

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 9 February 2016 – 6.15PM
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324

1. Call to Order

- Vice President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order at 6.26PM.

2. Roll Call

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

Here (10)	Hayk Gasparyan, Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, Brent Robinson, Freddie Rymond, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Pamela Gentry

3. Flag Ceremony

- Peter Lasky led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Reports/Presentations by Public Officials

- Ms. Sanan Shirinian from Assemblyman Matthew Dababneh’s office addressed the NWNC
 - Assemblyman Dababneh recently introduced AB1784; this will expand financial literacy in our schools by helping students learn about personal finance by increasing the amount of banks that can participate in school-based savings programs.
 - Other than that, she did not have a great deal to report regarding legislation, as they just started the second full session of the legislature.
 - March has been designated Women's History Month and each year legislators highlight and honor deserving women for service to their community. Assemblyman Dababneh seeks nominations for exceptional women in his district who demonstrate exemplary leadership and community service. Nominations are due February 16.
 - If anyone has issues with any government agency, such as Veteran’s Affairs or DMV, please reach out to Ms. Shirinian; their office is located at the Van Nuys State Office Building, 6150 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 306, telephone 818-904-3840.
- Ms. Rosalba Gonzalez, Senior Field Representative for State Senator Fran Pavley (District 27) addressed the NWNC
 - City Attorney Mike Feuer’s office has a court order against Southern California Gas Company regarding the Porter Ranch gas leak.
 - Senator Pavley recently learned that at the time of the gas leak, the tank was 90% full.
 - Senator Pavley recently introduced Senate Bill 380 (Natural Gas Storage Moratorium) that requires an immediate moratorium on natural gas injection into the Aliso Canyon reservoir and restricts production of gas through vintage wells. In addition, the Public Utilities Commission would be required to evaluate whether the Aliso Canyon facility can be shut down or its use minimized without affecting regional energy reliability. As this is an urgent measure, it could go into effect immediately upon Governor Brown’s signature.
 - Senator Pavley and her staff are also aware of the excessive bills from Southern California Gas Company.

- Mr. Jonathan Coto from Councilman Englander’s office addressed the NWNC
 - Councilman Englander recently introduced a resolution regarding the unusual gas rate increases. If you have an issue with this, please contact their office at 818-888-1212.
 - The City Council recently hired a full-time petroleum administrator; this person will oversee all the gas production in Los Angeles.
 - Councilman Englander recently sent a letter to Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein to elevate the issue of the Aliso Canyon gas leak to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, and request a federal investigation of this gas leak.
 - Earlier today, people were 20’ feet away from the leak to try to stop it; they anticipate killing the leak this week.
 - CD12 has ordered additional water purifiers, and the purifiers are on their way.
 - Council file 15-1138S1, a comprehensive homeless and poverty committee report and strategic plan that will help determine metrics and homeless issues, was recently passed unanimously by the Los Angeles City Council. This file is now on the desk of Mayor Garcetti.
 - May 22 will be the first Citrus Sunday. CD12 will organize multiple drop-off locations for homeowners with excess backyard fruit that can be donated to food pantries in the area.

- 5. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda items
 - Mickie Loi reported that Thursday evening, February 18 (third Thursday) would be the Basic Car Meeting with Senior Lead Officer (SLO) John Parker at the Garden Christian Fellowship at 20745 Nordhoff Street, just east of DeSoto. This month, Detective Slatter will discuss scams.
 - Wednesday, February 10, 11AM, the Reseda Boulevard Business and Property Owners will hold a community meeting with SLO Patti Peteque near Farmer Boys, 9010 Reseda Boulevard. Among the topics to be discussed will be crime, graffiti, and being part of LA’s Great Streets program.
 - The LAPD’s Devonshire Division is available to assist completing a domestic violence restraining order.

