

Minutes for the February 10, 2015 Board Meeting of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 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**, **David Uranga** and **Alex Orozco** (who left the meeting at 7:30 PM).

NWNC Board member not present: **Freddie Rymond**.

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 City Council's activities: a) the City Council voted to support Councilman Englander's program launched with another councilman to publicize hit and run incidents; b) Councilman Englander sponsored a resolution to support Assemblyman Mike Gatto's "Yellow Alert" system; c) the Department of Transportation is recruiting taxi cab companies to be the "eyes and ears" of the city; and d) the City Council voted to lower tax rates for businesses.

Mr. Coto also gave an update about activities in the 12th Council District. There will be a Conversation with Councils event on February 25, 2015 in which the LA City Attorney's Neighborhood Justice Program will be discussed. Board members of various neighborhood councils will be attending. Regarding the "Merridy gate" controversy, an order has been issued for removal of the gate. An engineering study will be needed for a left turn signal to turn north from Chatsworth St. on to Tampa Ave.

Deputy City Attorney **Alin Sahagian** of the City Attorney's Neighborhood Justice Program, appeared at last month's NWNC meeting and spoke again at tonight's meeting. She re-introduced herself as the neighborhood prosecutor of quality of life violations in the LAPD Devonshire Division area. Ms. Sahagian announced that at 6:30 PM on March 11, 2015, City Attorney Mike Feuer will speak at a town hall meeting at the Granada Hills Women's Club.

Michelle Wells, the new principal of Calahan Elementary School, was introduced. She is a 28 year LAUSD employee, and made some brief remarks.

Paula Boland, President of SOLID

Former Assemblywoman **Paula Boland**, the president of Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire, was scheduled to appear on behalf of her organization to speak about it. However she did not appear and did not notify the NWNC in advance that she would not be in attendance.

Guest Speaker Robert McBroom

Robert McBroom, director of the Pierce Farm Center, was the featured guest speaker for tonight's meeting, but did not appear. He did not notify the NWNC prior to the meeting that he would not be appearing.

President's Comments

President Tom Johnson noted that the contract to clean-up the Reseda Blvd. Median was signed by the City on February 5, 2015.

He also commented that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment training to be presented by DONE staff to the NWNC board and stakeholders on the topic of funding and the paperwork associated with it, will take place on February 28, 2015. A site for the training has not yet been found.

Board member David Uranga was thanked by Mr. Johnson for bringing the Los Angeles School Board and Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees candidates to today's meet and greet before the meeting.

Public Comments

The following candidates for the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education seat no. 3 spoke: **Scott Schmerelson, Filiberto Gonzales, Ankar Patel** and **Carl Peterson**.

Andra Hoffman and **Glenn Bailey**, who are candidates for different seats on the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees, addressed the board and the audience.

Stakeholder **Barry Pezzner**, a resident of Superior St., advised the board that there is an "island" or median on that street between Tampa Ave. and Corbin Ave. that is "barren looking." Mr.

Pezzner, who identified himself as a former member of the Valley Glen Neighborhood Council, is seeking information regarding what to do about the “dead” median. President Tom Johnson asked Mr. Pezzner to leave his contact information so the chair of the Beautification Committee can follow up on it.

Lori Kalman of Nobel Middle School appeared before the board to request funding for 1,400 bottles of water (approximate cost \$250) for participants in the upcoming March 27, 2015 12K race which has been held by her school since 1978.

Sam Hanigan (who could have spoken as a public official), a field representative for Assemblyman Matt Dababneh of the 45th Assembly District, gave an update on the Assemblyman’s activities which included a bill to put up test animals for adoption rather than having them euthanized.

“**William**,” a stakeholder who declined to state his last name, informed members of the audience that it was not necessary for a person to give his/her last name or even complete a speaker’s card to speak at a neighborhood council meeting. [Note by the undersigned secretary: For the record, the name of this speaker is **William Kuzmin**, who has attended monthly NWNC meetings in the past and previously identified himself before speaking.] William objected to language in the Minutes for the January 13, 2015 meeting because it stated the NWNC “approved” a conditional use permit and a change in a separate conditional use permit. He stated that only the City Council had the power to approve conditional use permits.

Unplanned Appearance by BONC Commissioner Lydia Grant

Lydia Grant, a member of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) who could have spoken as a public official, addressed the board during the Public Comments portion of the agenda.

She announced that the city’s 96th neighborhood council, located in South Los Angeles, was recently approved by BONC.

Mrs. Grant said that she was available to neighborhood councils and stakeholders, and gave out her cell phone number and email address: 818-470-6629 and lydiajeangrant@gmail.com.

BONC recently released a list of 10 approved webmasters. NWNC webmaster Aaron DeVandry is not on the list.

A BONC retreat will soon be scheduled, and the details released.

The deadline for submission of signed adherence to the Neighborhood Council Code of Conduct has been extended to April 4, 2015 because of confusion over whether individuals can take a

training course on the Code of Conduct or sign the pledge. (Nota bene: Because the signed pledges to the Neighborhood Council Code of Conduct submitted earlier by members of the NWNC were either lost or misplaced, new pledges were signed tonight. Those pledges were collected and given to Ms. Grant, who received them on behalf of BONC.)

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, which is overseen by BONC, is experiencing a staffing shortage which will take many months to fill. At the present time there are only 4 neighborhood empowerment advocates for 96 neighborhood councils.

