

Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Board Meeting (GBM) – Final?
Tuesday, 8 September 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 6.15PM, welcomed over 27 attendees, [eventually] 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 (arrived at 6.23PM), Jennifer Krowne, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Joel Lowell, Rana Sharif, Kelly Sooter, and Glen Wilson (arrived at 6.28PM)
 - Absent (1) Josue Toscano

- II. Comments by Public Officials
 - Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) Gibson Nyambura reported the following:
 - DONE is revising the documents covering joint committee board meetings. Board members who do not sit on a committee may attend committee meetings, but only as an observer. They cannot participate in public comment, board comment, and they cannot make a motion. Abby asked about a committee meeting that is also a full board meeting. That would probably be okay, as the key point is that the motion must come before the full board for discussion. Someone asked that if there is a full board and committee meeting (running concurrently), can a board member make a motion that is only votable by the committee members? Gibson thought no. It is imperative at everyone be in alignment with the Brown Act.
 - DONE is in the process of revising the EmpowerLA website; all neighborhood council board members are invited to participate in a review of this site.

- III. Comment by Senior Lead Officers (SLO)
 - LAPD SLO Sandra Zamora is the new SLO for the area bordered by the following:
 - East of Canoga Avenue South of Lassen Street
 - West of Tampa Avenue North of Roscoe Boulevard
 - She works best via email, as she is always checking it on her city-issued cellular. Please reach out to reach her at 35947@lapd.online.com or call her at 818-832-0773 to establish a neighborhood watch meeting in your community.
 - SLO Zamora is also compiling weekly updates; please email her to add yourself to her email roster.

- IV. Comments by Stakeholders on non-Agenda items
 - Glenn Bailey reported the following:
 - Saturday, September 26th will be the annual Congress of Neighborhood Councils (Glenn is on the Planning Committee) from 9AM to noon with the theme “Rising Together Through Challenging Times”. Everyone is welcome to register for this event at <https://www.nccongressla.com>.
 - Following Mayor Garcetti’s presentation, there will be four major topics presented as part of the main program:

City Budget Outreach in Times of COVID-19
Election Racial Equity

- There will also be multiple breakout sessions, including discussions on city services, homelessness, and sustainability.
 - Thursday night, September 10th, beginning at 6.30PM, the monthly Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) meeting will have special guest speaker, Capri Maddox, executive director of LA's Department of Civil and Human Rights. She will discuss her new department and how neighborhood councils can be involved.
 - In addition, Holly Wolcott, who handles the neighborhood council elections for 2021, will also address Thursday's VANC meeting.
- Patty Glueck from the Aliso Canyon Community Action Group (CAG) reported that they would host a virtual town hall on Wednesday, September 16th, 4PM to 6PM, along with City Attorney Mike Feuer, to discuss the air monitoring system around Aliso Canyon. Details are available at <http://www.alisohealthstudycag.org>
 - Kelly confirmed that there will be a different Department of Public Health (DPH) Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, September 30th, 6PM to 8PM. CAG member Andrew Krowne will further discuss this meeting later tonight during agenda item XIV.

V. Presidential Comments

- Rana took a moment and discuss some issues that have come up that warrant notice.
 - First, she thanked Board members who reached out and, despite perhaps having differing opinions on issues, respectfully came to her directly sharing concerns about conduct and the Board. She reminded the Board that by virtue of being elected officials to this Board, they are required to read, sign, and submit the Board of Neighborhood Councils (BONC) board members Code of Conduct. She added a link to the document on the NWNC website as a refresher.
 - Second, as a reminder, the NWNC is not allowed, per Brown Act, to discuss issues that are being considered before the Board and have been agendized. Rana followed up on this issue with Ms. Beltran, Director of EmpowerLA. Another gentle reminder. According to **Section 54952.2 of the Brown Act states:** "*(a) As used in this chapter, "meeting" means any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, including teleconference location as permitted by Section 54953, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. (b)(1) A majority of the members of a legislative body shall not, outside a meeting authorized by this chapter, use a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. "* Please be mindful if such conversations are taking place.
 - Third, the NWNC is currently undergoing a Public Records Request Review, which may result in the Board having to produce a response to requested information. She did not say this to alarm anyone, but thought it is important to know that words and actions on and off this board carry weight.
In addition, Ms. Beltran reminded her that the NWNC could not in any way censure or silence the community.
This leads to some comments Rana received from community members who contacted her with some troubling information. A stakeholder emailed her suggesting that the board was taking action on wanting "John Lee out". Rana takes such claims very seriously and clarified

