

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 8 December 2015 – 7PM
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324

1. Holiday Mixer – Time to Meet, Greet and Get to know your Board Member, and Neighbors. Provide suggestions and ideas for turning Tampa Medians back into the bright and vibrant Gateway into Northridge. Share your opinion over CSUN parking in front of your house. Or find out how you can become trained and certified in First Aid/CPR

2. General Board Meeting came to order at 7PM

3. Roll call

- A roll call was performed; nine members of the board, along with over nineteen stakeholders were in attendance; a quorum was declared.

Here (9)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, Freddie Rymond, David Uranga, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Pamela Gentry

4. Flag Ceremony

- President Tom Johnson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Reports/Presentations by Public Officials

- Jonathan Coto, CD12
 - Jonathan handles the Department of Urban Forestry, Animal Services, and Disability Issues.
 - Saturday, November 21, Councilman Englander presented “Back to the Future” as a drive-in movie at Shadow Ranch Park, West Hills. Over 150 vehicles and 400 people enjoyed the festivities. They may host another such movie event in 2016.
 - CD12 is partnering with the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission to acquire a second mobile shower.
 - The El Nino storms are coming. Mayor Garcetti issued an executive directive. People are urged to register at elninola.com for emergency prepared resources and information.
- Kevin Taylor, Mayor Garcetti’s West Valley representative, and a key point of contact at city hall, introduced himself.
 - He reiterated the recommendation that people sign-up at elninola.com for storm alerts.
 - A few agencies did a poor job of communicating the gas link to the citizens of Porter Ranch. The City of Los Angeles recently sued the gas company regarding this issue.
 - Kevin is also looking forward to the upcoming neighborhood council election season.
- Steven Harris from the Friends of Oakridge Estates addressed the NWNC
 - Paul Williams built this estate for Barbara Stanwick in 1937. She sold it to Jack Oakie, whose widow stayed there until 2003.
 - The estate was recently awarded a \$1.3m grant from Proposition K; this will be used to revitalize the park area.

- They entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Parks and Recreation.
 - The construction plans may be approved in January, sent out to bid in March, with construction beginning shortly thereafter. The plan is to restore the house to National Park standards.
 - There are currently over 1,700 people on their email list; people are urged to visit their website at theoakridgeestate.com to sign-up and receive updates.
6. Special Guest Speaker Cathy Schoonmaker, Urban Wildland Conservation Specialist
- Ms. Schoonmaker has been with the National Park Service and Land Trust for over ten years; she researches mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, and other wild animals.
 - One of the coyotes they tracked moved from Thousand Oaks to Pierce College to the Sepulveda Basin, along the Los Angeles River.
 - Coyotes eat small animals (rabbits, gophers and rats) and fruit (they especially like figs). Contrary to popular belief, less than 1% of their diet comes from cats.
 - Leading causes of deaths of wild animals is vehicle collision and rodent poison.
 - They tracked mountain lion, tagged #P34, who was found in a trailer park in Newbury Park. A year later, she died of anticoagulant poisoning in Griffith Park.
 - Bait boxes are found throughout the community, near restaurants, golf courses, homes, etc. However, these are also poisoning up the food chain. In addition to rats, these poisons kill fox, weasels, bobcats, cougars, coyotes, raptors, and owls. Alternatively, Ms. Schooner advocates the use of snap or live traps.
 - Suggestions from the National Park Service to avoid wildlife squatters include:
 - Bring pets in at night
 - Keep your yard clean
 - Feed your pets indoors
 - Clean BBQs after usage
 - Install proper and high fencing
 - Do not permit overloaded trash
 - Do not feed the wildlife; they have survived without us for generation
 - Be prepared to haze them. Spray water, yell, use an air horn, bang metal pots/pans, or put some coins into a metal can and shake it. Wild animals hate all those noises.
 - For additional information, please contact hoang.dinh@lacity.org for animal services, kent.smirl@wildlife.ca.gov for wildlife watch, or visit the website at <http://go.usa.gov/3W5Xz>
 - If anyone wanted to talk with her some more, Ms. Schoonmaker stayed in the back of the room to answer questions.
7. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$3,000 for a second Election mailer
- NWNC will reconfigure a map to target the 7,000 homes in this community. These will be mailed in February. Someone mentioned that it could be more prudent to send the mailer out prior to the January 15 deadline for potential candidates.
 - Someone received her mailer in today's mail; this was the first mailer and will serve as a lessons learned.
 - David Uranga made a motion to approve a funding line of up to \$3k for a second election mailer; Tom Johnson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
8. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$600 to rent Topeka Elementary as the election venue for the April 9, 2016 NC Elections

