Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 14 July 2020
Via Zoom

1. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
   - President Rana Sharif called the meeting to order at 6.16PM, welcomed ten attendees, eleven board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
   - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:

Here (11)	Abigail Bailes, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Bill Fox, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Joel Lowell, Rana Sharif, Kelly Sooter, Josue Toscano, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Jennifer Krowne
Resigned (1)	Pamela Bolin

2. Comments by Public Officials
   - Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12/Councilman John Lee, who advocates for the stakeholder's behalf while interfacing with the Departments of Building, Safety, Transportation, as well as the LAFD and LAPD, spoke of the following:
     - July 4th did not go well; the LAPD and LAFD were stretched to their limit with too many illegal fireworks and guns.
     - There was a disastrous fire at an apartment complex near Wilbur Avenue and Parthenia Street. This displaced 53-people who quickly escaped with merely their lives and the clothes on their backs. CD12, the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission, Napa Elementary School, and the Police Activity League Supporters (PALS) Center immediately held a needs assessment meeting. The Napa School took the lead on collecting household goods, including linens, towels, etc. The CD12 Angel Fund has pledged $25k, yet that it barely sufficient to cover a deposit on a new apartment. Three of the eight displaced families have already acquired housing, two are awaiting housing, and three have moved in with nearby families. If anyone is interested in donating, please text "Parthenia Relief" to 24365. These donations will be accepted through July. Earlier today, there was a press conference in front of Joyce's Coffee Shop at 8826 Reseda Boulevard whereupon Councilman Lee further discussed this fire.
     - The city council recently voted to remove $50m from the LAPD's budget.
     - Glenn Bailey from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) reiterated that the city saw a great increase in illegal fireworks this year. Witnesses have come forward stating they saw kids playing with illegal fireworks behind the apartment building prior to that disastrous fire. In addition, that apartment building had a line of twelve palm trees with dead fronds. It is imperative that properties be kept free of such fronds, which are a disaster waiting to happen.

   - Gibson Nyambura from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) introduced himself as the NWNC's new Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA). He will support the neighborhood councils of the northwest valley.
     - He reported that DONE recently compiled the results of a neighborhood council survey; the results will be presented to Mayor Garcetti. This may be followed by a town hall with Mayor Garcetti, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 16th.

3. Comments by Senior Lead Officers (SLO)
   - This agenda item was tabled, as the SLOs were unable to attend.

4. Comments by Stakeholders
    - Marilyn Koziatek works at the Granada Hills Charter High School and is running for a board seat on the LAUSD. She recently received endorsements from former Mayors Villaraigosa and Riordan, as well as Arne Duncan, President Obama's Education Secretary. For additional information, please visit her website at http://www.marilynforvalleyschools.com

    - Glenn Bailey reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) continues to have virtual meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Their next meeting will be August 13th. Their most recent meeting on July 9th included Marty Adams, General Manager of the LADWP, and Raquel Beltran, DONE's General Manager.
    - This year's virtual Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be Saturday, September 26th from 8AM to noon. This will lack the usual full compliment of workshops. There may be a similar event after the November election. There may be a minor cost to host this event. All unspent collected funds will be rolled over to the following September 2021 Congress.

5. Presidential Comments
    - Rana thanked the board, committees, and alliance team members who have hit the ground running.
    - She welcomed Gibson as the NWNC's new NEA and mentioned that we will miss Jose Galdamez.
    - Pam Bolin recently resigned from the NWNC. We thank her for all that she has done. The NWNC will need to replace her as chair of the Planning, Land Use, and Zoning (PLUZ) Committee.