that the board has never made such a motion. Recordings of NWNC meetings and minutes are available for anyone to request. A couple of NWNC committees, including the Executive Committee and General Board meeting recordings, are archived on the NWNC website.

- Fourth, the NWNC had two motions brought for the board to discuss; these were tabled and sent to committee whereupon no recommendation was made. These two items concerned requests to open city council files on issues of transparency and non-armed responses. These two items will be heard at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- Finally, Rana acknowledged the office of Ms. Raquel Beltran and EmpowerLA. Ms. Beltran, Gibson, Elise and Semea have been extremely supportive and helpful as the NWNC navigates some difficult times, and she thanked them.

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

- Mikkie Loi reported the following:
 - The scheduled Community Police Academy has been postponed due to COVID; this may become a virtual academy.
 - Some of the churches are opening. If anyone has concerns regarding COVID, please reach out to the LA County Department of Public Health.
 - Everyone is urged to sign-up for emergency alerts, such as fires, etc. Last year, the emergency alerts did not work in the areas where they were most needed.
 - Please have an evacuation plan and share this with your neighbors and family.
 - If there is a fire near your home, please do not wait for the fire or police to knock on your door to tell you to leave ... just go.

VII. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for SOLID of \$3,500 for necessary improvements to the Devonshire Division Lobby needed for safety due to COVID-19

- Kathleen mentioned that SOLID usually has a few fundraising events every year:
 - Pancake Breakfast in May (which was cancelled)
 - Pasta Dinner in October (cancelled in 2019 due to the fire; cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic)
 - Golf Tournament
- The LAPD station at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue is one of the oldest LAPD stations and requires updates and renovations of their lobby. This is the area for people to walk in to meet a police officer, file a report, participate in a safe child custody exchange, a place to go if they are being followed, etc. Although this area is currently closed due to construction and the pandemic, it must be sanitary.
- This renovation project will include a Plexiglas shield and an easily cleanable desk surface.
- Peter asked Lori Luszczak if other police precincts were currently open, and how long would this project take. Lori responded that all precincts are closed. Captain Kathleen Burns wants this done in October, so that the LAPD can get back to business as soon as the city approves the reopening of police stations.
- Lori told Captain Burns that the city should pay for this, but she replied that could take too long.
- Rana agrees that this should be an expense to the city, but this could be a timing issue. Lori replied that the city does not see this Plexiglas as “essential” and police stations can operate without being open.
- The city may receive \$100m in CARES Act funding relief. However, Lori and SOLID are not making any assumptions of them receiving that money.
- Someone asked if other neighborhood councils had been contacted

- Granada Hills South is postponing this until the end of the year; they are only funding issues related to food, clothing, and/or shelter.
- Granada Hills North will discuss this later this month.
- North Hills West will discuss in October
- Porter Ranch will discuss on Wednesday, September 9th
- Kelly suggested revising the requested amount to \$1,700 (rather than \$3,500) so it can be evenly split between the eight area neighborhood councils. Lori replied that SOLID has only received responses from five neighborhood councils; they have not yet heard back from the other three.
- Joel asked what would happen if the other area neighborhood councils do not participate; Lori replied that SOLID has other sources of income.
- Glenn Bailey, president of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC), mentioned that they had not yet received an NPG application from SOLID.
- Abigail added that this was unanimously approved at the Public Safety Committee meeting. SOLID's costs are greater than the amounts requested via their NPGs.
- Lori added that the Devonshire Division is one of the safest communities within the LAPD; this is partially due to SOLID's continued support.
- Abby mentioned that last year, the NWNC had leftover funds within their NPG budget.
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this SOLID NPG for \$3,500; Peter Lasky seconded this motion, and it passed.

