

**Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
 General Public Board Meeting  
 Tuesday, 12 September 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 at 6.28PM and welcomed over twelve stakeholders, along with [eventually] eight board members.

Here (8)	Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, Jenni Heckscher, Peter Lasky, Mikkie Loi, Jon Manuel, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Freddie Rymond
Resigned (2)	Cynthia Conteas-Wood and Brent Robinson

- Peter Lasky led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Comments by Public Officials

- Field Deputy Jessie Strobel from Councilman Englander’s office reported that homelessness is a key issue. Councilman Englander hopes to manage the problem, rather than trying to fix it as it arises. Field Deputy Colin Crews is taking the lead on this activity. CD12 is funding the LAPD’s Homeless Outreach Partnership Endeavor (HOPE) that works with the Sanitation Department to clean up homeless campsites.
- Friday, August 18 (8/18), Councilman Englander introduced iNOV818 to reimagine the Chatsworth/Northridge industrial core and reinforce the historic role of the San Fernando Valley as the region’s primary hub for new industries and technology. This partnership between CD12 and the City Planning Department will develop an inventory of assets in the area, including transportation, housing, infrastructure, schools, fiber and internet speed capabilities, power assessments and the unique culture of the West Valley.
- Councilman Englander introduced a motion for waste franchises to allow businesses to share trash bins.
- Saturday, September 23, 10AM to 2PM, CD12 and the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission will host “Donuts & Donations”, at the site of the former Sports Chalet, 19817 Rinaldi Street (at Porter Ranch Drive). They will collect gently used clothing and household items for homeless individuals. Coffee and donuts will be served.
- Gibson Nyambura from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported that September is recognition month for neighborhood councils; the display at the city hall bridge highlights people and councils who have been honored. In addition, Gibson presented an award to Peter Lasky and the NWNC.
- General Manager Gracye Liu asked all neighborhood councils to complete a demographic survey; this can be done via the empowerla website.
- Later this month, the city council will take a vote on postponing the 2018 neighborhood council elections to 2019. By moving elections to odd years, this will allow the city clerk to compartmentalize elections, neighborhood councils will receive more benefits, and this will reduce confusion with municipal elections.
- Gibson explained that NavigateLA is a new web-based mapping application that delivers maps and reports based on data supplied by various city and county departments, such as the Bureau of Engineering, Building and Safety, Sewer, Public Works, and the County Assessor’s office.
- Armine Sargsyan, Field Representative for Assembly Matthew Dababneh reported that the assembly is in its final stretch. Three bills sponsored by Assembly Dababneh are with Governor Brown:

- AB 611. This authorizes a reporter of suspected financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult to not honor a power of attorney if the reporter has made a report to an adult protective services agency or local law enforcement.
- AB 1194. This increases transparency for voters regarding the effects that local bond measures may have on their residential property taxes.
- AB1620. This will strengthen the current “revolving door” restrictions on elected officials in the Legislature, further discouraging them from resigning mid-term to take well-paid governmental relations jobs. This bill would extend the current one-year cooling off period provided in the Political Reform Act to also include the time between resigning until the last day of the current two-year session.
- Thursday, October 5, 2PM to 3.30PM, Assemblyman Dababneh will host a town hall meeting that will focus on issues for seniors at the ONE Generation Senior Enrichment Center, 18255 Victory Boulevard, Reseda.

3. Guest Speaker, Jill Stewart, Executive Director, Coalition to Preserve LA

- 1979 was the last time the General Plan of LA was updated; no one alive was involved with the drafting of this General Plan.
- Per the California Official Guidelines, “a General Plan should start with a shared community vision that will help set priorities throughout the planning process and inform decision-makers about community values”.
- LA has a closed-door government, and it is becoming progressively more closed.
- LA has a great deal of money in its treasury, yet those funds are not being spent on parks and other such useful expenses. We lag behind fifty USA cities with an urban tree canopy. Pasadena protects four-times as many trees as LA.
- Thirty neighborhood councils have written letters to Mayor Garcetti, requesting public meetings and a complete do-over.
- Jill provided the board members with a handout, with suggestions that NWNC could do to make LA more open.