6. Update from the Devonshire Area Community-Police Advisory Board
    - Mikkie Loi reported that the LAPD's Devonshire Division has seen the largest crime increase in the city. They have also seen an increase in stolen vehicles, particularly Ford and Chevrolet pick-up trucks. Catalytic converters are also being stolen. Regretfully, 40% of stolen vehicles were unlocked.
    - The LAPD will host virtual neighborhood watch/basic car meetings. For additional information, please monitor social media and/or email SLOs Sandra Zamora at 35947@lapd.lacity.org, John Parker at 36560@lapd.lacity.org, and/or Patty Peteque at 31373@lapd.lacity.org.
    - When calling the LAPD, 911 is only for emergencies. Non-emergency calls should be placed to 877-ASK-LAPD.
    - Abby asked how the LAPD budget cuts would impact us; this is unknown. Everything will take place in steps. For additional information, Mikkie recommended attending basic car meetings and asking the SLO.
    - Kathleen mentioned that a grey haired, grey bearded man in his early 60s was seen driving near the Beckford Avenue Elementary School and approaching young ladies. This was reported on Next Door. SLO Parker from this community will probably be alerted at tonight's neighborhood watch/basic car meeting. Matt Hernandez from CD12 asked if a police report was filed. If not, he will request that the LAPD increase their patrol of that area.
    - Just as a reminder, posting something on social media is undocumented and not considered "filing a police report".

7. Discussion and review of Board/Committee Contact Sheet
    - Ding shared this board/committee contact sheet with the NWNC. This was not posted online, as the information is private. No additional discussion was necessary.

8. Discussion and update regarding City Clerk's review of Northridge Beautification Foundation's Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG)
   - This will be an ongoing process as the city clerk has requested various documents for review. No further discussion was necessary.

9. Discussion and update regarding recent issues with Oakridge Plaque safety
   - Volunteer Pat LoPresti and the Friends of Oakridge worked a great deal for this plaque at the Oakridge Estate Park. However, the park was locked intermittently, February through April. When closed, the park is dark. There is a 6' chain link fence separated the park from the house (where there are lights).
   - Since June, there have been four incidents of graffiti. They believe it to be the same person as the front gate, bike rack, and picnic tables have been tagged in the same handwriting style, with bright pink paint.
   - One of the neighbors on adjourning LeMarsh Street expressed concern about weed abatement; however, the city can no longer use Roundup Weed Killer.
   - Thursday, June 11th, Peter visited to take photographs to email to a historic landmark database. He noticed that the new plaque was loose. Peter immediately notified the installer, Premium Sign Solutions of Tarzana, and they visited within hours to secure the plaque with better screws, silicon gel, and black duct tape.
   - Sunday, July 12th, someone complained that an unhoused individual was bathing and washing their clothes in the water fountain.
   - Jorge DeLorea from the city's Recreation and Parks Department has submitted a work request to clean up the park's graffiti.
   - Glenn Bailey added that the NENC paid for 50% of the plaque's expenses and they want to make certain that the plaque is secure. They also put up $100/year for cleaning supplies.

10. Discussion and update regarding Goodwill Drop-off concerns
    - NWNC, NENC, and CD12 are aware that the Goodwill Drop-off facility at 10170 Reseda Boulevard is a huge eyesore and is not maintained. Although this is located in NENC's territory, they support the Oakridge Park Plaque within NWNC boundaries, so we support them.
    - Goodwill trucked away the contents of their driveway, but they did not take away the stuff that was in the gutters and along the sidewalk.
    - The store has since re-opened, with drop offs accepted from 10AM to 5PM; the store closes at 6PM. Sometimes people leave abandoned property in the evening.
    - A complaint was filed with the city; the inspector visited yet did not see any violation (they may have visited immediately after the truck went away). Stakeholders may call 311 and file complaints about the debris. Perhaps next time an inspector visits, they will see the garbage.
    - Glenn has been in touch with Goodwill's headquarters (as this is not really the fault of the store's manager).
    - Gail recommends publicizing this on Next Door, as well as via the three Northridge neighborhood councils. She also recommended that rather than abandon property at Goodwill, perhaps people could donate their stuff to the Salvation Army or Hope of the Valley.