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

- Kelly Sooter made a motion to amend this SOLID NPG for \$1,500; Yi Ding seconded this motion, yet it did not pass.

Aye (4)	Ding, Lapaz, Sharif, and Sooter
No (7)	Bailes, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
Absent (1)	Toscano

VIII. Discussion and possible motion to approve the appointment of a new board member to fill the At-Large 1 vacancy (term ends 2021)

- Curt Darling has lived in Northridge for eight years and is a small business owner. He and his wife (who operates a [temporarily closed] waxing and permanent make-up business in Burbank) have two sons.
- They recently worked to support fundraising activities for the local Buddhist Temple.
- Before moving to Northridge, he was on a Santee Village HOA where he led the acquisition of office space.
- He has a strong administrative and graphic design background, and is very aesthetically oriented.
- His key issues are children's safety and education. His family looks forward to when children can safely return to school. He is also concerned about the rising homeless population.
- Payman Bah lives on Prairie Street. His parents have owned businesses here in Northridge for over twenty-years; and he now runs these businesses (an Arco station, perfume, SMOG check, and rent-a-car) at the northeast corner of Devonshire Street and Reseda Boulevard.

- He also has a strong background in real estate, construction, and variances. This experience will make him an asset to the Planning, Land Use, and Zoning (PLUZ) Committee. In addition, he is currently applying for his general contractor license.
- He believes that homelessness is more of a drug and alcohol abuse problem rather than a lack of affordable housing. He hates to see homeless people urinating in public.
- Jay Frosting has lived on Merridy Street for six years (when he moved from San Diego) and edits television documentaries. He also has a strong background in video and audio recording. His previous experience is in web-design and search engine optimization.
- His goal is for people to stay healthy and prosperous. He is excited about issues that are on a national level (such as health care) as well as California issues (such as proposition 17, which will permit parolees to vote).
- He loves to learn new things and would gladly serve on the PLUZ.
- This was followed by an extensive discussion regarding Rana making a recommendation vs. a popular vote.
- A popular vote was conducted as follows:

Payman (6)	Bailes, Edwards, Fox, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
Jay (5)	Ding, Krowne, Lapaz, Sharif, and Sooter
- Payman won and was immediately administered the oath of office by Gibson.

IX. Discussion and possible motion to fund additional weed abatement and trash clean up in NWNC areas by working with LA Conservation Corps, West Valley Alliance (WVA), or others. Discussion about posting LA City Ordinance #182778 on the NWNC website and possible outreach efforts, such as brochures or postcards, that would inform homeowners in our area about their responsibility to maintain and clean up areas that back up to public sidewalks and streets.

