

**Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)**  
**General Board Meeting (GBM)**  
**Tuesday, 10 November 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

1. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
  - Vice President of Administration Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.21PM, welcomed over sixteen attendees, and [eventually] nine board members.
  - Two of Jennifer's daughters led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:

Here (9)	Payman Bahman, Abigail Bailes, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Bill Fox, Jennifer Krowne, Peter Lasky, Josue Toscano, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Joel Lowell
Resigned (3)	Gail Lapaz, Rana Sharif, and Kelly Sooter
  
2. Comment by Senior Lead Officer (SLO)
  - LAPD SLO Sandra Zamora was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
  
3. Comments on Stakeholders on Non-Agenda items
  - Kimberly Rebamonte is a computer information technology student at CSUN. She appreciated the NWNC's support for plants and sprinklers. Due to her interested in such matters, Abby urged Kimberly to join the Beautification Committee.
  
  - Katherine Campos is majoring in business management and sustainability studies at CSUN and would like to see more eco-friendly businesses throughout Northridge.
  
  - Glenn Bailey reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils would meet on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> (second Thursday) to discuss the upcoming neighborhood council elections, including outreach, voter registration, etc. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and the city clerk's office received \$456k to conduct this election.
  - Glenn added that sessions from the September 26<sup>th</sup> Congress of Neighborhood Councils were recorded and are available at <http://www.nccongressla.com>.
  
  - Gail Lapaz mentioned that one of the reasons she resigned was the lack of support from Councilman Lee's office and the city. Recently, there has been too much backstabbing and name-calling. She can do more with the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance (which is more of a positive environment) than with the NWNC.
  
  - Jason Hector commended the NWNC for what they attained these past few months. He also urged people to reach out to 311 to remove the dead wood and trees. He looks forward to supporting the Beautification Committee.
  
  - Asaad Alnajjar mentioned that he is trying to increase cooperation, especially regarding safety issues and speeding, between the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) and the NWNC.
  
  - Brian Reff requested to change the Zoom settings so he can see which board members are present as well as the agenda. Gibson from DONE replied that he will attempt to set this up.

- Andrew Krowne asked if it was mandatory that all board members have video. Gibson mentioned that it is the board member's choice. Abby mentioned that during one meeting, someone videoed her, and posted her image [along with bogus information] on YouTube.

#### 4. Update from the Devonshire Area Community-Police Advisory Board

- Mikkie Loi reported that the Devonshire Area Community Police Advisory Board works to open the communication channels between the community and the LAPD.
- Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> the Valley Traffic Division will host a meeting at 6.30PM whereupon Captain Newman will discuss racing.
- Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, the LAPD will host free bike registration at the Devonshire Station at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue. If you are unable to bring your bicycle in person, please provide the manufacturer, model, color, serial number, etc.
- Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the LAPD will host a Zoom meeting for victims of domestic violence.
- Also on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6PM, all Senior Lead Officers (SLO) will host a united meeting; this will be their last basic car meeting for 2020.
- If you are interested in the 2021 basic car meetings, please reach out to your SLO to get on their mailing list.

Dario del Core      27286@lapd.online.com

Patti Peteque      31373@lapd.online.com

Sandra Zamora      35947@lapd.online.com

- Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7PM, the Devonshire Police Activity League Supporters will host their annual holiday event with virtual reindeer races and an ugly sweater contest to fund their annual toy drive. The toys will be given away the morning of Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5. Comments by Public Officials

