

DRAFT
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Board Meeting (GBM)
Tuesday, 13 April 2021
Via Zoom

1. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
 - President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.18PM, welcomed over twenty attendees, and nine board members.
 - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
 - Here (9) Abigail Bailes, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Bill Fox, Jennifer Krowne, Peter Lasky, Joel Lowell, Josue Toscano, and Glen Wilson
 - Absent (2) Payman Bahman and Lucio Padilla
 - Two young ladies led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. If anyone has kids who would like to lead us in future Pledges of Allegiance, please reach out to Abby.

2. Comments by Board Members of non-Agenda items
 - Bill Fox thanked Abigail for the great way that she ran the April 6th Election Forum.
 - Jennifer announced that the Claim Jumper Restaurant at 9429 Tampa Avenue has re-opened. Their property manager did not allow for outdoor dining during the pandemic. They were on the list of potential Claim Jumper closures, but they redeemed themselves.
 - Next meeting, Abigail may invite someone from the former Skateland/Trebek Center at 18140 Parthenia Street to address the NWNC.

3. Comments by Stakeholders on non-Agenda items
 - Gail Lapaz asked why the NWNC has merely three, rather than five, executive board members. Although the NWNC by-laws state five positions, they are not currently filled. They hope to fill the two vacant positions very soon.
 - Gail added that everyone talks about homelessness, but the NWNC needs to do more.

 - Lesem Puerto from LA Family Housing (LAFH) reported that there several ways to get involved in homelessness; she recommended folks visit LAFH.org for additional information.

4. Comments by Public Officials
 - Alberto Vargas from Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel reported the following:
 - The website <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/todaysevents> is a great resource for things going on at the capital.
 - Assemblyman Gabriel is very concerned about the following assembly bills:
 - AB77 involves substance disorder treatment services
 - AB876 would require all handguns purchased after July 2023 to be micro-stamped within ninety days of purchase
 - AB977 is a homeless prevention program
 - AB989 involves housing, local development decisions, and appeals
 - AB1384 would require the development of a strategic resiliency framework to make recommendations and identify actions that are necessary to prepare the state for significant climate change impacts modeled for 2025, 2050, and beyond

 - Jason Maruca from Supervisor Barger's office reported the following:

- The county's Department of Public Health (DPH) is working extensively on the COVID situation. Currently, there are merely 600-new daily cases, with less than fifty deaths per day.
 - For vaccination appointments (which can now be granted to those 16+), please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/index.htm>.
 - LA County has received 2m doses this past month and there are now 700 vaccination sites throughout the county.
 - The Johnson & Johnson vaccination program is paused; however, the county is moving forward with Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.
 - The county is now in the orange tier with additional business openings. The state issued some guidelines for private venues; the DPH is working on guidelines for the county
 - The eviction moratorium has been extended through June.
 - Medicaid has increased funding for beds for the homeless.
 - Brian Allen reported that Supervisor Barger mentioned that she would try to attend more Aliso Canyon Health Research Study Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings. However, she has not attended any since making that statement. The CAG would very much appreciate Jason and/or Supervisor Barger coming back to these meetings. In addition, the DPH has not been true to their word; their goals and priorities seem to be completely erroneous. Jason will follow-up with Brian and the CAG.
 - Andrew Krowne mentioned that Supervisor Barger also spoke to the CAG about acquiring the chemical list.
 - Andrew also expressed his frustration that he is in a family of seven. As many restaurants restrict attendance to six people, how can his family dine together? Jason replied that this restaurant limit is a state mandate.
5. Updates from Senior Lead Officer and LAPD Devonshire Area Community Advisory Board
- SLO Zamora was unable to attend this evening's meeting as she had a very early morning and a long day.
 - Mikkie Loi from the Devonshire Area Community Advisory Board reminded everyone to be aware of their surroundings and harden the target to avoid becoming a victim.
 - The Valley Traffic Division Safety meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6.30PM. The Zoom link is posted on several social media platforms.
 - Wednesday, April 28th at 10AM, the LAPD Operations Valley Bureau will host an open discussion on anti-AAPI hate crimes. The Zoom meeting ID is 821 8022 8050 with passcode 765853.
 - SLO Zamora's next Basic Car Meeting will be Thursday, April 22nd at 6PM.
6. Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study Updates from Supervisor Barger's Office, LA County Public Health, and CAG Notice of public comment period ending on Friday, April 16th at 5PM PST.
- Christina Vega reported that the DPH seeks feedback from residents who experienced the impacts of the Aliso Canyon disaster to assist with the identification of priorities for the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study. Feedback from community members has been provided at open houses, town halls, and meetings with the CAG to help shape the draft Study Goals and Priorities developed by the Scientific Oversight Committee. The deadline for public comment on this study is Friday, April 16th (this has since been extended to Friday, April 30th).
 - A link to this survey can be found at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goals-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>
 - Jason Maruca wanted to let people know that it is important that everyone reach out and contribute to this health study.