4. Comments from stakeholders on non-agenda items

- Glenn Bailey from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) reported that over eight hundred people attended the September 9 Congress of Neighborhood Councils. In case you missed a presentation, they were audio-recorded. DONE used a new caterer this year, please contact them if you have any comments on the food and/or service.
- Glenn reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) would meet on Thursday, September 14. Newly appointed [by Mayor Garcetti and approved by city council] Commissioners Aura Garcia (from the northeast valley) and Joy Atkinson (from south LA) will be there, along with Councilman David Ryu who oversees neighborhood councils.
- Celia from Pacoima Beautiful reported that they hold Urban Gardening workshops with Steve List, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. Steve is a passionate horticulture teacher with over forty-years of experience teaching sustainable urban gardening. Everyone is urged to join them and learn about gardening in urban spaces as well as the many uses of compost and mulch. These monthly workshops are held at the LA Sanitation Lopez Canyon Environmental Education Center, 11950 Lopez Canyon Road, Lakeview Terrace from 9AM to 11AM. The following are the next ten workshops:

September 23, 2017	Pollinator Gardens-Bees, Butterflies and Hummingbirds
October 28, 2017	Winter Vegetables
November 25, 2017	Water Harvesting and Management
January 27, 2018	Pruning and Trimming Fruit Trees and Planting Bare-Root
February 24, 2018	Container Gardening and Green Walls
March 24, 2018	Spring Vegetables
April 28, 2018	California – Friendly Herb Gardens

May 26, 2018	Propagating Succulents
June 23, 2018	Fairy Gardens
July 28, 2018	Installing Drip Irrigation

- Doris Dent reported on a high number of accidents along Tampa Avenue, between Devonshire and Lassen Streets; there are so many speeders, the LAPD should do traffic control.
- Stakeholder Mike, along with his wife Marcie, attended the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. They saw two people from NWNK there, but they feel it would have been nice if more NWNK members were there.

5. Presidential Comments:

- A. Drip System Signs have been installed along Tampa Avenue; only a few of these signs have been stolen.
- B. Don Larson and Peter met with the Urban Forestry Department (UFD) who hold NWNK in high esteem.
- C. The Los Angeles County Superior Court is seeking qualified citizens who are interested in serving with the LA County Civil Grand Jury. These people investigate county, city, and joint-power agencies and act as “watch dogs” by carefully examining the operations of various government agencies within LA County. An applicant must be a US citizen, 18-years or older, resident of LA for at least a year, possess sound judgment, fair character, ordinary intelligence, and have working knowledge of the English language. Applicants must be willing to work four or five days a week, and earn \$60 for each full day of service. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, November 3. Doris Dent added that she applied to be on the county grand jury, but they wanted her to be available fifty-weeks a year.
- D. A recent meeting of the Beautification Committee included discussion that the Outreach Committee was not doing enough to bring new people to the Beautification Committee; two stakeholders called the NWNK “clueless”. If anyone wants things to be different, they need to become involved. Everyone should be doing outreach, such as introducing themselves to neighbors, etc. You fail to achieve your goals when you lack the courage to bring your ideas forward.

6. Confirmation of the recommendation of Gail Lapaz, by the Executive Committee to fill the 2018 At-Large that is now open

- Gail is a retired teacher from Chatsworth High School, and an active Operation Clean Sweep volunteer. She has been coming to the NWNK meetings for several years. In 2016, she was named “Senior of the Year”. Regretfully, Gail could not attend tonight’s meeting, as she committed to an event several months ago.
- Stakeholder Marcie suggested postponing this election until Gail could appear in person. As we have several empty seats on the board, Peter Lasky requested to proceed.
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item; Mikkie Loi seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and motion to approve the creation of a new committee on Homelessness

- A few weeks ago, Peter Lasky attended a meeting at the mayor’s house; following Mayor Garcetti’s query, it was revealed that merely 50% of neighborhood councils have homeless committees.
- Mikkie Loi made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and motion by the board to confirm the appointment by the President of Gail Lapaz per, Article VII, Committees and Their Duties, Section 3-C to be the chair of the Homelessness Committee

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

9. Consideration by the board to ratify the appointment of Gisela Tarifa to serve on the Homelessness Committee and the Outreach Committee per the Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3-B