- Councilman John Lee praised the NWNC and mentioned that whenever anything happens in the area, the people of CD12 and Northridge always seem to come together. He added that he is always accessible.
- He is currently working on Project Roomkey; the Travelodge hotel at 21603 Devonshire Street in Chatsworth is selling their property due to low registration during COVID-19.
- Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be a community meeting to discuss Northridge Skateland at 18140 Parthenia Street. CD12 is not using eminent domain; contrarily, the folks at Skateland approached Councilman Lee, proposing that their facility partner with Hope of the Valley to become interim housing for our community's unhoused.
- John mentioned that the employees at the West Valley Animal Shelter at 20655 Plummer Street are being temporarily moved to other shelters.
- Councilman Lee urged folks to reach out to his office, or call 311, to report street lighting outages, graffiti (especially if there are hate symbols), etc.
- After 33-years, Executive Director Jane Stanton of the North Valley YMCA is retiring. The YMCA's annual fundraiser will include a virtual retirement party for Jane. This will be held Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Tickets are \$33/each. A 2021 Toyota Corolla (donated by Northridge Toyota) will be raffled. For additional information, please visit John's Facebook page.
- If you can get ten people together for a weekend to do a beautification project, CD12 will provide tools (including rakes, trash bags, and water) that you may need. Please contact his office at 818-882-1212 for additional information.
- CD12 and apartment developers along Winnetka Avenue are working on a bee/pollinator project. They hope to attract pollinators to the area's new flower gardens. This may be of particular interest to Kimberly and Katherine from CSUN.
- CD14 is also working with the schools to teach kids about gardening, including composting, where their food comes from, etc.

- If anyone knows anyone dealing with food insecurity, please have them get in touch with CD12, which has \$50 grocery store gift cards available for distribution.
  - There are also \$5k to \$25k low interest small business loans available. The first payment is not due for three or six months.
  - The LAPD is one of the most progressive agencies in the USA; President Obama praised them as one of the top ten in the nation. Councilman Lee voted to hear a study regarding alternatives to armed responses to 911. This will be further discussed in agenda item 13.A. They hope to have additional information available by Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> (the date of the December NWNC meeting).
  - Andrew Krowne spoke on behalf of the Aliso Canyon Community Action Group (CAG). They met with Supervisor Barger a week ago. They have reached out to CD12 three times, and have not yet gotten a reply. Councilman Lee offered to set up a Zoom meeting and urged Andrew to get in touch with his Executive Assistant, Sue Bruno.
- Andrew Krowne reported that he hopes to meet with Councilman Lee very soon. They recently met with Supervisor Barger. The CAG seems to align with her views. But they are receiving mixed messages, as their views are counter to those of the Department of Public Health (DPH).
  - The thirteen-members of the CAG recently had a vote of no confidence regarding the health study, with eight yes [who would not encourage people to participate in the DPH's health study], two no, and three absences.
  - 150 bins containing scientific material are currently being removed from the Aliso Canyon storage facility. The DPH has retained merely 20 of these 150 bins. It has been discovered at least one of these bins contains radioactive plutonium 120, radon, and uranium. These metals will never evaporate. As this radioactive material is within the soil, when the wind blows, this material is redistributed throughout the community. The CAG would like someone with a Geiger counter to learn more about these heavy metals and share that information with the community.
  - The next CAG meeting may be Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Gibson from DONE mentioned that the neighborhood council elections and outreach were discussed in the recent monthly profile. Candidate filings will begin in other areas of the city as soon as Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Although he regrets the recent NWNC resignations, he believes the current NWNC board can continue. As some of the resigned board members had board seats until 2023, those seats can be filled ASAP. Abby added that if anyone is interested in running for a seat on the NWNC, please submit an application.
6. Presidential Comments
- Abby clarified that she is actually the vice president of administration, not the president.
  - We were all saddened to learn that three of our most valuable board members chose to resign. Abby reached out to the remaining nine board members; they are optimistic that we will move forward together.
  - Abby then concluded by paraphrasing the 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation by President Lincoln, whereupon he thanked God in spite of the tragic circumstances.
7. Discussion and motion to accept the resignations of Rana Sharif, Kelly Sooter, and Gail Lapaz
- The NWNC does not need to make a motion or vote on this issue.
  - Gail reported that it was a pleasure to serve with the NWNC. However, the principle reason for her resignation was that the city did not support the NWNC board members. DONE continues to tell the NWNC that they cannot do certain things.
  - Ding shared Gail's concerns and was grateful to have worked with Rana, Kelly, and Gail.

