

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 9 January 2018
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 6.32PM, welcomed over twenty-two stakeholders, eleven board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Here (12)	Pamela Bolin, Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, Jenni Heckscher, Greg Kromhout, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Mikkie Loi, Jon Manuel, Colleen Pick, Jacalyn Williams, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Earl Fagin

2. Comments by Public Officials
 - Tanaz Golshan from Mayor Garcetti’s office is the new west valley field representative, replacing Kevin Taylor. She did not have much to report as she just started. However, she offered apologies for the absence of a west valley representative from the mayor’s office.
 - Jose Galdamez, Project Coordinator/Neighborhood Council Advocate from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported that their website is being updated to make it more user-friendly. In addition, the neighborhood council funding program has a new mandatory training video online at the city clerk’s website. This is for non-financial board members; treasurers, bankcard holders, and co-signers will require additional training. After viewing the video, there is a test. One must get 70% to pass. Although the fiscal year ends June 30, the deadline to change the bylaws is April 15.

3. Guest speaker, Albert Melena, Executive Director of San Fernando Valley Partnership, speaking on "Protecting Our Children From The Dangers of Marijuana Edibles"
 - Now that cannabis is legal, we will be seeing more edible cannabis in soft drinks and candy that can be accessed by children. This can lead to accidental overdoses. A bag of gummy bears can be 150-200mg of THC. The recommended dosage is merely 10. Hence, merely one gummy could have the recommended adult dosage of THC. Marijuana gummy bears cannot be visually differentiated from regular gummies.
 - In addition, today’s marijuana is much more potent than the weed we had in the 1960s to the early 2000s. Once this grass is through your liver, the THC is even more potent.
 - Since legalization in Colorado, they have seen a 200% increase in emergency room visits by children under age 5, a 60% increase of children 6-12, and a 92% increase in teenagers. Colorado has also seen a 112% increase in traffic fatalities with stoned drivers.
 - One in six teenagers will become addicted. As the teen brain is still developing, there is a relationship between marijuana and schizophrenia. You may see kids wearing caps with “710”; upside down, that is OIL, which is where the potency of grass is located. The extraction phase is very dangerous, and can lead to explosions.
 - Stakeholder Pamela mentioned that these marijuana infused items are not readily available, and a buyer must seek them out.
 - Budget Advocate Deidre Greenway added that LA had 200 dispensaries; 186 closed on January 1. Adults must be as responsible as they would be with alcohol and drugs. The 186 closed dispensaries have six months to come into compliance; otherwise, they will not re-open. In addition, the maximum they can dispense is 10mg.
 - Stakeholder Sally mentioned that there does not appear to be anything to restrict people from distributing this stuff to kids; parents and teachers must be aware.
 - Stakeholder Doris asked if a lockbox was mandatory for a house with children; Albert replied that they are not mandatory, but highly recommended.

- Lloyd Dent asked about the purpose of Albert’s organization; Albert’s group receives funding from the LA County Department of Health to work with schools to make certain that marijuana is not distributed to children, and that the weed remains in its original [unaltered] packaging.

4. Comments from stakeholders on non-agenda items

- Marilyn and Jana have recently opened the Anamar Senior Care residential facility at 10109 Gladbeck Avenue in the Peppertree area. This new six-bed facility serves their senior clientele with daily living.
- Xavier is seeking support from the city for a new discreet marijuana growing facility in the industrial area of West Northridge. The Planning Commission will alert the NWNC as it gets closer to development. This facility will not be near any schools, churches, daycare, or rehabilitation facilities, and will have more security than a regular marijuana dispensary. Stakeholder Sally asked if it was legal to cultivate marijuana in this area; Deidre offered to share a map highlighting this permissible area.
- Ron Wangler has been involved with NWNC for several years, is glad to see all the involved stakeholders, as well as Pam Bolin back on the board, and has never seen a more involved NWNC. He would like to see Dr. Nordella discuss the upcoming marijuana issues, including who will monitor illegal marijuana.
- Ankur Patel is the education candidate running for assembly district 45, with the full support of Principal Wells and Superintendent Schmerelson. He feels that we need people in Sacramento who will prioritize education and make certain that the money coming from legal marijuana is going towards schools.
- Budget Advocate Glen Bailey, President of Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC), reported that there would be a public hearing on Friday, January 26, to discuss a potential mixed-use project at 9534 Reseda Boulevard, the current site of the US Post Office. Their lease expires in three years. It has not yet been determined where the replacement Northridge Post Office will be located.
- The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) will meet in Sherman Oaks this Thursday, January 11.
- VANC’s 15th Anniversary mixer will be Thursday, March 8 at CBS, Studio City. There are over 500 neighborhood council members in the valley, yet the site can accommodate merely 250; hence, early RSVPs are recommended.
- Saturday, February 3, the city clerk will host a meeting to discuss the 2019 elections.
- Neighborhood council funding has transferred from DONE to the city clerk’s office. A funding working group (including local budget advocates Brian Allen and Glen Bailey) will meet with the city clerk’s staff. If anyone has any suggestions for the funding group’s smooth operation, please contact Brian and/or Glen.