- 6. Approval of Presidential Appointment of Mr. William Fox to NWNC board
 - Mr. Bill Fox mentioned that he has lived here since 1973, and he feels it is important to take an interest in the community. He has a strong interest in making Northridge the best place that it can be.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve William Fox to sit on the NWNC board as Senior Representative; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
 - On behalf of the city of Los Angeles, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Advocate Melvin Caras administered the oath of office to Mr. Fox.

- 7. CSUN’s Max Reyes, Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations and Ken Rosenthal, Vice President Facilities Development and Operations, regarding City of Los Angeles Road Vacation ceding Plummer Avenue between Darby to Zelzah Streets
 - A street vacation is defined as the transfer of the easement/right-of-way from the City of Los Angeles to CSUN.
 - Mr. Rosenthal mentioned that in 2011, CSUN submitted the paperwork to Los Angeles to make CSUN responsible for streets around the campus. Plummer Street, between Darby and Lindley Avenues is currently a part of the city’s general plan.
 - CSUN and Los Angeles will not close Plummer Street. They are merely attempting to make the streets, lights, trees, and sidewalks more attractive.
 - As this area east of Reseda Boulevard, outside of the area of the NWNC, it is unlikely that anyone from NWNC will receive a notice. This is merely an administrative process.

- 8. Discussion of recommendation by the Executive Board to Support the City’s proposed ceding of Plummer Avenue to CSUN

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Freddie Rymond seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Motion to approve January 2016 NWNC meeting minutes

- Glen Wilson mentioned that new board member Hayk Gasparyan’s name was incorrectly spelled as Hyak throughout the document; this was immediately corrected.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the January minutes; Brent Robinson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

10. Recommendation from Beautification Committee to approve a motion of up to \$500 for 48” collapsible Slow Down Sign for use in Operation Clean Sweep events to protect Volunteers

- These rolled-up nylon signs will serve as traffic and safety control near the volunteers.
- Brent Robinson asked how many signs would be purchased; Debbie Penman replied that it would with one sign. Steven Koch recommended purchasing two of the signs, especially useful when working along busy Tampa Avenue.
- Brent also recommended that we get price quotes of reflective versus non-reflective material; Tom Johnson had a quote of approximately \$227 for the non-reflective material (these signs would not be used at night).
- Tom Johnson made a motion to purchase [possibly two] collapsible signs, for a total of up to \$500 [as the budget allows]; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (new board member William Fox is not yet eligible to vote on funding matters).

11. Recommendation from Beautification Committee to approve a motion of \$3,650 for removal of three (3) dead trees in Tampa Avenue median between Atlanta and Germain Streets and one (1) dead tree along west side of Wilbur Street between Devonshire and Mayall Streets by American Heritage Landscape. Three bids were received:

American Heritage	\$3,650
Harold R. Brazee Company	4,275
R&C Tree Company	5,000

- If these trees are not removed, they could fall and hurt a car, person, or property.
- Steven Koch asked why City services has not yet been called; it was determined that city services would take over two years to come and remove the trees.
- Freddie Rymond added that these trees have bark beetles. If we do not remove these trees soon, the beetles could spread, and kill more trees.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this \$3,650 expenditure to remove dead trees; Freddie Rymond seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (new board member William Fox is not yet eligible to vote on funding matters).

12. Recommendation from Election Committee to approve a motion of up to \$3,500 for a third NWNC Election Mailer. Mailer to promote candidates forum and provide information about how and where to vote

- Election Day for the NWNC will be Saturday, April 9. One can register their candidacy and/or request to vote online.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this \$3,500 expenditure for the postcard (including production and mailing costs); Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (new board member William Fox is not yet eligible to vote on funding matters).

