

Minutes for the December 9, 2014 Board Meeting of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM in the auditorium of Calahan Elementary School located at 18722 Knapp St. in Northridge, CA 91324. This meeting was held in conjunction with an awards ceremony to honor the winner of the Tampa Median Design Contest and a holiday celebration.

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**, **Colleen Pick**, **Alex Orozco**, **Debbie Penman**, and **David Uranga**.

NWNC Board members not present: **Freddie Rymond** (absent due to illness) and **Daniel Luna**.

With 10 members present, there was a quorum.

Reports by Public Officials

Jonathan Coto, a field representative for 12th District Councilman Mitch Englander gave a brief update on the councilman's activities which included among the topics: beautification, land use and zoning.

Consent Calendar/Agenda

President Johnson read the agenda's description of how the Consent Calendar/Agenda functioned. Because of objections by two stakeholders, Brian Reff and William Kuzmin, all of the items except for A were moved to the end of the agenda. Mr. Reff objected to items B and E being heard without discussion. Mr. Kuzmin objected to items B, C, D, E and F for the same reason.

Motion and Vote: Item A, a motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Debbie Penman to approve the Minutes for the November 12, 2014 general meeting, **passed** with 9 yeases and 1 abstention by Steven Koch.

Public Comments

Marcy Orkin, president of the Friends of the Northridge Library, appeared with Adeline Rosenberg, vice president of that organization. Mrs. Orkin thanked the NWNC for its grant to the Northridge Library, and spoke about upcoming programs at the library supported by the grant.

Stakeholder Ron Wengler announced that former NWNC board member Joanne Philips, who now lives in Pennsylvania, extended holiday greetings to everyone.

Stakeholder Brian Reff asked for recognition of the refuse truck drivers from the Department of Sanitation, West Valley Division, who were present at today's meeting. The drivers, John and Dean, were given a round of applause.

October and November, 2014 Monthly Treasurer's Reports

Treasurer Glen Wilson present the Monthly Treasurer's Reports for October and November, 2014.

President Tom Johnson enumerated the expenses line by line in the October report.

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to accept the October, 2014 Monthly Treasurer's Report, **passed** with 9 yeases and 1 abstention by Alex Orozco.

The president then enumerated the expenses line by line in the November report.

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to accept the November, 2014 Monthly Treasurer's Report, **passed** unanimously.

Comments by Committee Chairs

The chairs of some of the standing and ad hoc committees gave brief descriptions of the activities of their committees.

Debbie Penman and Glen Wilson spoke about the Beautification Committee and the committee's Operation Clean Sweep program on Thursday mornings with its need for new volunteers. David Uranga, the outgoing chair of the Education Committee and the new chair of the Planning, Land Use and Zoning Committee spoke about those two committees. The new Education chair, Alex Orozco, made some brief comments. Steve Koch, chair of the Ad Hoc Public Safety Committee gave a report on an illegal gate facing Tampa Ave. Pam Gentry spoke about her role as a Budget Advocate. Tom Johnson discussed outreach efforts for the NWNC.

Items Removed from the Consent Calendar/Agenda

B. Approval of a new rate of \$250 per month increased from \$200 per month to webmaster Aaron DeVandry.

Comments in support of and against the increase were made by Jutivia Spurlock, Brian Reff, William Kuzmin, David Uranga and Steven Koch.

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Peter Lasky to approve a new rate of \$250 per month to webmaster Aaron DeVandry effective July, 2014, **passed** unanimously.

C. Appointment of Glen Wilson to the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to appoint Glen Wilson to the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee **passed** unanimously.

D. Appointment of Alex Orozco to be chair of the Education Committee

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to appoint Alex Orozco to be chair of the Education Committee **passed** unanimously.

E. Approval of payment of \$500 to Decision Publication, which includes the reduced sum of \$100 for the October Election Committee print ad in the *North Valley Community Connection*

There was considerable debate about whether the sum of \$100 for the Election Committee print advertisement in the October issue of the *North Valley Community Connection* for the candidates forum on October 6, 2014 should be paid and whether there was authorization for the ad. Through negotiations, the amount was reduced from \$500 to \$100. Election Committee chair David Uranga said that there was a “miscommunication” between him and Decision Publication about authorization. At that point it was decided to table the matter in order for Mr. Uranga to discuss resolution with Decision Publication.

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Secretary John Mah to table payment of \$500 to Decision Publication, which includes the reduced sum of \$100 for the October Election Committee print ad in the *North Valley Community Connection*, **passed** unanimously.

F. Approval of Board of Neighborhood Councils’ “Neighborhood Council Board Member Code of Conduct.”

No vote was held on this matter. After comments by stakeholders regarding whether board approval was necessary on a Board of Neighborhood Council mandated policy, it was announced by President Tom Johnson that all board members are to sign the “Neighborhood Council Board Member Code of Conduct.” Many of the board members signed the code of conduct at this point and submitted them to the president.

President’s Comments

President Tom Johnson presented highlights of the NWNC activities and gave special recognition to specific officers, board members and stakeholders.

Presentation of Prize and Award to the Winner of the Tampa Median Design Contest and Awards to the Sponsors of the Tampa Median Design Contest

It was announced by VP for Administration Peter Lasky that the winner of the Tampa Median Design Contest was Fanny Kilian, a student at the West Valley Occupational Center. Ms. Kilian received an acrylic award from private sponsors Peter Lasky and Tom Johnson, a certificate presented by Jonathan Coto of Councilman Englander’s office, and a gift card from Northridge Fashion Center.

Sponsors of the Tampa Median Design Contest who were honored included the Northridge Fashion Center, represented by Daniyel John, a past NWNC board member. Also honored were sponsors Western Bagel, Pieology and Wood Ranch BBQ.

Adjournment at 8:10 PM

Following adjournment of the formal meeting, Tampa Median Design Contest winner Fanny Kilian gave a presentation of her landscaping design.

John Mah, Secretary

Prepared on December 10, 2014