

Minutes for March 24, 2014 Special Board Meeting of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Arts & Crafts Room of Northridge Park, located at 18300 LeMarsh St.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led.

Roll Call

Members present: Tom Johnson, Petre Lasky, John Mah, Glen Wilson, Darrell Griffin, Freddie Rymond, Pamela Gentry, Daniel Luna and Steven Koch.

Members not present: Pamela Bolin, David Uranga and Matthew Vallecilla.

Stakeholders present: Brian Reff and Steve Harris.

Discussion and Vote on NWNC Meeting Location

President Tom Johnson announced that there was an issue of whether the NWNC could continue to use the Northridge Christian Church as a monthly meeting place because Pastor Steve Cook was concerned that the neighborhood council was exceeding the agreed upon time period for its use, and the sanctuary of the church was left in an unacceptable state of untidiness and disarray after the March 11, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Johnson noted that Beckford and Callahan schools could be alternative meeting sites. However use of the campuses require a 3 month permit which must be renewed quarterly at a cost of \$260 per month. It was brought up that a drawback to using a Los Angeles United School District (LAUSD) campus is that we cannot use the facility if school is not in session unless a janitor is on the premises.

The four venues that can be used as meetings sites are: Beckford School, Callahan School, Northridge Park and Northridge Christian Church. The church would be used as a final alternative.

Motion: Pamela Gentry made a motion, seconded by Daniel Luna, that Tom Johnson, Peter Lasky and Glen Wilson be designated to investigate the different alternative meeting locations with authority to enter into an agreement with LAUSD.

Vote: Unanimous vote by all 9 board members present.

Resignation of Ken Futernick

It was announced by President Johnson that Ken Futernick resigned his seat on the board as a senior representative on March 16, 2014 for “family reasons.” The senior representative seat will be open for appointment of a stakeholder.

NWNC Retreat for Training

Mr. Johnson proposed a 4 hour board retreat be held with the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment. It could include training regarding the Brown Act, funding and outreach, among other subjects.

Mr. Johnson proposed that the sum of \$500 be allocated for refreshments for attendees including stakeholders. It was noted that \$250 had been previously approved for a retreat, and that an additional \$250 could be added with outreach funds.

In the discussion there was a consensus that an additional \$250 for refreshments for the retreat come from outreach funds. There was no vote on the matter.

Setting Goals for the Next two Years

There was a presentation by Councilmember Daniel Luna. Mr. Luna discussed mission statements and that there should be reasons for them. Mission statements can set a standard for our actions, whether they support or violated the mission statement. Mr. Luna pointed out that a mission statement is not philosophical or an exercise, but a guide to our behavior.

At this point, Councilmember Pamela Gentry gave a presentation regarding vision and goal setting. Using bullet-points on poster-sized sheets she mounted on the wall, Ms. Gentry spoke about the reasons for creating a vision and goal setting, and how it would work. She then discussed examples of visions and goals. Examples of the methodology to create them by a neighborhood council would be brainstorming and the use of a facilitator; and if by committee, briefing by a chairperson.

Stakeholder Steve Harris interjected that many neighborhood councils do not know what their purposes are.

At this point, Mr. Luna resumed his presentation. He went around the room asking everyone present to give their opinion of “What do we do?” as a neighborhood council. He then went around the room again, this time asking what we could do to give the views of our shareholders more impact to the city council.

Mr. Luna suspended his presentation and Mr. Johnson led a discussion on getting stakeholders involved, for example in having a cleaner and safer community. Councilmember Steven Koch stated that a stronger and more focused mission statement was needed. Vice president of Administration Peter Lasky noted that our mission was enumerated in the four paragraphs under the Principles of Governance in our Bylaws. Brian Reff opined that Operation Clean Sweep has been a valuable component of our neighborhood council. Stakeholder Steve Harris remarked that because active participants in the NWNC are volunteers, a mission statement to motivate councilmembers and stakeholders is needed.

Motion: Peter Lasky made a motion, seconded by Freddie Rymond, to affirm the four paragraphs in the Bylaws stating the mission of the NWNC.

Vote: Unanimous vote by all 9 board members present.

General Discussion and Changing Monthly Meeting Time

President Johnson proposed reducing the monthly meeting agenda to 1 page, and reducing the monthly treasurer's report to 2 pages on a single sheet of paper.

There was a brief discussion about changing the time of the monthly meeting from a) 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM to b) 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, and changing the day of the week of the meeting.

Motion: Tom Johnson made a motion, seconded by Steven Koch, to change the time of the monthly meetings to 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Vote: Unanimous vote by all 9 board members present.

Adjournment at 8:30 PM