- Andrew also recommended that people visit the CAG website at Alisohealthstudycag.org. Thus far, the CAG has hosted eight town halls.
 - Andrew asked Christina if the public would see the revised second draft of the document. Charlene Contreras responded (on behalf of Christina) that the draft would be released to everyone at the same time.
 - Gail Lapaz asked about the chat function on this Zoom call. Abigail will look into that. Kathleen added that comments via the chat function could violate the Brown Act.
 - John Hales mentioned that this is his 40th zoom meeting. The NWNC is one of three neighborhood councils that do not show the chat or Q&A function. It appears that someone has disabled the NWNC's access to those features.
7. Update on public safety at the intersection of Tampa Avenue and Chatsworth Street
- There was a fatality at this intersection a few weeks ago. The city recently approved and funded a plan to add a left-turn light at this intersection. The left turn project contract will be awarded later this year, with a projected installation in 2022. The NWNC thanks CD12 for their support, as well as the neighbors for sharing their concerns.
8. Presidential Comments
- Abigail mentioned that, as the pandemic comes to a conclusion, she sees a glimmer of hope, light, and recalls COVID blessings (including spending extra time with family).
9. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Master Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale and dispensing of alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption in addition to a Zoning Administrator's Determination for shared parking with existing on-site automobile parking facilities for the Northridge Fashion Center (NFC).
- Land use consultant Kristen Lonner and the NFC onsite manager Danielle John mentioned that they request the following for the 70-acre NFC:
 - Approve a master conditional use to allow the sale and dispensing of alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption and ancillary live entertainment in conjunction with three future restaurant tenant spaces.
 - Approve a zoning administrator's determination to permit shared parking within the existing on-site automobile parking facilities.
 - Dismiss a conditional use to permit live entertainment in conjunction with three future restaurant tenant spaces. The use of background music and acoustical musicians does not require a permit
 - The project benefits include:
 - This provides the NFC with a new conditional use approval to enhance the viability of current and future dining options.
 - Since the previous shared parking grant was approved in 1998, the types of uses within shopping malls has evolved and diversified.
 - Approval of this request will enable the NFC to meet market demand by ensuring a variety of retail, restaurant, and entertainment options are available to current and future visitors.
 - Kristen and Danielle recently met with the city's zoning administrator so this file is already open.
 - Jennifer wondered if this would affect the entertainment at the Wednesday evening farmer's market; this will not affect on that.
 - Andrew wondered why this issue did not go through the Planning Land Use and Zoning Committee. Abby responded that the Executive Committee agreed to hear this issue in Chairman Payman's absence.

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

10. Discussion and possible motion to add second credit card holder Glen Wilson

- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and possible motion for newly elected Board Members to start term on Thursday, July 1st, per Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) guidelines

- Tuesday, April 27th will be the NWNC’s election day with final results tallied in May. There will be plenty of time in late May and June for board members to take their mandatory training.
- The current (FY2020-21) NWNC will complete the budget.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (8) Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Lasky, Lowell, Toscano, and Wilson
 Abstain (1) Krowne
 Absent (2) Bahman and Padilla

12. Motion to approve Michael Howard to the Outreach Committee

- Michael has lived in Northridge for over 22-years. He learned about the NWNC approximately two months ago via a postcard. He has an MBA from Loyola Marymount, taught marketing and advertising, and has worked in public relations and advertising departments for some of the largest companies in the world.
- Gail wondered why there was a requirement for approval of committee members; Abigail replied that [per the bylaws] voting committee members must be elected into their position. No vote is required to attend or voluntarily contribute to a committee.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Yi Ding seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible motion to award a NWNC Certificate of Appreciation to Northridge Christian Church and Elder Ric Say for providing meeting space for NWNC Board Meetings

- Before the pandemic, the Northridge Christian Church and Elder Ric Say offered free space for NWNC meetings. These meetings did not encounter any protest when they ran overtime. In addition, Elder Say assisted with clean-up activities, etc.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Peter Lasky seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and motion to approve the March 2021 Monthly Expense Report

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
February 10	AppleOne Employment	Minutes	\$ 128.00
March 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	124.50
March 7	Staples	Recognition Certificates	12.03
March 8	AppleOne Employment	Minutes	166.40
March 12	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Web Services	750.00
		Total	<u>\$1,180.93</u>

