



Northridge West Neighborhood Council

Joint Beautification Committee and
Whole Board Meeting Minutes

6:30pm – 8:00pm

September 21st, 2020



Beautification Committee Members

Kelly Sooter, Chair

Kathleen Edwards

Peter Lasky

AGENDA – MEETING MINUTES

VIRTUAL MEETING

Zoom ID: 964 2142 7592

Zoom Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96421427592>

By Telephone Dial: 669-900-6833 and enter 964 2142 7592 followed by the # sign

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Northridge West Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically.

Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must dial 669-900-9128 and enter **935 5825 5289** and then press # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by email: NCsupport@lacity.org or phone: (213) 978-1551.

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed **9401 Reseda Blvd, in the clear box, to the left of the gate adjacent to the parking lot** and at our website: northridgewest.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Kelly Sooter at (818) 807-5109 or email: ksooter@northridgewest.org.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – The public is requested to dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to **TWO (2)** minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.



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SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte el Departamento de Empoderamiento Vecinal, al (213) 978-1551 o por correo electrónico ncsupport@lacity.org.

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PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS – Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- **9401 Reseda Blvd, in the clear box, to the left of the gate adjacent to the parking lot**
- <http://www.northridgewest.org>
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>



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1. Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call
 - The meeting was called to order at 6:32. Meeting attendees included Kelly Sooter, Peter Lasky, Kathleen Edwards, Abby Bailes and Gail Lapaz. Stakeholders Randy Sanches, Darlene Kerns and Jason Hector also joined the call with Julie Kollenburn joining at 7:15
2. General Public Comment on non-agenda items. None
3. Update on Northridge stakeholder art project (KE)
 - The Committee discussed the various options for a stakeholder art project including a virtual art show (requires a program to upload artwork, etc) a physical art show (limited opportunities given COVID 19). Kathleen said that the inspiration was from a Nextdoor post who invited people to post their photography. Per Randy, this was viewed as very successful with over 450 people posting. The team felt this would be a great event for NWNC to sponsor for the community.
 - 1. Kathleen to flush out idea and forward Nextdoor photography post for sample of stakeholder art project. (Adults / kids)*
4. Update on Tampa Topiary project along with recommended next steps (PL)
 - Peter answered 2 questions that were previously posed:
 - I. Stakeholders can make a motion and vote at Committee Meetings, but they can not vote at the GBM.
 - II. Jason mentioned that you can not give prizes to stakeholders as a NC. Peter said that there is a work around where you can partner with retailers who can offer gift cards and other prizes on their behalf (Not the NC).



- Peter started by reminding the Committee that Kelly had set a goal of making a final recommendation as to whether we keep the topiaries as is, enhance them or remove the horse topiaries. Peter is investigating the various options with the questions of a. Does it make sense to improve the artistic quality of the physical structures from a financial standpoint b. Do we have the right plants in there now to make it work and c.
- Peter has made 59 calls, emails and text messages reaching out to welders, landscapers and nurseries. He met with 6 different people for 7 on-site meetings with various specialists to discuss the project. The ones that are qualified, have some interesting ideas. There is no reason why we have to decide on only one. We could submit multiple ideas which could enhance the individuality of the structures. Peter’s goal was to find different skill sets within the trades, and he reached out to a variety of experts including the American Welders associations, float builders, larger companies and individuals. On the plant side he made 20 calls with 15 different companies.
- Peter’s goal for tonight is to have 3 welders present their ideas which, depending on the board feedback, could come back with more comprehensive plans. Two of the people he just met with recently which did not allow them much time to pull anything together: (Julie Kollenborn, Mistress of the Arc, met with last Friday and Roberto Lara this morning.)
- Darlene Kerns presented her ideas for the structure. It included adding cut metal “skins” that are hammer shaped and welded by hand to the existing structure. She is creating a life size sample to determine time/template. To view www.DarleneKerns.com Link to online presentation <http://www.darlenekerns.com/new-page-27> Password: gianthorse. The bid is \$5k / horse for 3. It would be \$6,500 for one. She estimates 4 months/horse. This version would not require adding plants since it is a new sculpture (and not topiary). Randy said he thought it was great, and he would not cover up the artwork. He gave a couple of suggestions to the design itself and asked about the forward chest. Darlene said that it would be done in pieces to look like full size horse but allow for cut out

areas (chandelier lit).





- Julie Kollenborn, Mistress of the Arc, is a professional welder and licensed contractor, and looked at the project in terms of what changes needed to be made to the existing structure vs creating something new. She would work with Randy on actual modeling to add more motion (buttocks, chest, legs, heads and ears). She provided insight as to how she would accomplish the project (she just met with Peter the day before, so didn't have time to put together a formal presentation.) Her version would keep it as a topiary and add moss to the center of the horse to fill it out quicker. She can come back with a formal presentation and costs.
- There was discussion about the plants and how they are affixed to the structure. Randy confirmed, post the meeting, “the topiary structure's rebar frames were attached to the metal footing pipes at the bottom. Peter said they weren't. I remember that they were so I went to look. They are welded to the pipes (and pretty securely). I have attached pictures of what I found. Peter was right that they then continue in to the ground where more than likely as Peter said are embedded in to concrete. I have attached pictures showing what I found”:



- Kelly asked to get a cost estimate to remove the structures as a backup.
 - *Next Steps: Update Committee at October meeting with any new bids (Julie / Roberto) as well as plant information. Kelly to highlight discussion at the GBM.*
5. Update on Clean Streets project (KS)
- Kelly talked to Matthew Vallecilla at CD12 regarding clean streets and tree trimming. Notes:
 - CD12 spent \$75k for a 3-month clean streets project from July – Oct: 5 persons/4 days/ 20 hours / week. About 25% of this went to Northridge & Chatsworth starting with Tampa.
 - IF NWNC wants to allocate funds to clean streets, Matt recommends using Clean & Green (LA Conservation Core) which is a youth-based program. Contact is Bo Savage at (213) 362-9000



x238. West Valley Alliance is also good, but their workforce comes from court referred workers which has been limited given court closures.

- Matt said that he would provide tools if we could get 10 volunteers to do a street cleaning.
- Matt also said that they could match funds for Tampa tree trimming since they do not have available funds for the 2020-2021 budget. (Cuts due to COVID. CD12 would typically get \$66k for on demand tree trimming). The cost is \$5200/day. He estimates that it may take 2 days.
- Jason felt that the CD12 match was a great benefit for NWNC and worth taking advantage of. He feels it is really important to trim the trees and get rid of the dead trees / limbs.

› *Next steps: determine if NWNC wants to co-fund project. Matt would contact Scott Harmen at LA Forestry.*

- Kelly provided samples of potential flyers for the Parkway Maintenance project Ordinance 5608. There was a lot of feedback from the group regarding verbiage / wording for the flyer.
 - I. Kelly request the Committee forward all comments / feedback so that it can be incorporated into the flyer. (Peter sent previous versions / letters in a subsequent email which seem to work well. Kelly suggested using one of them moving forward vs creating a new flyer.)

6. Discussion and recommendations for Beautification items to be on the NWNC October General Board Meeting.

- The Committee agreed to have a general update at the GBM but no specific recommendations / motions yet.

7. Suggestions by Board Members on non-agenda items: None

8. Adjournment at 8:20