Emergency Preparedness Team:</i>	<i>Craig Michayluk</i>
<i>VANC Representative:</i>	<i>Glen Wilson</i>
<i>VANC Alternates:</i>	<i>Jerry Bloom</i>
	<i>Roseanne Dwyer</i>
<i>Treasurer (including Committee Chairs):</i>	<i>Glen Wilson</i>

Futernick seconded. **Vote was unanimous to adopt the following people to replace Perl.**

- d. Since NWNC is planning to change its bylaws to conform to the latest Election regulations, annex Northridge Park and California State University, Northridge, and make other modifications a representative of the board should be a member of a Bylaws Task Force with the goal of returning to the Commission with specific recommendations on strengthening and improving bylaws citywide. The purpose of the task force is to develop recommendations for the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners on policies related to NC by-laws. The kickoff meeting was held on January 23<sup>rd</sup> with the agenda and notes are available at <http://www.ncbylaws.blogspot.com/>. The next meeting will be held on Saturday February 6, 2010. For more information please contact [Leyla.Campos@lacity.org](mailto:Leyla.Campos@lacity.org) or [Grayce.Liu@lacity.org](mailto:Grayce.Liu@lacity.org).

Item "d" was skipped because Glen Wilson had already assumed the position.

- e. Motion by Neil Perl, Election Chair, to approve funding for outreach for the March 2<sup>nd</sup> election

*Whereas, the outreach for the upcoming elections is the responsibility of the individual Neighborhood Councils (NCs)*

*And whereas the Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC) has previously allocated \$5,000.00 for outreach for the 2010 Elections*

*And whereas \$3,032.47 has been previously spent on postcards (\$2,603.90), the candidates ad in the North Valley Community News (NVCN) (\$128.57), Sponsorship of the NVRCC breakfast along with NENC as an attempt to get candidates for the various offices and to try to get the business community more active in Neighborhood Councils (\$150.00) and a get-out the vote ad in the NVCN (\$150.00).*

*And whereas additional outreach is needed prior to the election*

*Therefore be it hereby resolved that funding in a total amount not to exceed \$600.00 is allocated for the following outreach items.*

<i>(25) 18" x 24" 1-Sided Coroplast "Lawn" Signs with Wire Step stakes:</i>	<i>\$305.00</i>
<i>(1) 4.5' x 6' Full Color Digital Banner (for in front of Fire Station):</i>	<i>\$180.00</i>
<i>(1) 3' x 4' Full Color Digital Banner:</i>	<i>\$80.00</i>

The amounts and items listed are the Election Chairs recommendations and may be changed by the board. Alternate items may include:

<i>(50) 18" x 24" 1-Sided Coroplast "Lawn" Signs with Wire Step stakes:</i>	<i>\$525.00</i>
<i>(50) 18" x 24" 2-Sided Coroplast "Lawn" Signs with Wire Step stakes:</i>	<i>\$650.00</i>
<i>(25) 18" x 24" 2-Sided Coroplast "Lawn" Signs with Wire Step stakes:</i>	<i>\$410.00</i>

Johnson seconded the motion. Vote: 3 ayes; 8 nays. **Motion fails.**

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Friendly amendment to increase the amount not to exceed from \$600 to \$800 for all items and to increase the number of "lawn" signs from 25 to 50 and the cost from \$305 to \$525.

Dwyer moved to accept the motion as amended. Bloom seconded the motion. Vote: 9 ayes, 2 nays. **Motion passes to approve up to \$800 for election outreach.**

- f. Motion by Neil Perl, Treasurer to change the date of the June 2010 regular meeting

*Whereas Tuesday June 8, 2010, the regularly scheduled date for the Northridge West Neighborhood Council, is the date of the California Primary Elections*

*And whereas Beckford Avenue Elementary School is the site of a polling place for said election, as are the other schools in the area*

*Therefore be it hereby resolved that the regularly scheduled meeting of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council scheduled for June 8, 2010 be postponed one week until June 15, 2010. The location and time of the meeting remain unchanged.*

Johnson seconded the motion. **Vote: unanimous to change the June 8, 2010 meeting of the NWNC to June 15 due to California Primary Election at the Beckford E.S. site on June 8.**

- g. Discussion of the Los Angeles City Budget crisis and its effect on the future of Neighborhood Councils

- i. Will DONE and NC's be in existence after LA City FY 2009/2010?

- 1) What will DONE and NC's funding be for balance of 2009/2010 and after?
- 2) Rollover funding for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011?
- 3) Amount of funding for FY 2010/2011

- ii. How is the funding of current and future allocations by NWNC to be handled?

- 1) Fireworks Northridge Fair in June 2010 (\$2,000)
- 2) Senior Dinner Dance (\$1,000)
- 3) NE/W Vision expenditure of \$25,000

- iii. Government Relations Liaison Report To West Hills NC

Everyone in Los Angeles is aware of the sharply declining economy in our City. Most of us have experienced decreases in our own personal income, constriction of our life styles and, for all too many, loss of homes through foreclosures.

We realize that our City Government is experiencing these threats, too, but, at the same time we must express our criticism that the deficits of the last 5 years have not been addressed, publicized and reversed. Short-term solutions have been used to balance each year's City Budget but now the 18 income sources which supply our General Fund are declining so rapidly that our City Controller has warned that "...if we do not make major changes, we will not have enough money to pay our 35,000 employees..." and we will run out of money in April or May 2010.

