

**APPROVED**  
**Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)**  
**General Public Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, 13 June 2017**  
**Calahan Elementary School Auditorium**  
**18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance
  - President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order and welcomed over fifteen stakeholders, along with eight board members.

Here (8)	Cynthia Conteas-Wood, Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, Peter Lasky, Jon Manuel, Colleen Pick, Brent Robinson, and Glen Wilson
Absent (4)	Hrug DerManuelian, Tom Johnson, Mikki Loi, and Freddie Rymond
Resigned (1)	Michelle Wells

- Peter Lasky led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Comments by Public Officials

- Jessie Strobel, Field Deputy for Councilman Mitchell Englander, reported two recent motions of interest to Northridge residents:
  - Installation of rumble strips to prevent illegal street racing on Plummer Street between Canoga Avenue and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. These new strips are akin to speed bumps, only more abrasive to vehicles engaged in street racing. However, they will not affect emergency vehicles (as speed bumps do).
  - He also introduced a motion (along with councilman Bonin) to clear the maintenance backlog on LAFD helicopters; Memorial Day weekend, 50% of the fleet was offline. New helicopters will debut in July.
- Saturday, June 24, beginning at 8.30AM, Councilman Englander will host Donuts and Donations at the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission. People are encouraged to drop off donations and learn more about everything CD12 and the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission are doing to combat homelessness issues.
- Councilman Englander has sufficient funds in his budget to sponsor buses to be used for upcoming field trips; if interested, please contact Jonathan Coto at the CD12 office.
- A stakeholder expressed concern about the loss of street racing in the San Fernando Valley, as racing is an integral part of the history of the valley.

3. Guest speaker, Wayne Williams, Board Member of the California Clean Money Campaign, requesting board support for two items:

- A resolution requesting the City Council vote on David Ryu's motion directing the Ethics Commission to prepare an ordinance on increasing the city's public matching funds rate to 6:1 and to hold a vote on Councilmember Mike Bonin's motion requesting the Commission consider a ballot measure for the 2018 election cycle asking Los Angeles voters to decide whether they want a full public financing system for all city elected offices and a letter to City Council President Herb Wesson asking him to support the above.
- Wayne Williams works with Common Cause to up the ante in public funding of elections; he hopes to present a draft CIS to the NWNC regarding Councilman Ryu's 6:1 match program. This will raise an additional \$6 for every dollar raised; the current ratio is 2:1. This additional funding will transition funding from wealthy donors to the common electorate. New York City, Portland,

and Berkeley already have this in place. This money will come from an already established trust fund, not from the city's budget.

- Wayne hopes this request for clean money elections will be placed in front of the city council.
- These two issues have been tied up in the Rules Committee for over a year; the head of this committee, Councilman Herb Wesson, is also president of the city council.
- Councilman Englander has not yet taken a stand on this issue. However, a few neighborhood councils have voted on these statements; it is unknown if any of the neighborhood councils from the San Fernando Valley have endorsed them.
- **Wayne Williams brought several copies of a handout and sample letter/resolution to the meeting; regretfully, the minute-taker was unable to attain that paper. Additional information can be found at caclean.org's website at <http://www.caclean.org/laproject>**
- **Lloyd Dent made a motion to support this agenda item; there was no second, and the motion died.**

4. Comments from stakeholders on non-agenda items.

- Andrew Krowne (who is also the treasurer of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC), and his wife Jennifer feel is very distasteful for SoCalGas to donate money to the Northridge community, considering there are many people suffering because of SoCalGas's mishandling of their property in this area.

