

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 10 October 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 6.22PM, welcomed over twelve stakeholders, along with [eventually] seven board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Here (7)	Jenni Heckscher, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Mikkie Loi, Jon Manuel, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Absent (3)	Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, and Freddie Rymond

2. Comments by Public Officials

- Jose Galdamez introduced himself; he has worked for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) for five years, and is the area’s new project coordinator.
- Field Deputy Jessie Strobel from Councilman Englander’s office thanked everyone who donated to the Donuts and Donations drive that supported the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission. The event was a resounding success with many people giving clothing and household appliances. A special thanks to Cub Scout Pack 466 for volunteering their time and to Starbucks and Wal-Mart for their continued support.
- Friday, August 18 (8/18), Councilman Englander introduced iNOV818 to re-imagine 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 (including shuttles and bike-sharing), housing, infrastructure, schools, fiber and internet speed capabilities, power assessments and the unique culture of the West Valley.
- Wednesday, October 4, Councilman Englander introduced a motion that calls on the city to inspect all current bike lanes to ensure that streets are in good condition with a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating of 86 or higher, as rated by the Bureau of Street Services (BSS). Street ratings can be found on the BSS website. This motion also ensures that no additional bike lanes will be installed on streets with potential biking hazards. In the past few months, there have been several high profile and very expensive lawsuit settlements from cycling accidents on LA bike lanes.
- For the 3rd Annual Drive-in movie, CD12 will host a screening of Raiders of the Lost Ark on Saturday, October 21, at the Shadow Ranch Recreation Center, 22633 Vanowen Street, West Hills. Wendy’s will provide free food for this event that can hold 250 cars. Gates will open at 5PM, food and fun begins at 5.15PM, and the movie begins at sunset.
- Councilman Englander’s Executive Assistant (and former scheduler) Cindy Varela recently retired, and is replaced by former receptionist, Brandy Turnbow. Matt Hernandez is taking on additional CD12 responsibilities, including reporting to the NWNC.

3. Guest Speaker, Colin Crews Homelessness Advocate from CD12

- Colin has been on Councilman Englander’s staff for almost five-years, and has recently been doing homelessness advocacy. His days are spent attending numerous meetings with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), as well as the LAUSD (as many students are homeless).
- The tents at homeless camp’s can go up after 9PM, yet must be removed by 6.30AM.
- Many people cannot be saved until they are actually homeless and living in their cars.
- The LA Homeless Outreach Partnership Endeavor (HOPE) team is the first group that makes contact with homeless individuals. This is a collaboration of the mayor’s office, LAPD, LAHSA, city attorney and the

Bureau of Sanitation. This program asks city employees to actively help connect the homeless with housing and support services. The San Fernando Valley was the first area that rolled out this program in May 2017. Since then, HOPE has responded to more than 1,300 homeless encampment service requests, removing more than 500 tons of trash, ten tons of hazardous materials, and 1,500 sharp objectives and needles. They do not dismantle anything, but if campsites block the public right of way, or the homeless no longer want their site, the HOPE team cleans the area.

- As far as the influx of RVs in the west valley, the Department of Transportation (DOT) makes certain that the vehicle's registration is up to date, and that the vehicles are moved every three-days (via marking their tires). Now that the DOT is overwhelmed, they visit RVs every few weeks (rather than every three-days) accompanied by the LAPD. The impounded vehicles are taken to Castaic.
- Years ago, LA restricted people from living in their cars. However, the city has been sued, and the 9th Circuit Court now claims that it is okay to live in your car.
- Per the last homeless count in January, 60% of an area's homeless are from that community.
- A stakeholder asked what systems are in place to get people away from living in their RV or tent. There is help to be had, if they want it. Among the first questions are:
 - Do you want help?
 - Are you on drugs?
 - Do you require medication?
 - Are you a veteran?
 - Do you have children, spouse, or a pet?
- First of all, they are referred to LAHSA, which can come out very quickly.
- Sometimes, if the homeless person has a pet, they would prefer to stay outdoors, rather than go in where their dog is not welcome. Oftentimes, if offered shelter, the shelter is downtown, where they would prefer not to go; one person complained that the last time they went downtown, their shoes were stolen. Some homeless veterans can get into a VA shelter, but these shelters do not allow wives or dogs.
- Calahan School Principal Michelle Wells asked if the city has addressed the issue of four other states (including Colorado and Florida) bussing their homeless to LA (which has become a magnet). It has gotten worse these past two years, as the word on the street is that LA will house anyone. Many Calahan students reside at one of the nearby shelters.
- A stakeholder mentioned that if people are coming from other states, perhaps the federal government should be involved.
- Many of these homeless are recently released from jail, without career or drug counseling.

4. Comments from Stakeholders on Non-Agenda Items

- Principal Michelle Wells is a board member at the North Valley YMCA, and requested a donation for their annual Thanksgiving food basket program. Last year, NWNC donated \$1,000, which created 25 of the 3,500 food baskets donated to needy families in the north valley. Peter asked that Executive Director Jane Stanton submit an NPG request (the forms are online). These food baskets will be assembled during the weekend of November 11/12, 10AM to 2PM, at the Northridge Lumber, 18537 Parthenia Street.
- David M., Public Affairs Manager for SoCal Gas, mentioned there are several scams going on concerning utility bills. Scammers offer to inspect water heaters or stoves for senior citizens or those with limited English fluency. If someone comes to your door, please verify they are wearing a uniform, have a SoCal Gas vehicle, and ask for ID.
- In addition, scammers reach out to potential victims via forceful telephone calls or emails. This scam starts with a telephone call or with utility imposters going door to door telling customers that if they do not pay their energy bills immediately with pre-paid cash cards, their gas, electric, or water service will be turned off. Once the card is purchased, customers are directed to another telephone number where information is obtained from the card and the cash value is removed.

