

Minutes of the
NORTHRIDGE WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NWNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, July 13, 2010

at Beckford Elementary School, 19130 Tulsa St., Northridge

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by President Tom Johnson at 7:16 p.m.

2. Cub Scout Pack 911 flag ceremony and Pledge of Allegiance

The Cub Scouts were unable to attend. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

3. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Mr. Johnson. Board Members present: Tom Johnson, Glen Wilson, Justiva Spurlock, Pamela Bolin, Jerry Bloom, Ken Futernick and Gerry Malais.

Seven of the nine Board Members were present and four Board seats were vacant at this time. A quorum is seven, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. JoAnn Phillips and Craig Michayluk arrived later. Also attending: 28 Stakeholders and guests.

4. Acceptance of Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Futernick, seconded by Mr. Malais): to approve the Minutes of the NWNC June 15, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation without any objections.

5. Public Officials Updates

a. Senior Lead Officer, LAPD Devonshire Division - Officer Kathy Bennett. Officer Bennett was unable to attend and there was no update at this time.

b. L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) - Thomas Soong. Mr. Soong was unable to attend and there was no update at this time.

6. Introduction of David Levin as new Minutes Writer for NWNC

Ms. Bolin introduced Mr. Levin, who described some of his experience.

7. CD12 Councilman Greig Smith's Representative – Seme Park

Ms. Park announced that Representative John Bwarie is "on loan to the U.S. Geological Survey for a year." The Councilman allocated \$75,000 for graffiti removal by the West Valley Alliance (818-888-8885). The City Council made a Motion for lawn watering two days per week, 15 minutes each, according to even and odd numbered addresses. Another Motion would waive the business tax for three years for companies that moved to the City. The Northridge 100 birthday is being celebrated. The City Council Office arranged for removal of the Taco Bell graffiti. Ms. Park will report graffiti on a school near CSUN.

8. Guest Speaker: Debra Scott, Street Services Investigation & Enforcement

Ms. Scott was unable to attend.

9. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Bolin spoke with DONE Funding Administrator Jackie Mendez. There's "\$24,656.21 in rollover funds in addition to the \$45,000 [the NWNC] is getting this year."

10. Committee Reports

a. Budget / Finance – Bolin

Ms. Bolin reported that the NWNC "needs to utilize the rollover funds because [it] doesn't know what'll happen next year."

b. Bylaws - Phillips

Mr. Johnson noted that Ms. Phillips was not present and there was no report.

c. Education – Futernick

Mr. Futernick reported that he met with Karen Green, Northridge East NC Education Committee, regarding a joint "Elementary – Junior High School and eventually High School . . . Science Fair."

d. Elections – No report

e. Grievance – No grievances to report

f. Planning / Land Use / Zoning – Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that new asphalt is being laid on Wilbur Ave. between Nordhoff and Plummer Sts., and on Key West Ave. from Tampa Ave. to Vanalden Ave. Mr. Wilson described the work.

g. Community Outreach - Spurlock

Ms. Spurlock is "working on the magnets"; the cost would be \$614.60 from the same person that did the badges.

Ms. Phillips arrived at this time.

h. ad hoc Neighborhood Enhancement Committee/Beautification – Phillips

Ms. Phillips reported that Mr. Johnson is working on Volunteer Days, and the Tampa Ave. near Nordhoff St. work; she also described other work. Mr. Johnson described other efforts and that he'll be recruiting more volunteers to clean up Tampa, and Devonshire, Chatsworth, Lassen and Nordhoff Sts. and more on Saturdays and Sundays from around 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. to around 9:00 or 10:00 a.m.. He encouraged contacting the www.NorthridgeWest.org website, him at TJohnson@NorthridgeWest.org or Ms. Phillips at JPhillips@NorthridgeWest.org. Ms. Phillips added that the north side of Nobel Middle School was full of used fireworks; she reported it for cleanup. She also described City cleanup work paid for by Buckingham Estates residents and that City service phone numbers are on the NWNC website to help prevent fire hazards, trash, graffiti and shopping carts, and make street resurfacing requests.

