

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 11 August 2020
Via Zoom

- I. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
- President Rana Sharif called the meeting to order at 6.18PM, welcomed over eighty attendees, [eventually] all twelve board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
Here (12) Abigail Bailes, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Bill Fox, Jennifer Krowne, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Joel Lowell, Rana Sharif, Kelly Sooter, Josue Toscano, and Glen Wilson
- II. Comments by Public Officials
- Tanaz Golshan from Mayor Garcetti's office mentioned the following:
 - The census is extremely important with a new deadline of Wednesday, September 30th (instead of October 31st). Currently, LA is at a 50% participation rate. Funding for the next ten years is dependent upon an accurate census. It is believed that many immigrants are afraid to complete the questionnaire. However, all census information is strictly confidential.
 - COVID testing remains available; for additional information, please visit <https://coronavirus.la/covid-19-testing>
 - Thursday, August 13th, Mayor Garcetti will address the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) to discuss COVID, police reform, etc.
 - Tanaz mentioned that if anyone hears large and loud gatherings in their community, please feel free to reach out to the LAPD via their non-emergency number, 877-ASK-LAPD. Abby reiterated that people who host such large gatherings were warned.
 - Sandy Lambeck asked about Mayor Garcetti's policy towards the LAPD. Tanaz replied that all city departments are having their budgets clipped, including the LAPD, and all city departments are mutually working together.
 - Andrew Krowne mentioned that the Aliso Canyon Community Action Group (CAG), of which he is a member, sent a letter to Mayor Garcetti earlier today.
 - Pilar Schiavo from a West Valley Alliance expressed concern about schools and underserved individuals in the city, especially those with mental health issues and domestic violence victims.
 - One of the stakeholders did not understand defunding the police. When you have a burglary, do you call a social worker?
 - Tara Vahdani from LAUSD Board Representative Scott Schmerelson's office mentioned the following:
 - Beginning this month, all public and private schools will be virtual.
 - Parents of kids who normally attend Beckford Avenue Elementary, Nobel Charter Middle, and/or Topeka Drive Elementary Schools are welcome to a virtual town hall meeting, via Zoom, at the Cleveland Charter High School on Friday evening, August 14th at 5PM.
 - Registration for the Fall Music Program (September 16th through December 12th) is now open through Sunday, August 23rd. Fender Musical Instruments Corporation recently donated 3,000 ukuleles to this program for middle school kids.

- The deadline to join the LAUSD's District 3 Student Advisory Council (SAC) is Thursday, September 10th. The SAC meets every Wednesday afternoon, 4PM to 5.30PM. Additional information can be found at bit.ly/2PwXhOC
- Gail added that the West Valley Alliance is seeking families and panelists for the homeless town hall, and wondered how much information (such as family names) Scott Schmerelson's office could provide. For privacy reasons, Tara cannot release that information. However, other community organizations may be available to help. Peter suggested that perhaps the LAUSD, via the principals, could send a notice to parents. Then, impacted parents could reach out to Gail.
- 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:
 - CD12 continues to host a grocery card giveaway. Please contact Ron Rubine at CD12 if you are interested.
 - CD12 also has the resources to provide financial assistance for medical bills and/or small businesses.
 - Ron Rubine is also taking the lead on researching scam artists offering predatory loans to defraud people.
 - CD12 continues to seek facilities to provide homeless services. If anyone can think of such a facility, please reach out to them.
 - Stakeholder Andrew Krowne mentioned that the Aliso Canyon CAG sent a letter to CD12 several few weeks ago, requesting a city council motion to acquire a list of the chemicals released by SoCal Gas. However, there has not yet been any action. Earlier today, Councilman Lee was also cc:ed on a letter regarding the discovery of contaminated soil.
 - Enrique Velasquez appreciates the importance of feeding low-income families. However, we need policies. 70% of low-income individuals are renters, and Councilman Lee seems to be against renters. He continues to vote against policies that would help tenants, such as eviction moratoriums, etc. It would be nice if CD12 did a reality check.
 - Olivia Naturman expressed concern that Councilman Lee recently voted to support homeless campsite sweeps. Katherine Tattersfield and Olivia previously offered suggestions for safe parking facilities and requested that CD12 research their historical records for their emailed submittals. Matt replied that Colin Crews is the office's liaison regarding homelessness issues, and Matt would not have received such emails.
 - Lorraine supports CD12, as they have bent over backwards to uphold the quality of life here in Northridge, including clearing dried bush, trimming trees, and resurfacing Tampa and Wilbur Avenues, as well as Plummer Street.
 - Stakeholder Andrea mentioned that she smelled gas from Aliso Canyon and wondered who monitored that. Andrew Krowne replied that he would give a presentation later this evening.
 - Pilar Schiavo from a West Valley Alliance mentioned that she sent a letter to John Lee in February, requesting a meeting. They never received a response. She followed up with potential new solutions, but received a response in late June that someone from CD12 would establish a meeting. It has been nearly seven-weeks, and they continue to wait for a meeting
 - Gail added that she has worked with Colin Crews for three years, and they have not been able to resolve anything. Perhaps part of the problem lies with Colin?