5. Presidential Comments

- NWNC will receive \$1k [to be used at its discretion] for participating in the Mayor’s Clean Streets Challenge. Beginning at 10AM on Saturday, January 27, NWNC will be honored at an awards ceremony on the 3rd floor of City Hall.

6. Discussion and motion to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding CF- 17-1426 filed 12/14/2017 by Paul Koretz to “review the legislative and regulatory opportunities the City may have for mitigating the impact of all kinds of group homes on surrounding neighborhood and communities, including a through review of such efforts undertaken in other jurisdictions, and to report back to the City Council within 120 days with analysis, options and recommendations.”

- Stakeholder Garry asked if they could be more specific regarding group homes. Jon Manuel replied that these group homes could be for seniors or rehabilitation. Lloyd Dent added that many group homes are not properly regulated. Peter Lasky mentioned that this would force the group homes to adhere more to the laws. Peter added that this CIS is to look into what can be done to improve the group homes. This can be confusing for our local lawmakers, as some homes have stringent regulations, whereas other jurisdictions have fewer regulations. Marilyn from the Anamar Senior Care mentioned that elderly group homes are quite different than sober living homes.
- A stakeholder recommended that this be amended to differentiate between sober-living and senior-living group homes.

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve a CIS in favor of (FOR) Councilman Koretz’s motion; Jon Manuel seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

7. Discussion and motion to contribute the award of \$1,000 from the Mayors Clean Street Challenge to the Northridge Beautification Foundation to plant Topiary Figures as previously approved by the board. The Topiary Figures will be planted on the first Medians lying north and south of the 118 Freeway. The giving of these funds for the Median North of the 118 shall be conditional upon the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) approving the placement of Topiary on said median and the installation of a drip system to water said topiary and also by the approval of the City of LA Office of Community Beautification of our Adopt-A-Median proposal previously applied for. If the PRNC does not approve the placement of said topiary and drip system by the end of February 2018 then all proceeds shall be used for the benefit of NWNC. It is recognized and understood that the use of these will likely not be sufficient to pay for the above mentioned topiary and that additional funds from either or both NCs will be necessary to complete these projects.
 - Lloyd Dent asked about the status of the relationship with the PRNC; Peter Lasky met with their Beautification Committee, yet the status remains unknown.
 - Stakeholder Garry mentioned that this might include a 3rd party; Peter Lasky introduce Don Larson, who sat across the aisle from Garry.
 - Jon Manuel reiterated the process that NWNC went through to receive this \$1,000
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and motion to approve the recommendation of the PLUZ Committee for a vote of no objection to the Application of a Conditional Use Permit by Walgreens for the continued sale of alcoholic beverages
 - Lloyd Dent received this application ZA-2017-4308 and felt this was very elementary. Walgreen’s alcohol department occupies less than an aisle, it is a very minor part of their business, and they had zero incidents in their six years of operation at 18515 Devonshire Street.
 - Lloyd Dent made a motion to approve this agenda item; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

9. Discussion and motion by the board to create a funding line of \$500 for various expenses for 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 March and could be in partnership with Northridge East or other Neighborhood Councils. The money would be used for flyers, chair rentals, and other incidental expenses
 - Dr. Nordella had a medical practice in Porter Ranch and noticed a few of his patients came in with odd maladies, as evidenced by hair, urine, etc. He did self-funded research and sent samples to various research laboratories across the USA.
 - This \$500 could cover incidentals. As of now, this may be held at the Northridge Park Gym. Someone asked if it will be merely Dr. Nordella talking, or someone else. It was revealed that So Cal Gas, LADWP, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) were invited.
 - Glen Bailey mentioned that NENC might consider donating \$300 towards this event, and North Hills and Granada Hills Neighborhood Councils may participate. Northridge South declined to participate.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and motion to approve the recommendations of the Education Committee of Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG) to Northridge Beautification Foundation and Friends of Oakridge.