- Abby reported that we all want our neighborhoods to be clean and beautiful. She has reached out to the LA Conservation Corps, but has not yet heard back from them. In addition, she does not have a specific dollar amount to present to the NWNC.
- Gail added that Chatsworth Street and Tampa Avenue are the streets most affected by this. She would like to see the sidewalks swept, but sweeping into the bike lanes is prohibited.
- Kelly previously drafted a flyer to the NWNC for approval; this was based on the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council's very nice tri-fold brochure. Glenn Bailey offered to help with this task.
- Kathleen expressed concern that we cannot leave brochures in people's mailboxes. She was also concerned that the NWNC takes up a great deal of real estate, and it will be difficult to walk around the entire community.
- Jason Hector from the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) said that they are going through the same problems. The WVA is funded through CD12; perhaps we could hire them? Abby added that if we used WVA, we should share the costs with CD12.
- Mikkie said that she received a letter ten years ago that stated that if your property abuts a major street, that area is also your responsibility.
- Jay Frosting asked if clean up was the responsibility of the owner or the resident.
- Peter Lasky stated that this has been an issue for a long time. Previous NWNC board member, Debbie Penman distributed notices that informed the homeowners of their responsibilities.
- Rana Sharif made a motion for the Beautification Committee to coordinate weed abatement and trash clean up activities alongside the WVA and CD12; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- X. Discussion and possible motion to approve a resolution for Civil Discourse - Government Affairs Committee suggestion: "The NWNC Board affirms the rights of all members and stakeholders to speak freely, without fear of attack. We do not support the actions of individuals or organizations that would use social media or other means to target or name call members of our NWNC Board or stakeholders. We resolve that the NWNC will be a place for respectful and civil discourse."
- Abby stated that all NWNC discussions must be fair and respectful.
 - This transitioned into a conversation regarding speaking rights as guaranteed by the 1st amendment.
 - Gibson reviewed the policy of open speakers and reminded the NWNC that all board members are held to a higher standard and take an oath to maintain proper conduct. All posts on social media remain on a public forum. If you are a board member using a private account, such as Facebook, and post neighborhood council business, then it is officially a public account.
 - Stakeholder Carl Petersen expressed concern about one of Kathleen's posts on Twitter. He stated that Kathleen made anti-semitic comments on social media. Kathleen replied that she always supported 1st amendment, but it is inappropriate if slander or libel are involved.
 - Patty Glueck said she wished to provide Gibson with context, as he was not at that meeting. She said that people were told that since they were not NWNC stakeholders, they should not be allowed to speak. However, they are CD12 residents. Ms. Glueck added that this was an unfriendly thing to do and not an attack on a NWNC board member, but rather the other way around.
 - Rana feels that this discussion would be better discussed at a retreat; she will work with Gibson to facilitate this idea. Abby feels that the retreat and additional educational opportunities are a great idea.
 - Abby added that she has witnessed Kathleen being name-called out by stakeholders and noticed that Kathleen was not using her camera this evening. Perhaps she did not want her photo uploaded to social media? Abby reminded Board members and stakeholders to be respectful even when they disagree.
 - Stakeholder Katherine Tattersfield stated that she saw a tweet on Wednesday, July 27th from Kathleen Edwards stating that Pilar was a member of a George Soros funded socialist group. Katherine mentioned that Kathleen has since changed her twitter name and profile. Katherine then interrupted the meeting twice to call Kathleen Edwards a "liar!"
 - Asaad Alnajjar added that while serving on the Board of Public Works (whom he supports via his career) and the PRNC, name calling comes with the job. Our role as neighborhood council board members is to listen-
 - Kathleen has posted several things from her private social media accounts and has never represented herself as an NWNC board member.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion as follows:
 - “The NWNC Board affirms the rights of all members and stakeholders to speak freely, without fear of attack. We do not support the actions of individuals or organizations that would use social media or other means to target or name call members of our NWNC Board or stakeholders. We resolve that the NWNC will be a place for respectful and civil discourse.”
 - Rana Sharif seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- XI. Discussion and possible motion regarding NWNC's position on issues concerning the West Valley Animal Shelter (WVAS). Public Safety Committee suggestion: That the Board agree to write either a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or letter of "stakeholder support," on this issue and it be recommended by the Board to the LA Animal Services Commission, Mayor Garcetti, and the City

Council, to express the overwhelming stakeholder consensus that the WVAS remain as such, and plea for their recognition that this shelter is a vital and safety necessity to all animals and residents in the greater Valley area.

