

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 11 October 2016
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324

Call to Order and Roll Call

- President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order at 6.24PM and welcomed over twenty-four stakeholders, along with ten board members. Lloyd Dent performed the roll call.

Here (10)	Lloyd Dent, Hrug DerManuelian, Tom Johnson, Peter Lasky, Mikkie Loi, John Mah, Colleen Pick, David Uranga, Michelle Wells, and Glen Wilson
Absent (3)	Bill Fox, Brent Robinson, and Freddie Rymond

1. Pledge of Allegiance

- Peter Lasky led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Reports and Presentations by Public Officials

- a. Jessie Strobel, Field Deputy from Councilmember Englander’s Office, reported the following:
 - The drive-in screening of “Grease” at the Shadow Ranch Park attracted over 250 cars and 600 people. Wendy’s provided free food. Councilman Englander looks forward to repeating this event in 2017.
 - Tuesday, November 22, Councilman Englander will host a meeting with neighborhood council members and city officials at the Operation Gratitude station, 21100 Lassen Street, Chatsworth.
 - Thursday, October 20, at 10.20AM, will be the annual Great Shake Out; at that time, millions will practice drop, cover, and hold-on in this annual earthquake simulation drill.
 - A stakeholder asked about the Wilkinson Senior Center’s air conditioning; Jessie reported that the new cooling system is being installed.
 - Stakeholder Ron mentioned that Wilbur Avenue, between Devonshire and Nordhoff Streets, has reduced four traffic lanes to two to accommodate bicycles. Can these be transitioned back into traffic? Jesse mentioned that she would bring this to the attention of her co-workers.

3. General Public Comments on Non Agenda Items

- Volunteer Dierdre Balonia with Save Porter Ranch reported that Sunday, October 23, would be the one-year anniversary of the leak. A community fair will begin at 2PM at the Holleigh Bernson Memorial Park, 20500 Sesnon Boulevard, with music and activities for kids. Afterwards, they will walk en masse to the SCGC facility. The girl scouts will participate in this event; they hope to have the boy scouts participate as well.
- Tom Johnson asked what would be the effect if the natural gas goes away; Dierdre reported that since we get our energy from pipelines, we would not see any effect.
- The winter sustainability report was recently presented at city hall. Although this area has been through two major earthquakes (in 1971 and 1994), the 50-year-old concrete is crumbling and earthquakes remain a key concern.
- As there are over 3,000 acres on the hilltop, they could put a wind-farm there.
- Patricia LaCroix mentioned that Saturday, October 15, 3PM to 7PM, at Church Everyday, 17037 Devonshire Street, Northridge, there would be the North Valley Candidate Forum featuring the County’s 5th District Candidates Kathryn Barger and Darrell Park.