- Pierce College student Gisela Tarifa has lived in Northridge since she was seven-years-old (having previously lived in Pacoima). She attended the Reseda Block Party this summer, and it inspired her to become involved with NWNC and the community.
  - Lloyd Dent made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
10. Motion and discussion to approve an updated list of Committee Chairs, Co- Chairs and members
- An updated list of committee chairs and members was distributed.
  - The Education Committee seeks a new chairperson as Cynthia Conteas-Wood resigned and is no longer on that committee. This will be dealt with during the October NWNC meeting.
  - Glen Wilson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
11. Discussion and motion to approve the appointment of Gail Lapaz and Gisela Tarifa to be the Homelessness Liaisons
- Mikkie Loi made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
12. Discussion and consideration of a recommendation by the Beautification Committee to place a topiary scene of ranch animals that might have been found on a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ranch in the San Fernando Valley. The scene could include horse(s), cow(s), chicken(s), pig(s), a ranch hand and sheep on one of the Tampa Medians
- Don Larson is ready to start on this project; he has already spoken with Jerry, and he will meet with John (a plant expert), from the UFD.
  - Bill Fox asked about cost; Don replied that it might be \$100/each. Peter suggested capping it at \$6k.
  - Mikkie Loi asked if this would involve additional watering; Peter Lasky and Don Larson told her these new plants would be spliced into the existing watering system.
  - Lloyd Dent asked if this would interfere with the new drip system; there will be no conflict.
  - A stakeholder asked if the drip system installer would provide a diagram as to where the drip system is located; Peter Lasky has already requested these diagrams from the installer.
  - Jenni Heckscher asked which median would receive the topiary; Don Larson has not yet decided which median.
  - Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item (along with agenda items 13 and 14); Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
13. Discussion and consideration of a recommendation of the Beautification Committee to authorize NWNC to approve the submission of the Adopt-A-Median/Adopt-A-Spot Application Packet
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item (along with agenda items 12 and 14); Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
14. Discussion and consideration of approving a funding line of up to \$6,000 to be used for either a Neighborhood Purchase Grant (NPG) for Northridge Beautification 501c3 or as a Community Improvement Project, to fund the above Tampa Median Project. The funding will be null and void if the application meets any of the following conditions: is not submitted, not approved, or if it cannot be done for the amount authorized by the funding line or cannot be started by March of 2018
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item (along with agenda items 12 and 13); Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
15. Discussion and motion to approve \$250 in support of the VANC Planning and Transportation Forum to be held on November 9, 2017

- This forum will be held at the CBS Studios, Studio City during the evening of Thursday, November 9. Stakeholders are welcome to attend; however, as this is on a secure studio lot, advance registration is required.
  - JCS Catering will provide food for this event.
  - Director of Planning for the City Planning Department, Vincent Bertoni, has confirmed his attendance.
  - Glen Wilson made a motion to approve this agenda item (along with agenda items 16); Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
16. Discussion and motion to approve \$250 in support of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mixer to be held on 3/8/2018 at CBS Studios. Open to stakeholders and board members but pre-registration is required. Vendor is JCS Catering
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that four neighborhood councils have already voted to approve this expenditure.
  - Glen Wilson made a motion to approve this agenda item (along with agenda items 15); Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
17. Discussion and motion of a recommendation by the Beautification to approve up to \$150 for maintenance supplies for Operation Clean Sweep
- These tools are stored either in the NWNC shed or at Glen Wilson's house.
  - Mikkie Loi asked if the city maintained an inventory of such items; it was mentioned that the city seems to care more about valuable electronics than gardening supplies.
  - Lloyd Dent made a motion to approve this agenda item; Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
18. Discussion and motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$750 for advertising and promotional items to be given away at NWNC Outreach Events
- NWNC has many pens and other disaster-related items for the upcoming disaster fair. The tote bags, with the logo printed upon them, may cost approximately \$1.50/each. Jenni Heckscher recommended little flashlights and/or cellular car charges.
  - Bill Fox added that when we have free stuff for give-away, more people are attracted to the NWNC booth. Peter Lasky added that the spinning wheel also attracts people to the NWNC booth.
  - Jenni Heckscher made a motion to approve this agenda item; Mikkie Loi seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
19. Discussion and motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$50 for NWNC labels to be placed on items to be given away at NWNC Outreach events or to identify NWNC property
- Jon Manuel mentioned that this \$50 would procure approximately 3,000 labels to put onto items.
  - Jenni Heckscher made a motion to approve this agenda item; Mikkie Loi seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
20. Discussion and Motion to approve the renewal of the LADWP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that this would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> five-year renewal of this MOU.
  - Bill Fox mentioned that the MOU section 3.4 mentions available speakers; perhaps NWNC could use those speakers.
  - Lloyd Dent made a motion to approve this agenda item; Glen Wilson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
21. Discussion and motion to approve the appointment of Gisela Tarifa as the alternate representative to the DWP NC Committee and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) Representative
- These meetings are frequently back-to-back, so it is likely that Gisela Tarifa will be able to attend both meetings.

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

22. Motion to approve Minutes from 2/14/2017 special meeting minutes, 4/26/ 17 special meeting minutes, 5/09/2017 Combined Meeting and Special Meeting minutes, 8/08/2017 general and special meeting minutes
- Colleen Pick made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (6)	Fox, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (2)	Dent and Heckscher
Absent (1)	Rymond

23. Discussion and Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report

- Treasurer Jenni Heckscher downloaded the August Monthly Expenditure Report (MER); this will be discussed during the October NWNC meeting.
- Future meetings will include a tutorial on using the online funding program.
- Glenn Bailey added that he [along with stakeholder Brian] serve on the committee that is tweaking this online finance portal; if anyone has any questions, concerns, or input, please reach out to them.