- Jason Hector said it was a pleasure serving with Rana, Kelly, and Gail and he was sad to hear about the resignations. He added that we must all be accountable for our actions; when you are not accountable, you lose your power. All we have in life is our reputations.
  - Asaad Alnajjar, Mihran Kalaydjian, and Glenn Bailey added that they hoped that those who resigned would change their minds, come back, and work together in harmony. They sympathized with the frustration of dealing with the city, but added that DONE is trying. However, DONE must deal with a big gorilla from the deputy city attorney's office, and they are also shackled. Mihran added that Gail is an icon in dealing with homelessness issues. Glenn reminded everyone that it was Rana who organized the Oakridge Park dedication, etc. Kelly has represented the community at the Northridge Vision meetings and coordinated the utility box artwork tasks.
8. Discussion and motion to select the "Second Signer" from Board Members
- Kelly was the previous second signer for the NWNC; this agenda item was tabled, as no one volunteered.
  - Glenn Bailey and Glen Wilson reminded everyone that the second signer must take the full 90-minute treasurer's training, not merely the 20-minute training.
9. Discussion and motion to appoint Lloyd Dent as stakeholder to the Planning, Land Use, and Zoning (PLUZ) Committee
- PLUZ Committee Chairman Payman thanked Lloyd, Peter, and Bill for being very helpful and knowledgeable.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
10. Discussion and motion to appoint Payman Bahman to the Election Committee
- Glen Wilson currently chairs this committee; Josue also serves. Payman looks forward to helping.
  - Bill Fox made a motion to approve this agenda item; Yi Ding seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
11. Discussion and motion regarding recommendations from the Election Committee regarding the 2021 election location and six to eight hour time window request
- The NWNC election day will be Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 12noon to 8PM, at either the Dunkin Donuts (9355 Reseda Boulevard) or the Northridge Park (near the gym) at 18300 Lemarsh Street.
  - Glenn Bailey mentioned any of the drop-off locations can accept ballots that day, not necessarily from that particular neighborhood council. The Northridge East Neighborhood Council requested the Northridge Women's Club at 18401 Lassen Street. They will also have a drive-through option for ballots.
  - David Balen mentioned that the PRNC's voting location could be at Fire Station 28 at 11641 Corbin Avenue.
  - Glen Wilson made a motion to approve the two election drop-off locations as the Dunkin Donuts (first choice) or the Northridge Park, near the gym (second choice) from noon to 8PM; Abby Bailes seconded this motion, and it passed.
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|------------|---|
| Aye (8)    | Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Toscano, and Wilson |
| No (1)     | Edwards   |
| Absent (1) | Lowell  |
12. Discussion and motion for an expenditure of up to \$500 for the printing and distribution of the Street Maintenance flyer
- Kelly previously took the lead on recreating this tri-fold brochure.

- Peter does not believe the language is compelling enough for people to read this and recommended tabling this. Bill Fox thought the language was quite clear, including “you may be fined \$50 to \$150”.
- Brian Reff found a typo of “asks” in lieu of “ashes”.
- Jason Hector commended the NWNC and thought it is great that they are taking care of this.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed.
 

Aye (8)	Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Toscano, and Wilson
No (1)	Lasky
Absent (1)	Lowell

13. Discussion and motion regarding recommendations from Government Affairs Committee

- A. CF 20-0769 passed by LA City Council on Wednesday 14 October 2020 regarding alternates to armed crisis for the City of LA’s 911 system. The committee recommended no action at this time in order to wait and see the outcome of City’s proposals.
- The Government Affairs Committee recommended no action. Councilman Lee addressed this issue in Agenda item 5.
- B. Discussion and motion to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) on CF 20-0692 - “While we support transparency in the use of funds, we oppose the City’s action to defund our police. Our stakeholders are concerned about the lack of advanced planning to help the LAPD make adjustments for reduced funding, recent reports from LAPD’s Devonshire Division about increased calls and crime in our neighborhood, and the potential lack of LAPD patrols.”
- Ding mentioned that many stakeholders might not support this motion. She wanted to make certain that the NWNC focuses on transparency, which is the key issue.
  - Stakeholder David Lasher mentioned that the LAPD is considering removing all traffic enforcement, including all of their motorcycle police.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to file this CIS (as written); Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed.
 

