

Minutes for the August 12, 2014 Board Meeting of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM in the auditorium of Calahan Elementary School located at 18722 Knapp St. in Northridge, CA 91324.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led.

Roll Call

NWNC Board members present: **Tom Johnson** (president), **Peter Lasky** (VP of administration), **Pamela Bolin** (VP of Outreach, who left at 8:05 PM before any voting took place), **John Mah** (secretary), **Glen Wilson** (treasurer), **Pamela Gentry**, **Steven Koch**, **Freddie Rymond**, **David Uranga** and **Matthew Vallecilla**.

NWNC Board member not present: **Daniel Luna**

With 10 members present, there was a quorum

Reports by Public Officials and Special Appearance by Firefighters

Five firefighters, including Battalion Chief Elder, of Fire Station 103, Battalion 15, appeared before the council to give a brief presentation. Chief Elder announced the annual Disaster Preparedness Fair would be held on September 27 at Fire Station 87 in Granada Hills. He also discussed what could happen in the next major Los Angeles area earthquake. The chief emphasized preparedness for an earthquake.

Rosalba Gonzalez, a field representative for State Senator Fran Pavley, introduced herself as the San Fernando Valley representative for the Senator. Senator Pavley is the author of SB 1319 the "crude by rail" bill which seeks to improve the safety of shipping crude oil by railway and also covers training of first responders to railroad oil spills. The bill is currently being heard in the state legislature. Senator Pavley also supports a water bond to be placed on the November ballot.

Sanan Shirinian of state Assemblymember Matthew Dababner's office announced that the 45th assembly district is hosting 3 upcoming "community coffees" to meet with constituents. One of the gathering will be held on Saturday, August 23 at the Providence Tarzana Hospital auditorium. On Sunday, August 31, there will be a tree giveaway; and on September 5, there will be a "Senior Town Hall" where resources for seniors will be explained.

Jessie Levine, field deputy to 12th District Councilman Mitch Englander, announced the release of a new brochure reviewing the councilman's third year in office. Copies were available at tonight's meeting. She discussed upcoming events at the Wilkinson Senior Center and reported that Councilman Englander was a member of the selection committee for the recent appointment of the new LA fire chief.

Board member Matthew Vallecilla in his capacity as representative for Congressman Brad Sherman, announced that the congressman was holding a town hall meeting on August 24 at Birmingham High School and invited members of the audience to attend. He invited the audience to contact the congressman's office regarding such subjects as immigration and appointments to the service academies. There are staff members who handle matters for constituents.

Lydia Grant, a member of the LA Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, announced that the commission would be holding its next meeting at the Reseda Neighborhood Council in September. This Saturday, August 16, is "Budget Day" at City Hall. The Congress of Neighborhood Councils is being held on September 20 at City Hall. 800 people are expected to attend.

Cancelled Appearance by L.A. City Attorney Mike Feuer

Due to illness, the City Attorney was unable to appear at tonight's meeting. An effort will be made to re-schedule his appearance.

General Public Comments

Stakeholder Barry Ilovitch discussed crime in his neighborhood on Merridy St. Among the incidents, the license plate from his vehicle was stolen and he has picked up trash on the street including used condoms and syringes. Because of the crime, his neighbors have banded together and installed a pedestrian gate where Merridy St. leads to Tampa Ave. Mr. Ilovitch is concerned the gate will be removed by the City because it was not authorized.

William Kuzmin, a real estate agent with Mel Wilson and Associates, spoke about more clarity in agendas posted online. He recommended that online links be provided for agenda items. Mr. Kuzmin further noted that the sign-in sheet for speakers should state that signing the sheet is not mandatory, and that there should be a "landlord's seat" on the NWNC board because there is currently a renter's seat and the interests of landlords are not the same as homeowners. (It is noted that during the time Mr. Kuzmin sat in the audience he had a camera mounted on a tripod pointed towards the board. He did not stay through the entire meeting.)

