

**Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
 General Public Board Meeting
 Tuesday, 14 November 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 6.18PM, welcomed over twenty-one stakeholders, [eventually] nine board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Here (9)	Jenni Heckscher, Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Mikkie Loi, Jon Manuel, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
No longer on the Board (1)	Freddie Rymond

2. Comments by Public Officials

- Matt Hernandez is the Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12, serving as the community liaison to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). He also works closely with the Department of Building and Safety on resolving code enforcement issues and the Department of Transportation on parking enforcement.
- Last week, the city council unanimously passed Councilman Englander’s motion to expand the list of prohibited items at public gatherings, including golf clubs and baseball bats.
- Matt also reported that they are taking toy donations at the office.

- Neighborhood Council Advocate Jose Galdamez from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported that registration for Civic University 2.0 would begin in December, with classes starting in January.
- The Bureau of Neighborhood Councils (BONC) is putting together a neighborhood council equity funding working group, per a city council ordinance, to analyze how subdivisions come along. Two council members from each of the twelve regions will be chosen in early 2018. Jose has already alerted the board members via email.
- Neighborhood council elections have been postponed until 2019. If NWNC would like to have their election in 2018, the board members would serve for merely a year.

- Linda Hernandez from the LA City Attorney’s Victim’s Assistance Program reported that a variety of services are available, including court support, legal aid, shelters, [up to \$70k for] compensation for expenses incurred as a result of the crime, [up to forty] mental health counseling sessions, [up to \$2k for] moving costs, [up to \$7,500 for] funeral and burial costs, etc. The reimbursement is from California’s Victim’s Board [based in Sacramento] and are not dependent upon how much money the victim earns via their job. If you must go to court while the criminal is there, they may escort you for moral support and assist with writing the impact statement.
- They are located at all valley LAPD stations (Linda is based out of the Devonshire station). Their website is helplacrimevictims.org, and the victim must report their concerns and requests to the LAPD.

- 3. Guest Speaker, Dante Acosta Assemblyman 38th District which includes Northridge North of Devonshire, the Simi and Santa Clarita Valleys
 - Assemblyman Acosta’s district is everything north of Devonshire Street and west of Balboa Boulevard; pretty much everything between the Reagan Library and the Vasquez Rocks.

- He acquired his support for small business from his mom, who owned a bridal shop along Chatsworth Street in Granada Hills. Prior to his 2016 election he was mayor pro tem of Santa Clarita.
- His first three bills dealt with public safety, and keeping the worst of the worst behind bars.
- AB539 [primarily affecting women] dealt with invasions of privacy. It gave law enforcement the right to seek a court-ordered warrant to help victims of “revenge porn” where sexual images are made public online when the victim expected privacy. Although illegal prior to the bill’s passage, law enforcement could not acquire a warrant to gather evidence, and the victim [although they would come forward] was powerless without evidence. This bill now gives law enforcement new tools to combat criminals who prey upon others.
- AB754, the Foster Youth Enrichment Grant did not pass this past year; Assemblyman Acosta will bring it forward again in 2018. This states that those in foster care have the right to attend school and participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities with minimal disruptions to school attendance and educational stability. This bill would allow the State Department of Social Services to require the California Foster Youth Enrichment Grant Program to enable the kids to participate in activities that enhance their skills, abilities, self-esteem, and overall well being. It permits these children from a certain area (such as the Antelope Valley) to stay in that area, rather than transfer to an area away from home (such as the South Bay).
- SB1, the transportation funding/gas task bill, passed the legislature earlier this year, and became effective November 1; Assemblyman Acosta voted against it. Gas now costs an extra \$.12 and diesel costs an extra \$.20/gallon. Nearly 33% of the money goes elsewhere, and the collected funds cannot be used for infrastructure, such as widening the road or re-building an over-pass. In addition, annual DMV vehicle registration renewal will increase \$50 to \$75 per car per year.
- Lloyd Dent asked if Assemblyman Acosta felt that the state’s roads are in satisfactory shape. They are not, yet \$1.1B/year goes to the state treasury from truck weight fees; these heavy trucks are the ones that hurt our roadways, yet this money is used for other purposes. If it is so important, why not use this money to fix the roads rather than raise the taxes on fuel purchases.
- Assemblyman Acosta co-wrote SB57, which calls for a moratorium on natural gas storage facilities; although this was killed in the legislature, Governor Brown allowed it to remain open.
- Assemblyman Acosta also co-wrote AB1027, which would authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles to accept a certificate of satisfactory completion of an approved motorcycle-training program in lieu of a driving test on motorcycle license applications. Therefore, people who move to California from another state can more easily acquire their motorcycle license.
- Assemblyman Acosta had a recent concern regarding Sacramento dictating the quantity of county supervisors in Los Angeles (and other cities). As this is an LA issue, Sacramento should not be involved.
- Assemblyman Acosta supports tougher penalties for crimes committed with firearms. However, we must have dialogue to cease the never-ending cycle of crime and violence. Under a previous law [if a local jurisdiction allowed] someone could carry a gun onto school property. As San Francisco and Los Angeles have eliminated that ruling, guns are not permitted at any school in California.
- Wednesday, December 6, Assemblyman Acosta will hold an open house at his district office, 27441 Tournay Road, Suite 160, Santa Clarita.

