

**APPROVED**  
**Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)**  
**General Public Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 12, 2015 – 6.30PM**  
**Calahan Elementary School Auditorium**  
**18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324**

1. Call to Order

President Tom Johnson called the meeting to order at 6.35PM

2. Roll call

Eight members of the board, along with twenty stakeholders were in attendance; a quorum was declared.

Here (8)	Pamela Jane Gentry, Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Colleen Pick, David Uranga, and Glen Wilson
Absent (3)	Alex Orozco, Debbie Penman, and Freddie Rymond

3. Flag Ceremony

Tom Johnson held the flag as we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Reports & Presentations by Public Officials

a. LAPD Officer John Parker

Mr. Parker was unable to attend.

b. City Attorney - Alin Sahagian

Ms. Sahagian was unable to attend.

c. CD 12 - Jonathan Coto

Jonathan reported that it has been rather slow regarding the Los Angeles City Council. The following are upcoming community events:

Friday, May 15	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Day at Councilman Englander’s office, 9207 Oakdale Avenue. Representatives of LADWP will be there to answer any questions and/or concerns.
Sunday, May 17	Annual Citrus Sunday at various locations throughout the west valley
Sunday, May 29	Senior Dance at the Northridge Park Gymnasium, 18300 LeMarsh Avenue. Doors open at 5.30PM, Dinner at 6PM, Dancing 6PM to 8.30PM; \$2/admission
Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31	Aloha Festival and Family Festival of the Arts, Northridge Park, 10058 Reseda Boulevard
Thursday, June 4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Interfaith Community Breakfast; this will focus on veterans, discussing health care, education, etc.

For additional info, please contact Field Deputy Ron Rubine at Mitch Englander’s office at ron.rubine@lacity.org or 818-882-1212.

5. Special Guest Speaker Cory Hacker from Damsel in Defense

- Damsels in Defense is a direct sales company, similar to Tupperware.
- Ms. Hacker, a resident of West Hills since 1983, hosts “Empower Hours” whereupon she demonstrates and sells her self-defense merchandise.
- Cory polled the attendees regarding if anyone had personal protection with them, or at their home.

- Recently there was an assault on a 60+ woman in Chatsworth who was knocked down; this was discussed at a meeting at Sierra Canyon High School.
- It was reported that crime rates are rising; the LAPD can take up to six minutes to come to your home. In addition, one in five women are survivors of rape; one in three people will be victims of domestic abuse.
- Among the safety precautions she recommends:
  - Travel/walk with a friend
  - Be aware of your surroundings
  - As you walk, do not look down at your smart phone or your feet; walk with your eyes forward
  - Keep friends and family informed of when you leave and your anticipated return
  - Do not wear ear buds
  - If possible, walk with a dog
  - Do not be afraid to use your voice and shout “I DO NOT KNOW YOU!”
  - Always call 911 if something does not feel right
  - Realize that you are under no obligation to open your door to greet strangers
  - Be especially cautious in parking lots; this is one of the most dangerous areas for a lady
  - Never go to crime scene #2 (such as the trunk of a car); this has a very low survival rate
  - Know that you can protect yourself.
- Among the products that Ms. Hacker sells:

Item	Cost
Door stop that emits a 102db noise	\$15
Home safe, disguised as hand lotion	15
Flashlight with a red beacon, alarm, magnet, seat belt cutter, and glass smasher	15
18% Pepper spray (LAPD carries 10%) with a non-washable paint; this will shoot 16'. Not to be carried at airports, federal buildings, or schools.	10
Stun gun; not to be used at concert venues, airports, federal buildings, or schools.	65

- Tom Johnson added that it was better to error on the side of caution than not doing anything; do not assume another person will call 911.
- Principal Michelle Wells expressed concern about the defense materials brought to the Calahan Elementary School; Cory replied that her demonstration units are not fully functional.

6. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda items.

