

Minutes for the October 14, 2014 Board Meeting of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council

I. Preliminary Matters

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 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), **John Mah** (secretary), **Glen Wilson** (treasurer), **Pamela Gentry**, **Steven Koch**, **Freddie Rymond**, **David Uranga**.

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

With 8 members present, there was a quorum.

The pledge of Allegiance was led.

Comments by Public Officials

Field deputy **Jonathan Coto** and district director **Megan Cottier** of 12th district City Councilman Mitch Englander's community service center staff appeared on behalf of the councilman. Mr. Coto thanked the NWNC for providing funding for the Disaster Preparedness Fair held on Sept. 27, 2014. Among other items, it was announced that the councilman: a) voted against the minimum wage increase sought by the mayor, and b) has initiated action requiring the city's Department of Transportation to take an inventory of all of its signs.

Featured speaker: Representatives from CSUN

Three representatives (Mr. **Colin Donahue**, VP for Administration & Finance/CFO; Mr. **Ken Rosenthal**, Associate VP for Facilities Development & Operations; and Ms. **Francesca Vega**, Director of Government & Community Relations) from **California State University, Northridge** spoke about a proposed "multi-purpose event center" under consideration for the campus.

They have appeared before all of the neighborhood councils in the CSUN region, and this presentation before the NWNC was their last one.

The facility could hold up to 10,000 people and would be used for commencements and sporting events. A study was conducted between August, 2013 and March, 2014 and resulted in a publication pertaining to the facility. A copy of the publication was given to President Tom Johnson.

The university is determining whether there is public and financial support for such a facility. Because of its cost, the event center will have to be financed with other entities. Major donor financing is being sought. A site has not been selected for the facility. The location is of concern to the local community because of traffic and congestion.

The project is still under consideration. At this stage there is uncertainty whether it will be built.

Public Comments

Ray Verches of the Southern California Gas Company's Advance Meter Team announced that the company's service personnel will soon be in the NWNC area to upgrade natural gas meters with an advanced meter communications device which will enable consumers to access detailed information about their gas usage. A warning was issued about people posing as SoCal Gas employees.

Stakeholder **Brian Reff** advised that a public meeting sponsored by the Stakeholders Empowerment Enlightenment Coalition will be held from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM on October 27, 2014 at the Mid-Valley Regional Library in North Hills. Jay Handel of the West LA Neighborhood Council will speak.

Myrna Davis of the Mark Reed for Congress campaign urged the public to vote for him on November 4, 2014.

Holly Rasey, Director of Development for the North Valley YMCA, spoke about a food donation program for the holidays and asked people and neighborhood councils to donate. In addition she asked for volunteers to assist in the preparation of Thanksgiving food baskets.

Stakeholder **Stephen Bailey** spoke about the recent closure of a public walkway on a Merridy Street cul-de-sac directly across Tampa Ave. from Noble Middle School. Six years ago residents on Merridy Street "petitioned" the-Councilman Greg Smith to close the walkway leading to Tampa Ave. but he denied the request. On July 21, 2014 while Mr. Bailey was out of town, some residents installed an unauthorized locked gate which closed the walkway. Mr. Bailey is seeking to have the gate removed and access to Tampa Ave. from the cul-de-sac restored.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Steven Koch to approve the Minutes for the November, 2013 general meeting **passed** with 8 yeases.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by John Mah to approve the Minutes for the September 9, 2014 general meeting and the September 16, 2014 special meeting **passed** with 8 yeases.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to approve payment of \$1,200.00 to Decision Publications for rent and advertising for August, September and October 2014 **passed** with 8 yeases.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to approve payment of \$1,200.00 to Aaron Devandry for webmaster services for June, July, August. September and October, 2014 **passed** with 8 yeases.

III. Old Business

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Steven Koch to approve the June, 2014 treasurer's report which was amended to exclude \$84.57 for printer cartridges **passed** with 8 yeases.