- Enrique Velasquez added that the elected officials should reconsider their service to the community.
- Andrew Krowne from the Aliso Canyon CAG spoke of the following:
 - A few hours ago, it was discovered that there are multiple shipping containers, containing soil material, up at Aliso Canyon. Apparently, the Public Utilities Commission has granted SoCal Gas permission to dispose of this. However, this is vital material for soil testing to support the \$25m health study and there appears to be a cover-up.
 - Peter wondered that perhaps it is a good thing that SoCal Gas is offering to truck away the hazardous material. Andrew replied that the county supervisors have the authority to stop these trucks; the CAG has already reached out to Supervisor Barger.
 - This gas storage field is a formation of rock under pressure with no way to contain it (per basic physics). This could be especially dangerous in an earthquake. Andrew cautions people not to do excessive outdoor activity in the area.
 - Aaron Schwartzbart wondered about the source of the heavy metals; Andrew replied that the 200+ chemicals are within the oil fields atop Aliso Canyon, which is the worst formaldehyde emitter in the Western USA.
 - Fellow Aliso Canyon CAG member Patty Glueck added that if you smell gases, please call the South Coast Air Quality Management District via their 1-800-CUT-SMOG hotline; if they get enough calls, they will send an inspector.
- Paula Boland has lived in the Northridge/Granada Hills area for over 70-years and [while serving in the state legislature] authored several bills to separate the valley and schools from the city of LA. As President of the Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire, she frequently attended NWNC meetings to solicit money. She thanked the NWNC for volunteering their time and resources.

III. Comment by Senior Lead Officers (SLOs)

- This agenda item was tabled, as the SLOs were unable to attend.

IV. Comments by Stakeholders on non-Agenda items

- Joe Kozul does not like when the NWNC morphs into the Northridge Political Council.
- Glenn Bailey reported that Thursday's VANC meeting would also discuss the future of the West Valley Animal Shelter at 20655 Plummer Street. This meeting will be recorded and posted.
- This year's virtual Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be Saturday, September 26th from 9AM to noon. Mayor Garcetti will address the congress, and there will be several networking sessions. There may be a similar event after the November election.
- The recently discussed city council file 20-0963 proposes that the 2021 neighborhood council elections be 100% vote-by-mail. The city council will further discuss this Thursday, August 13th.

V. Presidential Comments

- Rana thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and urged everyone to join the NWNC's mailing list.

VI. Update from the Devonshire Area Community-Police Advisory Board

- Mikkie Loi thanked everyone who participated in the recent blood drive in July. The goal was to collect 18-units; 21-units were collected, which could help save 63-lives.