11. Public Comments

Stakeholder George Lee was concerned regarding inconsistent sidewalks. Ms. Phillips noted that the NWNC will “try faux grass” from Lassen to Plummer on Tampa; volunteers are needed to do the work as City budgets are severely cut. Mr. Lee was concerned regarding unhitched trailers parked on streets. Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Semee.Park@LACity.org), reported that pending State legislation AB 2756 will allow the City to ban unhitched trailers; currently the DOT [L.A. Dept. of Transportation] can ticket the trailers. She encouraged contacting State legislators.

Stakeholder Paul Kirk suggested a weekend walk sponsored by the three Northridge Neighborhood Councils [West, East and South], for health and meeting neighbors. Ms. Bolin described other communities’ walks, including Van Nuys. Mr. Johnson encouraged Mr. Kirk to organize a walk.

Stakeholder Joel Lipin is asking Neighborhood Councils for funding for an October 2nd Senior Health Fair that would provide flu shots, information and outreach. The Senior Services Business Council provides Northridge seniors with advice. He’ll also be requesting funding for Cub Scout Pack 911; Mr. Johnson agreed to agendaize it for next month’s [August 10th] General Board Meeting.

Stakeholder Norair Demerdjian was concerned regarding the proposed On-site Water Treatment System \$50 Permit fee; he’d like the NWNC to write a letter of opposition to the City. Mr. Johnson agreed to agendaize it for next month’s Meeting.

Stakeholder Mike Khalid offered free outreach consulting for the NWNC. He reminded that many Stakeholders do not have a computer or e-mail access. He can be reached at 818-787-6415, AMMailPlus@socal.rr.com, www.AMMailPlus.com.

12. Discussion and Possible Action

a. Secretary position open

Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Phillips for her service. She served two years preparing Agendas, Minutes, Bylaws revisions, resolutions, community impact studies, letters, etc.

b. Consideration of Chris Williams for the General Business Rep seat.

Mr. Johnson explained that Ms. Williams’ Business License paperwork is being processed.

c. Commendation to Chris Williams for her service to the Northridge area.

Mr. Johnson postponed the presentation and thanked Ms. Williams for her service clearing weeds and trash along Tampa, Devonshire, Chatsworth, Corbin Ave., Merridy St., etc. and organizing volunteer teams.

d. Motion: [see below].

Stakeholder Ron Smith described the Hawaiian Festival work and funding need. Northridge Kiwanis and the NCs had to pay for security at the park for the Hawaiian festival for which the City normally pays. The Club supports five High Schools and has students “willing to work.” They’ve also installed American flags on Reseda

Blvd. at their expense. Mr. Johnson requested Mr. Smith to submit a Request for Funding form from the www.NorthridgeWest.org website.

MOTION (by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Michayluk): to reimburse the Northridge Kiwanis \$500 for Northridge Park security for the Hawaiian festival.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Johnson added that the NWNC “will be in touch about beautification.”

e. Update on Wilbur Ave. street resurfacing.

Mr. Wilson described work between Nordhoff and Plummer. Temporary “No parking” signs are on Wilbur Ave. between Lassen and Nordhoff Sts. as of July 7th but no work has been done as of July 8th.

f. Motion [see below].

MOTION (by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Johnson): to allocate funding not to exceed \$70 on six rubberized Signature Tree Rings from Lowe’s at \$9.99 each plus tax to maintain tree wells on the east side of Corbin Ave.

Ms. Phillips described that volunteers will prune suckers, remove weeds from six tree wells along the east side of Corbin and install the rings. The NWNC will review in several months to see if this is a cost-effective means to maintain the tree wells in an attractive state.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

g. Motion [see below].

MOTION (by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Phillips): to require two signatures on purchase documents for expenditures in excess of \$100.

DISCUSSION: Concern was expressed regarding logistical difficulties of getting two signatures on purchase documents.

MOTION PASSED with five in favor and three opposed.

