

Northridge West Neighborhood Council

Joint Executive Committee Meeting and Whole Board Meeting

8:30pm Tuesday, December 1, 2020

I. Meeting call to order

A. 8:30pm, 14 attendees

B. Board members: Glen Wilson, Jennifer Krowne, Joel Lowell, Payman Bahman, Abby Bailes, Kathleen Edwards, Peter Lasky, Yi Ding

C. Stakeholders: Andrew Krowne, Lucio Padilla, Louis Dezseran, Kelly Sooter, Mikkie Loi, Gail Lapaz

II. General public comments on non-Agenda items.

A. Andrew Krowne commented how agenda items of the meeting can all be addressed in Committee meetings and this meeting does not serve the purpose of involving stakeholders. Rather, it just created another obligation for stakeholders to get things on the agenda. He suggested that ECM allowed Committees to handle more things. He also shared his disappointment that the motion of censure was not agendized before the board. He said that based on the presentations he listened to at the last GBM, it was crystal clear that wrongdoings occurred, and the only remediation should be censure. The motion to censure was rejected at the last ECM, a non-mandatory meeting. He emphasized that this was not a personal attack on any board member, but that inappropriate behavior did occur, and that remediation should occur as well. The collateral damage is that the board lost 3 members. Abby responded that she would be willing to follow up offline about the agenda items.

B. Jennifer felt unease of what transpired at the last meeting and shared that she did not understand why important decisions were discussed at ECM instead of waiting to the GBM. She was not privy to a lot of information happening at the meeting. Because board members are not required to attend ECM, she did not attend the last ECM, although she attended many previous ECM. She felt weird not having a lot

of information brought from one meeting to another. She felt lost and emphasized that board members should not feel lost.

- C. Abby responded that the censure was originally brought up at the last GBM and ECM was not the first time that the topic was brought up. She also clarified that all agendas and minutes were made public. Jennifer said that big decisions should stop going to ECM since a lot of constituents do not go to ECM. She said it unusual to do thing this way since most other NCs have substantial things go directly to the GBM and some of them do not even have an EC. Abby said that all the recommendations from Committees do go to the GBM and if the censure were to be pursued, it would have gone to the GBM, but it was not. Jennifer said she understood that and that it was not just about the censure. She also understood that it might not be on the Interim President since it was a transitional period.
- D. Ding asked the board to consider only having GBM if ECM was not a norm from other NCs so that we could involve more stakeholders. Abby said we could pass it to the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee. She also said it a norm in generic government to discuss things this way. Payman said we should give credit to Abby as the Interim President and said that he appreciated her putting together the agenda.
- E. Andrew agreed that heavy lifting happened in other Committees but not the ECM. He would like to see more responsibilities pushed down to Committees to allow for more efficient, easier participation of stakeholders. He emphasized the importance of transparency. Abby agreed that it would be important for Committees to contribute more, but we do need to solve the current problem of losing three board members who were active Committee members.
- F. Kelly was hoping that someone could follow up on Don Larson which is very important for our stakeholders; she also shared the excitement of the update of Utility Box Art Project and thanked Jason from PRNC, John Lee's Office, and the board with the exception of Kathleen for voting to support this. Jennifer shared the excitement as well and commented that the stakeholders have shared things about this on social media. Andrew thanked the board for this project.

III. Discussion and review of applicants and procedure for filling the three open NWNC Board Member seats. Applications received to date from Lucio Padilla and Louis Dezseran Jr.; more may be submitted before the Dec 1st GBM for consideration.

A. Abby stated that per Bylaws and Standing Rules it is the job of the President/Interim President to fill the vacancies of the board with board approval. She also shared that the three open seats do not have to be filled. She encouraged the board to continue doing outreach to recruit more candidates and shared that we could roll over the vacancies to the election process.

B. Lucio Padilla: wants to get involved because he is concerned with the neighborhood for the safety; wants to be part of the decision making; never attended the meeting, open to committee, “a church guy”, not involved in other organizations, did not some volunteering/food banks/blood drive before; cross street: Chatsworth and Wilbur; a broadcasting engineer/ “a techy”, graduated from CSUN, worked at TV station, on-call 24/7; been living in Northridge since 2009, very familiar with the impact of the Alison Canyon gas leak.