- The front desk of the LAPD’s Devonshire station at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue remains closed. However, the area in front of the station is still available [and monitored by cameras] for a “safe exchange zone” in child custody cases.
- Basic car meetings have been scaled back until further notice. For additional information, please email your community’s SLO Sandra Zamora at 35947@lapd.lacity.org, John Parker at 36560@lapd.lacity.org, and/or Patty Peteque at 31373@lapd.lacity.org.
- If you see anything, please contact the Devonshire Division at 1-877-ASK-LAPD (for non-emergencies) and 911 for emergencies. You may also contact them via their website at https://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station
- Please do NOT use social media (such as Facebook, NextDoor, etc.) to report a crime. Matt Hernandez mentioned that he connected with several people on NextDoor, who were concerned about a possible pervert near the Beckford Avenue Elementary School. However, no one reported this to the LAPD. Matt sent an email blast to the area’s LAPD officers to keep an eye out for him. However, the officers cannot arrest this guy because no crime was committed.

VII. Discussion and motion to approve the updated 2020-21 Budget

Category	Activity	Budget	Total	Notes
Funding	Annual City Budget	\$32,000	\$45,522	
	Rollover	10,000		
	Encumbered Funds	3,522		
Office	Apple One	\$ 2,000	\$10,523	Spent \$1.4k in FY2019-20
	Mailbox Rental	216		
	Meeting Refreshments	1,200		Estimated for seven in-person meetings
	Board Retreats	400		
	Advertising	600		
	Website	3,000		Mailroom at \$250/month
	2co.com ISD Software	97		ICD Soft
	Office Expenses	*95		Business cards
	Golden State Storage	1,440		
	Other Office Expenses	1,475		
Outreach	Outreach Events	7,000	14,160	
	Outreach Expenses	*2,300		
	School Outreach Printing	*1,150		
	Sanitizer	3,710		
Community Improvement Projects (CIP)	Tampa Median	200	10,000	
	Tool Repair	200		
	Miscellaneous Projects	3,000		
	Landscaping	600		
	Beautification	6,000		
Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG)		10,800	10,800	Estimated
Total		\$45,483	\$45,483	

* From encumbered funds

- Treasurer Joel reviewed the previous year's expenditures, the \$3,522 of encumbered funds, and the city's maximum permitted rollover of \$10k. This makes the FY20-21 budget a bit more than the \$44,780 budgeted in FY19-20.
- Bruce asked about the funds for the October 10th Valley Preparedness Fair; this was paid from the FY2019-20 budget. Funds for the October 2021 Valley Preparedness Fair may come from the \$10,800 set aside for NPGs. Alternatively, this could also be paid from the FY2021-22 budget.
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that there were no funds listed for the election; if necessary, this may come from the \$3,522 encumbered funds.
- The \$7k budgeted for Outreach events may be adjusted, as these events cannot be predicted. The previous year, merely \$1k was budgeted for the purchase of giveaways.
- Bill Fox made a motion to support this budget; Gail Lapaz seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Discussion and possible motion to support City Planning Application (ZA-2019-7512-MPA) for a Conditional Use Permit for California Fish Grill. This approval is for the sale of beer and wine for onsite consumption at a new site currently being developed by the property owner. For case summary and documents: <https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjM0NDIyO>

- Terry Womack, representing the California Fish Grill, mentioned that this fast casual seafood restaurant has been in operation since 1998. They have 27-locations in Southern California, and four locations in Northern California. They look forward to opening their newest restaurant at 19525 Nordhoff Street where they will sell beer and wine for on-site consumption.
- Kelly Sooter made a motion to support this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

IX. Discussion and possible motion to submit a statement in writing to LA City Attorney, LA City Council President Nury Martinez, and LA City Ethics Commission requesting an inquiry and public statement clarifying Councilmember John Lee's participation and involvement in the events surrounding the indictment of former Councilmember Mitch Englander.