- Garry Davis from the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society discussed their Halloween Party, Saturday, October 29, 6PM to 10PM at the “Onion”, 9550 Haskell Avenue. Suggested donation is \$10 for ages 14+, children under 13 are free. There will be music, costume contests, fun, games, activities, pizza, and munches for everyone.
 - Glenn Bailey, President of the East Northridge Neighborhood Council reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) had their meeting in Woodland Hills, and attempted to merge with the North Valley; however, this was a violation.
 - Thanks to Peter and NWNC for being a financial sponsor for the November 10 Planning Workshop in Studio City; attendance is strongly recommended, yet advance registration is required.
 - The annual Congress of Neighborhood Councils was held at City Hall on Saturday, September 24, with over 800 attendees; please respond to the emailed survey. The 2017 Congress will be held on Saturday, September 16.
 - This month’s VANC meeting will be Thursday, October 13; special guests will include:
 - Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson from CD8, Chairman of the Homeless Committee, and
 - Councilman Herb Wessen from CD10, President of the City Council
4. Guest Speaker: Christy Smith, candidate for the 38th Assembly District seat
- As a two-term school board member for Santa Clarita, she understands all the volunteer work that goes into running a neighborhood council. Previously, she worked as an education policy analyst at the Department of Education under President Clinton.
 - This assembly district seat covers the area north of Devonshire, as well as Simi Valley and Santa Clarita.
 - Her key issues are women’s rights, environmental issues, California’s economy, affordable housing, and continuing to work on affordable medical care. She feels that Proposition 13 should not be adjusted. Contrastingly, her opponent is an anti-immigration tea party conservative.
 - A stakeholder asked what she meant by “leading the state in the right direction”. Christy replied that California has been a global leader in new energy and energy-related jobs; however, we cannot out-pace what the land can sustain. In addition to strong environmental issues, she would like to make certain that people can commute without a 90-minute drive, and thereby protect the quality of life that we all enjoy. After the election, she will invite people to her office on a regular basis to further discuss these issues.
 - A stakeholder mentioned that we are very over-extended by the state pensions. This issue has been kicked down the road for a while. Christy replied that the money going to the pension funds has not been held to the same level, and has been decreasing. A judge already determined that some of these pension contracts, as well as pensions for new employees, would be reduced. A stakeholder mentioned that some retirees are receiving 90% of their income from when they were working. It would be good to reduce that down to 70%.
 - Glenn Bailey mentioned that the north valley does not necessarily receive the same consideration as Simi Valley and Santa Clarita. Christy met with Brad Sherman and Henry Stern to ensure that the north valley receives the full level of consideration.
 - A stakeholder raised the concern that, in his lifetime, he has seen sales tax go from 4% to over 9%.
 - Christy mentioned that there are now term limits; she may be limited to twelve-years (she will run every two years). There is too much opaqueness in the state’s financial reports. She would like to see bills reviewable by the people three days before a vote, and the budget should be viewed a week before assembly voting.
 - 40% of the state’s budget is spent on public education; with more students than any other state, Christy is concerned that teachers continue to pay out-of-pocket for supplies. She mentioned that bonds are dedicated to certain funds, not necessarily to supplies.

5. President Peter Lasky Comments
 - a. Decorum at our meetings
 - Rather than how discussions were handled at last month's meeting, we will now ask that all board members raise their hands rather than jumping into the debate.
 - b. 6 month State of the Council/Community – since the April election of the new board:
 - In April, we were down to eight board members, two board members away from not having a quorum; we now have a full board, with a wait-list [just in case]
 - NWNC created safer communities by increasing the Neighborhood Watch Signs
 - NWNC worked with Northridge Sparkle by installing a flagpole along Reseda Boulevard
 - We purchased additional tables for the Calahan School
 - We are working to route water to save the trees on the Tampa Avenue medians
 - c. Loss of use of office at the Northridge Chamber of Commerce
 - The Chamber of Commerce was given 60-day notice to vacate their offices at 9401 Reseda Boulevard. We will now use the Calahan School for committee meetings (thanks to Principal Michelle).
 - d. Meeting with Shea Homes representative Kevin Harbinson on September 26
 - Peter Lasky and Michelle Wells had a successful meeting; Michelle was able to get the answers that she sought concerning the impact the 25 new homes will have on the Northridge schools.
6. Discussion and Consideration of a motion to install a drip system of the Tampa Avenue Medians.

“Motion to Create a \$10,000 funding line to install a drip system on Medians/Islands #2 to #5 on Tampa Avenue with said drip system to start at the median located immediately south of the 118 Freeway and to terminate at the median just north of Tunney/Germain Avenues, and the funding to come from the Community Improvement budget (category #300).” [Medians 6 & 7 currently do not have water service to them due to leaks under the street.]

 - This action will transfer \$6,810 from Operations, as well as \$1,390 from Outreach, with a total of \$8,200 to go towards the Community Improvement Project (CIP) account. This will leave Outreach with \$2,810 for special events.
 - Tom Johnson asked if a copy of the design was available; no, at this point, we are merely requesting a funding line. Tom asked if we could acquire the city's permission without a design; the response was affirmative, we have permission to hook into the main line. Tom also expressed concern that the gophers may chew on the rubber piping.
 - Don Larson of Northridge Sparkle added that the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council is also interested in co-funding this project on their median north of the 118-freeway.
 - Tom Johnson asked if there were multiple bids; we currently have two bids, we hope to acquire a third. At this time, we just want to create the funding line of up to \$10k to save the 62 at-risk trees.
 - A stakeholder asked about the trees; Don Larson replied that there were pine, oak, and other trees that have been there for 50+ years. The prior irrigation system failed, which led to the trees becoming stressed and at-risk of dying.
 - The ten people who work on the irrigation system will be via city-approved vendors; they may charge more, but they will be fully insured irrigation specialists.
 - Peter mentioned that the original plan for the city to repair these medians was estimated at \$500k. This was reduced to \$25k, now that it is at \$10k ... that seems very reasonable.
 - One bid was for \$12,400; but that was for the extra medians that are near underground water leaks. These leaks must be fixed prior to the drip irrigation installation.