C. Louis Dezseran: lived in Northridge in 1985, when he was 7 years old, went to Calahan for elementary, Nobel Middle for junior and high school, LA Pierce College, Pepperdine University for BA in political science, and Oxford University for a master’s in social policy; have taught internationally; came back to the U.S. because of the COVID-19 pandemic and have been working for the Salvation Army assisting homeless in downtown Los Angeles. He is interested in public service, seeing how politics works in Northridge and would love to serve on the Homeless Committee; when commenting on the Alison Canyon gas leak, Louis shared that he was teaching in Saudi Arabia in 2015 so he was not aware of the blowout, but he is happy to research more about it. He also shared that while he would love to serve on the Homeless Committee, he is happy to serve on any Committee the board might need help with. He is also happy to read the minutes to understand more of the board matters; lives two blocks from the Northridge Mall

IV. Discussion, nominations, and possible motions for open NWNC Executive Committee positions.

- A. Abby clarified that we would not do this tonight but at the GBM which would be conducted by DONE.
  - B. Jennifer said that she felt strong to let our stakeholders to pick the board members. Abby asked if she meant only board members and not the EC and Jennifer confirmed.
  - C. Ding asked Abby to explain the procedure and Abby said DONE would preside over the election and emphasized that it would be very important to fill in the seats. She also shared that voting members of the EC should only be the President and two VPs, not including the Secretary and Treasurer.
- V. Discussion and possible motions for NWNC Committee vacancies
- A. Recommendation from Education Comm. to add Gail Lapaz and Kelly Sooter as Stakeholder member: Abby said we would move forward with the nominations.
  - B. Abby showed a spreadsheet of the status of our Committee Assignment and suggested us to nominate and vote at the GBM. She also shared that we would absorb the Homelessness Committee to different Committees. Andrew added that he has been approved for joining the PLUZ Committee and would love to serve on the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee too. Abby asked people to reach out to her if there is any corrections or suggested changes.
- VI. Discussion of possible Retreat via Zoom to set agenda and goals moving forward in 2021.
- A. Abby shared the rationale behind this to set up a time to plan things together and asked for comments. Jennifer seconded that it would be a good thing to have the Retreat and suggested pushing it back to when we have more board members. Kathleen also said she agreed we should do it after the Election. Joel said if we moved it to April, we might meet in person and have snacks. Andrew said he would suggest two Retreats, one of which would be an educational one sooner than later, and another one of which would be post-Election about planning and administrative packet. Jennifer suggested the snacks baskets delivered to people's houses.
- VII. Discussion of date and time for a Special Meeting TBD for discussion of Tampa Topiary project.
- A. Abby explained that we should consider doing this so that we have ample time for discussion and don't make the GBM too long.

- B. Peter shared the discussion of Tampa Topiary project was due to the questions surrounding whether the permit was obtained legally, and the allegations of the misleading pictures produced by Don Larson. Since these are serious issues, he would love to have a Special Meeting to share more information and the physical evidence. He would need 30 minutes to address it and does not think it is unreasonable to do so at the December meeting.
  - C. Kelly expected it to be discussed at the last GBM and said it has been going on full cycle: pushing it to the Special Meeting would be a bad reflection of the board. She said that Peter had the rights to defend the accusations and since it is an important issue to the community, Special Meeting will have low attendance, she would suggest it to happen at GBM. Abby said she needed to think about this since GBM is already very long but perhaps we could put it at the end. Kelly commented that 30 minutes is too long. Joel said that our meeting tended to be long and since the discussion will require tremendous amount of time, so he supported for a Special Meeting.
  - D. Peter acknowledged that the importance of making the meeting shorter and commended Abby for leading a short meeting last time. Abby asked Peter for specific items to include in the discussion so that we could be more strategic with the time. Peter said he would love to focus on the discussion more about the allegations. Payman suggested we ask people to make more relevant comments in future meetings.
  - E. Andrew shared the frustration that the item was being bounced around but think it would be impossible to discuss it under 30 minutes. He suggested having the meeting in mid-January and publicized it on social media so that stakeholders and Peter have more time to prepare.
- VIII. Discussion and motion to use Outreach Committee budget resources to pay up to \$1,000 to videographer Mark Hovater for editing, production and delivery of a 4-6-minute video featuring the NWN Utility Art Box products.
- A. Kathleen clarified that while she voted against this project in the beginning, she fully approves this now. Mark would go ahead to film the project but would only edit it if the board approves this motion. Kathleen thinks it would be good for

publicity and stakeholders. Abby asked for marketing channels and Kathleen shared a few social media channels. Peter said that we could show people the pictures of this project at actual outreach events so that people might become more interested in getting involved. Abby asked for the remaining budget. Joel questioned the benefits of using the funds for this videomaking since people would already see it physically on the streets. He does not think producing a video an effective use of our funds. Kelly said there might be \$4000 remaining for elections. She also suggested that she usually budgeted items for three digits and we only paid the artists \$750 per person.