- Rana mentioned that this issue arose prior to her presidency and the COVID-19 pandemic. She added that there were many folks who wanted to address this issue; the NWNC will not tolerate any attacks or political chatter.
- Bill Fox felt that this is inappropriate for our agenda as the FBI has already investigated this and the NWNC should not be involved.
- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Gibson added that this gets outside of the scope of the NWNC and would be difficult to discuss without all the facts.
- Betty Faye supports this agenda item [as well as the ethics and FBI investigations] as this is a non-partisan issue and the person who mentored Mr. Lee has proven to be corrupt.
- Barbara Miyamoto advocates for a yes vote so that we may have a full investigation of John Lee and know the truth once and for all.
- Asaad Alnajjar from Porter Ranch ran against Lee in the March 3rd election and recommends that this letter be addressed to Mayor Garcetti, as he is in charge of ethics investigations. Perhaps Mr. Garcetti and the ethics officers should lead this, rather than the FBI. The city should focus on ethics, rather than the connection with Mitch Englander. John Lee has previously gotten away with sexual harassment which cost the city \$75k.
- Carlos Amador from the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC) mentioned that they had a similar motion come to their board on June 4th and they voted to support an ethics investigation. This is merely an inquiry; they are not accusing Lee of anything. The FBI

interviewed Mr. Lee a year ago. He admitted that he was on that Las Vegas trip and that back dated checks were submitted to the city clerk's office for reimbursement.

- Aaron Schwartzbart supports Councilman Lee. He gave up a six-figure aerospace job to help with children and homeless, and was inspired by John Lee to invest in the community.
- Pilar Schiavo from a West Valley Alliance felt that we are all impacted by the policies and decisions of Councilman Lee; the least the NWNC can do is request clarity via an investigation.
- Andrea agreed that we are merely looking for an investigation; one would think that a Lee supporter would want to know all about him.
- Enrique Velasquez said that we should all know if Lee has been involved in any wrongdoings, including money laundering.
- Keren Waters from the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC) recommended that NWNC board members familiarize themselves with the personal liability for board members. If they are sued for anything that they did outside the scope of the NWNC, the city could decline to defend the board member(s). In that case, one might want to check with one's personal attorney and/or homeowner's insurance.
- Steve Randall from the West Hills Neighborhood Council (WHNC) agreed with Bill Fox that this is beyond the scope of what a neighborhood council should do. We are voluntary city employees. All accusations of Lee were when he worked with Englander. When your boss tells you to do something, you simply do it. Many of those supporting this investigation of Lee are aligned with Lee's opponents.
- Christina Mayberry has been with CSUN for twelve-years and felt that we need to hear more details of ethics violations.
- Dave Beauvais from the GHSNC stated that Bill Fox is correct and there will probably not be an indictment of John Lee. However, it is more important that there be a civil investigation. It is doubtful that any NWNC board member would accept a free trip to Las Vegas from the California Fish Grill. Dave urges passage of this motion to get to the bottom of this issue.
- Lloyd Dent added that our city is not doing well when the FBI is investigating the city council. We have a shortage of affordable housing [which we desperately need]. Yet, we have plenty of council-approved high-priced housing. As all neighborhood council board members took ethics training, we all know what would happen if any NWNC board member accepted gratuities, such as free trips to Las Vegas.
- Patty Glueck was concerned about back dated checks and the under-reporting of gifts. \$400 was reported, yet it must have been more than that.
- Olivia Powell from a West Valley Alliance said that this is not a partisan issue. We just want clarification. There is no harm in requesting an inquiry.
- Paula Boland stated that when she visited neighborhood councils to request funds, anyone who had anything to do with this issue would have to recuse themselves due to a potential conflict of interest. Likewise, anyone involved with Lee's opponents should recuse themselves. We do not know what John Lee's involvement was, yet he is innocent until proven guilty. This is out of the purview for the NWNC to be involved, and we should let the LAPD and FBI do their thing.
- Caleb stated that this is completely legal, within the scope of the NWNC's work, and there are no legal ramifications.
- Bruce McDonald has lived in the valley for over sixty-years and voted for John Lee twice. All this information was available to the voters prior to the election. This is a witch-hunt. The people who voted against him simply do not like him, and cannot accept that their candidate lost.
- Katherine Tattersfield from a West Valley Alliance supports this agenda item. Several NWNC board members mentioned that they had plenty of evidence of concern during the NWNC Executive Committee meeting at the end of July.