5. Presidential Comments

- a. Thanks to Glen Wilson for organizing our participation in the Hawaiian Festival and to board members Jon Manuel, Mikkie Loi, Cynthia Contreas-Wood and stakeholder Ron Wengler
- b. Resignation of Michelle Wells
  - Because of a problem with an issue of possible conflict with ~~a conflict of interest and~~ an NPG, Michelle has resigned. Even though Principal Michelle recused herself from all discussion and voting, Peter feels bad that he gave her inaccurate information regarding the Calahan School receiving NPG funds.
- c. End of fiscal year and accomplishments
  - We received a number of accolades (including from the US House of Representatives, California legislature, as well as the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC)) for the installation of the Tampa Median Drip System. The dying trees and poor condition is something that we have struggled with for years and this board, along with stakeholders Debbie Penman and Don Larson, was finally ably to come up with a plan and implement it. Hopefully this will be a start and not the end of our progress on the largest visible unused piece of land in our area.
  - We also received recognition for our support to the LAPD's Community Advisory Board.
  - We financially supported the YMCA Thanksgiving Food Drive to feed the hungry in our community, the Northridge Library, Northridge Park, the Senior Dance, the Mayor's Great Streets Initiative (with help to put a flagpole at Parthenia Street and Reseda Boulevard).
  - We put on a successful First Aid/CPR training thanks to Bill, Mikkie and Michelle that helped our stakeholders and teachers get or retain their certification at no cost to them.
  - We supported and helped the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair that drew over 1,000 people.

- The Beautification Committee's Operation Clean Sweep, led by Glen Wilson and stakeholders Ron Wengler, Debbie Penman, Gail Lapaz, Diane Garlock, and Chris Williams, continues to roll along removing tons of debris from our streets
  - The Public Land Use and Zoning Committee influenced the Zoning Commission to adopt a safety suggestion made by Jon Manuel and other committee members Hrug DerManuelian, Glen Wilson and stakeholder Brian Reff.
  - Thanks to Mikkie Loi who improved our website and Facebook page by featuring articles that are more personal about us, better reflect what we are doing, and encourage feedback from the community.
  - We lowered our operating cost by 45%.
  - This year, thanks to Glen Wilson, Brent Robinson, Bill Fox, Mikkie Loi and stakeholder Brian Reff, the Bylaws Committee proposed and the board adopted a totally new set of Bylaws. While all of this is good, we need to look at areas that call out for improvement.
  - There are three areas that we need to address: Financial control, stronger board support for our activities, and outreach.
  - This last year we found out that we spent \$6,400 more than we thought. It is easy to blame the treasurer but everyone bears responsibility for this. After we approved NPGs for the \$1,500 Flagpole (in September) and \$1,000 for the YMCA (in October), the January MER showed that we spent zero.
- d. Possible grant from the SoCalGas
- Per advice from the city attorney, this agenda item was tabled.
- e. Outreach
- Outreach is an area that I feel we have always done poorly. It can be improved. This is our connection to the community. It should bring us new board members, encourage interested stakeholders to join committees and elicit suggestions and interest from the community. Our results are not good. Next year is more critical, as we will have seven board seats up for election. Outreach needs to work with the Election Committee to ensure that we have good turnout and to recruit interested and motivated candidates.
  - Outreach has been unfairly placed solely on Glen Wilson; it is unfair to make one person the face and voice of the entire board. This is everyone's responsibility. Our community needs to see that the NWNC is more than Glen Wilson; it is all of you, and we come in different sizes, shapes, colors, ages, genders with different ideas and visions of what our community can be.
  - On a more fundamental level, we do way too much of the same thing year after year with little thought about what our goals are and how to accomplish them. We are at the same events, poorly prepared and understaffed. Our giveaways listed on our spinning wheel previously attracted people, the wheel prizes consisted of pens, pens, pens, and more pens, candy, our brochures, bags, and extra large shirts.
  - We need better planning and to look at what events CD12, CSUN, our local schools, churches, and the Chamber of Commerce are involved in that maybe we can piggyback on. We also need to look at what other neighborhood councils are doing.
  - We need to have the Outreach Committee have meetings, assist the other committees, and reach out to the community.
  - I welcome your input on these thoughts and also your suggestions for the next year.