There was further discussion regarding possible implementation procedures.

h. Motion by Johnson to start having cleanup days every Saturday and/or Sunday 8:00-11:00 a.m. as deemed necessary by the Beautification Committee to remove unsightly weeds, bush, dirt and debris along Tampa, Devonshire, Chatsworth, Corbin, Merridy, and various other streets within the boundaries of the NWNC. Mr. Johnson described work to be done on the west side of Tampa south of Chatsworth. Ms. Phillips described possible cleanup procedures. Ms. Park encouraged getting property owner permissions to clean their parkways. Mr. Johnson requested and it was agreed to POSTPONE this Item.

i. Motion [see below].

MOTION (by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Johnson): to allocate funding not to exceed \$1,500 for faux grass/installation materials to cover approximately 25 linear feet of Tampa Ave. parkways.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Phillips described that this purchase will be made only upon receipt of an "A" permit from the City for this work. Volunteers will remove weeds from a parkway on Tampa east side at Superior and then install the faux grass. The NWNC will later review to see if this is a cost-effective means to maintain the parkways. This item is materials only. Labor must be done entirely by volunteers because the NWNC did not budget enough funds to pay a contractor to do this work; advise her if you will help.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

j. Motion [see below].

MOTION (by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Phillips): to revise the NWNC Bylaws so the resulting Board Membership would be as listed below. Note: changing Education to Homeowner #3 term 2012, Northridge Fashion Center to At Large #3 term 2014 and Renter to At Large #4 term 2014. Note: 2012/2014 will be on the NWNC Elections for both 2012 and 2014 elections because of the NWNC appointees: two General Business (Johnson 2014 and Williams 2012/2014 if appointed); one Community/Faith (Wilson 2014); three Homeowners (Spurlock 2014, Michayluk 2012 + one new open seat expiring 2012); one Open-At-Large (Phillips 2012); two Seniors (Futernick 2012 and Bloom 2012); and four At Large (Bolin 2014, Malais 2012 + two new open seats expiring 2012/2014).

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wilson explained the need for the Bylaws changes. There was discussion regarding implementation.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

k. Motion [see below].

MOTION (by Ms. Bolin, seconded by Ms. Spurlock): to fund Northridge Park Theatre Workshop's sound and lighting systems in an amount not to exceed \$2,450 from the Neighborhood Purpose Grant budget.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Johnson was concerned about using Neighborhood Purpose Grant funding for this. Ms. Phillips and Stakeholder Mary Coyle-Engstorn described Theatre Workshop work and value to the community.

MOTION PASSED with Mr. Johnson opposed; Ms. Phillips recused herself from this vote due to her Theatre Workshop work.

I. Motion [see below].

MOTION (by Ms. Spurlock, seconded by Mr. Johnson): the NWNC will write a letter signed by Mr. Johnson to bus bench companies, with copies to other Neighborhood Councils and City Council District 12, requesting that the companies keep their bus benches clean and encouraging other NC Presidents to also write to the companies about this.

DISCUSSION: Bus bench companies earn lots of cash for no upkeep. We need all the help we can get to keep the streets, sidewalks, benches and the like clean.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

m. Motion [see below].

MOTION (by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Phillips): the NWNC supports a Neighborhood Councils Funding Program as presented by Stakeholder Adrienne O’Niell.

DISCUSSION: Ms. O’Niell described difficulties dealing with the DONE NCs Funding Program. There’s currently a two-to-four month wait for Demand Warrant processing. L.A. City Councilmember Tom LaBonge may again attempt in 90 days to take NC rollover funds. She and Stakeholder Paul Hatfield have alternative Funding Program plans that they’ll merge that would move the Funding Program to the L.A. City Controller’s Office. She described how the plan would work “to assess [NC] funds.” The plan would only have a P-Card [Purchase Card] and checks, with Demand Warrants only for large expenses. The plan would raise the P-Card limit from \$2,500 to \$3,000 and allow serial purchases. City Councilmembers Paul Krekorian and Janice Hahn said they’d support Ms. O’Niell and Mr. Hatfield’s plan. She encouraged contacting Councilmember Krekorian [818-755-7676; CouncilMember.Krekorian@LACity.org] to support this.