4. Comments from stakeholders on non-agenda items

- David M., Public Affairs Manager for SoCal Gas left information on the table regarding their customer assistance program. Those who have difficulty paying their bills, due to chronic illness or other causes, can receive:
 - A \$100 voucher
 - A 20% discount, as well as
 - Their gas at a lower rate
 - Assistance weatherizing their home
- Nahia, President of the Robotics Team at Granada Hills Charter High School (GHCHS) completed a neighborhood Purchase Grant (NPG) request; however, this is not on the agenda.
- This Robotics Team is a student-led organization, 60% female, and 40% male.
- Twelve individuals are elected each year by the students to coordinate the treasury, operations, safety, outreach, etc. Each year, the GHCHS team builds their new robot from raw material for the FIRST (the acronym For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition.
- Former NWNC board member Brent Robinson (who recently moved out of the area) presented a certificate to the NWNC. City Council President Herb Wesson honored NWNC for their work in saving or removing dying trees and developing the drip system along the Tampa Avenue medians.

5. Presidential Comments

- A few people have asked why the board does not talk during the non-agenda public comment discussion portion of the meetings. To speak would be a violation of the Brown Act. Tonight's agenda item 23, Open Discussion of Issues Brought Up by Stakeholders and Board Members, will allow for this dialogue.
- Thanks to Glen Wilson and Mikkie Loi for attending the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting earlier this month. Thanks also to Mikkie for creating the [stakeholder requested] nameplates. Thanks to Jon Manuel for creating the new board member's badges.
- The Adopt-A-Median Packet has been submitted to the Office of Community Beautification.

6. Awarding of the 1st ever Public Service Champion Honoree Certificate to the Southern California Preparedness Foundation's Bill Hopkins for his dedication and leadership in promoting the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair

- Jon presented the award to Bill Hopkins as appreciation for all their work this past year.
- Bill informed everyone that the 2018 Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair would be held on Saturday, October 6, at the same location at the northwest corner of the Northridge Fashion Center. The Southern California Preparedness Foundation will submit an NPG at the beginning of 2018.

7. Confirmation by the board to approve Pamela Bolin to fill the vacant At-Large Seat #10, per Article 5, Section 6 Vacancies A. President fills Vacancies with Board Approval

- Pamela Bolin is a former NWNC board member who served on the Education Committee and processed multiple NPGs.
- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Confirmation by the board to approve Earl Fagin to fill the vacant At-Large Seat #5, per Article 5, Section 6 Vacancies A. President fills Vacancies with Board Approval

- Earl Fagin has been a practicing attorney for 47-years, came before the Executive Committee, and was fully vetted.
 - He has been involved in charitable activities his entire life, most recently as Chairman of the Board [for two five-years terms] of the Valley Interfaith Council (VIC).
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Lloyd Dent seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
9. Confirmation by the board to approve of Jacalyn Williams to fill the vacant At-Large Seat #11, per Article 5, Section 6 Vacancies A. President fills Vacancies with Board Approval
- Jacalyn Williams, a mom of three and former real estate broker, recently opened an office in Woodland Hills for insurance services and wealth protection. She is active in her church and feels it is important that people be more savvy on government issues. She has been coming to meetings for a while and was vetted by the Executive Committee.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Matt Hernandez administered the oath of office to Pamela Bolin, Earl Fagin, and Jacalyn Williams; they immediately took their seats on the board.
10. Discussion and motion to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding CF 17-0878 the RecyLA allowing business's to share waste collection bins. Businesses have complained about the cost increases of the new program
- The original intent was to consolidate the waste and reduce the polluting vehicles crisscrossing the city. LA reduced it to eleven zones; each zone's trash collection received a ten-year contract. However, trash collection fees doubled or tripled.
 - Lloyd Dent felt this is a band-aid approach to the problem.
 - Stakeholder Bryan compared this to a cable television bill which never goes down.
 - Pamela Bolin asked if any local businesses have come before the NWNCC, they have not.
 - Chatsworth business owner Colleen Pick spoke up on behalf of business owners; she likes this as she gets a free recycling bin via this program.
 - Jacalyn Williams mentioned that this program results in multi-family dwellings being forced to use the trash/recycling company that covers their neighborhood.
 - Lloyd asked who would file this CIS; Peter Lasky and Glen Wilson will complete this CIS and file it with the city council.
 - Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jon Manuel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
11. Discussion and approval by the board to allow the Executive Committee to select the honoree's for the Public Service Champion without prior board discussion
- This would allow the Executive Committee to select someone such as Bill Hopkins [who organized the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair] without prior board discussion.
 - Jon Manuel made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
12. Discussion and motion by the board to confirm the appointment of Brad and Eileen Smulson as our Animal Services Liaison
- Brad and Eileen Smulson take care of over 1,000 homeless animals a month via their Operation Blankets of Love charity. This is similar to a Red Cross, yet for animals. They also visit schools to