The warnings have been clear but our City Government continued to behave like Aesop's famous Grasshopper (eating up everything available) when we need to be like his Ant (storing food for the harder times). Neighborhood Council and other Community-based leaders have been sounding warnings for years but only recently have our Department Heads (notably Rita Robinson), our C.A.O. (Miguel Santana), our Mayor and several City Council Members (see Mayor's letter of January 20, 2010) spoken of the seriousness of the current situation. Bankruptcy is a distinct but very unsatisfactory possibility.

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It is clear that with this year's proposed General Fund of \$4.4 billion and a Base Salaries Expense of \$2.74 billion will not occur. Our current deficit is over \$200 million and rising, now. We must decrease the Salaries Expenses, immediately, to balance our budget this year (before June 30, 2010). It is predicted that the "structural deficit" will exceed \$400 million at the start of the next fiscal year (on July 1, 2010). It is also clear that without prompt and effective action our deficits in the next several fiscal years could rise into the billions of dollars. We look to our Mayor, City Council, Controller and their appointees (General Managers and top administrators) to conduct our City's business efficiently, effectively and with wisdom.

With these thoughts in minds, West Hills NC has considered and passed the following Resolutions

1. *NWNC believes it is unwise to sell (property) assets, especially money making assets such as our Parking System (street meters, garages and parking lots), our Zoo, our Libraries, and other valuable assets because we not only lose the services they provide but also we lose their long-term financial benefits just in order to gain short-term "cash" to pay our expenses. It has always been the experience of property owners in California, public and private, that those owners who can hold on to their properties in difficult time realize tremendous increases in their property's value when the economy improves. **NWNC opposes the sale of City Assets solely for the purpose of decreasing our Budget Deficit.***
2. *In this time of Budget Crisis, the City needs all the wisdom it can get. To that end, we ask that the Mayor establish regular official connections (including Internet and electronic communications venues) and periodic, regular meetings with NC Representatives to discuss the City Budget issues. The prime purpose and benefit of these communication links will be to fulfill the Charter's charge to the NCs to "...promote more public participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs..." **NWNC endorses the concept of increasing Neighborhood Council input in our City's executive and legislative bodies. Specifically, NWNC requests that the Mayor and City Council appoint NC Representatives as "ex officio" members to the Specific (Mayoral) Task Forces and City Council Committees.***
3. *The Mayor's concept of "Shared Responsibility and Sacrifice" implies that every Department and every Employee participate. So far, the methods to decrease Salary Expenses, our biggest "manageable" current expense have decreased the salaries and the working hours (furloughs) of our primary workers but not the salaries of our "elected officials", their supervisors and administrators. These higher paid employees can and should continue to live with salary cuts which would cause lower paid employees to lose their jobs and homes. One proposal is for a Charter Amendment which would cut our City Council's base salary of \$175,000/year in half. **NWNC proposes for a scaled salary decrease for ALL of our highest paid employees (Including Elected Officials); 20% for employees whose salaries are over \$200,000, 15% for employees whose salaries are between \$100,000 and \$200,000 and 10% for employees whose salaries are between \$90,000 and \$100,000.***
4. *The Mayor has pledged to retain the current numbers (9,963) of police officers. Past negotiations with the labor representatives of our police officers have established a 36-hour work week for them. This has resulted in our police officers working hundreds of millions of dollars of "over-time" and*

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*thousands of "outside" jobs (airport police, harbor police, private security firms, etc.). Return to a 40-hour work week will increase our police officer's presence "on our streets" by 25 percent. It will result in more "local and community-based policing" thereby offering greater mutual awareness between our police officers and the public; a situation that should produce major improvements in crime prevention. **NWNC suggests that the Mayor, City Council and L.A.P.D. consider restoring our "sworn" Police Officer's work schedule from three 12 hour days per week to five 8-hour days per week or four 10- hour days per week.***

Consideration of Item g was postponed to the March Meeting pending City Council action in the next few weeks

**13. Report on Meetings**

- a. NE/W Vision Committee – Dennis DeYoung. Scott Sterling, NSNC working on trees in planters.
- b. LA Department of Transportation MOU – Steve Harris. No report.
- c. LA DWP MOU – Glen Wilson. Report submitted in writing.
- d. Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) – Neil Perl. Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 at the Sherman Oaks Hospital. Discussion of Wendy Gruel's speech.
- e. Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) – Glen Wilson. Meets 1st. Saturday of month at 10AM with location TBD
- f. Valley Vote – Glen Wilson. Meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 at Galpin Ford

**14. Board Member Comments - Comments from the Board on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction.**

- a. The next North Valley Disaster Preparedness Faire will take place at the Granada Hills Street Faire on October 2, 2010. The NVDP team will begin holding meetings to plan the event for next year. Volunteers for the committee will be needed. Next meeting is scheduled for 3:30 pm on Wednesday March 17, 2010 at Councilman Smith's office at Wilbur and Nordhoff.
- b. Volunteer program for the upcoming NC Elections. You can volunteer for another NC.
- c. LA City Council will no long meet in Van Nuys due to budget cuts.

**15. Adjournment**

Futernick moved to adjourn at 9:00. Johnson seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Pam Kramer, Secretary  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council

Dennis DeYoung, President  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council