- B. Mikkie agreed with Joel and Kelly and said the pictures Porter Ranch NC put on the website looked great. She suggested the board use photographs and perhaps asked Kristina or one of the board members to do it. Joel said the budget is about \$5700. Andrew agreed with Mikkie and advocated for the slideshow format of presenting the information. Kathleen shared that Mark did a fine job and that we had not spent too much on outreach and she did not think \$1000 is too expensive. She also suggested someone to volunteer as a photographer. Jennifer said that \$1000 would be too expensive and suggested that we could approach CSUN students to do it for free. She also thought that putting things on social media would be very helpful too. Glen said we needed to approve the budget before asking Mark to videotape anything. Kathleen clarified she would let him know if the board did not approve it. Abby said our website had low traffic and suggested that we table it. Kelly shared that 11:11 had some photos already.
  - C. Motion to table the use Outreach Committee budget resources to pay up to \$1,000 to videographer Mark Hovater for editing, production and delivery of a 4-6-minute video featuring the NWNC Utility Art Box products passed.
- IX. Discussion, nomination and possible motion to approve Kathleen Edwards or Josh Toscano as NWNC Second Signer and/or Alternate Signer. “The NC Alternate Signer is responsible for the following: i. In the absence or unavailability of the Treasurer or 2nd Signer, the Alternate Signer can sign Board approved funding documents to be submitted to the NC Funding Program.”

- A. Kathleen shared that Gibson said that we did not have the Alternate Signer in the Bylaws and thus had to wait until next year. She is happy for Josh as the Second Signer if he has the training already. Abby said she reached out to Josh already and he did not want to be the Second Signer. Andrew shared the importance of the Second Signer. Jennifer suggested Josh, and Abby clarified again that Josh did not want to do it.
- B. Motion passed to approve Kathleen Edwards or Josh Toscano as NWNC Second Signer and/or Alternate Signer.
- X. Discussion of the NWNC Storage key, access and getting NWNC shirts for any new Board members and Payman Bahman
  - A. Ding shared she would get the Storage key from Rana tomorrow. Kelly said the shirts and flashlights are there. Peter clarified that he did not own any NWNC critical properties. Glen said he had another key. And Ding would update Abby when she found out how many keys Rana would give her. Kelly also shared that there was also a care package at the Storage.
- XI. Discussion of maintenance flyer and approved funding. We need someone to lead this project forward.
  - A. Peter suggested the VP of Administration to handle this.
- XII. Discussion of open role for Northridge Vision Liaison.
  - A. Kelly, the previous NWNC Northridge Vision Liaison, shared what the role entailed: two-hour monthly meeting; the topics are important since we have a lot of shared issues such as homelessness; most recently the focus was on the City Plan.
  - B. Glen said he used to be the Liaison before and offered to do this if nobody volunteered. Kathleen asked if it would be beneficial for Payman to be on this since he leads the PLUZ Committee. Kelly commented that the topics would rotate but it would be helpful if he wanted to join now. Payman said he would be willing to do it in January and February but not now. Abby suggested to look at the date for the December meeting.
- XIII. Committee and Liaison Updates
  - A. Abby asked if Glen has anything to share from the Elections Committee. Glen said up to \$4000 (postcards/flyers/door hangers) for outreach and Abby asked for more

details to be provided at the GBM. Kelly said we had to use the vendor for printing purposes we voted on in the encumbered funds. She would highly recommend the board do social media since it would be free. Payman asked if we could mail the applications to people. Abby said that she would defer to Glen to see if this followed the rules. Glen did know the rule and felt that this would be more expensive. Jennifer added that the ballot would be in person, but the application would be online, so there would be not much value mailing out the applications. Peter shared that historically the information would be more about candidates knowing how to get involved from the handouts, but he would not discourage us from using a more affordable solution.

- B. Kathleen said that we needed to asked Kristina to post the updated Bylaws and Andrew seconded. Andrew also shared the postcards, based on his experience with PRNC, would be very cost prohibitive. Joel shared that he heard the voting response was very low and was concerned with the expense if we were to get very low response again. He suggested people would know about NWNC from our website and social media. Jennifer said the postcards were to raise awareness of NWNC and we might get more participants at meetings. Kathleen asked if anyone heard about the plan to get any enclosure on the LADWP bill. Nobody answered so Abby suggested Kathleen to research more.

#### XIV. Adjournment

- A. 10:03pm