- The in-person voting will be at Topeka Elementary School on April 9.
 - Glenn Bailey reminded the council that 35 of the 96 neighborhood councils will have online voting, including NWNC. Online voters must register eight days prior to the election via the website empowerla.org/elections. The online form is available for residents, business-owners, and property owners in this community.
 - Online voting will close at 2PM Saturday, April 9, the same time as in-person voting.
 - This data will be recorded by “Everyone Counts” of San Diego, and overseen by the city clerk.
 - The pre-election debate has not yet been scheduled.
 - David Uranga made a motion to approve a funding line of up to \$600 to rent Topeka Elementary for the April 9 election; Tom Johnson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
9. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line up to \$200 for refreshments for the April 9 election
- This food will be for poll workers, as well as the voters.
 - David Uranga made a motion to approve a funding line of up to \$200 for refreshments for the April 9 election; Tom Johnson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
10. Motion and discussion to approve a funding line of \$700 for Webmaster Services
- A stakeholder asked if NWNC compared their fees with the web-master services paid by other neighborhood councils. Peter Lasky mentioned that the city mandated that they could only use one of six or ten city-approved webmasters. NWNC chose the 2nd cheapest web-master.
 - Steven Koch added that NWNC board members are learning to add content to the website, thereby reducing the services of a paid web-master.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve a funding line of \$700 for web-master services; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
11. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda items
- Mikkie Loi reported that Councilman Englander was at the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council meeting recruiting for an advisory group to study the gas leak. If anyone is interesting in being a part of this advisory group, please reach out to Councilman Englander’s office. Councilman Englander has submitted a motion before the city council to further investigate this gas leak.
 - Evelyn Brown departed the meeting prior to this portion of the meeting.
 - Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey discussed the City Services survey, whose deadline passed. The advocates recently learned that CD12 was not in the top tier of submitted surveys and areas reviewed. Friday, January 15, a report will be represented to Mayor Garcetti’s office.
 - The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM at Sherman Oaks Hospital. The December 10 meeting will include a presentation by Public Works representatives, discussing preparation of trees, streets, and storm drains. Glenn Bailey added that a ratepayer advocate would also be a guest speaker.
 - William Kuzmin grew up in the San Fernando Valley, and has been a realtor here for over thirty years. He is familiar with the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, as introduced by Councilman Koretz via council file 14-0656. The Department of City Planning released this draft proposal.
 - Mr. Kuzmin mentioned that attached garages are now considered part of the square footage of a house. If the garage is a separate structure, then it does not count as part of the residential square footage. Many detached garages are in the back of the house and converted to guesthouses or recreation space.
 - Mr. Kuzmin added that it would be nice if they had lights in the parking lot here at Calahan Elementary School; Principal Michelle Wells replied that they are awaiting a bid.

- Principal Michelle Wells mentioned that the students here at Calahan Elementary School would build gingerbread houses on Wednesday, December 16 beginning at 8:30AM. Thursday, December 17, the students will decorate their gingerbread houses.