- Sandy Lambeck has lived in the Northridge/Porter Ranch area for forty years. It sounds as if the FBI has already investigated and taken care of this issue. It seems the NWNC is condemning Lee for association with Englander. This is not the job of the NWNC. This is something for the city's ethics committee.
- Carl Petersen stated that [contrary to what someone said] this information was not available before the March 3rd election. Lee was not just on the trip, but he may have illegally accepted casino money. The city's attorney's office said that this is ongoing. If Lee is the infamous "city staffer B", then ethics laws were violated.
- Thomas Booth from the WHNC is a lifelong valley resident and mentioned that the WHNC has not yet placed this on their agenda. He wants to draw the difference between an ethics violation versus a criminal investigation. Lee currently sits on the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee; perhaps Lee should step away from that committee?
- Oscar Jimenez from the GHNC firmly wants to believe that this is not a partisan issue. The position that is being taken is premature. There is currently an investigation, and he urges the NWNC to wait until this investigation is completed. Otherwise, the NWNC could be on a slippery slope.
- Olivia Naturman from a West Valley Alliance stated that this is not a criminal investigation. As Lee is on the PLUM Committee, handling homelessness and housing, it is key that there be no ethical concerns. She checked in with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE); they told her that NWNC is within their scope to request clarification and the board members cannot be sued for requesting such clarification.
- Northridge resident and HR professional Maria Rosas has taken multiple ethics classes and supports this inquiry. It seems that something regarding Lee seems amiss. Maria has seen people lose their jobs for far less. We are not accusing John Lee of anything, merely asking for answers. It could be unethical for other people speaking here tonight to threaten the NWNC with a lawsuit.
- Isabein stated that this is not a partisan issue. It would seem that everyone wants clarification. This is not a monarchy, whereupon we must support our leaders; instead, this is a democracy.
- Brian Allen from the GHNC does not want to accuse anyone of doing anything wrong. We need to look inside for our motivations. John Lee resigned shortly after returning from Las Vegas. There was never an explanation as to why he resigned. No one ever asked about this. There was an FBI investigation. Should you be lucky enough to uncover something in an ethics investigation, and the city uncovers something that the FBI did not know about, then the NWNC could be liable for getting involved in an internal investigation. If you vote on this, please think about "what am I getting myself into?" The proper authorities are investigating Lee. It is not okay for the NWNC to get involved.
- Madeline Miller felt that this discussion is as relevant as learning where Jimmy Hoffa is buried. She feels that John is doing an exemplary job. We do not need to beat this dead horse. This discussion is better directed at things that affect stakeholders, such as homelessness, sexual assault, etc. She urges the NWNC to vote against this, as there are other things to discuss.
- Maria is a former board member from the GHSNC who stated that there is an FBI investigation underway. John has voluntarily been interviewed, yet he cannot comment on this very serious investigation. Maria is litigation-adverse, strongly opposed to motions such as this, and resigned from the GHSNC as they passed a similarly flawed motion. We need to weigh in the side of justice and fairness. What is the harm in waiting for this to play out in the courts? Let the justice system prevail.

