

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 13 February 2018
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 6.24PM, welcomed over seventeen stakeholders, eleven board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Here (11)	Pamela Bolin, Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, Jenni Heckscher, Greg Kromhout, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Jon Manuel, Colleen Pick, Jacalyn Williams, and Glen Wilson
Absent (2)	Earl Fagin and Mikkie Loi

2. Comments by Public Officials

- Jose Galdamez, Project Coordinator/Neighborhood Council Advocate from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported that they have started the election workshops in preparation for the 2019 elections. They had one on Monday, February 12, and another will be held on Monday, March 19, 6 to 8PM at the Canoga Park Community Center, 7248 Owensmouth Avenue.
- New guidelines and policies have been released by the Funding Department of the City Clerk’s office; this information is available at clerk.lacity.org.

3. Guest speaker, George Minter, Regional Vice President, External Affairs and Environmental Strategy, So Cal Gas, speaking on “Beyond Natural Gas”

- George’s presentation was on the future of natural gas, not Aliso Canyon.
- He started working at the Gas Company in the 1980s, left in 2000 to start his own business, and returned to the Gas Company to continue his career in renewal energy. He makes certain that we reduce emissions as much as possible.
- 90% of Californians depend upon natural gas every day.
- Natural gas has been around since 1821 and was originally manufactured from coal and kerosene. Electricity did not come along until 1879.
- Natural Gas is methane; as it comes from the ground, it may also contain water and nitrogen. There is now a great deal of methane from solid waste, decomposing trees, and dairies. Bio-methane is organic methane from decomposed plant matter and other living things. These past ten years, energy companies have captured 40% of extracted methane. However, the USA remains far behind European nations.
- Lloyd Dent wondered why Europe is so far ahead of us. Most European energy leaders have made great strides forward in their agreement that renewable energy is the future.
- Many hospitals run on natural gas; it has been determined that during natural disasters [such as hurricanes] hospitals can continue to operate.
- Two years ago, a law passed mandating that 30% of energy be renewable by 2030. Renewable resources, such as sun and wind, will always be here. However, battery resources are a long way from having the capacity to work when solar and wind are unavailable.
- As we have more solar and wind, this renewable power will become more baseline. Previously, natural gas was the baseline; now natural gas will become the peaking resource, while solar and wind become the baseline.

- 80% to 90% of polluting emissions come from transportation (mostly trucks). Many buses have gone from diesel power to natural gas. Trucks are encouraged to also transition to natural gas.
 - Photosynthesis relates to mammals taking in oxygen and expelling Co₂ (carbon dioxide) whereas plants take in Co₂ and expel oxygen.
 - Electrolysis places the power through the water to create hydrogen. Excess renewable electricity becomes renewable hydrogen gas. There is a facility at UC/Irvine which was the first such facility in Southern California to develop this energy technology.
 - The UC/Irvine facility is now generating more solar power than they, Edison, and So Cal Gas can handle. During the day, all that solar goes through electrolysis, creating hydrogen, which goes to useable energy. This stored electricity can be stored almost forever.
 - Jon Manuel asked about the three biggest problems with natural gas:
 1. Mechanics: Since natural gas is subterranean, with underground tanks and pipes, the storage facilities must always be maintained.
 2. Combustion: Most people feel that this is dangerous and do not like the idea of combustion.
 3. Perception: As natural gas is a fossil fuel, people think of it as a dirty fossil fuel (although not as dirty as coal).
4. Comments from stakeholders on non-agenda items
- Frida from CSUN's Sustainability Group reported that the new LimeBikes are all around Northridge. Please contact her if you see them used recklessly, or undesirably parked near your home.
 - Leah, a student at CSUN, reported that less than 13% of electronics are recycled. CSUN hosted an E-Waste drive in late November, but they continue to collect E-Waste (including cellular telephones, laptops, mice, copiers, inkjet printers, batteries, etc.). They are unable to collect alkaline batteries, lamps, CDs, or large appliances. You can leave your recyclables at the campus's recycling center from 8AM until 6PM at the corner of Lindley Avenue and Nordhoff Street. They are near the G3 parking area, with a ten-minute loading zone. If you will be there more than ten minutes, the parking fee is \$2/hour. For additional information, please contact them at 818-677-4262.
 - Tricia Robbins-Kasson is running for the 45th assembly district, a seat recently held by Matthew Dababneh. She is a daughter of the valley, with her bachelor's degree in business administration from CSUN, and a master's degree in urban planning and economic development from USC. She is the economic development deputy to Councilman Bob Blumenfield, and was the former planning deputy to Councilman Jose Huizar. She was previously the planning associate for Rosenheim and Associates, working on the Warner Center 2035 Specific Plan. She is most interested in jobs, economic opportunities, housing, transportation, rental rates, and the environment. She is running to make certain that resources from Sacramento come to the West Valley so the people of Northridge get what they deserve.
5. Presidential Comments:
- Can one person make a difference? You hear people rumble that things are not good. We here at NWNC have two very good examples:
 - Don Larson has done amazing things [often by himself] including creating "Clean Streets, Clean Starts" and his work on the Reseda Boulevard and Tampa Avenue medians.
 - A few months ago, after Deirdre from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) gave a talk on the plight of the homeless, NWNC's Gail Lapaz volunteered to be the

homeless liaison. Gail recently hosted her first Homeless Committee meeting which attracted eight attendees

