

**APPROVED**  
**Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)**  
**General Public Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, 12 December 2017**  
**Calahan Elementary School Auditorium**  
**18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324**

1. Call to order, roll call, pledge of allegiance

- President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order at 6.18PM, welcomed over twenty-five stakeholders, eleven board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Here (11)	Pamela Bolin, Lloyd Dent, Earl Fagin, Bill Fox, Jenni Heckscher, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Mikkie Loi, Jon Manuel, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Jacalyn Williams

2. Comments by Public Officials

- CD12's Public Safety Director Matt Hernandez reported the following to the NWNC:
  - The Los Angeles City Council recently passed an ordinance regulating the production and distribution of marijuana for recreational use that voters approved in 2016. Councilman Englander introduced an amendment that set the citywide limit to 390 retail locations. As Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Councilman Englander will continue to monitor the rollout of this new marijuana industry to ensure that this new ordinance is enforced.
- Mr. Bill Cotter is a volunteer with the LAPD's Devonshire Division.
  - Most days, the LAPD has merely four squad cars patrolling the west valley.
  - Mr. Cotter's volunteer team does work assignments that free up the LAPD to handle the more pressing issues. Volunteers wear a uniform and have the authority to call on helicopters for assistance, and may perform the following tasks:
    - Knock on doors, attempting to get witness statements.
    - Patrol shopping areas
    - Tend to household burglaries
    - Handle animal cruelty
    - Deal with grass fires along the freeway
- If a criminal is found to have a gun or knife, those confrontations are handled by the LAPD; however, the volunteers can help the LAPD by establishing a perimeter.
- They are always looking for volunteers. If interested, please reach out to Bill Cotter or Mikkie Loi. After satisfactory completion of the background check, they undergo training at the police academy and practice driving a police car with the lights and sirens. Upon graduation, the volunteers do a four-hour shift, at least once every two weeks.

3. Guest Speaker, Dale Penn, Supporters of Law Enforcement In Devonshire (SOLID)

- Like Bill Cotter, Dale Penn is also a volunteer with the LAPD.
- Formed in 1991, SOLID is a 501c3 non-profit for our community to support the LAPD. At that time, there were few officers and just a few cellular telephones.
- SOLID is committed to community policing and strives to build an excellent relationship between the Senior Lead Officers (SLO) and the community. They are always seeking new board members; if interested, please ask Mikkie Loi for an application
- SOLID provides things that the city does not provide, such as:
  - Bullets for target practice
  - GPS equipment