- Teresa Priem from a West Valley Alliance mentioned that the FBI information came out a week after the election. Councilman Jose Huizar’s office was investigated multiple times prior to his arrest. Teresa would hate to have the same thing happen in CD12.
- Joseph Peckham felt that there is an investigation going on and the proper authorities are handling it. This action by the NWNC could get in the way of the FBI investigation. He urged caution. If the NWNC jumps in, it could become a political situation.
- Betty Faye stated that we have someone who has been mentored by a criminal. We are merely asking for an ethics investigation. We are not doing the actual investigation. We are merely seeking to protect ourselves from unethical behavior by our elected officials.
- Andrea was insulted to be lumped in with some political agenda. There are too many questions around Lee’s behavior, and it just needs an investigation.
- Grace Rodriguez stated that John Lee has no party preference, so this is not a partisan issue. FBI investigations remain ongoing all the time. Ethics investigations are different. CD12 should really focus on homeless housing [which we lack].
- Peter Lasky thanked all the speakers tonight. This was a very compelling discussion on all sides. This Las Vegas trip took place in June 2017. Does anyone think it is odd that the FBI was investigating this within a week? Perhaps John Lee went to the FBI? Perhaps someone tipped off the FBI? Is anyone else offended by the city attorney’s attempts to stifle the NWNC for having something like this on our agenda?
- Rana stated that [apparently] the FBI was already looking into this case prior to the June 2017 Las Vegas trip. The FBI had also looked into Jose Huizar. This issue was agendized because we cannot have this conversation without agendizing this issue. This came to the Executive Committee, who voted to move this forward to the full board.
- Abby opposes this motion. Per NWNC bylaws, we must be neutral. The board members cannot endorse or oppose a candidate. She recommends that the NWNC not rush to take any action. She also recommends removing the word “inquiry” from the motion. This may be “guilt by association”. Perhaps the NWNC should remove John Lee’s name from the motion? By removing Lee’s name, it will lower the temperature. Abby recommends tabling this, and writing a letter to the city attorney to see if the NWNC is within our scope.
- Kathleen stated that individuals can express political opinions, but the NWNC cannot.
- Gail did not believe that this is political and found it insulting that some tried to make this political. She agreed with Betty that the NWNC must be non-partisan. Prior to the election, she did not know about John Lee’s or Loraine Lundquist’s backgrounds. She just read about where they stood on the issues.
- Jennifer feels that we should make all politicians stand up for what they believe. This pay for play shows that there is no guidance. As a parent, she does not feel that there is anything wrong with questioning our politicians. The NWNC is here to listen to our stakeholders.
- Kathleen added that 89% of people tonight were from a West Valley Alliance. If Lee did anything wrong, it will eventually come out.
- Kelly mentioned that we had fair representation with over eighty folks on this call. She takes offense that if she disagrees, she will be labeled political.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to table this John Lee issue, and send a letter to the city attorney requesting guidance and clarification; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed.
 - Aye (7) Bailes, Edwards, Fox, Lasky, Lowell, Toscano, and Wilson
 - No (5) Ding, Krowne, Lapaz, Sharif, and Sooter

X. Discussion and possible action for the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (NWNC Neighborhood Council) request that the City Council create a new Council File based upon the

results of the recent DONE survey to develop and support alternatives to armed crisis response and AB-2054 Emergency services: community response: grant program. This would include revamping the City of Los Angeles 911 system. The 911 system should have a call option so that there are three options:

1. Police
 2. Fire/EMS
 3. Community Assistance Liaison Team; this would be created to meet the demands for an alternative to armed crisis response for homelessness, domestic violence, neighbor disputes, and other quality of life issues.
- This agenda item was tabled.

- XI. Discussion and possible action for the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (NWNC Neighborhood Council) request that the City Council create a new Council File to provide transparency for the reallocated \$150M that was defunded from the Los Angeles Police Department. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (NWNC Neighborhood Council) wants the process to be transparent and the Neighborhood Councils that represent the areas of the city that are underrepresented and areas with People of Color be afforded the opportunity to weigh in on where those funds are allocated and how they are spent for the benefit of the community that are underserved.
- This agenda item was tabled.