- Hrug, Mikkie, and Tom felt that this is such a great deal of money, and without a definite plan, they may vote against this potential \$10k expenditure. Peter reiterated that this is to create a funding line, for a “show of good faith” to prove to a potential bidder that there is money to be spent. Peter realizes there is concern for the price. This \$10k is very good, compared to previous estimates of \$500k+.
- Last year, we spent \$650 to remove dead trees; without the irrigation system, we could spend over \$50k to remove the dead trees.
- One of Northridge’s top realtors, Chris Williams, mentioned that she drives up and down Tampa Avenue five times a day. She feels we must take pride in our median and our community, and we must take care of the land of which we are entrusted.
- Debbie Penman mentioned that when her family moved here eighteen years ago, Tampa Avenue looked great. However, if those trees die, it is doubtful that we will see such trees again in our lifetimes. If we don’t save these trees, who will?
- Peter Lasky made a motion to create up to a \$10k funding line to install a drip irrigation system along the Tampa Avenue medians; Lloyd Dent seconded the motion, and it passed

Yes (7)	Lloyd Dent, Peter Lasky, Mikkie Loi, John Mah, Colleen Pick, Michelle Wells, and Glen Wilson
No (2)	Hrug DerManuelian and Tom Johnson
Ineligible (1)	David Uranga
Absent (3)	Bill Fox, Brent Robinson, and Freddie Rymond

7. Discussion and consideration of a motion to revise the previous budget drafted in July 2017 with the following changes:

- a. Transfer of
 - i. \$6,810 from Operations (category #100) and
 - ii. \$1,390 from Outreach (category #200) to the drip system project in Community Improvement (category #300), and
- b. Re-allocation of \$3,600 within Community Improvement (category #300) to the drip system project.”
- This action will result in the following balances:

Category	Amount Remaining
100 Operations	\$2,855
200 Outreach	1,800
300 CIP	501
400 NPG	1700

- In addition, \$1,400 will remain in CIP (of the originally budgeted \$2,400) that would have been allocated to the Reseda Boulevard medians (which we no longer need to support).
- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the amended budget; Michelle Wells seconded the motion, and it passed:

Yes (7)	Lloyd Dent, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Colleen Pick, David Uranga, Michelle Wells, and Glen Wilson
No (3)	Hrug DerManuelian, Tom Johnson, and Mikkie Loi
Absent (3)	Bill Fox, Brent Robinson, and Freddie Rymond

8. Motion to confirm the presidential appointment per the bylaws (Article VII, Sec. 3B) Planning and Land Use Zoning (PLUZ) Committee on the recommendation of Committee Chair John Mah

- Lloyd Dent made a motion to appoint Hrug DerManuelian, John Manual, and Brian Reff to the PLUZ Committee; John Mah seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