IV. New Business

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Freddie Rymond to approve the September, 2014 treasurer's report **passed** with 8 yeases. Treasurer Glen Wilson explained the expenses listed on page 1 of the report.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Steven Koch and seconded by Pamela Gentry to table the original motion to approve payment of up to **\$500.00** for a half page advertisement in Decision Publications' *North Valley Community Connection* newspaper for publicizing the October 6, 2014 state Assembly candidates debate at the Northridge Women's Club, pending negotiations with publisher Decision Publications because of a misunderstanding regarding publication, **passed** with 8 yeases.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to approve payment of \$65.60 to Glen Wilson for his out-of-pocket payments of a) \$60.00 for Subway sandwiches for the July 8, 2014 General Meeting and b) \$5.60 for USPS postage to mail reports to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) **passed** with 8 yeases.

Motion and Vote: A motion by David Uranga and seconded by Freddie Rymond to approve payment of \$42.27 to Tom Johnson for his out-of-pocket payments as follows: a) \$1.78 for USPS postage to mail documents to DONE, and b) \$30.71 for donuts, orange juice and cups and \$9.78 for bagels and cream cheese for the Operation Clean-Sweep event held at the Northridge Christian Church during September, 2014 **passed** with 8 yeases.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to approve a funding line of up to \$250.00 for the purchase of a portable folding table and 4 chairs to be used at NWNC events, with three (3) separate estimates to be obtained and funding to come from the operations budget, **passed** with 8 yeases.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Freddie Rymond to approve a \$2,000.00 Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Friends of the Northridge Library, with the money proposed to be spent as follows: \$1,000.00 for live programs, \$750.00 for CD/DVD courses from the "Great Courses", and \$250.00 for books, DVDs, CDs, and other library materials, **passed** with 5 yeases, 1 no by Peter Lasky and 2 abstentions by John Mah and Steven Koch.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Peter Lasky to approve a funding line of up to \$600.00 for food, promotional materials, and decorations for an award ceremony to honor the winner of the NWNC Tampa Median Design Contest with the award ceremony to be held on a date (most likely between late October and mid-November) and at a venue to be determined, **passed** with 8 yeases.

Oral statements by applicants Alex Orozco, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, and Robert Wilson seeking appointment to vacant seats on the board

A brief recess was held at this point in the meeting to allow Secretary John Mah to meet individually with applicants Alex Orozco, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, and Robert Wilson to confirm their residency within the boundaries of the NWNC. All of the applicants produced their California driver's licenses to confirm their addresses. In addition they showed on the NWNC map the location of their residences. Applicant Colleen Pick who sought appointment to the Homeowner no. 1 seat, confirmed under oath that she is the owner of her residence.

During the recess the applicants declared the seat to which they were seeking appointment: a) Alex Orozoco to the At-Large no. 3 seat, b) Debbie Penman to the At-Large no. 2 seat, c) Colleen Pick to the Homeowner no. 1 seat and d) Robert Wilson to the At-Large no. 2 seat. There was no applicant for the Senior no. 2 seat.

Appointments of Alex Orozco, Debbie Penman and Colleen Pick to the Board by the President and confirmation by the Board

After the four applicants gave oral statements explaining their background and interests, President Tom Johnson used the discretion granted to him under the NWNC by-laws to appoint Alex Orozco, Debbie Penman and Colleen Pick to three of the four vacancies subject to board confirmation .

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to confirm the appointment of **Colleen Pick** to the remainder of the term of the **Homeowner no. 1** seat expiring in 2016 **passed** with 8 yeses.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Steven Koch to confirm the appointment of **Alex Orozco** to the remainder of the term of the **At-Large no. 3** seat expiring in 2016 **passed** with 8 yeses.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by John Mah to confirm the appointment of **Debbie Penman** to the remainder of the term of the **At-Large no. 2** seat expiring in 2018 **passed** with 8 yeses.

The three new council members were immediately sworn in by City Council Field Deputy Jonathan Coto. A photo of the newly constituted board of 12 members was taken for posting on the NWNC website.

Reports by Committee Chairs.

This item was not presented by the president.

Comments by the President

Because of a conflict in the schedule of some board members, the board retreat with DONE scheduled for October 18, 2014 was cancelled and will be re-scheduled in November or December.

Adjournment at 8:54 PM

John Mah, Secretary

Prepared on October 15, 2014