- Kathleen mentioned that the WVAS is one of the only municipal shelters with room for livestock, such as goats and horses.
- In 2000, the voters overwhelmingly supported Proposition F, which financially supports the city's animal shelters.
- Barbara Hatley opposes the closure of the WVAS; this seems to be supported by WVAS's General Manager Brenda Barnette as a city budget issue. This action to close the WVAS as a municipal shelter would refer everyone to the East Valley Animal Shelter (EVAS). She would prefer that this transition to a hybrid shelter.
- Currently, the WVAS covers the area from the 405 to Calabasas and as far north as Porter Ranch. This is too large a geographical area to go away.
- Asaad reported that the PRNC dealt with this issue in September 2019, months before Coronavirus. Their Safety Committee received hundreds of emails requesting that the WVAS remain open. The PRNC will vote on a CIS at their meeting on Wednesday, September 9th.
- Carolyn is a long-time dog walking volunteer at WVAS. General Manager Brenda Barnette reported that the six city shelters are air-conditioned. The office spaces [where the humans work] are air-conditioned. However, the kennels at the other shelters are not air-conditioned. Longhaired dogs (such as huskies or collies) must keep cool, and should have access to air conditioning. The WVAS has been at over 100% capacity, with dogs in hallways. It would be preferable to open WVAS as a full municipal shelter rather than as a hybrid. The area covered by the WVAS is over 40% of the valley, yet they take in 42% of the animals. Mathematically, this closure does not make sense. The city pays out \$1.8m in salary to people who have not stepped into a shelter. The current [recently leaked] proposal to Mayor Garcetti discussed donating the WVAS to non-profits, such as Best Friends. Carolyn opposes turning this shelter over to such non-profits and making it a hybrid.
- Stakeholder Paula is an eleven-year volunteer at the WVAS and feels this proposed closure is a bad idea. The WVAS has over 120 dog kennels, 100 cat cages, and space for large animals. The EVAS has much smaller facilities with no space for livestock.
- Jason from the PRNC asked who would be the beneficiary of the new shelter if the WVAS's General Manager, Brenda Barnette thinks closure is a good idea? He urged the NWNC to attend all the hearings and speak for their allocated five minutes.
- Michelle Cornelius, a thirteen-year volunteer at the WVAS, reported that this shelter is always full. When they get down to 90%, they take in animals from other shelters. Oftentimes, dogs must be euthanized, which adds stress to all the workers and volunteers. However, citywide, the shelters continue to have 167 staff members with no variance.
- Glenn Bailey agreed with all the other comments. As the WVAS represents the area west of the 405, this includes sixteen neighborhood councils. Four of these councils (NENC, Encino, Tarzana and Chatsworth) have already extended support for the WVAS. Glenn urges a CIS rather than merely a letter. Council File 20-1114, introduced by Councilmen John Lee and Bob Blumenfield, should also be mentioned. He also recommended that the NWNC include the comment "as amended" to personalize this CIS.
- Rana Sharif made a motion that the NWNC board unanimously agreed to write a CIS reflecting stakeholder support on this issue on city council file 20-1114, and it be recommended by the Board to the LA Animal Services Commission, Mayor Garcetti, and the City Council, to express the overwhelming stakeholder consensus that the WVAS remain as such, and plea for their

recognition that this shelter is a vital and safety necessity to all animals and residents in the greater Valley area. Kelly Sooter seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Rana Sharif made an amended motion that the NWNC board agree to write a CIS reflecting unanimous board and overwhelming stakeholder support on council file 20-1114, and that it be recommended by the board to the LA Animal Services Commission, Mayor Garcetti, and the city council, to express support for the West Valley Animal Shelter (WVAS) as a full municipal shelter (not merely a hybrid model), and plea for their recognition that this shelter is a vital and safety necessity to all animals and residents in the greater Valley area.” Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it also passed unanimously.
- Kathleen thanked Barbara Hatley for joining this evening’s meeting and thought that perhaps the city council, Mayor Garcetti, and the LA Animal Services Commission do not understand the true reasons for keeping the WVAS open.
- Glenn Bailey added that the NWNC could file another CIS next month. However, there is a character limit, which Kelly [who files these] probably knows about. Alternatively, the NWNC may add an attachment to their previously submitted CIS.
- Barbara Hatley concluded with a comment about the frequency and protocol of the meetings of the LA Animal Services Commission.