11. Update regarding new Outreach items purchased
    - Kelly reported that the NWNC has recently acquired the following:

100 Face masks	100 Light sticks
100 First aid kits	Polo shirts (modeled by Rana and Kelly)
250 Bottles of hand sanitizer	

- In a few days, Kelly will assemble packages for each board member to pick up from her front porch and distribute accordingly. The remaining items will be returned to the storage locker.
- Name badges and business cards are forthcoming.

12. Update regarding new USPS mailbox
    - Joel reported that he has all the material ready to go. He will pay for this in a few weeks, as soon as he gets the new credit card. It is unknown how many keys the NWNC will receive. Glenn Bailey mentioned that when he had a USPS box there, they gave him two keys that could not be duplicated. One may request additional keys, but they will not be free.

13. Discussion and motion to approve a funding expenditure of $96 for the renewal of our website hosting with ICDSoft
    - Kelly Sooter made a motion to support this agenda item; Gail Lapaz seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and possible motion to approve City Planning Case: ZA-2020-1841-ZV-CU-WDI. The applicant is requesting the following entitlements:
    a. A Variance pursuant to LAMC Section 12.27 to provide relief from LAMC Section 12.16 A.2 (p) to allow a gym in the C4 zone;
    b. A Variance pursuant to LAMC Section 12.27 to waive additional parking otherwise required per 12.21 A.4(c)(2);
    c. A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) pursuant to LAMC 12.24 W.27 to allow the gym to operate between the hours of 4:30AM to midnight, Monday through Friday, and 7AM to 9PM on weekends.
    - Chris Robertson, from Robertson Planning, attended the previous month's NWNC meeting to discuss this Gold's Gym project to go into the basement of the former Sears at the Northridge Fashion Center. She had already filed paperwork and provided the NWNC with several diagrams and photographs of the proposed site plan.
    - The entrance will be at the street level, with a stairwell downstairs to the main gym. The lower level will be a standard fitness facility.
    - The three variances request a gym to be located at a shopping mall (this has become a common thing), waiver of additional parking (as the mall has plenty of parking), and extended hours of operation (so the gym could operate from 4.30AM to midnight during the week, when malls are rarely open).
    - Kelly Sooter made a motion to support this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and possible motion to approve City Planning Case: ZA-2020-2867-CUB (8900 North Corbin Avenue). The applicant is requesting a CUP to allow the sale of beer and wine for off-site consumption in conjunction with an existing convenience store accessory to a gas station on site. The current application request mirrors the conditions and hours of sale imposed by the original grant approved in 2012. The business owner is in good standing with the City of Los Angeles and Alcoholic Beverage Control in relation to beer and wine sales and operates his business in a clean and responsible manner at all times.
    - This CUP is a renewal of the beer and wine permit for the Shell Station at the northeast corner of Corbin Avenue and Nordhoff Way.
    - Mikkie Loi wondered if anyone had contacted the LAPD's Vice unit to see if they had any issues or incidents with this Shell Station. It was unknown if anyone from the PLUZ had reached out to

Vice. Josh replied that the owner's representative presented at the PLUZ meeting; the Vice unit was not discussed.

- Bill Fox made a motion to support this agenda item; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

16. Discussion and motion to approve the creation of a George Floyd Declaration Ad Hoc Committee to explore issues of and related to the declaration. The goal of the Ad Hoc committee is to create a space for conversation and discussion on issues of recent concern. The committee may present possible action items for the Board's consideration.
    - The declaration from Governor Newson is linked from the NWNC website and was reviewed by the executive committee
    - This ad hoc committee will be time-bound and dissolve once they have met their goal.
    - Kelly Sooter made a motion to support this agenda item; Abby Bailes seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (10)	Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Lapaz, Lasky, Lowell, Sharif, Sooter, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Toscano
Absent (1)	Krowne

17. Discussion and motion to appoint Abby Bailes and Rana Sharif (Chair) to the George Floyd Declaration Ad Hoc Committee
    - Gail Lapaz made a motion to support this agenda item; Kelly Sooter seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