12. Discussion and Motion to Approve November 2015, minutes

- A few corrections, including the uncertainty of who seconded two motions and the miss spelling of Brian Reff’s name, were corrected in real time.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the November minutes; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed:

Yes (8)	Tom Johnson, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, Freddie Rymond, David Uranga, and Glen Wilson
Abstention (1)	Steven Koch
Absent (1)	Pamela Gentry

13. Treasurers Report by Glen Wilson

- Steven Koch asked for clarification of the “Cumulative Expenditures from Prior Months” as shown in Line B.

14. Discussion and Motion to Approve November 2015, Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
Nov 4	Postage for MER [Sept] Report	Operations	USPS	5.75
Nov 6	Office/Storage	Operations	Decision Publications	150.00
Nov 6	Advertising	Outreach	Decision Publications	315.00
Nov 12	Soda and Ice	Outreach	Vons	24.58
Nov 12	Submarine Sandwiches	Outreach	Subway	60.00
Nov 12	Picture Frames for Clean-Up	Outreach	Tom Johnson	18.61
Nov 12	Starter Fluid for Lawnmower	Outreach	Tom Johnson/Auto Zone	4.35
Nov 12	4 Copies of NVCC Article	Outreach	Tom Johnson/Office Max	4.29
Nov 16	Coffee	CIP	Starbucks	14.95
Nov 16	Soda, Water, Ice, Pastries	CIP	Vons	83.17
Nov 16	Refund	Operations	LAUSD	-393.48
Nov 19	Refund	Operations	LAUSD	-393.48
Nov 20	Pizza	Outreach	Little Caesars	5.45
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Food Baskets	NPG	North Valley Family YMCA	1,250.00
Nov 24	Reseda/Nordhoff Place Flags	NPG	Kiwanis’s Club of Northridge	500.00
Nov 24	Reseda Boulevard Maintenance	CIP	American Heritage Landscape	200.00
Nov 25	1 st Postcard Mailing	Election	C&M Printing	2,780.00
			TOTAL	<u>\$4,619.43</u>

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the November MER; Steven Koch seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and motion to approve the proposed additional stop for the CSUN DASH Line at the CSUN Transit Center.

- Max Reyes, Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations at CSUN, mentioned that they would like to add a DASH line to the CSUN Transit Center. Currently, the nearest stop is at Nordhoff Street and Reseda Boulevard.

- They have the support of the Transit Coalition, Northridge Sparkle, Northridge South Neighborhood Council, and the Northridge East Neighborhood Council.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the proposed additional stop for the CSUN DASH Line at the CSUN Transit Center; John Mah seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

16. President Tom Johnson's Comments

- At this time, our thoughts are with the families of the recent tragedy in San Bernardino. If anyone ever sees anything that does not feel right, please say something and call 911.
- In addition, thanks to the board for all their hard work this past year, especially:
 - Great work on the 8th Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair on October 3.
 - Freddie Rymond and the Valley Alliance for keeping the weeds under control.
 - Debbie Penman has done a great job of contributing to the beautification of the community.
 - Thanks to Jonathan Coto from CD12.
 - Colleen Pick and Steven Koch and all their work getting the website up and running.
 - Elections Chairman David Uranga for his future success in preparing for the April 9 election.
 - David Uranga has also done a great job with the Land Use Committee.
 - Thanks to all stakeholders for coming out tonight.
- There are currently three or four open seats on the board; two gentlemen expressed interest in running for these two board seats.
 - Hayk Gasparyan moved to Northridge three years ago. He is a native of Granada Hills and Burbank. He and his wife recently had a baby girl. He will serve as the voice of the younger generation and reach out to the youth of the community.
 - Brent Robinson is a product of Northridge, having moved here in 1990. He went away to college, and then returned. He looks forward to giving back to the community that has given him so many opportunities.
 - As there are currently a few vacancies, Stakeholder Michael asked NWNC to appoint Hayk and Brent tonight. However, William Kuzmin mentioned that Michael should realize that is not an option.

17. Comments by Board Members

- There were no additional comments from the board members.

18. Adjournment

- Tom Johnson made a motion to adjourn; Steven Koch seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED DURING THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2016.