- Sharon Rose reported that the Northridge Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Northridge Kiwanis (where she is a past president), would co-sponsor the following events for our visiting Olympians:
  - California State University, Northridge (CSUN) will host approximately 450 Olympians at their dormitories
  - California Pizza Kitchen at Topanga Plaza, Canoga Park will host a lunch
  - Olympian Rafer Johnson will host a dinner at the Odyssey Restaurant, Granada Hills
  - St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church will host a Greek dancing spectacular
  - A traditional American barbeque dinner will be held at Warner Center Park, Woodland Hills
- As these visitors from around the world may not speak English, the focus will be on non-verbal activities.
- Friday, July 24, the Olympians will be bussed to USC and UCLA for lodging.
- Among the local communities hosting Olympians:
  - Northridge will host Azerbaijan, Vietnam, and Malta
  - Winnetka will host Venezuela.
  - Woodland Hills will host Greece
  - Chatsworth will host East Timor.
- If you want to write a check tonight, make it payable to “Special Olympics World Summer Games”. A stakeholder immediately presented a check to Ms. Rose.
- Among the volunteer tasks will be making beds at CSUN and welcoming them to LAX and Northridge.

- Marcy Orkin, President of the Friends of the Northridge Library, thanked the NWNC for a recent Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG). This was spent on children and teen level books for the library; many of which are being used by home schooled children, as well as snap-in hanging book supports to help earthquake-proofing the library's shelving. Ms. Orkin presented a Certificate of Appreciation for NWNC to President Tom Johnson; a duplicate certificate will be displayed at the library.
  - Megan Murphy-Cross reported that she had a neighbor whose 1,900 square foot home was in pre-foreclosure. That home was sold to investors who are building a second 1,200 square foot house on the same property. Ms. Murphy-Cross and her other neighbors did not realize that such construction was legal. They have reached out to Councilman Englander's office, yet wondered if there is anyone else who could assist them.
  - Tom Johnson introduced Megan to David Uranga, chairman of the Land Use Committee.
  - Mikkie Loi of the Southern California Preparedness Foundation reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair is scheduled for Saturday, October 30. Please like them on Facebook.
  - Online registration (to alleviate long lines on the day of the fair) will start on Wednesday, July 1.
  - This fair will host a speaker series; among the speakers will be recently retired seismologist Dr. Kate Hutton from Caltech.
  - In addition, the Neighborhood Watch, 17A81 basic car monthly meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at Sunburst Park Mobile Home Park, 21001 Plummer Street
  - Evelyn Brown mentioned that when she first moved here, Northridge was considered the Beverly Hills of the valley. Since that time, traffic has gotten bad. She has seen cars making illegal and dangerous U-turns because the drivers did not want to go past the new posts along Reseda Boulevard.
  - She feels there is too much fast food, with insufficient full-service restaurants.
  - A neighbor painted her house purple and played loud music; the police were very good at handling that issue.
  - Evelyn wonders why the local realtors are not doing more to maintain Northridge's values.
  - Tom Johnson introduced Evelyn to David Uranga, chairman of the Land Use Committee.
  - Dr. Tom Neuman mentioned that the havoc along Reseda Boulevard is ridiculous
  - This new "great streets" system has taken away valuable parking spaces. One of his patients has already lost a car door. In addition, one cannot make a left turn between Parthenia and Plummer Streets because of the double yellow lines.
  - Now that the center lane has been taken away, the police and fire vehicles can no longer travel safely.
  - It was reported that the people who put of those posts talked to local businesses, but no one came to his business.
  - He would like Councilman Englander to come before the next meeting of NWNC and explain this Reseda Boulevard issue.
7. President Johnson's comments
- a. October 3, 2015 8th Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair Update  
Ms. Mikkie Loi discussed this.
  - b. Neighborhood Council Congress - September 26, 2015  
This free event will be held in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday, September 26. If interested, please contact Glen Wilson or Tom Johnson.
8. Discussion and motion to approve NWNC meeting minutes for 14 April 2015

- Tom Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes of April 14; John Mah seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and motion to approve Treasurer's monthly expense report for the Month of April 2015

- The following expenses were incurred in April 2015:

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
April 2	Candy and Chips	CIP	Smart and Final	17.68
April 15	Pizzas	Outreach	Maria's Italian Kitchen	84.98
April 23	Pizzas	Outreach	Little Caesars	10.90
April 20	Maintenance Service	CIP	American Heritage Landscape	200.00
April 6	Website Maintenance	Outreach	Aaron Devandry	500.00
April 16	Soda and Ice	Outreach	Vons	21.77
			TOTAL	<u>835.33</u>

- Tom Johnson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Expenses of April 2015; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- A stakeholder asked about a \$1k NPG for the North Valley YMCA; Glen replied that this required a new form.