XII. Discussion and motion to approve the August 11, 2020 GBM Minutes

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

Aye (10)	Bailes, Ding, Fox, Krowne, Lapaz, Lasky, Lowell, Sharif, Sooter, and Wilson
Abstain (2)	Bah and Edwards
Absent (1)	Toscano

XIII. Discussion and motion to approve the August 2020 Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
July 28	Wendy Moore/Moore Business Results	Communications Services for May 2020	\$ 200.00
August 4	Deluxe	Hand Sanitizer for Parent’s Education Survey	3,708.39
August 7	Apple One	Minutes from May 2020	207.90
August 13	C&M Printing	Printing School Outreach Postcard Survey	288.26
August 13	Smart & Final	Bags for Distribution of Hand Sanitizer and Outreach Materials	44.44
August 20	Amazon	2,500 1-oz. NWNC Branded Hand Sanitizer	12.03
		Total	<u>\$4,461.02</u>

- Gail expressed concern about the NWNC not spending money on food. This is okay, as the MER is a report of money already spent, rather than what appears on the budget. The most recently revised budget reflects no food purchases for the first six months of the fiscal year.
- Kelly Sooter made a motion to support this MER; Gail Lapaz seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lapaz, Lasky, Lowell, Sharif, Sooter, and Wilson
Ineligible (1)	Bah
Absent (1)	Toscano

- XIV. Discussion and update presentation from the DPH regarding the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study
- Andrew Krowne reported that Wednesday, September 30th, beginning at 6PM, the DPH would host a virtual Town Hall meeting. A key concern is the overall lack of trust in the community.
 - In early August, the Aliso Canyon Community Action Group (CAG) was made aware that there were 150 containers of scientific evidence related to the blowout up at the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility. The CAG was able to get a ninety-day extension of this possible disposal. However, there is nothing keeping that material there. The CAG is working with the DPH to secure this material to keep it available for the study.
- XV. Discussion and update regarding the August 27th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) recommendation. Executive Committee recommendation: Discussion and possible motion to submit a letter to the LA City Ethics Commission and Mayor Eric Garcetti requesting a statement clarifying whether or not there are any ethics issues concerning Councilmember John Lee.
- The NWNC has had some really important conversations, hearing from the community, stakeholders, and the Board on this issue concerning Councilmember Lee.
 - At the last ECM, the board recommended the motion on the agenda. However, we will not move forward with this motion at this time.
 - Prior to the last ECM, Rana was slated to meet with Ms. Beltran to discuss the role of the NWNC in these discussions. Unfortunately, due to some scheduling mishaps, the meeting did not happen until after our ECM, where this was recommended. In Rana's meeting with Raquel and Gibson, a few things became increasingly evident:
 1. This is a discussion that our community clearly cares about and merits further opportunity to discuss. Rana acknowledged and thanked all the members of our community in Northridge West [and beyond] who have taken time out from their lives [during a very difficult time] to share their views and opinions. We as the NWNC are here for you.
 2. Which led to her second issue: This process has revealed the inadequacies of what a neighborhood council can do to register the sentiments of the community. This was a huge part of Rana's discussion with Ms. Beltran. What is the purpose of a neighborhood council in its advisory role, if we do not have the mechanism to, in fact, advise?
 3. In any case, Rana was reminded by someone she respects [and has the institutional memory] of two instances whereupon a conversation that [perhaps] began in the neighborhood council system moved elsewhere. The first is the Save Porter Ranch movement and the second is known as Save Coldwater Canyon.