18. Discussion and motion to approve the creation of an Idle Funds Ad Hoc Committee to examine the use of "idle funds" towards projects in the Northridge West community. For a review of the most recent Financial Report detailing the various funds: https://lacontroller.org/financial- reports/idle-funds/
    - There is nearly $20m in unused funds sitting within the city's treasury. Perhaps our ad hoc committee and the NWNC could access some of these funds and use them for lighting at the Oakridge Estate Park?
    - Bill Fox made a motion to support this agenda item; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

19. Discussion and motion to appoint Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, and Rana Sharif (Chair) to the Idle Funds Ad Hoc Committee
    - Kelly Sooter made a motion to support this agenda item; Gail Lapaz seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

20. Discussion and motion to approve NWNC's participation in an LAUSD District 3 Board of Directors Election Town Hall ahead of the November election. This will be a collaboration among neighborhood councils in the region covered by District 3 and within CD12
    - The Education Committee, chaired by Ding, is working to host this proposed town hall. This will be further discussed at their committee meeting on Wednesday, July 15th.
    - Glenn Bailey mentioned that he would take this proposed town hall to the NENC's next meeting on Wednesday, July 15th to discuss co-sponsorship.
    - The Education Committee does not foresee any known expenses at this time. Kelly added that the NWNC has never spent more than $80 on a town hall.

- Abby Bailes made a motion to support this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

21. Discussion and motion to approve the June 11, 2020 GBM Minutes
    - Glen Wilson noticed that the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council was erroneous referenced in a comment regarding the last day to use the NWNC bank card. This was immediately corrected.
    - Kelly Sooter made a motion to support this agenda item; Gail Lapaz seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

22. Discussion and motion to approve the June 2020 Monthly Expense Report (MER)
    - The carry-over and sequestered funds [to be encumbered] will be modified at a later date.
    - Approximately $3,000 was encumbered. However, as we can merely rollover $10k into the new fiscal year (which began July 1), the NWNC may need to return some unspent money to the city's general fund.

Date	Vendor	Description	Category	Sub-Category	Amount
May 22	Southern California Preparedness Foundation	Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair	NPG		$1,000.00
May 22	YMCA	Shower Program, Childcare, and Food Pantry			500.00
May 22	11:11 A Creative Collective	Utility Box Art Project	Community Improvement Project		5,000.00
June 1	Wendy Moore/ Moore Business Results	Communications Services	General Oper-ations	Office	200.00
June 4	In Badge Busters	Badges			47.42
June 8	AppleOne	Minute Taker			103.95
June 8	Apple One	Minute Taker			173.25
June 15	Office Depot	Toner and Paper			259.84
June 16	SQ DVI Apparel USA	Polo Shirts		Outreach	60.00
June 16	SQ DVI Apparel USA	Polo Shirts			406.54
June 19	Deluxe	Hand Sanitizer and First Aid Kits			1,197.48
June 19	Safety Products	Light Sticks and Face Masks			173.69
					$9,122.17

    - Kelly Sooter made a motion to support the June MER; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

23. Report by Budget Advocate
    - Our three Region 2 (northwest San Fernando Valley) budget advocates (Brian Allen, Glenn Wilson, and Garry Fordyce) were re-elected at the town hall on Saturday, June 27th. They will continue to express the concerns of our community.
    - 33% of the budget advocates are new to this group. Saturday, July 18th, they will hold a virtual retreat.

- This year will be not business as usual as many municipality's budgets are out of whack. Rather than interview over thirty departments, the advocates may interview merely ten departments for a pared down white paper report, which is annually presented to Mayor Garcetti.