Mr. Johnson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item for Ms. Bolin to research.

n. Requests for volunteers to fill vacancies on the Board.

i. The following positions are currently vacant: 1) Renters Representative, 2) Education Representative, and 3) Northridge Fashion Center Representative. All of these seats will be up for election in 2012. The NWNC is processing a request to convert some of these to At Large and Homeowner Reps., but in the meantime if there are volunteers, consider filling any of these vacancies. To do so, send your request to the NWNC Secretary at Secretary@NorthridgeWest.org and copy to the President at President@NorthridgeWest.org. Ms. Phillips encouraged volunteers to apply.

ii. To be appointed you must be able to prove that you are qualified for that Board seat. The documents that are acceptable as proof of eligibility for a specific seat on the Board are listed on pages 8-18 of the Candidate Filing Form at http://www.NorthridgeWest.org/wp-content/uploads/ANWNC_Candidate-Filing-Packet_Final.pdf or http://CityClerk.LACity.org/Election/NCDocs/ANWNC_Candidate%20Filing%20Packet_Final.pdf. Mr. Johnson read this Item.

o. Motion [see below.]

MOTION (by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Futernick): the NWNC allocates an amount not to exceed \$250 for NWNC Board Members to each receive 250 NWNC business cards.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Johnson explained the procedure.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

p. Motion by Wilson: Need volunteers for 1) LANCC Alternate Rep., 2) LADWP MOU & DWP Committee Alternate Rep., 3) Valley Vote Alternate Rep., 4) PlanCheck NC Alternate Rep. and for 5) North Valley Emergency Preparedness Team a) drop Glen Wilson as the Rep. b) add Tom Johnson as the Rep. c) need new Alternate Rep. Mr. Johnson volunteered to be the Emergency Preparedness Team Representative; Mr. Michayluk volunteered to be the Alternate. There was discussion regarding volunteers and scheduling. Mr. Bloom volunteered to be the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Alternate Rep. Mr. Johnson requested and it was agreed to TABLE the remainder of this Item.

13. Report on Meetings

- a. NE/W Vision Committee – Glen Wilson and Steve Harris. Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. with location TBD.
Mr. Wilson will soon report on this.
- b. LADWP MOU and DWP Committee – Wilson. Meets the first Saturday of month at 8:45 a.m. with location TBD.
Mr. Wilson reviewed the report and Mr. Johnson described Emergency Preparedness work.
- c. Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) – Wilson. Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Sherman Oaks Hospital.
A report is available from Mr. Wilson.
- d. Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) – Wilson. Meets the first Saturday of month at 10:00 a.m. with location TBD.
A report is available from Mr. Wilson.
- e. Valley Vote – Wilson. Meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Galpin Ford.
A report is available from Mr. Wilson.

- f. North Valley Disaster Preparedness Team – Johnson. Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the Northridge CD 12 Office.
A report is available from Mr. Johnson.
- g. PlanCheckNC – Johnson. Meets the second Saturday of the month at Historic Downtown Outreach Center, 114 W. 5th Street Los Angeles, CA 90013.
A report is available from Mr. Johnson.
- h. Oakridge Estate Park Advisory Board - Steve Harris. Meets the fourth Thursday of month at 3 p.m. at Fire Station #87 at 10124 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills in the Community Room.
A report is available from Mr. Harris.

14. Board Member Comments

Requests for items to be placed on the Agenda must be made in writing to the Secretary (Secretary@NorthridgeWest.org) no later than 1 August 2010. Mr. Wilson reported that he and Mr. Johnson attended an Emergency Preparedness and Communications Meeting at which a “We’re OK / Need Help” signs pilot project and Emergency Preparedness kits were discussed. Ms. Spurlock relayed that Kathy Bennett, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-634-0495; 27437@LAPD.LACity.org), was not feeling well and that Ms. Spurlock would bring a “get well” card to the Devonshire Station. Mr. Michayluk described Volunteer Surveillance Team work. Mr. Futernick volunteered to work with the Oakridge Estate Park Advisory Board.

15. Adjournment

MOTION (by Mr. Johnson): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

Mr. Johnson **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 9:34 p.m.

16. Photo of NWNC Board Members for website

The photos were not taken at this time.