- Holsters for cellular telephones
  - Bicycles used on patrol
  - Flashers used on road signs that guide people to parking areas or warn of upcoming traffic
  - Refurbishment of the rooms used for roll-call, exercise, breaks, and sleeping (SOLID cannot do construction)
  - Desks and chairs
  - Improvements to the lady's locker room
  - Their major fundraising is from Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs), generous public donors, and the annual pasta dinner (held in October at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church), the pancake breakfast (held in May across the street from the LAPD's Devonshire station), as well as the Cigar Night, held at the VFW post at 17522 Chatsworth Street, Granada Hills. This VFW site has a very good relationship with the LAPD.
  - In conclusion, Dale left brochures concerning identity protection.
4. Comments from stakeholders on non-agenda items
- No one spoke up to address the NWNC.
5. Presidential Comments
- President Peter Lasky asked if the NWNC was still relevant. The response was an overwhelming YES, as the NWNC has performed the following actions:
    - Repair of the LAPD's Devonshire trailer
    - Repair of sidewalks and asphalt areas (if anyone requires this repair, please reach out to Glen Wilson)
    - Establishment of a Homeless Committee. Their first meeting will be in January. If interested, please contact Gail Lapaz.
    - CPR training opportunities.
    - Town hall discussions between Assemblyman Matt Dababneh and his opponent Jerry Kowal.
    - Sober living home meetings with Councilman Englander
    - Special speakers at monthly NWNC meetings, including Urban Wildland Conservation Specialist Cathy Schoonmaker from the National Park Service and Assemblyman Dante Acosta
    - Grants to improve libraries
    - The Education Committee
    - The community beautification team has picked up tons of garbage, pine needles and leaves
    - Coordinated improvements to the Tampa Avenue medians by working closely with the mall, residents, and area businesses.
  - If interested, Peter urged everyone to speak up and attend more meetings to make the agenda more interesting. The NWNC cannot do everything, but with help from the community, we can do more.
  - Peter also thanked Colleen Pick and her helpers for organizing tonight's dinner.
6. Confirmation by the board to approve Greg Kromhout to fill the vacant Community Interest Stakeholder 1 Seat, per Article 5, Section 6 Vacancies A.
- Greg Kromhout is a registered architect who has lived in California for over twenty years, and has resided in Granada Hills for over thirteen years. He first became involved with the neighborhood councils during the open discussions concerning the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak and the Sober Living Home. Although he has not been able to attend all meetings, he stays up-to-date by reading all the minutes.
  - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve Greg Kromhout's position on the NWNC board; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Matt Hernandez administered the oath of office to Greg Kromhout
7. Discussion and motion for the board to confirm the appointment by the President of Greg Kromhout to the Public Land Use and Zoning (PLUZ) and Public Safety Committee per Article VII, Section 3B
    - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve Greg Kromhout’s appointment to the PLUZ and Public Safety Committee; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
  8. Discussion and motion to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding CF- 09-2564-S1, Motion to have the Los Angeles Public Library Department install centralized filtering software within all branches to prevent access to online lewd content through the public library’s workstations, desktop computers and wireless networks
    - Stakeholder Marcie thanked the NWNC for considering this.
    - Stakeholder Mike mentioned that, after much review by the city attorney, this has been considered since 2009. Many people who do not have heat or AC at their homes visit the libraries for the comfort.
    - Earl Fagin made a motion to approve this agenda item; Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
  9. Discussion and motion by the board to approve holding a Town Hall Meeting featuring Dr. Nordella to discuss his findings about the health impacts of the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak. This meeting might be held as early as January but more likely in February or March and could be in partnership with Northridge East, Northridge South or other NCs; possible locations could be the gym at Northridge Park, or sites within the partnering NCs.
    - Dr. Jeffrey Nordella was recently dismissed from the Porter Ranch Quality Care Urgent Care Clinic prior to releasing results of his 100+ participant study. This study included toxins and metals found in hair and urine of Porter Ranch residents affected by the Aliso Canyon gas storage blowout. Saturday, October 14, Dr. Nordella discussed these findings at a community meeting at the Hilton Woodland Hills Hotel.
    - Having NWNC host a similar meeting may attract hundreds of people.
    - SoCal Gas and LADWP would be invited to attend and present their research at this meeting.
    - A stakeholder mentioned that the Valley Voice might be the source of information on Dr. Nordella’s research; this newsletter is available at the YMCA as well as at UPS stores.
    - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Pam Bolin and Lloyd Dent seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
  10. Discussion and motion to approve the recommendations of the Education Committee of NPGs
    - A. Northridge Beautification Committee for \$4,000 to install topiary on the Tampa Median contingent upon approval of the Northridge West Adopt-A-Median Application by the Office of Community Beautification.
      - Peter Lasky made a motion to table this agenda item [due to absences]; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed.

Here (10)	Dent, Fox, Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Fagin
No (1)	Bolin
Absent (1)	Williams

- B. Friends of Oakridge for \$1,000 to replace the tree lost in the front yard planter.
  - This agenda item was tabled, per the request of Steve Harris from the Friends of Oakridge. This may be agendized in January 2018.

- C. Granada Hills Charter High School (GHCHS) for \$2,000 for the Robodox program
- Pam Bolin recused herself, as her child attends GHCHS.
  - Naha, co-president of the student-led GHCHS Robotics team reported that the GHCHS has 44 students on the team, and nearly 300 assistants. Since 2001, the GHCHS has made their robotics [from donated materials] from scratch.
  - This robotics team has already received \$2,000 from the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) and anticipates \$2,500 from the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council.
  - Registration for each robotics championship starts at \$5,000 for the first registration, and \$4,000 for the second. Each competition can exceed \$10,000 with registration, lodging, and meal expenditures. Last year, they spent over \$126,000 representing GHCHS whereupon they won several nationwide competitions. One team went to Kentucky while another went to Houston.
  - Their first competition this year will be at the Fairgrounds in Pomona.
  - Lloyd asked the advantage of participating in national competitions. The other teams come from all over the world (Chile, Turkey, China, etc.). The students learn a great deal of life experience by interfacing with the international students who speak many different languages. The kids also learn business management, schedules, budgets, design, engineering, etc. The positions rotate throughout the year so that all students are involved in the multiple aspects of the program. All students have the chance to travel to the competitions. In addition, 100% of the robotics team members go onto college.
  - They start building the robots in January, and this continues through February. At the end of February, the robot is bagged up and the students cannot touch it until the competition several weeks later.
  - Naha mentioned that they do a great deal of outreach to the community, including interfacing with the students at the Nobel School.
  - In exchange for the \$2,000 donation, NWNC's logo will appear on their programs, marketing material, and t-shirts.
  - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed.

