

Minutes for the January 13, 2015 Board Meeting of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 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**, **Debbie Penman**, **Colleen Pick** and **David Uranga**.

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

With 9 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: a) body cameras will soon be provided to all LAPD officers, b) the LA Department of Transportation will advising the City Council about funding for the speed hump program, and c) the City Council voted to support safe evacuation of underground utility lines. Regarding the "Merridy gate" controversy, Tania Oronoz of the councilman's staff has contacted the Building & Safety Department about it, but Mr. Coto has no details.

Deputy City Attorney Alin Sahagian of the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program introduced herself as the neighborhood prosecutor in the LAPD Devonshire Division area. She prosecutes quality of life violations, and works with Devonshire vice and narcotics. Ms. Sahagian is also a liaison with the community through the Neighborhood Justice Program , a diversion program for first time offenders of certain specified crimes. Her email address is alin.sahagian@lacity.org.

Former NWNC board member Matthew Vallecilla appeared as a representative for Congressman Brad Sherman to announce the Congressional Art Competition for students in the 30th Congressional District. He briefly discussed the congressman's recent activities.

Guest Speaker Chris Sales of Northridge Vision

Chris Sales spoke about Northridge Vision, which he described as a “long range plan” to update Northridge, and gave his views regarding the development of Northridge.

President’s Comments

President Tom thanked the stakeholders in the audience for coming to the meeting and the members of the board for their work. He announced that the contract for maintaining the Reseda Blvd. Median was signed at Councilman Englander’s office on January 7, 2014.

He announced that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment training to be presented by DONE staff member Melvin Canas (who was in the audience) will take place on February 28, 2015.

Public Comments

Stakeholder Bruce McDonald asserted that there was a need for a left turn lane signal light for eastbound Chatsworth St. traffic at that street’s intersection with Tampa Ave. There have been a number of accidents there due to people turning left. He has contacted the city but no action has been taken.

Another stakeholder, Robert Amond, reiterated the need for a traffic signal for eastbound traffic turning left on to Tampa Ave. from Chatsworth St. Mr. Amond is a land entitlement specialist. He decried the high cost of subdividing a residential lot and said the city needed to lower its fees.

Petition and Vote on the Petition for Removal of Daniel Luna

A vote was taken on stakeholder Brian Reff’s petition filed with the NWNC secretary during October, 2014 pursuant to Section 9, Article V of the NWNC Bylaws to remove board member Daniel Luna for his failure to attend properly noticed board meetings under the Brown Act during the months of July, August, September and October. Subsequent to the filing of his initial petition, Mr. Reff amended it to include additional meetings Mr. Luna did not attend.

It was noted by Secretary John Mah that the official NWNC Minutes reflect that Mr. Luna had not appeared at a board meeting since the month of June, 2014 and that he missed meetings in the months of July, August, September, October, November and December, 2014.

Mr. Luna did not appear for today's meeting even though a letter was sent to him on December 29, 2014 by certified mail advising him of his right to appear before the board prior to the vote to defend himself. DONE Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Melvin Canas was present to observe the removal vote.

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to remove Daniel Luna pursuant to Section 9, Article V of the NWNC Bylaws for his failure to attend properly noticed board meetings under the Brown Act during the months of July, August, September, October, November and December, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to Approve December 9, 2014 NWNC Meeting Minutes.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to approve the Minutes for the December 9, 2014 general meeting, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to Approve Treasurers December 2014 Monthly Expense Report (MER)

President Tom Johnson enumerated item by item the monthly expenses listed on the December 2014 MER. The total amount of \$2,772.97 listed for the month was in order. Mr. Johnson and treasurer Glen Wilson discussed the remaining sections of the MER. There was uncertainty whether the sum of \$5,865.31 listed as "cumulative expenditures from prior months" was accurate.

There was an issue of whether expenses beyond June 30, 2015, the end of this fiscal year, for rent and services could be included as "outstanding commitments." Mr. Johnson believed such expenses should be part of the new 2015-2016 fiscal year. Mr. Wilson explained that the LAUSD payments for use of the Calahan School auditorium had to be paid in 4 month increments which would require payment for months that were part of the new fiscal year.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Glen Wilson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to approve the December 2014 Monthly Expense Report, **failed** with 3 yeses, 4 noes and 2 abstentions.

Motion to Approve Updated NWNC 2014-2015 Budget to Transfer \$4,000 from Operations (Category 100) to Outreach (Category 200)

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to transfer \$4,000 from the Operations budget (Category 100) to the Outreach budget (Category 200), **passed** unanimously.

Motion to Approve Payment to Decision Publishing for Fixed, Re-occurring Monthly Expenses of \$400 for Outreach Advertising (\$250 monthly ad) and Operations Office Rent (\$150)

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Debbie Penman to approve payment of \$400 per month to Decision Publishing for fixed, re-occurring monthly expenses of \$250 for a monthly newspaper advertisement to come from the Outreach budget and \$150 for office rent to come from the Operations budget, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to Approve \$100 for Refreshments from the Outreach Budget for a Candidates Forum for the LAUSD and LACCD Elections

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to, approve \$100 from the Outreach budget for refreshments for a candidates forum to be held jointly with other neighborhood councils on February 17, 2015 at the Elks Lodge for the Los Angeles School Board and Los Angeles College Board of Trustees elections, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to Approve up to \$600 for NWNC Artwork Design for Free NWNC Bus Bench Advertising

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to approve up to \$600 from the Outreach budget for art and design work for free NWNC bus bench advertising on up to six bus benches, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to Approve up to \$400 from the Outreach Budget for a New NWNC Brochure

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Peter Lasky to approve up to \$400 from the Outreach budget for a new NWNC brochure, **passed** unanimously. (*nota bene:* the original motion was amended with the word “tri-fold” stricken.)

Motion from the Planning Land Use and Zoning Committee to approve conditional use permit application Case No.: ZA 2014-3318 (CUB) for H2O Sushi and Izakaya restaurant to serve beer, wine, and liquor at 9301 Tampa Ave., Suite 144 in Northridge Fashion Center

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to approve conditional use permit application Case No.: ZA 2014-3318 (CUB) for H2O Sushi and Izakaya restaurant to serve beer, wine, and liquor at 9301 Tampa Ave., Suite 144 in Northridge Fashion Center, **passed** unanimously.

Motion from the Planning Land Use and Zoning Committee to approve conditional use permit application Case No.: ZA 2014 3474 for Senor Sol restaurant at 9233 Reseda Blvd. to serve beer and wine

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to approve conditional use permit application Case No.: ZA 2014 3474 for Senor Sol restaurant at 9233 Reseda Blvd. to serve beer and wine, **passed** unanimously.

Motion from the Planning Land Use and Zoning Committee to approve the change in conditional use permit application #47, Case No.: ZA-2014-3380 (CUB) for the Tilted Kilt restaurant at 19626 Nordhoff Street, Northridge to sell beer, wine and hard liquor

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to approve the change in conditional use permit application #47, Case No.: ZA-2014-3380 (CUB) for the Tilted Kilt restaurant at 19626 Nordhoff Street, Northridge to sell beer, wine and hard liquor, **passed** unanimously.

Comments by Committee Chairs

Committee chairs Glen Wilson, Debbie Penman, Pam Gentry, David Uranga and Steven Koch gave brief updates of the activities of their committees.

Adjournment at 8:31 PM

John Mah, Secretary

Prepared on January 14, 2015