- A. Northridge Beautification Committee for \$4,000 to install topiary on the Tampa Median #2 contingent upon approval of the Northridge West Adopt-A-Median Application by the Office of Community Beautification.
 - o As this is nearly 10% of NWNC’s annual budget, Jenni Heckscher would first like to hear from a representative of the Northridge Beautification Foundation to specifically address this topiary project.
 - o Jenni Heckscher made a motion to table this agenda item; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (8)	Fox, Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Loi, Manuel, Williams, and Wilson
No (3)	Bolin, Dent, and Pick
Abstain (1)	Lasky
Absent (1)	Fagin

- B. Friends of Oakridge for \$1,000 to replace the tree lost in the front yard planter.
 - o Per someone’s question, a watering system for the trees is already in place at this location.
 - o As a representative of Friends of Oakridge was not present, Jenni Heckscher made a motion to table this agenda item; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (8)	Fox, Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Loi, Manuel, Williams, and Wilson
No (3)	Bolin, Dent, and Pick
Abstain (1)	Lasky
Absent (1)	Fagin

Agenda items 11 through 13 were merged as a consent agenda.

- 11. Discussion and motion for the renewal of the storage unit at Golden State Storage for a six-month period at a cost of \$650 or less.
 - Gail Lapaz made a motion to approve this agenda item; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- 12. Treasurer’s Report, by Jenni Heckscher and motions to approve the November Monthly Expense Report.
 - Gail Lapaz made a motion to approve this agenda item; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- 13. Motion to approve the December Minutes
 - Gail Lapaz made a motion to approve this agenda item; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

- 14. Liaisons, Reps, Advocates, and Northridge Vision Reports
 - The annual budget day will be held throughout the city on Saturday, January 20. The regional valley meeting will be at the Marvin Braude Building, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard. This will include a presentation and discussion of the budget advocates initial white paper. Board members and stakeholders are welcome. It is requested that attendees complete an online survey before and after the meeting.
 - Homeless Liaison Gisella reported that Tuesday evening, January 23, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) will hold their annual homeless count. Please visit their website at <http://www.theycountwillyou.org> to volunteer. Volunteers will not approach the homeless individuals; they will ride in cars and count the people they see on the sidewalks. Gisella will be the deployment site coordinator for Woodland Hills. In addition, flyers were available on the side table to distribute to homeless individuals, to guide them for help to shelters, food pantries, etc.

- Northridge Vision will meet at 1.45PM, Wednesday, January 10 at CSUN; please RSVP to acquire a free parking permit.
- The Salute to Recreation Festival will return to the Northridge Park in early June 2018; this will be combined with the annual Hawaiian Festival and Senior Dance; NWNC should have representation at this big event.

15. Committee Chairs Comments

- Gail Lapaz has committed NWNC [to join PRNC] for the August Homeless Connected Empowerment meet-up at the Northridge Park. Chairs will be provided by Councilman Englander’s office. The valley homeless will be bussed to the Northridge Park, where they will be served lunch (possibly Subway sandwiches), and have the option to get a haircut, ID card (from representatives of the DMV), a dental check-up, manicure, counseling, etc. The first coordination meeting will be at 3PM on Thursday, January 18 at the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, 18705 Devonshire Street.
- Bill Fox mentioned that the LAFD-hosted Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Program would start at 6PM on Wednesday, January 11, at the Devonshire Community School Auditorium, 10045 Jamilla Avenue, Chatsworth; seats remain available. This training gives people the necessary tools to help family, friends, and neighbors in the event of a major event, such as an earthquake.
- Jon Manuel mentioned that the Outreach Committee would meet in the 2nd half of February to discuss Dr. Nordella’s upcoming meeting in late March.
- The Beautification Committee has not had recent meetings and few people have volunteered for the Thursday morning cleanups. It has been difficult to recruit volunteers as working people and students are not available mid-week.
- Stakeholder Ron mentioned that those who showed up for the December 16th cleanup along Wilbur Avenue had to bag a great deal of material. It was disappointing that city services did not participate in the Wilbur Avenue cleanup, yet that would have involved paid overtime.
- Lloyd Dent will schedule a meeting of the PLUZ Committee, possibly Monday, January 22. They are still looking for a facility to hold the meeting; Peter suggested the craft room at Northridge Park, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, or McDonalds.

16. Open discussion of “How is the illegal parking of RVs effecting you, your quality of life, and your neighborhood”

- San Diego and Santa Barbara have set aside parking areas where they can focus on hygiene, trash collection, and refuse disposal.
- Gail Lapaz mentioned that Porter Ranch’s main focus is on RVs, especially at the Shepherd of the Hills Church at 19700 Rinaldi Street. Folks have seen these RV campsites along Winnetka Avenue, as well as in front of Lowe’s at 19601 Nordhoff Street. Pamela Bolin and others have photographed the trash and emailed the photos to Councilman Englander’s office.

17. Comments by board members

- Mikkie Loi mentioned that the Granada Hills Emergency Plan Event “Before–During–After” would be held beginning at 6PM on Thursday, February 1 at Granada Hills Charter High School’s Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Street. For further information call Mike Benedetto from the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council at 818-723-8087.

18. Adjournment

- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.45PM; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.