In both these instances, the neighborhood council system was inefficient in affecting the change the community clearly wanted and communicated. While the NWNC will continue to be a space for our community to come share their concerns, Rana is committed to grassroots mobilizing and encouraging folks to support the collective efforts beyond this space. Individual board members can offer support.
 - Therefore, the NWNC will not move on with this motion at this time. Rana again thanked everyone, including all board members and the community.
 - Asaad from the PRNC recommended that the NWNC consider bringing issues related to John Lee's violations before the city's Ethics Commission, including John's "pay for play" and the city's payment of \$75k for a sexual harassment violation. Asaad has already brought these issues before the Ethics Commission, but there has not yet been an investigation or resolution.
 - Kelly recalled that in March 2020, Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12, told the NWNC that there was an FBI investigation into John Lee. This was a very challenging time for the NWNC and CD12.

- Patty Glueck felt that post-dated checks and other unethical issues were not revealed prior to the election. She thinks these are very serious ethical violations.
- Andrew Krowne mentioned that there is a very different standard between local and federal issues. Although everyone is bound by the same ethical standards, there is a city body whose job is to look at these issues. Years ago, Andrew investigated a former PRNC board member who committed a crime. However, nothing ever became of that. Perhaps the board could bring this back up again?
- Leda mentioned that this is definitely not within the scope of neighborhood councils. If there was something that Lee did, yes, please investigate and/or remove him. The FBI should be doing their investigations. If it is determined that Lee did illegal activity, then he should be removed. However, we seem to be getting away from the tasks of the neighborhood councils.
- Carl Petersen wishes that John spoke of these issues. If John Lee would address these concerns before his constituents, then the NWNC would not have to deal with this.
- Peter mentioned that he called the enforcement division of the Ethics Commission. He asked that if there were a conflict, would the NWNC get in the way of the FBI? The response was that the Ethics Commission was not concerned about the criminal issues handled by the FBI. In addition, after making a complaint to the Ethics Office, anyone who filed a complaint cannot call back to them to see if there was any action taken.

- XVI. Discussion and update regarding City Clerk's review of Northridge Beautification Foundation's NPG
- Kelly reported that [in January] a complaint was filed regarding these NPGs. The NWNC recently received documentation from the city clerk's office concerning this issue.

- XVII. Discussion and update from the Beautification Committee's review of key priorities for the year
- Kelly identified the following key priorities:
 - Kathleen recommended local Northridge resident's artwork, including getting the kids involved with the artwork on the utility boxes.
 - Oakridge Estate Mural: Although Gail has worked hard on this mural; it must be tabled. There is currently a long-term project to widen Devonshire Street in front of the estate, which will negatively affect the mural.
 - Tampa Topiaries: The Committee and the NWNC must reach a decision to fix or remove them.
 - Weed abatement: This was discussed during agenda item 9, but will be further addressed at a later date.

- XVIII. Discussion and update regarding West Valley Alliance on Unhoused upcoming Town Hall
- Gail reported that there is not much news regarding this proposed West Valley Alliance Town Hall. She recently participated in a Zoom meeting with Mike from the West Valley Alliance on Homelessness (WVAH). A key topic of discussion was their hope to register as a 503C3 non-profit.
 - Several districts are concerned because contact with the unhoused is difficult as they lack fully charged cellular telephones.
 - Many are attempting to get the homeless to vote in the national election on November 3rd, as well as their local neighborhood council elections in 2021. Many of these unhoused are not registered to vote. Many volunteers, who attempt to help people register, are told not to directly interface with the homeless.
 - Rita, an unhoused individual from Chatsworth, reached out to the WVAH; Gail suggested having her join the NWNC.