13. Discussion and motion to approve January 2016 Treasurer’s Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
Jan 7	Locks and Shelving	Operations	Lowe’s	65.36
Jan 11	Return Shelving	Operations	Lowe’s	-43.58

Jan 11	20# of Sand for Tampa Trees	CIP	Lowe's	28.94
Jan 11	Plywood for Storage Space	Operations	Lowe's	26.27
Jan 13	Chicken and Steak Fajitas	Outreach	Baja Fresh	141.68
Jan 14	Chips for Clean-Up	CIP	Smart & Final	12.69
Jan 14	Advertising	Outreach	Decision Publications	315.00
Jan 14	Office/Storage Space	Operations	Decision Publications	150.00
Jan 20	Minute Taker	Operations	Apple One	69.30
Jan 21	Website Services	Outreach	Moore Business Results	438.78
Jan 25	Tacos	Outreach	Baja Fresh	38.14
Jan 26	Reseda Boulevard Maintenance	CIP	American Heritage Landscape	200.00
Jan 29	Minute Taker	Operations	Apple One	103.95
			TOTAL	<u>\$1,546.53</u>

- Following a brief review of these charges, Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the January MER; Freddie Rymond seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (new board member William Fox is not yet eligible to vote on funding matters).

- 14. Discussion and motion to amend 2015/16 NWNC budget to approve transfer of \$2k from Category 300 (Community Improvement) to Category 500 (Elections)
 - A stakeholder asked why NWNC had to do this transfer of \$2k; the reply was because the election budget is near zero.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this transfer; John Mah seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (new board member William Fox is not yet eligible to vote on funding matters).

- 15. Discussion and motion to approve reimbursement of \$48 to Treasurer Glen Wilson for first months rent to Golden State Storage in Northridge from 1-2-2016 to 2-1-16. The storage unit will store Operation Clean Sweep tools, NWNC files containing records, advertising and promotional materials, etc.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure, as DONE requests that neighborhood councils retain more and more of their files for storage; Freddie Rymond seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (new board member William Fox is not yet eligible to vote on funding matters).

- 16. Discussion and motion to approve \$55.50 to Golden State Storage Northridge for February 2, to March 1, 2016 rent of NWNC tools, files, records, etc.
 - This extra \$7.50 fee is for insurance provided by Golden State Storage. NWNC will have access to the 5x10' storage unit 7-days a week, 12-hours a day.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (new board member William Fox is not yet eligible to vote on funding matters).

- 17. Discussion and motion to approve \$490.28 NWNC webmaster invoice for web services for the month of January 2016
 - Although Colleen Pick, Steven Koch and Peter Lasky have done a great job, especially Peter Lasky posting meeting announcements, sometimes NWNC must defer to a professional webmaster, whose billing rate is \$103/hour.
 - Brent Robinson suggested reaching out to the CSUN community, especially students in the computer sciences and/or engineering majors.
 - Melvin Canas mentioned that about 18-months ago, DONE issued the City Contractor's List of Authorized Vendors. It is the neighborhood council's decision whether to use someone from that list. If a neighborhood council uses a volunteer, there has been incidents of the volunteer becoming unreachable or disappearing with multiple passwords, user accounts, codes, etc.

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Steven Koch seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (new board member William Fox is not yet eligible to vote on funding matters).

18. Consideration of Executive Board recommendation to write a Community Impact Statement (CIS) opposing the proposed DWP water rate increase

- Colleen Pick attended an LADWP meeting; Susan Shelly, writer for the Daily News, showed the meeting attendees a sample downloadable form whereupon people can write "I PROTEST" and mail it to the city clerk by Wednesday, February 17.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to submit a CIS to oppose the LADWP rate increase, per council file CF15-1543; Brent Robinson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