- Saturday, January 27th, Peter Lasky and the NWNC were honored at a ceremony at city hall for their work on the Mayor’s Clean Streets Challenge. Peter received the NWNC award certificate and \$1k (to be used at the NWNC’s discretion).

6. Discussion and motion to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding CF- 17-1421 filed 12/13/2017 by Councilmember Mitch O’ Farrell to establish an Illegal Fireworks Task Force to report on issues related to illegal fireworks and to curtail their use within the City

- Glen Wilson and Lloyd Dent feel that we must crack down on fireworks abuses, especially in light of the drought and fire danger.
- Lloyd Dent made a motion to file a CIS supporting Mitch O’Farrell’s council file 17-1421 to establish an Illegal Fireworks Task Force to report on issues related to illegal fireworks and to curtail their use within the city; Jon Manuel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and motion to file a CIS regarding CF-18-0045 by Councilmember David Ryu to have the “Chief Legislative Analyst be instructed to report within 30 days on the costs and feasibility of amending Council Rule 18 to establish one or more council meetings each to be held at 5PM instead of the currently prescribed 10AM”

- Jon Manuel made a motion to file a CIS supporting David Ryu’s council file 18-0045 to have the “Chief Legislative Analyst be instructed to report within thirty days on the costs and feasibility of amending Council Rule 18 to establish one or more council meetings to be held at 5PM instead of the currently prescribed 10AM”; Greg Kromhout seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (9)	Bolin, Fox, Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Lasky, Manuel, Pick, and Wilson
No (1)	Dent
Absent (3)	Fagin, Loi, and Williams

8. Discussion and motion to approve the recommendation of the Education Committee for a grant of \$1,000 for the Friends of Oakridge for the planting of an Oak Tree

- Steve Harris from the Friends of Oakridge asked if everyone was familiar with the city-owned Oakridge estate. This property was developed in 1936 for Barbara Stanwyck.
- Many oak trees around the house have been in place since 1936. Several recently died from the drought.
- To replace the dead trees, new California live oak trees may cost \$1k/each, and come within a 48” or 60” nursery box. One of the new trees will go in the front yard planter in the circular driveway, the others will be at the rear of the house to shade a historic wall mural. Watering systems are already in place to feed the new trees.
- A stakeholder asked about irrigation; this will be included in the \$1k.
- There is a line on everyone’s property tax bill that is used for city parks [and children’s] facilities; the majority of funding to support this Oakridge project is from these tax assessments.
- Thirty years ago, Glen Bailey [president of the NENC] planted a live oak seedling at his house. This tree is now very large, and has created three smaller trees from its acorns. Glen urges the Friends of Oakridge to plant seedlings. He also recommended more sustainable trees in case the oak trees do not survive.
- Jon Manuel requested doubling this amount to \$2k, with an outdoor public space geared towards children. However, agenda items cannot see a funding increase during a meeting.
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this \$1k oak tree expenditure; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and motion to approve the recommendation of the Education Committee to approve the application of the Northridge Beautification Committee of \$4,000 for the planting of Topiary Animals on the first Tampa Median South of the 118 Freeway. Funds would come from the funding line of \$6,000 approved by the board at the September 12 Meeting. Funding of this Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) will be contingent upon the approval of the application to Adopt-A-Median by the Office of Community Beautification and the issuance of a permit by Pubic Works for the installation of the topiary
 - Don Larson is anxious to get started and unfurled diagrams of the potential topiary animal shapes. The scale for horses will be full-sized; some of the smaller animals (rabbits and chickens) will be exaggerated. Don will use various plants, as recommended by the Department of City Planning and the Urban Forestry Division of the city's Bureau of Street Services, for the chicken wire filling.
 - Gail asked why the Education Committee deals with NPGs; Peter mentioned that many NPGs frequently support schools; hence, they are usually coordinated via the Education Committee.
 - Maintenance of the Tampa Avenue and Reseda Boulevard medians is included in this \$4,000.
 - A stakeholder asked if they reached out for potential sponsorship of the topiary; Peter Lasky replied that neighborhood councils could not accept such sponsorship.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to reduce the quantity of horse topiaries from four to three; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this \$4,000 expenditure; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and motion by the board to approve using \$500 from the funding line for topiary approved in September 2017 to be used to add on to the existing drip line for the purpose of watering the topiary if planted. This will be contingent upon approval of our Adopt-A-Median Application. The vendor will be American Heritage Landscape
 - A stakeholder asked about this Adopt-a-Median application; Peter Lasky replied that it was all set and ready to go.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve using \$500 for this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and motion by the board to approve partnering with the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) for an Earth Day Cleanup to be held on April 14 from noon to 4PM at Holleigh Bernson Park
 - The PRNC must have a partner for CD12 to join them and lend them tools and equipment.
 - Michelle from CSUN's Sustainability Program reported that CSUN's Sustainability Group would also attend this event; they are very interested in Earth Day activities, and feel that this is a great activity for the community.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve partnering with the PRNC for their April 14th Earth Day event; Jon Manuel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and Motion to approve the Committee Chairs and Roster dated 1/25/2018
 - The Public Safety Chair should be shown as Bill Fox
 - Bill Fox made a motion to approve the Committee Chairs and Roster dated January 25th; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