6. Discussion and motion to approve the Monthly Expense Report for May 2017

Date	Vendor	Category	Item	Amount
May 9	Decision Publications	Outreach	Advertising	\$ 315.
May 11	Mail Box World	Operations	One Year Extension of Mailbox	228.
May 12	Moore Business Results	Outreach	Website Maintenance	200.
May 31	Southern California Preparedness	NPG	Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair	850.
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,593.</u></b>

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jon Manuel seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (6)	Dent, Fox, Lasky, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (2)	Conteas-Wood and Robinson
Absent (4)	DerManuelian, Johnson, Loi, and Rymond

7. Discussion and motion to approve a budget for the 2017/18 fiscal year

100	Operations	LAUSD	1,180	10,870	25.88%
		Golden State Storage	1,400		
		Temporary Staffing, Minute Taker	1,500		
		Mailbox Rental	250		
		Congress of NCs	1,000		
		Budget Representatives	250		
		NC Awards Dinner	500		
		Miscellaneous	4,790		
200	Outreach	Advertising, Articles	3,780	9,080	21.62%
		Meeting Expenses, Food, Miscellaneous	1,200		
		Website Hosting and Renewal	200		
		Website	2,400		
		Miscellaneous Events	1,200		
300	Community Improvement	Dead Tree Removal on Tampa Avenue	2,100	5,300	12.62%
		Tampa Median Drip System	2,800		
		Clean Sweep Miscellaneous (tools, repairs, etc.)	400		
400	Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG)	YMCA	1,000	8,750	20.83%
		Disaster Preparedness Fair	850		
		Senior Dance	500		
		Unknown Requests	2,000		
		Northridge Beautification	4,400		
500	Elections	Mailers and Postage	6,000	8,000	19.05%
		Miscellaneous	2,000		
		Grand Total	42,000	42,000	100.0%

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jon Manuel seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (6)	Dent, Fox, Lasky, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (2)	Conteas-Wood and Robinson
Absent (4)	DerManuelian, Johnson, Loi, and Rymond

8. Motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2017 Meeting

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jon Manuel seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (7)	Conteas-Wood, Dent, Fox, Lasky, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Robinson
Absent (4)	DerManuelian, Johnson, Loi, and Rymond

9. Motion to approve the minutes of the May 31st Special Board Meeting

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jon Manuel seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (7)	Conteas-Wood, Dent, Fox, Lasky, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Robinson
Absent (4)	DerManuelian, Johnson, Loi, and Rymond

10. Reports by liaisons

- Northridge Vision liaison Peter Lasky reported that the NWNC had a special meeting/field trip to visit the future Hyatt Place at the south end of CSUN. This hotel will have 148 rooms, multiple conference and meeting rooms, as well as 135 parking spaces. Although this calculates to less than one parking space per room, athletic teams [to be bussed to the hotel] will occupy many of the rooms.

11. Reports by Committee Chairs

- Budget/Finance Committee Chairman Glen Wilson reported that NPGs would be reviewed earlier during the 2017/18 fiscal year, rather than waiting until the springtime. Cynthia Conteas-Wood asked if NWNC advertises that NPG funds are available; Peter replied that organizations that want money come to us.
- Bill Fox from the Safety Committee reported that a large number of booklets, stickers, and neighborhood watch signs have been ordered. They will work with the LAPD for the most effective place to post and distribute this material. Mikkie Loi and Michelle Wells for all their volunteer work this past year.
- Lloyd Dent added that the year-end wrap-up should include the sober living home issue; he thanked Assemblyman Dababneh for **helping** his promise to support legislation to regulate sober living homes in California.
- Peter Lasky mentioned that he discussed, with the city attorney, the language within the NPG application to prevent conflicts of interest. The seven-page ethics document did not discuss conflicts of interest, and implies the action of NWNC was satisfactory. As Michelle recused herself from any vote, this should have been okay. In addition, this action would prohibit school principals from participating in neighborhood councils. Perhaps the PTA (a separate non-profit) should have submitted the Calahan School's NPG?

12. Comments by board members on non-agenda items

- Brent Robinson added that he is grateful for all the efforts that the NWNC is trying to do.

13. Adjournment

- President Peter Lasky adjourned the meeting at 7.42PM.