Here (10)	Dent, Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Ineligible (1)	Kromhout
Recused (1)	Bolin
Absent (1)	Williams

- D. Operation Blankets of Love (OBOL) for \$600 for activity workbooks for education in local schools in Northridge
- Nine years ago, Eileen Smulson adopted Ginger, her therapy dog from Petco. When she learned that the West Valley Animal Shelter of Chatsworth did not have comfort items for dogs and cats, she founded OBOL to collect over 500 items for the animals. She now serves 67 shelters throughout Southern California.
  - In addition to over fifty drop-off locations at pet stores, she can do collections at holiday parties, meetings, etc.
  - Eileen and OBOL were written about in Oprah and Redbook magazines, and she has appeared on Animal Planet and multiple television programs.
  - She now coordinates a Human Education Learning Program (HELP) to teach children responsible pet ownership, the importance of licenses, leashes, spaying, neutering, and why animals end up in shelters.

- Groups of one hundred students attend her kick-off presentation and are given Eileen’s booklet (already approved by the shelters and the LAUSD). This is followed by a collection drive for the shelters. Then, Eileen returns to collect the donations. For many students, this is their first opportunity to be involved in [animal-related] charity activities.
- These past ten years, Eileen has taught 10,000 students in six counties. She visited the Calahan School four years ago. She purposely visits Northridge schools that are recommended [via a list] from NWNC. Pam Bolin will email Eileen a list of the Northridge schools. Eileen’s volunteer staff coordinates the introductory [pre-presentation] meeting with the school’s principal(s).
- This \$600 will enable Eileen to publish another 1,000 books for Northridge Schools. The next batch of published books will be bi-lingual, and may include the NWNC logo, as well as the tagline “this booklet is sponsored by the NWNC”.
- Mikkie Loi requested a more specific plan for the funds and presentations before the schools and students. Mikkie felt that the manner in which the NPG application was completed did not appear to make sense. There were several discrepancies and perhaps the paperwork needed to be reviewed and resubmitted by OBOL to make the entire application process go smoother for them.
- Eileen has already requested funds from several other west valley neighborhood councils.
- Jon Manuel mentioned that it would be beneficial for Eileen to use the correct version of the NPG form.
- Mikkie Loi made a motion to table this agenda item, giving Eileen Smulson the opportunity to contact the schools to schedule meetings with the principals; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (8)	Dent, Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, and Pick
Abstain (2)	Kromhout and Lapaz
Opposed (2)	Bolin and Wilson
Absent (1)	Williams

- E. Porter Ranch Library for \$2,000 [cut from \$2,500 by the Education Committee] for table, chairs, and children’s books
- No one from the Porter Ranch Library was available to attend this evening’s NWNC meeting. The requestor, Nancy, sells books for \$1 at the library. However, she does not drive at night. Instead, Pam interviewed Nancy and offered to donate her children’s books to the library.
  - Jenni asked if Nancy reached out to the PRNC; that is unknown.
  - A stakeholder asked if there was a sincere need for the tables, chairs, and books; Pam replied that she visits this library, and finds that the chairs are in very poor condition.
  - Stakeholder Brian recommended adding the \$500 back into the request.
  - Gail Lapaz made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Bolin, Dent, Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Ineligible (1)	Kromhout
Absent (1)	Williams

- F. GHCHS for \$2,000 [cut from \$3,500 by the Education Committee] for curriculum, materials and transportation for the US Academic Decathlon
- Pam Bolin recused herself, as her child attends GHCHS.
  - GHCHS originally requested \$3,500, yet the Education Committee reduced this to \$2,000.
  - Julia, the academic mom for the decathlon team, addressed the NWNC.
  - This team runs on \$15,000 per year; much of these funds coming from NPGs from multiple west valley neighborhood councils.

- The GHCHS students study 30 to 40 hours per week, which has resulted in winning the national academic decathlon six of the past seven years.
- 4,500,000 have seen their YouTube videos (whose publicity could be valued at \$413,000). However, they do not get any funding from these videos. They hope to get sponsorship from GoGo applesauce, because the kids eat a great deal of that applesauce.
- They have been featured in television and newspapers nationwide, as well as the New Yorker and Korean newspapers.
- This publicity has resulted in GHCHS's rating as a highly prestigious school. They are the only school in the valley to host a Stanford University outreach event.
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (9)	Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Dent
Ineligible (1)	Kromhout
Recused (1)	Bolin
Absent (1)	Williams

- G. North Valley Family YMCA for \$1,000 for their Annual Thanksgiving Baskets for distribution to needy families in Northridge.
- Colleen Pick made a motion to approve this agenda item; Mikkie Loi seconded the motion, yet there was no vote.
  - Glen Bailey from Northridge East Neighborhood Council mentioned that NWNC could not approve an NPG after the fact. Other neighborhood councils have been into trouble for similar activities. The funding team may deny this request, and DONE may put a red flag into NWNC's file.
  - Stakeholder Marcie recommended that NWNC reach out to Jane Stanton at the YMCA, and remind her to submit an NPG request on July 1 (the first day of FY2018/19).