13. Treasurer’s Report, by Jenni Heckscher and motions to approve the December Monthly Expense Report (MER)

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report and the December MER; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

14. Motion to approve the January Minutes

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the January minutes; Gail Lapaz and Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (10)	Bolin, Fox, Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Lasky, Manuel, Pick, Williams, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Dent
Absent (2)	Fagin and Loi

15. Liaisons, Reps, Advocates, and Northridge Vision Reports

- The Department of City Planning may hold an upcoming meeting in the North Valley. A specific location and date have not yet been determined.
- Gail Lapaz reported that the Tuesday, January 23rd Annual Homeless Count attracted over 8,600 volunteers who supported 166 sites.
- The next Homeless Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 15 at the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, 18705 Devonshire Street. Every night, over 12,000 Angelenos sleep in their vehicles. The Homeless Committee is working with “Safe Parking LA” to discover where these homeless may park their vehicles. Perhaps someone from the “Safe Parking” group could address an upcoming NWNC meeting.
- Thursday, October 18, the NWNC will host “Homeless Connecting” an empowerment meet up at the Northridge Park. This will connect two hundred homeless individuals with support services. The Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, CD12, the NENC, PRNC, the Northridge South Neighborhood Councils, and other charitable organizations will join NWNC. Pam Bolin mentioned that Whole Foods may donate water, and Brent’s Deli and Western Bagel may donate food.
- Saturday, January 20, Peter Lasky attended the Regional Budget Day in Van Nuys. This included a presentation and discussion of the budget advocates initial white paper. This amended white paper will be presented in Mayor Garcetti in a month. Budget Advocate Glen Bailey [from NENC] added that the follow-on citywide budget day would be held at city hall, downtown LA, on a Saturday in June. He added that each neighborhood council will receive an emailed survey, which may take two-minutes to complete. At the end, there is an area to add any issues folks may have concerning city services. Each survey will be reviewed for appropriate action.

16. Committee Chairs Comments

- Glen Wilson mentioned that Chris Williams would like to host a Beautification Committee meeting, but that has not yet been scheduled.
- Lloyd Dent mentioned that the Planning, Land Use, and Zoning Committee would meet on Tuesday, February 20 here at the Calahan School to discuss a requested Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Arco station at 18855 Nordhoff Street (at Wilbur Avenue).
- Pam mentioned that the Executive and Education Committees would have a joint meeting on Tuesday, February 27 here at the Calahan Elementary School. The Executive meeting starts at 6PM, with the Education Committee’s meeting following at approximately 7.15PM.
- Jon Manual reported that the Outreach Committee would meet on Wednesday, March 14. They are tentatively planning a cleanup event on Earth Day weekend, April 14-15.

17. Open discussion of issues brought by stakeholders, time permitting

- Peter Lasky thanked Pam Bolin for tonight's creative food (sushi and dim sum).
- LimeBikes will have a presentation at the NENC meeting, Tuesday, February 20, at the Northridge Women's Club, 18401 Lassen Street. The successful LimeBikes rent to CSUN students for merely \$1; however, as there is not a great financial commitment, they are often abandoned in nearby residential neighborhoods, which create a nuisance for homeowners.
- A stakeholder mentioned that there would be a Northridge Vision meeting on Wednesday February 14, at 2PM at Councilman Englander's office, 9207 Oakdale Drive.
- Glen Bailey reminded everyone of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) mixer on Thursday, March 8, beginning at 6PM, at the CBS Studios, Studio City. As this is a secure studio lot, advance registration [by Friday, March 2] is required. As the lot's capacity is 225 people, this event is open to board and committee members; the general public may not get in.

18. Comments by board members

- There were no additional comments by board members.

19. Adjournment

- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.55PM; Gail Lapaz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.