Glenn Bailey, a member of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council, spoke on behalf of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils. There is an upcoming debate for the candidates for the open LA County Supervisor's seat.

President's Comments

President Tom Johnson thanked members of the board for participating in National Night Out. He asked some board members to speak.

VP for Outreach Pam Bolin announced that the raffle held at the event was successful and many email addresses were obtained. Raffle prizes were t-shirts, re-usable bags and magnets with the NWNC logo.

Board member David Uranga discussed the lottery for selecting sites for street repairs by the City.

Mr. Johnson stated that he is working with various community groups to increase participation by NWNC stakeholders.

VP for Administration Peter Lasky reported that there is a winner of the Tampa Median design competition. He did not announce the winner but proposed an ad hoc committee be established to find sponsors for the median.

I. OLD BUSINESS

Report by Glen Wilson Regarding Status of Documents to be Submitted to DONE

Treasurer Glen Wilson announce that the appropriate documents were submitted to the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and NWNC now has a debit card and checking account.

Motion to Approve the following NWNC Documents: Strategic Plan, 2014-2015 Budget, Outreach Survey, Inventory List, Board Roster, and Self-Assessment Form

There was no discussion.

Vote: Passed with 9 "yes" votes. (It is noted that VP Pam Bolin left the meeting at 8:05 PM and did not participate in any of the voting.)

Motion to Approve the Minutes for the July 8, 2014 Meeting

There was no discussion.

Vote: Passed with 8 “yes” votes and 1 abstention.

Discussion and Motion to Approve the June, 2014 Treasurer’s Report

After President Tom Johnson pointed out the \$84.57 expenditure for ink cartridges for a board member’s personal printer, there was considerable discussion over the expense. Arguments were made regarding how much of the ink in the printer cartridges would be used for NWNC business and how much personal use, as well as why the board member did not use the NWNC copy machine with its own ink cartridges for printing. Treasurer Glen Wilson pointed out that NWNC printer did not print in color. There was also concern about the expenditure in the event of an audit by DONE.

Initially there was a vote of 3 “yeses,” 4 “noes” and 2 abstentions to approve the Treasurer’s Report, which meant the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report failed. After further discussion, there was a vote of 9 “yeses” to reconsider the motion with an amendment.

Vote: A motion to approve an amended June, 2014 Treasurer’s Report with the exclusion of \$84.57 expense for the printer cartridges passed with 9 “yeses.”

Motion to Approve the July, 2014 Treasurer’s Expenditure Report

Stakeholder Brian Reff questioned the \$250 advertising expense because the newspaper publisher’s circulation was unaudited and therefor unknown.

Vote: The motion passed with 9 “yeses.”

II. NEW BUSINESS

Motion to Approve Up to \$800 to Retain an Assistant to Help Treasurer Glen Wilson with Bookkeeping and Preparation of DONE Financial Reports

The assistant, from Apple One, would assist the treasurer on a monthly basis.

Vote: The motion passed with 9 “yeses.”

Discussion Regarding a Mailer to Stakeholders about NWNC Board Openings, NWNC Mission and Committees

There was no discussion. A motion was made to table this matter

Vote: The motion passed with 9 “yeses.”

Motion to Fund up to \$150 for snacks for the Operation Clean Sweep Event to be held with the Northridge Christian Church

There was no discussion.

Vote: The motion passed with 9 “yeses.”

Motion to Create the Ad Hoc Tampa Median Committee

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting by VP Pater Lasky.

Vote: The motion passed with 9 “yeses.”

Motion to Fund up to \$500 for an Upgrade of the LAPD Devonshire Division Facility by SOLID

The person who was scheduled to speak about this matter on behalf of Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) did not appear this evening before the board because of illness.

Vote: The motion passed with 8 “yeses” and 1 abstention.

Report by Committee Chair

Education chair David Uranga announced that the Town Hall forum was being held on October 6.

Adjournment at 9:03 PM

John Mah, Secretary

Prepared on August 13, 2014