10. Discussion and motion to approve appointment of Steven Koch and Colleen Pick as Co-chairs of the Webmaster Selection Ad-Hoc Committee

- Tom Johnson made a motion to accept this appointment; David Uranga seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and motion to approve proposed 2015-2016 NWNC Budget

	Category	Amount	Subtotal	Percentile
100 Operations	Facilities Related and Space Rental – LAUSD/Office	4,500	11,000	29.73%
	Miscellaneous	1,000		
	Postage	100		
	Temporary Staff-Minute Taker	2,400		
200 Outreach	Advertising	4,000	9,000	24.32%
	Event Expense/ Food and Refreshments	700		
	Meeting Expense	700		
	Website Maintenance/Enhancement/Creation	3,600		
300 Community Development	Street Maintenance and Other	7,000	8,000	21.62%
	NWNC Operation Clean Sweep	1,000		
400 NPG	NPG	4,000	4,000	10.81%
500 Elections	Election Outreach Expense	5,000	5,000	13.51%
	TOTALS	37,000	37,000	100.00%

- Tom Johnson made a motion to accept this budget; Peter Lasky and John Mah seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and motion to Approve the Neighborhood Councils Administrative 2016 Bylaws & Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet as 1 motion from DONE.

- John Mah read a statement summarizing the discussion from the meeting of April 14, 2015.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to accept this bylaws adjustment and stipulation; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and motion approve an NPG for \$750 to the Southern California Preparedness Foundation for the 8th Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair to be held on October 3, 2015.
  - A stakeholder asked if this was for FY2014/15 or FY2015/16; the reply was that it was for 2014/15, and we would move forward with this NPG very soon.
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this NPG; Steven Koch seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
14. Discussion and motion to approve \$500 NPG to support the Kiwanis Club of Northridge Senior Social Dinner and Dance at the Northridge Recreation Center on Friday May 29, 2015.
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to accept this NPG; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
15. Discussion and motion to approve the nomination of Peter Lasky as Outstanding Senior from Northridge West.
  - Steven Koch asked what this responsibility does this carry, Tom replied that Peter will represent NWNC.
  - John Mah made a motion to accept this nomination; David Uranga seconded this motion and the motion passed.

Yes (6)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, John Mah, Colleen Pick, David Uranga, and Glen Wilson
Abstain (1)	Peter Lasky
Absent (4)	Pamela Jane Gentry, Alex Orozco, Debbie Penman, and Freddie Rymond

16. Discussion and motion to approve having a booth at the Aloha Hawaiian Festival at Northridge Park, Saturday May 30 and 31. NWNC Board and Committee members are encouraged to volunteer to work the booth.
  - Tom Johnson encouraged everyone to come out for this Festival, May 30 and 31 at the Northridge Park.
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this booth at the Aloha Festival; David Uranga seconded this motion and the motion immediately passed unanimously.
17. Discussion and motion to approve the purchase of a lawnmower ramp to for Operation Clean Sweep events, funds will come from the Community Improvement Budget
  - Tom Johnson reminded the stakeholders that Operation Clean Sweep goes out every Thursday.
  - It was recommended that they have a “not to exceed” amount of \$75 or \$100; the board settled on \$100.
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
18. Discussion and motion to approve the recommendation of the Executive Board to approve \$1,000 contribution to the 2015 Congress of Neighborhoods from NWNC 2014-2015 NPG funds as a City Transfer.
  - This will help fund the NC Congress, scheduled for Saturday, September 26.
  - Steve Koch asked how much money would the city donate; Glen Wilson replied that the city would contribute an unknown amount.
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

A stakeholder requested that board members check in with the note-taker or a fellow board member when they depart a meeting.

19. Discussion and motion to approve to fund up to \$1,000 as a contribution to the NC Budget Advocates from the NWNC 2014-2015 NPG funds as a City Transfer.
  - Colleen Pick previously served on this committee that oversees the city’s budgets.
  - This funding is for inexpensive meals (pizza) and office supplies used for the meeting; meeting attendees are not reimburse for any transportation expenditures.