- XII. Discussion and possible motion to make adjustments to committee Chair-ships.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion for Kelly Sooter to chair the Beautification Committee, with Kathleen Edwards to remain on the committee; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- XIII. Discussion on the role of Neighborhood Councils - For information on the function of Neighborhood Councils visit: <https://empowerla.org/about-neighborhood-councils/>
- Kelly has been digging to get more information from DONE and Empower LA regarding the demographics of the NWNC community. Kathleen and Kelly discussed access to the NWNC website, agendas, Zoom meetings, etc.

- XIV. Discussion and update regarding the possibility of an Oakridge Park Mural project
- Gail has been working alongside Pat LoPresti (from Friends of Oakridge) and Matt Hernandez (from CD12), yet this may not be feasible.
 - Currently, they do not know who owns the property. Former Councilman Greig Smith thought it was held by the Department of Public Works. It was suggested to go back to the Oakridge Foundation.
 - Bill Fox, who is also a board member of the [very complex] Friends of Oakridge, may be able to help with this project.

- XV. Discussion and update regarding a West Valley Alliance upcoming Town Hall
- This virtual town hall meeting/homeless panel is scheduled for Thursday, August 27th.
 - Gail has been working with Ding and Abby on this issue. However, there are privacy rights concerning the LAUSD. Alternatively, a West Valley Alliance may be able to get a family associated with CSUN.
 - Tara Vahdani from Scott Schmerelson's office added that Ding might help with a flyer.
 - Glenn Bailey mentioned that there are two scheduled additional town halls:

- One to discuss a November ballot measure on housing and homelessness; this will be in late September or early October.
 - The second will be regarding US District Judge Carter, who is requiring the city to take action prior to taking any enforcement against homeless individuals. Judge Carter's town hall may be later in August, prior to the NWNC's September 8th meeting.
 - Mihran from the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) mentioned that he is also working on a town hall to discuss the unhoused.
- XVI. Discussion and update regarding City Clerk's review of Northridge Beautification Foundation's NPGs
- Rana mentioned that there is no update regarding the Northridge Beautification Foundation; the involved folks have been out of town.
- XVII. Discussion and update regarding Education Committee's school outreach project (Ding)
- Ding reported that the NWNC approved funding for these survey postcards; she will soon pick them up from the printer.
 - For distribution, Ding has already reached out to Topeka Drive and Beckford Avenue Elementary Schools; she has not yet talked to Callahan Street Elementary or Nobel Charter Middle Schools.
 - As this is an outreach activity, perhaps the survey postcard could be folded in half, sealed with a ribbon, and include a small bottle of the NWNC-branded hand sanitizer?
- XVIII. Discussion and update regarding Education Committee's LAUSD District 3 Board Town Hall
- Ding reported that this might be in late September or early October. Most area neighborhood councils have already agreed to partner with the NWNC or will discuss this at their next meeting.
 - Glenn Bailey mentioned that this would be agendized at the Northridge East Neighborhood Council meeting on Wednesday, August 19th. The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council will discuss at their meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd. North Hills and Northridge South Neighborhood Councils will also agendize this issue later this month, or in early September.
- XIX. Discussion and update regarding street cleaning, weed abatement, and trash clean-up
- Abby reached out to 311, but that was fruitless.
 - She also reached out to CD12, who already received the approved funds from the city. They are just waiting for the money. Tampa Avenue is at the top of the priority list of streets to be cleaned up.
 - Jason Hector from the PRNC recommended that Abby reach out to a West Valley Alliance and the LA Conservation Corps, who also receive funding from the city. You may reach out to them directly, or via Field Deputy Matthew Vallecilla at CD12. If you ask them to do a particular area, such as Tampa Avenue between Lassen Street and the 118, they may come out within a week.
- XX. Discussion and update regarding website updates and monthly committee feature
- Kelly would like to include face-shots of the board members on the NWNC website. Profiles will not be necessary, but there could be a hyperlink to the board member's email address.
 - Kelly mentioned a potential update to the e-blasts, whereupon committee chairs could rotate taking the lead on discussing their committee's monthly activities.
- XXI. Discussion and update regarding the Utility Box project
- The 11:11 Creative Collective, Jason Hector (from the PRNC), and Kelly did a big outreach and review with the Department of Cultural Affairs for the final fourteen pieces of artwork for the