Online voting, either at the polls or from one's own computer, will be available for the next election of neighborhood council members in 2016. However pre-registration will be required.

Motion to Approve January 13, 2015 NWNC Meeting Minutes.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga to approve the Minutes for the January 13, 2015 general meeting, **passed** unanimously.

(It is noted for the record that NWNC board member Alex Orozco did not participate in any of the voting at today's meeting because he left at 7:30 PM. The voting in these Minutes reflect the votes of the 9 other board members present at today's meeting.)

Motion to Approve Treasurers December, 2014 and January, 2015 Monthly Expense Reports

Motion and Vote: A motion by Glen Wilson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to approve the December, 2014 Monthly Expense Report, **passed** unanimously.

Motion and Vote: A motion by Glen Wilson and seconded by David Uranga to approve the January, 2015 Monthly Expense Report, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to Approve the domain name www.northridgewest.com

Motion died: A motion by Tom Johnson approve the domain name www.northridgewest.com died for lack of a second.

Motion to Approve funding of up to \$300 from the Outreach Budget for the VANC mixer

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Debbie Penman to approve funding of up to \$300 from the Outreach Budget for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils mixer to be held on March 12, 2015, **passed** unanimously.

Status of current Neighborhood Purpose Grants for the North Valley YMCA and SOLID

Treasurer Glen Wilson reported that the Neighborhood Purposes Grants (NPG) approved months ago by the NWNC for the North Valley YMCA and Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire have not been disbursed because both organizations have not submitted their NPG applications. The deadline to pay the funds to them is the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2015. A member of the NWNC will contact the two organizations to assist them in completing the forms.

Motion to approve up to \$200 for the purchase of a new HP Laser Jet Toner cartridge to be used exclusively for NWNC Printing from Operations Budget

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Peter Lasky to approve up to \$200 for the purchase of a new HP laser jet toner cartridge to be used exclusively for NWNC Printing from Operations Budget, **passed** unanimously.

Update on the Tampa Medians project and Motion to approve a statement requesting Councilman Englander's support of the refurbishment of the Tampa Medians

Peter Lasky reported that the Ad Hoc Tampa Medians Committee met last week. He was advised by the councilman's staff that the NWNC needed to show community support behind the renovation of the Tampa Medians.

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Peter Lasky for the preparation of a statement or resolution to be submitted to Councilman Englander stating the need for refurbishment of the Tampa Medians and seeking his support, **passed** unanimously.

Discussion and Motion to approve up to \$200 from the Outreach Budget for a writer of articles and press releases about the NWNC

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Debbie Penman to approve up to \$200 from the Outreach Budget for a writer of articles and press releases about the NWNC, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to approve links on the NWNC website to organizations that partner with NWNC for events such as the Disaster Preparedness Fair (Red Cross and SOS), First Aid and CPR training (Calahan Elementary School), and Operation Clean Sweep (Northridge churches)

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Steven Koch to approve hyperlinks on the NWNC website to organizations that partner with NWNC for events such as the Disaster Preparedness Fair (Red Cross and SOS), first aid and CPR training (Calahan Elementary School), and Operation Clean Sweep (Northridge churches) **passed** with 8 yeses and 1 no by John Mah.

Motion to approve a funding line for committee meeting refreshments to be provided when there are multiple committee meetings that are conducted back to back on the same day

Motion and Vote: A motion by Tom Johnson and seconded by Peter Lasky for a funding line for committee meeting refreshments to be provided when there are multiple committee meetings conducted back to back on the same day **passed** with 7 yeses, 1 no by John Mah, and 1 abstention by Colleen Pick.

Motion to approve a funding line of up to \$100 for Citrus Sunday

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Pamela Gentry for a funding line of up to \$100 for Citrus Sunday, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to approve funding of up to \$50 from the Operations Budget for the purchase of canopy weight plate sets for the NWNC canopy to prevent it from being blown away during events

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by David Uranga for funding of up to \$50 from the Operations Budget for the purchase of canopy weight plate sets for the NWNC canopy to prevent it from being blown away during events, **passed** unanimously.

Motion for a funding line of \$200 to retain the services of a minute taker for NWNC board and committee meetings

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Glen Wilson for a funding line of \$200 to retain the services of a minute taker for NWNC board and committee meetings, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to appoint Glen Wilson as the NWNC designated representative to vote at the LANCC

Motion and Vote: A motion by President Tom Johnson and seconded by Pamela Gentry to appoint Glen Wilson as the NWNC designated representative and granting him the authority to vote at the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition, **passed** unanimously.

Motion to approve payment of \$100 owed to Discussion Publications for the October 6, 2014 Candidates Forum advertisement

This motion was withdrawn.

Comments by Committee Chairs

Peter Lasky displayed the design for the NWNC bus benches that were designed by Pamela Gentry's brother. He also exhibited several promotional items bearing the NWNC logo.

David Uranga reminded the board and the audience that the LA School Board and LACC Board of Trustees candidates forum was being held on February 17, 2015 from 6 PM to 9 PM at the Elks Lodge in Canoga Park.

Debbie Penman announced that the Beautification Committee would be meeting on the third Tuesday of each month.

Adjournment at 8:53 PM

John Mah, Secretary

Prepared on February 11, 2015