19. Presidential Comments

- A recent meeting of the Department of Public Works highlighted the efforts that NWNC has done to beautify the neighborhood, including Operation Clean Sweep, etc.
 - a. Aliso Canyon Gas Leak update
 - Last Thursday, February 4, members of various state agencies met to discuss the condition of the leak.
 - Monday, February 8, there was an effort to "kill the well" by pouring dirt and mud, than topping it off with concrete. As of this morning, there was no confirmation that the well has been plugged.
 - The leak is 500' below grade, 8,500' underground, coming in diagonally at over 4,000'; someone used the analogy of multiple straw inserted into a watermelon.
 - Much of the energy from this well powers all the way down to Anaheim.
 - Southern California Gas Company has brought together crews from Texas, as well as those involved in excessive well disturbances in Iraq.
 - A pop-up station near Ralph's is available to assist people who have issues with the gas leak.
 - The full health impact report is still two or three months away.
 - b. Group Home (Sober Living) impacts on a community
 - Fred and two other neighbors of a potential sober living facility addressed the NWNC regarding a potential new sober living group rental home to be located near their homes, west of Tampa Avenue.
 - This group home will have no oversight by any city or state agency, including the Department of Public Health, and the neighbors are concerned about the type of clientele who will come to the neighborhood. There is often an increase in crime in areas that have group homes.
 - This particular location is ½-mile away from the nearest school, Beckford Elementary School.
 - The owners of the house reside in Las Vegas. The realtors have been very secretive about whether this would be a drug-free or alcohol-free group home.
 - The neighbors believe that this will be a business operating in a residential neighborhood. There is a zoning ordinance that allows people to live in such care facilities, as long as they have less than six residents. Oftentimes, these houses are 5,000 square feet; to create a profit, the owners will have more than six people reside in the house.
 - Jonathan Coto mentioned that he would reach out to his co-workers, Hannah Lee and Doug Tripp at Councilman Englander office.
 - Steven Koch strongly supports that the government look into this sober living facility. Prior to protesting this residential care facility, NWNC must find out as much as possible about this facility.
 - A stakeholder suggested that the three neighbors go online to the California Department of Real Estate and file a complaint against the realtor.

- A stakeholder mentioned that as this is an election year, Attorney General Kamala Harris is running for senate; perhaps this could become a campaign issue.

20. Committee Reports

- Debbie Penman mentioned a concern regarding Illegal dumping on Devonshire Boulevard. If you see these things, please report them by calling 800-773-2489. Tom Johnson added that the city has a free service for bulky item pick-up. Jonathan Coto added that if anyone has a problem with the how quickly the sanitation department is responding, please reach out to him at Councilman Englander's office.
- Website Committee chairwoman Colleen Pick mentioned that Peter Lasky has done a great job of keeping the website up-to-date.
- Peter Lasky, Chairman of the Tampa Medium Beautification Project reported that they met with Urban Forestry and other municipal agencies. Peter requests volunteers to help measure the height, weight, and width of the potential sculptures, and give that data to the civil engineering groups. This will be used to acquire the mandatory revocable permit.
- Tom Johnson requested Jonathan Coto's assistance for permits to remove the dead trees. Jonathan needs the street address of the trees to submit the mandatory permit paperwork.
- In preparation for the 2016-17 budget, Treasurer Glen Wilson will need to check all the financial statements to review what we are spending, what was approved, what has not yet been spent, etc.
- The Outreach, Government Affairs, and Education Committees currently lack chairmen; perhaps one of the three new board members (William Fox, Hayk Gasparyan, and Brent Robinson) may be interested in serving.
- Contrary to the previous month's speaker, Public Safety committee chairman Steven Koch supports WiFi throughout Los Angeles.

21. Comments by Board members on non-agenda items

- Ten days ago, Colleen's house was burglarized. A neighbor was able to photograph the thief leaving Colleen's house with her stolen CERT backpack. Today, the thief was arrested. Today's motto is that great neighbors and cameras are a wonderful idea.

22. Comments by Northridge Vision Rep, Glen Wilson

- There is no news regarding the Northridge Post Office or Northridge Vision from representative Glen Wilson.

23. Comments by Budget Advocates

- There were no comments by budget advocates at this evening's meeting.

24. Adjournment

- At 8:32PM, Tom Johnson made a motion to adjourn; Brent Robinson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED DURING THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2016.