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; David Uranga seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 20. Discussion and motion to approve funding of up to \$200 for a writer for NWNC newspaper articles, funding to come from the Outreach Budget.
  - This article will help attract stakeholders to the board meetings; this averages \$65/month.
  - A stakeholder asked if Councilman Englander could support this by mentioning it in his newsletter.
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; David Uranga seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 21. Discussion and motion to approve funding of up to \$250 in support of a joint Operation Clean Sweep with LAPD Devonshire Division and other community groups, funding to come from Outreach Budget.
  - Tom attended a meeting of Neighborhood Watch last month; there has been an increase in crime, large item debris, and wayward shopping carts south of Plummer Street.
  - Steve Koch asked Jonathan Coto if the city's sanitation team will come out and take away the collected trash bags and bulky items. Jonathan replied that the trash bags much weigh less than 20 lbs. Glen reminded everyone that the number to call for bulky item pick-up is on the back of the NWNC Business card.
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Steven Koch seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 22. Discussion and motion to approve funding up to \$1,500 for Neighborhood Watch Signs, funds to come from Outreach Budget.
  - Tom showed the Neighborhood Watch signs, which were recommended by LAPD Officer John Parker.
  - Installation is \$45/sign (for five or more signs) or \$60/sign (for less than five signs).
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Colleen Pick seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 23. Discussion and motion to approve the transfer of \$4,000 from NPG Budget to Outreach Budget.
  - The NPG is Category 400; the Outreach is Category 200; Glen will update the budget to reflect this transfer of funds.
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this transfer; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 24. Discussion and motion to approve funding up to \$2,400 to renew the Maintenance Contract of the Reseda Median from Kinzie to Superior Streets by American Heritage Landscape, funding to come from the Beautification Budget.
  - This weed-infested area, formerly a part of the Northridge Oasis, will cost \$200/month to maintain.
  - Due to the proximity to the street, the crew must don safety vests and install traffic pylons.
  - Steven asked about the broken backflow valve; Tom mentioned that he is working to get a new backflow valve in place.
  - A stakeholder asked how frequently this area is maintained; the reply is once per month.
  - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 25. Discussion and motion to approve funding up to \$5,184 for the bi-monthly maintenance of Tampa and Wilbur (Between Lassen and Plummer) Parkways, funding to come from the Beautification Budget.
  - These parkways are not currently being maintained. As Tampa is a main artery, this is a poor reflection on Northridge. This \$5,184 will allow NWNC to hire a landscaper to maintain the beauty of this area.
  - John Mah asked how frequently this maintenance would transpire; the reply was once every two months.

- Stakeholder Marcie (along with other stakeholders) expressed concern of NCNW setting a bad precedent of trimming trees and maintaining private property, which is the landowner’s responsibility; Tom replied that there has been no enforcement of rules regarding code enforcement.
- Peter mentioned that the city attorney might need to research the property rights.
- Glen Wilson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and the motion passed.

Yes (4)	Peter Lasky, Colleen Pick, David Uranga, and Glen Wilson
No (3)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, and John Mah
Absent (4)	Pamela Jane Gentry, Alex Orozco, Debbie Penman, and Freddie Rymond

26. Discussion and motion to approve up to \$500 for PALS.

- A stakeholder offered that this is an organization established by the LAPD at 8721 Wilbur Avenue (at Parthenia). PALS provides tutoring, athletics, and field trips to children, ages 7 to 17.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Colleen Pick seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

27. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$200 per month to extend the services of a minute taker for NWNC Board Meetings

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

28. Public Comments on Non-Agenda items

- The election is this Tuesday, May 19.
- School board candidate Scott Schmerelson addressed the NWNC; he feels that schools are the heart of the community.
- A difference between Scott and his opponent Tamar Galatzan is that he will be a full-time board member. Ms. Galatzan is a part-time school board member and a full-time city attorney.
- Scott has over 35-years experience as a teacher, counselor, vice principal, and principal.
- His opponent advocated for a wasteful \$1B bond issue to purchase iPads for everyone.
- Scott hopes to bring back things that are been missing, such as school nurses and counselors.

29. Comments by Committee Chairs

- Glen Wilson mentioned that during the next NWNC meeting, they would appoint two members to the Budget and Finance Committee. These two appointees can be board members or stakeholders, and should plan to attend the meeting on Saturday, June 27 at Los Angeles City Hall.
- Glen added that there are currently two vacancies on the NWNC. If interested, please mention your enthusiasm to a board member.
- Steven Koch attended an NC website boot camp in Los Angeles regarding choosing a Webmaster; a few NCs do not have a website.
- Steve Koch reminded everyone that there has been an increase in crime. Call 611 if you see something that is not life threatening; Call 911 if life-threatening.
- Peter Lasky was encouraged that we had so many new meeting attendees, and encouraged everyone to do what they can to make Northridge a better place.

30. Adjournment

- Tom Johnson called for an adjournment at 8.49PM.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED DURING THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, 9 JUNE 2015.