- Gail added that we need to take care of the mental, drug, and alcohol issues before we can deal with the housing.
- Mihran from the PRNC wondered if the unhoused are ignored, could they affect the outcome of an election?
- CD12 Field Deputy Matthew Vallecilla mentioned that every CD12 newsletter contains a section on the unhoused. The city also has a court order mandating that additional housing be made available.
- Gail replied that the NWNC, PRNC, and the WVAH have all emailed suggestions to CD12 for potential housing sites. However, nothing has ever come back. All suggestions, including a facility on Topanga Canyon Boulevard, have been squelched. Money from Proposition HHH [overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2016] has almost been fully spent, yet none of that money ever came down to the homeless.
- Leda mentioned that nearly all nearby residents shot down the proposed homeless site on Topanga Canyon Boulevard.
- Asaad from the PRNC replied that the Topanga Canyon Boulevard site was a state project, not a city issue. He added that neighborhood councils should work hard to coordinate housing with homeowners who object to shelters within their communities.

XIX. Discussion and update regarding Education Committee's LAUSD District 3 Board Town Hall

- The originally proposed date was the same day as the Aliso Canyon DPH Town Hall. Therefore, the LAUSD Town Hall has moved to Friday, October 2nd.
- The funding sub-committee will meet to discuss the flyer.
- Mihran from the PRNC thanked Ding for all her efforts, positive energy, and her approach. She made this near impossible task possible. Mihran added that he has never worked with such a great committee chair.

XX. Discussion and update regarding 2020-2021 elections

- As Outreach coordinator, Kelly is getting many calls and emails regarding the 2021 neighborhood council elections. Glen Wilson replied that he, as chair of the Elections Committee, would work with Kelly.
- Wednesday, August 26th, the city council unanimously voted to approve city council file 20-0963, which proposed that the 2021 neighborhood council elections would be 100% vote-by-mail. Mayor Garcetti further approved this action on Tuesday, September 8th.
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that the Thursday, September 10th VANC meeting will include a presentation by Holly Wolcott, the head of the city clerk's office, who is running the 2021 neighborhood council elections. Glenn hoped that Kelly Sooter and Glen Wilson, the Outreach and Elections Chairs, could be available to attend this VANC meeting.
- Following Mayor Garcetti's presentation to the September 26th Congress of Neighborhood Councils, Holly Wolcott will also discuss elections. She is also the coordinator of finance issues and budgets.

XXI. Discussion and update regarding resources and support for those facing housing insecurity and people/families on the verge of homelessness

- Peter and Gail suggested having a homeless person address the NWNC, or sit on the NWNC [every so often]. Gail does not know a homeless person, but if anyone knows someone, please reach back to the board.

XXII. Report by Budget Advocate

- Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the advocates have a new model of doing business. Previous years saw the advocates present a 130+ page white paper [with their recommendations] to Mayor Garcetti [and the neighborhood councils]. This will be pared down to one or two pages covering approximately 24-different department and issues, such as COVID, homelessness, cannabis, etc. These new reports will be released as they become available. Additional information can be found on their new website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.com>
- The city's budget will be one of the four key topics at the September 26th Congress of Neighborhood Councils.
- Saturday, October 3rd, the advocates may host their first Town Hall to discuss the challenges of equally providing services throughout LA. This may be postponed until November. They are also developing an interactive seminar to present to neighborhood council meetings.
- The northwest valley's three advocates, Garry Fordyce, Brian Allen, and Glenn, frequently vote on issues related to the NWNC. Please reach out to them if you have any comments or concerns about what you would like the advocates and the city to focus upon.

XXIII. Reports by Committees

- Rana mentioned that the PLUZ has something coming down their pipeline. They also look forward to welcoming Payman to serve on this committee.
- Ding thanked everyone for all the assistance she received for the Education Committee and the planning of the October 2nd LAUSD virtual Town Hall.
- As Outreach Chair, Kelly asked all committee chairs to send her their updates for posting.

XXIV. Announcements by Board Members

- Peter found it very refreshing to have a discussion regarding the WVAS, without name-calling or labeling; hopefully, we can have such non-political discussions in the future.

XXV. Adjournment

- Rana Sharif adjourned the meeting at 10.25PM.