Agenda items 11 through 15 were lumped together as a consent agenda.

11. Motion to approve the October and November if available, 2017 Treasurers Monthly Expense Report
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item as part of the consent agenda; Pamela Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Bolin, Dent, Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Kromhout
Absent (1)	Williams

12. Motion to approve the Minutes for the November 14 General Board Meeting

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item as part of the consent agenda; Pamela Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Bolin, Dent, Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Kromhout
Absent (1)	Williams

13. Discussion and motion to approve Glen Wilson to make the required inventory list and meet with the L.A. City Funding Department as needed. This is an annual requirement by the city to track NC purchases that was seldom enforced when DONE was responsible for this task. Now that the task has turned over to the LA City Clerk Funding Division their procedures seem to be tightening

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item as part of the consent agenda; Pamela Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Bolin, Dent, Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Kromhout
Absent (1)	Williams

14. Discussion and motion to add Jon Manuel and Peter Lasky to the list of board members authorized to submit Community Impact Statements. (CIS)

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item as part of the consent agenda; Pamela Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Bolin, Dent, Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Kromhout
Absent (1)	Williams

15. Discussion and motion to share the Wilkinson Senior Center with Northridge South if approved by their board. DONE has already approved this if Northridge South approves the sharing arrangement

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item as part of the consent agenda; Pamela Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Bolin, Dent, Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Kromhout
Absent (1)	Williams

16. Discussion and motion to approve a new budget to allocate funds to pay for the NPGs approved tonight

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item as part of the consent agenda; Pamela Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Bolin, Dent, Fagin, Fox, Heckscher, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
Ineligible (1)	Kromhout
Absent (1)	Williams

17. Reports by Liaisons

- Gail Lapaz reported that the Homeless Committee is working with the PRNC and Don Larson of the “Clean Streets, Clean Starts (CSCS)” program; this committee will meeting during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January.
- Thursday, December 14, beginning at 1PM, Sylmar Neighborhood Council’s Homeless Committee will meet at the El Cariso Community Regional Park, 13100 Hubbard Street.

18. Reports by Budget Advocates

- Glen Bailey is one of the three Budget Advocates for the West Valley.
- These advocates have already met with the majority of the city departments to share their concerns. These findings and interviews resulted in a white paper that will be presented at a meeting of the Budget Advocates on Saturday, December 16.
- Afterwards, the initial version of this white paper will be shared with the neighborhood councils, and presented and discussed at the regional budget day on the morning of Saturday, January 20. This meeting will be held at various locations throughout the city; the valley meeting will be held at the Marvin Braude Building, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard. Board members and stakeholders are welcome to join this meeting.
- Per Pam Bolin’s request, a budget survey will be sent to all neighborhood councils.

19. Reports by Northridge Vision Committee Reps

- No one spoke up to address this agenda item.

20. Reports by Committee Chairs

- The Beautification Committee will meet at 8AM on Saturday, December 16, near the intersection of the 118 Freeway and Wilbur Avenue. The NWNC will cleanup Wilbur Avenue south of the 118, while the PRNC will cleanup Wilbur Avenue north of the 118.
- Jon Manuel from the Outreach Committee, alongside Lori from GHCHS, encourages area high school students to join the neighborhood cleanups.
- Lloyd Dent mentioned that the January meeting of the PLUZ and Public Safety Committee would discuss Walgreen's Drug Store.

21. Comments by board members on non-agenda items

- Lloyd Dent wondered who was doing cleanup on the north side of Wilbur Avenue near Plummer Street. As they were using white bags, Glen Wilson reported that might have been the West Valley Alliance.
- Mikkie Loi reminded everyone that while they are doing their holiday shopping ... please keep track of your purchases and be aware of your surroundings.
- Glen Wilson reported that a small amount of asphalt work would be performed in January. If anyone has any street repairs or potholes, please inform Glen of the approximate address of this pothole. To repair a sidewalk, please report directly to the city.

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

- No one spoke up to address this agenda item.

23. Adjournment

- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.27PM; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.