24. Reports by Liaisons: Northridge Vision, Homelessness, LADWP

- Peter Lasky reported that the Reseda Boulevard Summer Series is over.
- Jon Manuel and Mikkie Loi attended the CSUN Day of Service on Saturday, September 9 (same day as the Congress of Neighborhood Councils).
- There was talk of a potential new neighborhood council for Northridge, between Northridge East and Northridge West; no action has been taken on this issue.
- A sculpture garden, considered for the Tampa Avenue medians, has moved to the southwest corner of Zelzah Avenue and Nordhoff Street, opposite the CSUN letters. This garden will be a very nice area to walk through. In addition, the sculptor is a graduate of CSUN, so having it closer to the campus is great.
- Gisela Tarifa attended the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and Homeless Coalition meeting in downtown LA. They discussed how registries are collecting information, and how food pantries and clinics could assist the homeless. LAHSA helps the homeless people use the benefits offered by the city. They are generating a list of food pantries (such as near Chase Street and Winnetka Avenue) as well as public restrooms. LAHSA is also organizing their annual homeless count, oftentimes held at the end of January. There was also discussion regarding the new hepatitis epidemic and the dispensing of free vaccinations.
- Someone asked about the different between calling 211, 311, and 911
  - 211 Is to access information
  - 311 Is to report non-emergency issues, such as a homeless encampment
  - 911 For emergencies, if you feel you or your possessions are in immediate danger
- Glen Wilson reported that LADWP’s water supply is coming from Northern California. The cost of moving the water through the delta is the most expensive part.

25. Report by Budget Advocates

- There are three budget advocates for each of the regions; their terms align with the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). These advocates meet twice a month; their next meeting will be Saturday, September 16 in West LA. After that meeting, the advocates will email a news-blast.

26. Reports by Committee Chairs

- Jon Manuel, from the Outreach Committee, mentioned that social media is a great opportunity for improvement. The NWNC mailing list is up 6% while the Twitter and Facebook accounts are up 4%. The Outreach Committee hopes to acquire a presence on Instagram and Next Door. Councilman Englander recently re-tweeted news that was found on NWNC’s Twitter account. A recent posting concerning

serving on the Grand Jury was so well received [seen by over 1,000 people] that NWNC received a \$10 Facebook advertising credit.

- Peter Lasky represented NWNC at the last Reseda Boulevard Block Party on Friday, September 1.
- The LA City Council recently honored NWNC; a video of this recognition is on NWNC’s Facebook page.
- Saturday, September 9, Jon Manuel and Mikkie Loi participated in CSUN’s Day of Service, which attracted over 200 attendees; this resulted in a great many email sign-ups. Many CSUN students were very interested in the Operation Clean Sweep. However, there is a scheduling conflict [with their classes] on Thursday mornings. Perhaps Operation Clean Sweep could move to an occasional weekend?
- Saturday, October 7, the Outreach Committee will have a very strong presence at the Disaster Preparedness Fair in the northwest corner of the Northridge Fashion Center parking area (near the theatres).
- Business cards and badges should be available at the October meeting.
- The Outreach Committee will meet again on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6.15PM here at the Calahan School.
  
- Bill Fox from the Public Safety Committee mentioned that they are working on the distribution of twenty-five large Neighborhood Watch signs. They also have a great many smaller neighborhood watch stickers.
- Glen Wilson was not 100% certain that the Beautification Committee would have a cleanup on Thursday, September 14; please check the NWNC website for Operation Clean Sweep updates.

27. Comments by Board Members on non agenda items

- Mikkie Loi reminded everyone of the importance and usefulness of Neighborhood Watch; the following is their upcoming meeting schedule (all meetings begin at 7PM):

Thursday, September 14	Saint Nicolas Greek Orthodox Church 17037 Plummer Street, Northridge
Thursday, September 21	Garden Christian Fellowship Church 20745 Nordhoff Street, Chatsworth
Tuesday, September 26	Granada Hills Charter School 10535 Zelzah Avenue, Room A7, Granada Hills
Wednesday, September 27	Calahan Elementary School Auditorium 18722 Knapp Street, Northridge
Thursday, September 28	Saint John Eudes Church 9901 Mason Avenue, Chatsworth
Tuesday, October 10	Saint Euphrasia Church 11767 Shoshone Avenue, Granada Hills

- Mikkie Loi reported that the October Neighborhood Watch meetings would involve training community leaders and neighborhood block captains.
- Lloyd Dent mentioned an article that appeared in the Saturday (September 9) Daily News. Air BNBs were projected to collect \$12m in tax revenue from short-term rentals in Los Angeles; they actually collected nearly \$40m. There are currently 50,900 active Air BNB units, with 2m annual guests, throughout Los Angeles.

28. Adjournment

- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.30PM; Lloyd Dent and Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.