Aye (7)	Bahman, Bailes, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, and Wilson
No (1)	Ding
Abstain (1)	Toscano
Absent (1)	Lowell

- C. Discussion and motion to send a letter to BONC regarding its “Digital Communication Policy for NCs” Draft 29 September 2020.” - “Section 9.4.3 unlawfully restricts personal freedom of speech of board members and would create problems in the future. NWNC asks BONC to reconsider and remove this section from the “Digital Communication Policy for NCs” Draft 29 September 2020.”
- This involves board members on social media, as Section 9.4.3 appears as follows:
    - Neighborhood council board members and committee members shall refrain from discussing or commenting upon any matter that is pending before or may come before the neighborhood council. Commenting may include "friending" or "liking."
  - However, this could unlawfully restrict a NWNC board member’s first amendment rights.
  - Asaad Alnajjar spoke as an advocate for this document. This is fully ready to be adopted; no one should object to this, as board members should not discuss this issue prior to their board meetings. It just needs to include the section regarding cyber-bullying.
  - Kathleen asked how a board member would know that something was going to come before the entire NWNC. Asaad replied that if you were party to a censure, you would receive the

notification from DONE at least two months in advance. At that time, you can go to NextDoor and campaign amongst your friends.

- Andrew Krowne through that including the word “may” was far too vague.
- Glenn Bailey added that you can file a CIS or letter to the BONC, but you do not require a city council file number. This will grant you additional time to speak at a BONC hearing.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to file this letter with the BONC; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to file this as a CIS; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

14. Discussion of the new NWNC policy for edits and revisions, and motion to approve the October 13, 2020 GBM Minutes

- It was agreed that all future comments should come before all board members at an actual meeting rather than writing directly to the minute-taker.
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve the October 13<sup>th</sup> minutes; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (6)      Bahman, Ding, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, and Wilson  
 Abstain (3)      Bailes, Edwards, and Toscano  
 Absent (1)      Lowell

15. Discussion and motion to approve the October 2020 Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
September 4	The Mailroom	Webmaster	\$ 500.00
October 1	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	124.50
October 2	Host Reseller Group	Annual Website Domain Renewal	19.95
October 22	Apple One	Meeting Services	256.00
October 22	Apple One	Meeting Services	230.40
October 23	Apple One	Meeting Services	153.60
		Total	\$1,284.45

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve the October MER; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (8)      Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, and Wilson  
 Abstain (1)      Toscano  
 Absent (1)      Lowell

16. Discussion of Board Member vacancies, Executive committee vacancies, and Committee positions

- The current NWNC committee positions are as follows:

Executive Committee	President (vacant)	Abby Bailes, VP of Administration	VP of Outreach (vacant)	Yi Ding, Secretary Joel Lowell, Treasurer
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Committee	Chair	Board Member 1	Board Member 2	Stakeholder(s)
Beautification		Peter Lasky	Kathleen Edwards	
Budget and Finance	Joel Lowell	Peter Lasky	Josue Toscano	
Education	Yi Ding	Abby Bailes	Jennifer Krowne	
Elections	Glen Wilson	Josue Toscano		
Government Affairs	Abby Bailes	Yi Ding	Bill Fox	Victoria Estrada and Grace Jimenez
Homelessness		Bill Fox		

Outreach and Communications			Peter Lasky	
PLUZ	Payman Bahman	Joel Lowell	Jennifer Krowne	Andrew Krowne
Public Safety	Kathleen Edwards	Abby Bailes		