educate children. They are on-call to assist the Burbank Fires, Houston Floods, as well as Mexico City earthquake relief.

- As there is no budget in local shelters for comfort items, Operation Blankets of Love coordinates these comfort items via their 50+ drop-off locations. Additional information can be found on their website at operationblanketsoflife.org
- Jenni Heckscher made a motion to approve this agenda item; Lloyd Dent seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

13. Consideration by the board to confirm the appointment of Pam Bolin to be the Chair of the Education Committee per our Bylaws, Article VII Committees and Their Duties, Section 3: Committee Creation and Authorization C. Committee Appointment. "All Committee Chairs shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board."

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; a second was not required, and it passed unanimously.

14. Consideration by the board to ratify the appointment of Earl Fagin and Eileen Fagin to the Homelessness Committee, per Article VII, Section 3 B

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

15. Discussion and motion for the board to confirm the appointment by the President of Jacalyn Williams to the Education Committee per Article VII, Section 3 B

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; a second was not required, and it passed unanimously.

16. Motion to approve the September, 2017 Treasurers Monthly Expense Report

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

17. Motion to approve the Minutes for the October 10 2017 General Board Meeting

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

Yes (9)	Heckscher, Fox, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Williams, and Wilson
Abstain (3)	Bolin, Dent, and Fagin

18. Reports by Liaisons

- Gail Lapaz attended a Porter Ranch meeting regarding the homeless situation; three west valley neighborhood councils are working to designate areas for safe parking, as well as waste disposal.
- Colleen Pick recently saw an RV parked near her Chatsworth business; nearby was a bucket of pooh, which was cleared away by the depositing RV owner. The RV was towed away due to lack of tags and the owner moved his possessions into a tent along the nearby sidewalk

19. Reports by Budget Advocates

- Deirdre Greenway from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council reported that they continue to finalize the white papers to be presented to Mayor Garcetti's office. These documents follow a review of each city department's financial requirements.

20. Reports by Northridge Vision Committee Reps

- There has been discussion regarding moving the Transportation Center from Wilbur Avenue and Parthenia Street to Reseda Boulevard and Parthenia Street.
- There has recently been concern about creating a fourth Northridge Neighborhood Council; two of Northridge's three neighborhood councils requested that this fourth council be rejected.
- After ten years, the parking structure, new driveway, and park [with walking trails] surrounding the Oakridge Estate is making progress.

21. Reports by Committee Chairs

- The Beautification Committee is currently on hiatus due to lack of volunteers.
- The Education Committee will meet on Monday, November 27, at 6PM here at the Calahan School. Pamela will create an agenda; among the discussed topics will be several NPGs, including for GHCHS's Robotics Team, GHCHS's National Decathlon, and Oakridge Estate.
- Jon Manuel reported that the Outreach Committee met earlier this month to discuss a potential traffic study with CSUN students. CSUN hopes to partner with CD12 for a clean up at the Limekiln Canyon Park.

22. Comments by board members on non-agenda items

- Earl Fagin gave a brief plug for the VIC that operates several senior centers, including the Robert M. Wilkinson Multi-Purpose Senior Center at 8956 Vanalden Avenue. They provide transportation services, pick-up food from local food banks, and distribute food to homebound seniors. If you are a senior, or know a senior, please refer them to the VIC. They could always use volunteers.
- Lloyd Dent requested that meeting tables be set-up earlier.

23. Open discussion of issues brought up by stakeholders and board members

- There was no request for such open discussion.

24. Adjournment

- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.15PM; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.