- Treasurer Joel reported that the NWNC has approximately \$22,393.86 remaining in the budget for the remainder of this fiscal year.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and possible motion to adjust the 2020-21 NWNC Budget by moving funds from the NPG and Office categories and into the CIP category

- The FY2020-21 budget reflected \$11k for office expenses; however, merely \$7k was spent. There may be upcoming expenses of \$1,500, leaving a balance of \$2,500 to \$3k (which can be moved to Community Improvement Projects (CIP)).
- There remains \$2k in the budget for Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG); however, the NWNC does not anticipate any new NPGs for the remainder of this fiscal year.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to move the following funds from one account to CIP (to share the money with the community); this will reflect an extra \$15k to CIP:

Amount	From
\$ 3k	Office
2k	NPG
<u>10k</u>	Unallocated Carry Over (from FY2019-20)
<u>\$15k</u>	Total

- Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed:
 - Aye (7) Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
 - No (1) Krowne
 - Abstain (1) Toscano
 - Absent (2) Bahman and Padilla
- Jennifer felt funny that this budget discussion occurred at the Executive Committee meeting, rather than via a public forum.

16. Discussion and possible motion(s) for spending the 2020-21 remaining budget on NWNC priorities:

- a. Discussion and possible motion to hire the city's Urban Forestry Department (UFD) to remove dead trees and tree trimming in Northridge West for up to \$6,000
 - Peter reported that David Miranda, from the city's UFD, reported that his team assessed the trees on Tampa Avenue, south of the 118 freeway to Chatsworth Street. The following tree trimming needs were identified:

On the Median	20	Oak
	6	Pine
East Side	4	Pine
West Side	5	Pine
Total	<u>35</u>	<u>Trees</u>

- This work would take approximately two to three ten-hour days for UFD's mechanized crew of ten personal, preferably to be done on the weekend due to the close proximity to the 118 freeway entrance, exit, and the extent of traffic control needed.
- This cost of weekend work would be approximately up to \$16k, at \$5,500/day.
- David added that the following additional work [responded to by Hector Banuelos from UFD] could also be done within the three days of work.
 - One medium oak tree to be trimmed and shaped
 - Sixteen small oak trees to be trimmed and shaped
 - Grinding down two stumps on Tampa Avenue between Blackhawk and Chatsworth Streets
 - Cutting down two dead trees (one very small, the other medium)
 - Grinding down four stumps between Wilbur and Corbin Avenues on Chatsworth Street
 - Two of these oak trees have approximately 50% dead wood

- Peter also received a bid from “Your Way Tree Service” of Reseda; he will meet with them. However, their price was higher than what was proposed by Hector Banuelos and David Miranda.
 - John Hales mentioned that he has ten ashes and fifteen cypresses behind his house. This separates their home from a new building. He wondered whom he should contact. Peter recommended the following:
 - Mariposa Landscaping (who does contract work with the city)
 - Your Way Tree Service (the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council was very pleased with their work)
 - American Heritage Landscaping of Chatsworth (who previously worked for the NWNC)
 - Abigail suggested that perhaps tree trimming could be kicked out to the next fiscal year.
- b. Discussion of the Tampa Topiary options, including presentations from Arturo Perez from American Heritage Landscape (replanting), Roberto Lara (artistic frame repairs), Darlene Kerns (metal work artist), and removal options. Possible motion to follow based on discussion and estimates for services.
- Peter mentioned that Arturo Perez was unavailable due to a personal emergency; Roberto Lara was also unable to attend this evening’s meeting. He then read a statement from the Office of Community Beautification, stating that the NWNC would be responsible for the topiary along Tampa Avenue.
 - Abigail added that this leaves two options for the NWNC: Replant or turn the project over to someone else.
 - Peter said that the American Welding Society referred him to Darlene.
 - Metal artist Darlene Kerns did the measurements and posted her proposal [to create a steel skin to cover the horses] online at darlenekerns.com. There will also be leaves and a stronger structure. The steel will be non-reflective and the wind can blow through.
 - Darlene would like to work with the existing horse sculptures to design and shape the metal (not leave it flat). For safety reasons, she would not like to weld in the median. She will then rust the materials (which may take a week). In total, each horse may take three-months.
 - Jennifer asked if Darlene would build-out the horse’s face; the reply was negative, as that would add a great deal to the cost. Darlene previously did a full-faced llama, which doubled or tripled the cost.
 - Darlene will also need to see what permits from the city will be required. She will have her name on this, so she wants it to be beautiful and safe.
 - Stakeholder Randy Sanchez thought Darlene’s work is beautiful and this would look great. The plants that are currently within the horse sculptures on the median will not grow to the height of the structure. Perhaps the plants could be removed, which will also save the cost of maintenance.
 - Gail Lapaz urged the NWNC to move forward, remove the plants, let Darlene do the work, and get this issue off the agenda.
 - Kathleen agreed that we do not need the plants if there will be a full sculpture.
 - Jennifer asked how much the steel and materials would cost. Darlene replied that since COVID, metal and steel have gone up 35%. Each horse could cost \$5k to \$6k.
 - Jennifer proposed that the NWNC financially support one full horse. Then, perhaps community members could contribute to the second and third horses. Gail agreed with Jennifer and suggested a fundraising event to support the other horses. Randy urged the NWNC to contract with Darlene for all three horses.
 - Darlene must also review what was secured into the ground. As these will be steel, it is less likely to be stolen than bronze or stainless. Steel is currently going for \$.10/lb; it is not worth