24. Report by Committees
    - Gail represented the NWNC at the Northridge Vision meeting on Wednesday, July 8th; she is interested in bringing the three Northridge neighborhood councils together for discussions regarding repair of the Reseda Boulevard medians.
    - Kelly mentioned that artwork submissions for the seven utility boxes were due last week. Thanks to all for getting the word out to CSUN, area schools, social media platforms, etc.
    - New web-master Christina has done a great job of reactivating the NWNC Twitter account and making changes to the website. She added the new board members (Ding and Joel), committee chairs, tabs to the top of the website, etc. Please send any meeting handouts or committee agendas to Kelly and Christina so they may be archived on the website.
    - The Outreach and Communications Committee will meet at 3PM on Thursday, July 16th. Jose hooked Kelly up with information for a Northridge West fact sheet. This could be a great tool, as it includes a demographic profile, housing statistics, education, race, etc.
    - Kathleen mentioned that the Beautification Committee would discuss the Reseda Boulevard medians and the Tampa topiaries at their next meeting.
    - The Public Safety Committee urges people to prepare for fire season and think about RYLAN, the acronym for "Ready Your LA Neighborhood".
    - Kathleen also attended a meeting where they discussed ham radios; perhaps someone may be interested in activating the radio that is within the NWNC storage locker.
    - Kathleen will also connect with Chris Williams to discuss weed abatement. Abby mentioned that she already contacted CD12; apparently, they have money to tackle weed abatement and street cleanups.
    - In addition to the LAUSD candidate's town hall, Ding mentioned that the Education Committee discussed working on more workshops, NPGs, online learning options, meetings, etc.
    - Abby added that the Government Affairs committee might meet in August.
    - Joel mentioned that the Finance Committee might soon meet to discuss modifying the budget to accommodate encumbrances and the rollover.
    - This fiscal year's Election Committee will meet to discuss filling Pam's vacant board seat, as well as the May 2021 election. Glen Wilson added that the exact date of the 2021 election might be confirmed in December or January.
    - The PLUZ has been very active; last week, they received another submittal for discussion. Their next meeting should include electing someone to replace their chair, Pam.
    - On behalf of the Bylaws Committee, Josh reported that DONE replied with corrections to the proposed NWNC bylaws. Those should be discussed, voted on, and incorporated at the next August 11th NWNC meeting.
    - Gail expressed concern that Councilman Lee has not mentioned homelessness in his most recent two newsletters. The West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness (WVNAH) discussed transitioning the 16,000 square foot [former] Knights of Columbus facility at 21433 Strathern Street into residences for 100 homeless. This is conveniently near the bridge housing on Canoga Avenue. This facility may also have space for safe parking. This will be further discussed at the next WVNAH virtual meeting on Monday, July 20th at 3PM. This is critical, as homelessness has increased 14% these past few months.
    - A new phrase is "pallet housing". These are homes built from old pallets that resemble gardening sheds. These facilities lack walls and bathrooms. As they merely have slats, the

homeless feel that it would be easier to stay on the street. Currently, the NWNC is not involved in this issue. It is unknown if John Lee is aware of this pallet housing.

- Sadly, when the Bureau of Street Services does their street sweeps, the homeless loose their identification papers, which are necessary to qualify for sheltered housing.

25. Announcements by Board members
    - Rana reported that Tara from LAUSD Board Representative Scott Schmerelson's office was unable to attend this evening's meeting, but she sent flyers which will be posted on the NWNC website. She discussed the following two meetings.
        - Wednesday, July 15th, the Canoga Park/Chatsworth Community of Schools will have a meeting at 5PM
        - Saturday, July 25th, there will be a Korean cooking demonstration at 4PM.
    - In addition, they will provide the NWNC with updated information regarding the fixed surveillance cameras installed at the Nobel Middle School.
    - Rana also asked the committee chairs that if they have any upcoming meetings, please reach out to Ding so that she may update the NWNC calendar.

    - Josh mentioned that the city council recently allocated $100m for the city's Qualified Emergency Renter's Assistance Program, allowing up to $2k to be paid directly to a landlord. This will be handled via a lottery system on a first come, first served basis. Additional information can be found at hcidla.lacity.org.

26. Adjournment
    - Rana Sharif adjourned the meeting at 8.40PM.