utility boxes. Seven of the utility boxes are in Porter Ranch (along Rinaldi Street) and seven are in the Northridge West community.

- The artists may start painting as soon as September.
- Kelly checked the artist’s websites. Several are CSUN graduates, and many have backgrounds at Nickelodeon, Disney, and other animation studios.
- No children submitted artwork.
- Jason added that the abstract Goopy artwork, proposed for the Rinaldi Street/Wilbur Avenue interchange, would be replaced with a more “connections” themed painting.
- Kelly clarified that the artists themselves will paint the boxes; they hope to complete this task over one weekend. Afterwards, 11:11 will apply a protective graffiti-proof coating.

XXII. Discussion and motion to approve the July 14, 2020 GBM Minutes

- Kelly Sooter made a motion to support these minutes; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

XXIII. Discussion and motion to approve the July 2020 Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
July 22	USPS Post Office	Change of NWNC’s mail box to USPS Post Office for 12-months (size B)	\$216.00
July 25	2co.com ICD Soft	Website hosting annual renewal	96.00
July 27	Foreign Transaction Fee	Fee associated with website renewal of ICD Soft	.86
		Total	<u>\$312.86</u>

- Glen Wilson will ask about a refund for the Granada Hills mailbox; he will work with Joel if a cardholder is required.
- Kelly Sooter made a motion to support the July MER; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

XXIV. Report by Budget Advocate

- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey mentioned the following:
 - There are a lot of things going on with the budget advocates; nearly half are new to the process.
 - Rather than assembling a major 130+ page white paper [as they have done in previous years] for Mayor Garcetti, this fiscal year’s report will be pared down to one or two pages on a variety of individual issues, including homelessness, COVID-19, revenue reductions, cannabis, etc. across multiple city departments
 - Immediately following the September 26th Congress of Neighborhood Councils, there will be an advocate-hosted break out session discussing the budget crisis.
 - Previously, the advocates held mid-year budget days; instead, this fiscal year may include quarterly town halls.

XXV. Reports by Committees

- Kelly reported that the Beautification Committee would schedule a meeting in the next few weeks.
- Abby reported that the Government Affairs Committee would meet, via Zoom, on Monday, August 24th at 8.30PM.
- Gail reported that her Homelessness Committee’s hands are tied pending additional information
- Kathleen had a few issues with the Public Safety Committee:

- The grass at the Oakridge Estate Park grew very high; CD12 and the city's Recreation and Parks Department trimmed the grass. Regretfully, they also watered the area at noon, which is not a good idea.
- Homeless people are now using the park as a campsite. The city's Cleaning and Rapid Engagement (CARE) and the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Teams, along with CD12, have visited these campsites.
- They hope to get inexpensive motion lighting.
- This park also has a great many mosquitoes.
- It is imperative that the houses to the south [along LeMarsh Street] remain protected. Although the potential fires have nothing to do with the homeless, it would be a disastrous liability if that field ever caught fire.
- The next Public Safety Committee might discuss fire safety and mosquitoes.
- The Public Safety Alliance will meet on Monday, August 24th via Zoom.
- Education, Elections, and the Budget/Finance Committees had no reports or additional comments.

XXVI. Announcements by Board Members

- Gail requested suggestions on the best way to get in contact with Spectrum News; Rana will assist Gail with that

XXVII. Adjournment

- Rana Sharif adjourned the meeting at 10.16PM.