stealing a 300 lb. statue for \$30. Darlene added that the steel recycling workers keep an eye out when artwork is stolen. She has a few pieces outside her studio in Pacoima; no one has ever stolen anything from there. Randy added that these structures are 11' x 11'; no one will steal something that big.

- New plants may cost \$3,100. Bill asked if the NWNC has an estimate to remove the plants. Arturo's bid included removing the plants. Randy added that ripping out the plants is not that big a deal. If we go with Darlene, we will not have plants.
- Kathleen suggested solar lighting aimed at the horses.
- Treasurer Joel stated that as the NWNC prepares the next fiscal year's budget, they might be able to use encumbered funds. Glenn Bailey added that the city clerk would recommend the \$10k rollover. However, the encumbrance was just a one-time action. An FY 2021-22 encumbrance may require a city council motion with no guarantee.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to fund this topiary project (by Darlene Kerns) for up to \$15k, with a caveat for the approval of the engineering and permits; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed:
 - Aye (8) Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lowell, Toscano, and Wilson
 - Abstain (1) Lasky
 - Absent (2) Bahman and Padilla
- Peter abstained because he will not serve on the next NWNC board.
- Abigail mentioned that signage for these horses may be discussed at the next NWNC meeting.

17. Discussion and motion to approve the March 2021 GBM Minutes.

- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed.
 - Aye (7) Bailes, Ding, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
 - Abstain (2) Edwards and Toscano
 - Absent (2) Bahman and Padilla

18. Update on the NWNC Election Forum; Register to vote in neighborhood council elections by April 20th at <https://clerk.lacity.org/elections/neighborhood-councilelections/vote-by-mail-application>

- The election forum was held on Tuesday, April 6th.
- Glen Wilson mentioned that voters have until 5PM on Tuesday, April 20th to register to vote.
- Gail, Kathleen, Glen, Jennifer, and Jorge Jimenez agreed that it was very difficult to register to vote due to the requirement to prove eligibility.
- Jennifer added that [during the election planning] the city did not know where we would be in this COVID war.
- Kathleen mentioned that she might have mailed her ballot without a signature; she was able to contact the city clerk's office to have this issue resolved.
- Glenn Bailey added that DONE does not have a list of all registered voters; this must be recreated. This is a DONE rule, not a city rule.
- Abigail added that identification is key; otherwise, it could be centrally located. As with all neighborhood councils, the NWNC is only for those within this area.

19. Update on the CD12 Shredding Event on Saturday, April 17th at 10AM to Noon; review of materials to be distributed, NWNC volunteers, and outreach opportunity

- Kathleen Edwards volunteered. Joel and Abigail may be available part-time.
- Abigail would like to dispense some of the NWNC's bags containing sun-block and hand sanitizer

- Glen Wilson has a great deal of literature to hand out.
- Ding has freshly printed election material to distribute.

20. Update on West Valley Animal Shelter (WVAS) reopening

- Kathleen reported that the previous WVAS general manager Brenda Barnette has retired effective mid-May. There is now an interim general manager in place until a new one can be hired. She suggested that perhaps the stakeholders could have a vote on the new manager.
- Glenn Bailey reported that additional information is on the LA Neighborhood Council Coalition website, including a proposed resolution with input came from animal activist groups and others. <http://www.lancc.org/resources/VANC%20New%20General%20Manager%20of%20LA%20Animal%20Services%20Background%20and%20Motion%202021.04.08.pdf>
- Jennifer Krowne asked about the start date of the new general manager; that is unknown, as it could take several months to recruit someone.