5. Presidential Comments

- The next neighborhood council elections will be in 2019, rather than 2018.
 - Sunday, November 5, 11AM to 3PM will be the Sherwood Forest HOA Fall Block Party on the 17300 block of Osborne Street, between Louise and Encino Avenue. There will be a DJ, food trucks, and various vendors.
6. Discussion and Motion to Approve Honoring Bill Hopkins for his Dedication and Leadership in Promoting the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair by Presenting him a NWNC Certificate of Appreciation
 - Jon Manuel reported that this is something that came out of the Outreach Committee meeting, and made a motion to approve this agenda item. Mikkie Loi made a friendly amendment to approve honoring the Southern California Preparedness Fair (rather than merely Bill Hopkins). Jon Manuel accepted the friendly amendment, seconded Mikkie Loi's motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
 7. Discussion and Motion to Approve of the Filling of an Application to Participate in the Clean Streets LA Challenge 2017. The application will give NWNC an opportunity to be considered for a grant to be used for placing topiary on the Tampa Medians. We would be partnering with Northridge Beautification and perhaps Porter Ranch NC
 - Due to the time restrictions (it had to be filed by Thursday, October 5), Peter Lasky filed this application that was accepted by the Clean Streets LA Challenge 2017 team.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 8. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$600 to come from the Outreach Budget for a Holiday Mixer
 - Colleen Pick mentioned that this was the same amount that was allocated in December 2016 for last year's holiday mixer. They hope to come under budget again this year (as they did last year).
 - Jon Manuel made a motion to approve this agenda item; Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 9. Discussion and approval of the sample badges for Board Members that Jon Manuel has prepared
 - Jon showed his free legible badge as a sample; these badges were very useful during the previous weekend's Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Mikkie Loi seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 10. Motion to approve the August 2017 Treasurers Monthly Expense Report
 - Jenni Heckscher made a motion to approve this agenda item; Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 11. Motion to approve the Minutes for the September 12, 2017 General Board Meeting
 - Mikkie Loi had a slight correction to the Map Your Neighborhood Preparedness Plan.
 - Jenni Heckscher made a motion to approve this agenda item; Mikkie Loi seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 12. Reports by Liaisons
 - Homeless liaison Gisela Tarifa attended meetings and offered to volunteer with LAHSA and the Department of Family Housing. Proposition H, the \$1.2b bond measure, passed by the voters last November to fund the development of new housing, is a frequent topic of discussion.
 - Gisela reported that wallet-sized cards are available; these can be given to homeless individuals for guidance on where to go for assistance.

- Thursday, October 19, beginning at 10AM, there will be a Homeless Connect event at the Prince of Peace Church, 5700 Rudnick Avenue, Woodland Hills; homeless individuals will receive lunch, hepatitis shots, and assistance with their ID cards.
- Gail Lapaz reported that she attended a LA Department of City Planning-hosted meeting in Van Nuys, where they discussed the Interim Motel Conversion Ordinance. The city is working with contractors to promote creative and cost-effective strategies to expand housing solutions for the homeless. If adopted, it would streamline the approval process to allow existing motels to be retrofitted and used for transitional housing.

13. Reports by Budget Advocates

- Brian Allen from the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC) is also a budget advocate. The advocates are organizing their committees and working with neighborhood councils, city council and the mayor's staff.
- State Senator Kevin DeLeon made a negative comment about neighborhood councils, mentioning that the councils hold LA hostage. Neighborhood councils are not taking his remarks lightly and writing letters. It is very important that neighborhood councils get respect. The GHNNC asked Senator Bob Hertzberg to comment on this, but he did not reply. Peter mentioned that we are blaming the messenger; city council members reported that neighborhood councils turn to them to support opposition to new developments. If stakeholders and a neighborhood council are against a new development, it is the neighborhood council's job to voice that opposition.

14. Reports by Northridge Vision Committee Reps

- Glen Wilson attended a meeting of the Northridge Vision on Wednesday; among the discussed topics was the potential 4th Northridge Neighborhood Council. Peter Lasky added that there would be a new mural along the side of the Catalina Paint Store at 8814 Reseda Boulevard (within the jurisdiction of the Northridge South Neighborhood Council).

15. Reports by Committee Chairs

- Jon Manuel reported that the Outreach Committee held their first meeting; many new ideas were discussed and implemented, such as the certificates and a door-to-door activity. There was a consideration to live-stream the NWNC meetings via Facebook, but that would be difficult without access to the Calahan School's wifi.
- Over 7,000 people attended the Valley Preparedness Fair on Saturday, October 7. 213 new email addresses were added to the NWNC database, the Instagram account doubled, and there has been a big jump in the Facebook and Twitter connections.
- Jon attended the LADWP tour of the Owens Valley (open to neighborhood council members); this was very cool.
- Glen reported that the Beautification Committee's Thursday cleanups have been slow. CSUN students would like to be involved, but they are not available on Thursday mornings.
- Mikkie added that CSUN has a community service group that meets once a month; perhaps NWNC could team with them. Previously, Debbie Penman took the initiative to reach out to CSUN, yet she has been unable to do that, and no one has picked up the ball. Peter will provide a volunteer with the CSUN contact information.

16. Comments by board members on non-agenda items

- No one on the board had any further comments.

17. Adjournment

- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7.34PM; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.