9. Motion to confirm the presidential appointment per the bylaws (Article VII, Sec.3B) of Don Larson and Andrea Alvarado to the Beautification Committee at the request of Committee Chair Glen Wilson
 - Glen Wilson made a motion to appoint Don Larson and Andrea Alvarado to the Beautification Committee; David Uranga seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
10. Motion to confirm the presidential appointment per the bylaws (Article VII, Sec. 3C) of Michelle Wells as Chair of the Education Committee
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to appoint Calahan School Principal Michelle Wells Chairwoman of the Education Committee; David Uranga seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
11. Motion to approve the minutes from the September 2016 Board Meeting
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the September minutes; Michelle Wells seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
12. Treasurer’s Report by Glen Wilson and approval of the September 2016 MER (Monthly Expense Report)
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the September MER; Michelle Wells seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
September 4	Sandwich Platter	Outreach	Subway	\$ 39.50
September 6	Storage	Operations	Golden State Storage	103.50
September 7	Signs for Operation Clean Sweep	CIP	Printmoz.com	256.89
September 12	Communications/Website	Outreach	Moore Business Results	409.47
September 12	Advertising	Outreach	Decision Publications	315.00
September 12	Office Space/Storage	Operations	Decision Publications	150.00
September 12	Keys for Golden State Storage	Operations	Lowe’s	4.29
September 13	Minute Taker	Operations	Apple One	150.15
September 14	Fajitas for General Meeting	Outreach	Baja Fresh	141.68
September 22	Sandwich Platter	Outreach	Subway	34.00
September 19	Materials to Make 5 Sign Stands	CIP	Lowe’s	231.72
September	Minute Taker	Operations	Apple One	57.75
			TOTAL	<u>\$1,893.95</u>

13. Treasurer’s Report by Glen Wilson and approval of the August 2016 MER as restated
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the restated August MER; David Uranga seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
August 4	Storage	Operations	Golden State Storage	\$ 103.50
August 11	Pizza for General Meeting	Outreach	Pizza Hut	60.76
August 18	Renewal Hosting for Northridgewest.org	Outreach	2CO*ICDSOFT	96.00
August 19	Neoprene Masks	CIP	Harbor Freight Tools	49.03
August 19	Advertising	Outreach	Decision Publications	315.00
August 19	Office Space/Storage	Operations	Decision Publications	150.00
August 22	Minute Taker	Operations	Apple One	115.50
August 26	Business Cards	Operations	Print Firm	284.27
August 29	Communications/Website	Outreach	Moore Business Results	234.84
August 26	Repair Power Unit	CIP	Marco’s Hardware & Garden	25.15
			TOTAL	<u>\$1,434.05</u>

14. Comments by Budget Reps Glen Wilson and Brent Robinson

- Glen Wilson reported that he has been unable to attend these meetings.

15. Comments by Northridge Vision Reps Glen Wilson and Peter Lasky

- Glen Wilson reported that he has been unable to attend these meetings.

16. Comments and Updates by Committee Chairs

- Glen Wilson reported that the Neighborhood Council Funding Office has moved to the 2nd floor of City Hall. In addition, they are considering QuickBooks for the neighborhood council treasurers.
- Glen Wilson reported that the Beautification Committee is back on track. Thursday morning's project will be along Wilbur Avenue from the 118 to Kenya Street.
- Michelle Wells reported that the Education Committee has not yet had a meeting. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact her.
- Regarding the PLUZ Committee, John Mah reported that a developer has submitted an application for an 88-unit assisted living center near Corbin Avenue and Prairie Street (where there is currently a parking structure).
- Mikkie Loi reported that the November 5 CPR class has sold out, yet they have a wait-list in the event a registered enrollee drops out.
- Mikkie also reported that Friday night, October 14, would be the Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) 21st Annual "All You Can Eat" Pasta Dinner for \$10 at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 9501 Balboa Boulevard. The money raised provides the officers in the Devonshire Division of the LAPD with resources that the city does not provide, such as cellular telephone holsters, etc.
- Over 3,000 people attended the very successful 9th Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair on Saturday, October 1. The 10th Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness fair will take place at Fire Station 87 at 10124 Balboa Boulevard on Saturday, October 7, 2017, 10AM to 2PM; registration opens on Saturday, July 1.

17. Comments by Board Members on Non-Agenda Items

- Lloyd Dent read a letter from Council President Herb Wessen asking for input regarding cannabis/marijuana. There are many issues that go into the sale of cannabis, including environmental concerns and what do to about money (this is usually a cash-business, as federal financial institutions cannot process this money). Council President Wesson has asked that these issues be agendized by neighborhood councils. Friday, October 21, Council President Wesson will hold a meeting in Van Nuys to discuss this issue.

18. Adjournment

- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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