21. Update on the Bureau of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC)'s Social Media policy

- Abigail highlighted three areas whereupon she was very concerned that someone would claim that their free speech rights were violated.
- 3. Scope
 - 3.3 Because many neighborhood council board members use social media and have created websites or newsletters in their personal lives and individual capacities, this policy also provides basic guidelines for neighborhood council board members who utilize websites, social media, newsletters, and the like as private individuals and in their individual capacities.
Comment: Caution, including guidelines for private accounts, oversteps BONC's authority to limit free speech and violates free speech rights of individuals
- 8. Content of a Neighborhood Council Website, Social Media, or Newsletter
 - 8.1 Publication of Official Information. Neighborhood Council Digital Communications are for official use only. All information disseminated must be directly related to the official duties and responsibilities of a neighborhood council under the City Charter and Administrative Code. Proper use for a neighborhood council's website, social media, or newsletters/reports is the promotion of neighborhood council membership and attendance at meetings and promotion of approved and authorized neighborhood council events.
Comment: This should also include the promotion of community events and information that are not specifically operated/owned by the city
- 9. Uses of a Private or Non-Neighborhood Council Website, Social Media, or Newsletter
 - 9.3 No neighborhood council board or committee member is authorized to utilize or publish confidential, personal, private, or sensitive information obtained in their capacity as a member of a neighborhood council board or committee on any private, non-neighborhood council website, social media, or newsletter, including but not limited to, any website, social media, or newsletter they personally establish or administer.
- It was reported that the BONC would meet at 1PM on Monday, April 19th to discuss this social media policy (this meeting was subsequently cancelled). Comments can be emailed to commission@empowerla.org
- Abby stated that the NWNC board member's free speech is not properly protected.
- Kathleen mentioned that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) is also very concerned about board members losing their freedom of speech. VANC and a few neighborhood councils are very opposed to this BONC Social Media Policy. Some of these neighborhood councils are stating that they will not go along with this.
- BONC is replying to situations that have happened over the year, including webmasters who did not surrender passwords to their neighborhood council's websites.

22. Report by Budget Advocate

- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey spoke of the following:
 - The advocates hope to submit a white paper on city budget issues [along with reports on the various department's budgets and concerns] to Mayor Garcetti and the city council very soon.
 - In preparing this white paper, the advocates met with many city departments, but they were unable to meet with all (including transportation).
 - Neighborhood council Community Impact Statements (CIS) will be helpful to support this white paper.
 - The city is expecting to receive \$1.354b from Washington pursuant to the American Rescue Plan, of which half (\$677m) will be received within sixty days and the balance within the next twelve months. This will help to stabilize the city's budget and finances, but it will not solve all problems. There are still significant issues that must be addressed, including
 - Next year's projected deficit of \$800m to \$900m,
 - The structural deficit (where expenditures increase faster than revenues),
 - Underfunded pensions, and
 - Deferred maintenance
 - The City Administrative Officer and Budget Advocates stressed that the stimulus and other infusions are one-time sources of money and are not to be used to fund ongoing programs. They strongly recommend that the allocation of any new money be addressed in the normal budget progress.
 - Mayor Garcetti will present his proposed budget to the city council on or before Tuesday, April 20th, at which time the city council will have the opportunity to promote any new initiatives provided that the budget remains balanced.
 - Budget advocates are now revising their by-laws.
 - The Budget Advocates meet twice a month, on the 1st Monday at 7PM and the 3rd Saturday at 9.30AM. These meetings are open to all. The agenda and Zoom link are posted on their website <http://www.budgetadvocates.org> a few days prior to each meeting. Their next meeting will be Saturday, April 17th.
 - This year's Budget Day will be Saturday, August 21st.

23. Reports by NWNK Committees

- Abby mentioned that the Government Affairs Committee will meet on Thursday, April 22nd at which time they will discuss the BONC social media policy and the West Valley Animal Shelter.

24. Announcements by Board members

- Jennifer thanked everyone for the April 6th election forum. Abby replied that this forum is posted on the NWNK website at <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/GwwuZkLNgUJH3xEcsq4cl168oTfhoIGSrv64JzRy2IQ1DvYsnGfPiKMg4ipjZIDYp-%20V2FnDu1cZ9GN2R.5csMQNxzSggtH0th>
- Kathleen expressed concern about SB9 (which provides for the creation of accessory dwelling units by local ordinance) and SB10 (which authorizes a local government to zone any parcel for up to ten units if the parcel is located in a transit-rich or jobs-rich area) as they appear scary and could affect the building of affordable housing in the San Fernando Valley.

25. Adjournment

- Abigail adjourned the meeting at 9.06PM.