- It appears that the Outreach Committee is especially in need of people.
- Gail requested to join the Education Committee as a stakeholder. She would also like to stay on the Homelessness Committee
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that in previous elections, vacancies were posted on the ballots. In 2021, the city clerk’s office may post only those positions that expire in 2021.
- Abby announced that the NWNC currently have three open board seats (to replace Kelly, Rana, and Gail). Webmaster Christina recently posted a nice advertisement for new board members on the NWNC website.
- The Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> to further discuss board and committee seats.
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that former treasurer Glen Wilson could step in as the second signer, as he has already had the mandatory treasurer training. Glen Wilson replied that his treasurer training expired in September.
- Peter Lasky mentioned that David Brown is interested in joining the Public Safety Committee and Brian Reff is interested in the PLUZ.
- Payman added that he has a friend who lives, works, or has a vested ongoing interest in the community; perhaps they could qualify as a stakeholder? However, occasional shopping at the mall does not qualify one as a stakeholder.
- Gibson reported that an update to all by-laws would be coming very soon; this will include the following:
  - New definitions of stakeholders (per a recent motion approved by the city council); a community organization member/stakeholder could be someone who participates in meetings within the territory of a neighborhood council.
  - The definition of a youth board member was re-written.
  - The minimum age of a neighborhood council voter is 16-years-old.
  - Unhoused individuals may serve as a liaison on committees.
- Abby wondered if married couples could serve on a board. Jennifer replied that there was a wife and husband on the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council. As a follow-on to married couples serving on the board, Gail recommended that Andrew Krowne serve on the NWNC, alongside his wife Jennifer.

17. Review and clarification of the Brown Act guidelines

- Abby requested that any questions for clarification be emailed her; she will then forward these inquiries to Gibson.
- Board members discussing when a board will meet is not a violation of the Brown Act. However, Gibson discouraged board members from having policy discussions or social media conversations.

18. Discussion and update regarding City Clerk’s review of Northridge Beautification Foundation’s NPGs

- This issue will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

19. Discussion and update from the Beautification Committee’s recommendation(s) regarding the Tampa Topiary project

- This will be discussed at another meeting, including a discussion of the past, present, and possible future of the Tampa Topiary.

## 20. Report by Budget Advocate

- Glenn Bailey, Brian Allen, Garry Fordyce are three of the 36 advocates.
- The latest shortfall of the city's overall budget could be \$700m, averaging over \$50m/month.
- Trimming the early retirement program would only save \$2.6m, so that is not worth it.
- There was a brief discussion regarding "budget tribunes"; if anyone gets an email regarding this, please alert Glenn, Garry, and Brian.
- The Advocates currently have nineteen committees:
  - Animal Services
  - Cannabis
  - City Budget Cuts and Finance Departments
  - City Council Affairs
  - DONE
  - Emergency Management Resources
  - Equity
  - HHH Funds
  - Homelessness and Affordable Housing
  - Impact of COVID-19 on City Budget and Services
  - LAPD Committee
  - Opportunity Zones and Redlining
  - Outreach and Events
  - Pensions
  - People's Budget Los Angeles
  - Planning and Public Works
  - Policies and Goals Papers
  - Recreation and Parks
  - Undocumented Immigrants
- Stakeholders are welcome to attend these committee meetings.
- Additional information can be found on their new website at <http://www.budgetadvocates.com>

## 21. Reports by Committees

- Elections           Glen Wilson mentioned that the committee hoped to meeting on Monday or Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Education           Ding mentioned their next meeting would be Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Public Safety       Kathleen reported that the Animal Services Commission may divert \$1.5m from the trust fund to "marketing and promotion". The deadline to address this issue is Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- PLUZ                Payman mentioned that their next meeting will include a discussion of a solar paneled parking lot at a dialysis center along Reseda Boulevard.

## 22. Announcements by Board Members

- Someone mentioned that it appeared that all the median's plants along Reseda Boulevard have been removed. The plants may be simply covered with dirt.
- Kathleen mentioned that the utility art boxes installation is scheduled for the weekends of November 27 to 30 and December 4 to 7. Previously, there was discussion regarding videotaping the installation of this artwork. Kathleen reached out to Mark (who has previously done videos for the NWNC) for a price quote. Mark told Kathleen it could be \$800 to \$1,000, including lighting, incidental travel expenses, editing, etc. The NWNC could call a special meeting to discuss this expenditure. Peter added that this expense would probably come from the Outreach budget.
- Jennifer reported that she was sorry to see Gail, Kelly and Rana leave the NWNC.
- Peter would like thirty-minutes during a [special] meeting to discuss and respond to the Tampa Avenue Topiary, including the fact that he was involved in the submittal of proposed photographs of the horses/topiary. He added that there have been a great many inflammatory and misleading comments on NextDoor.

## 23. Adjournment

- Bill Fox made a motion to adjourn at 9.23PM; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.