

DRAFT MINUTES
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom
Tuesday, 8 June 2021

1. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
 - President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.19PM, welcomed over 27 attendees, and ten board members.
 - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
Here (10) Abigail Bailes, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Bill Fox, Jennifer Krowne,
 Peter Lasky, Joel Lowell, Lucio Padilla, Josue Toscano, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1) Payman Bahman
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 - Our resident veteran, Bill Fox, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Comments by Board Members of non-Agenda items
 - No board members had any non-agenda items to discuss.
4. Comments by Stakeholders on non-Agenda items
 - John Hales mentioned that this is his 65th Zoom meeting with 32 different neighborhood councils. He has learned that all new board members have shown an interest in doing the right thing and learning as much as possible.
 - Mitchell Christopher mentioned that he works with StreetsLA's sidewalk vending program. California legalized sidewalk vending in 2019. In 2020, LA established a permit program for vendors to learn their responsibilities.
 - Glenn Bailey reported that the Thursday, June 10th meeting of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils would begin at 6.30PM with guest speaker Congressman Brad Sherman. This meeting will be more intimate with merely fifty to seventy attendees, rather than the thousands who attend his usual town halls.
5. Presentation of the NWNC Certificates of Acknowledgement to Beckford School Teachers, Staff and Administrators; and Michelle Wells, Principal of Calahan Elementary
 - Photographs were shown of the Beckford staff members receiving their awarded certificates.
 - Principal Michelle Wells of the Calahan Elementary School also received a certificate for her support of the NWNC while hosting meetings and assisting with audio/visual presentations. Michelle replied that she was merely doing her job, and did not require this recognition. She added that she regrets being unable to attend recent NWNC meetings as she has a scheduling conflict on Tuesday evenings.
6. Comments by Public Officials
 - State Senator Henry Stern from District 27 introduced his staff member Suzie Herrera and addressed the NWNC:
 - He chose to vote against housing bills SB9 (which allows home construction too close to fire zones) and SB10 (which overrides local resident's requests). Currently, there seems to be an "all housing is good" attitude. Perhaps builders should focus on affordable housing. Constructing market-rate housing does not seem to help with homelessness. Kathleen added that she hates the way SB9 and SB10 were written.

- Since being in public service, Senator Stern has been through 25-fires, including losing his own home in Woolsey Canyon. Perhaps we should focus on building closer to transit zones, rather than constructing in fire zones.
- Senator Stern voted affirmatively on the Police Reform Act. He feels strongly about removing the politics [and social media, such as Twitter] from such important issues.
- Andrew Krowne from the Aliso Canyon Health Research Study Community Advisory Group (CAG) thought it would be nice if they could connect with Senator Stern. Andrew will reach out to Suzie to schedule a meeting.
- Bill Fox mentioned that he has spent hours trying to get in touch with the EDD. Senator Stern urged Bill to contact Suzie in his office for assistance or email him directly at senator.stern@senate.ca.gov.
- Prior to his 2016 election, Senator Stern was a conservation/environmental impact attorney. He has a great deal of experience with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which requires government agencies to inform decision makers, the public, and to help reduce potential environmental impacts of proposed projects. An example is preventing smelters in residential communities or near schools.
- Jay Basinger expressed concern about the following four bills:
 - SB25 strengthens the regulatory review process to protect public health, safety, and the environment, while protecting the livelihoods of essential workers.
 - SB8 would provide California with more time to recover from the pandemic and meet its housing production goals by streamlining the creation of housing and protect low-income tenants from displacement.
 - SB15 increases the availability of affordable housing.
 - SB679 prevents all new housing from being constructed in merely one area.
- Tara Vahdani from LAUSD board member Scott Schmerelson's office, who helps oversee over a hundred schools in the San Fernando Valley, mentioned the following:
 - She thanked the NWNC for recognizing the Calahan Community Charter and Beckford Avenue Elementary Schools.
 - Chatsworth High School will be open as a summer school option for high school students. Napa Street Elementary and Miller Career and Transition Center will also offer extended school hours for students with disabilities. Additional information can be found at <https://achieve.lausd.net/summer2021>
 - Information for online summer 2021 enrichment courses can be found at <https://enroll.lausd.net/en/enrichment>. These courses include foreign languages, dance, theatre, history, art, geography, sports medicine, science, etc.
 - Michelle Wells added that childcare would be offered through the YMCA, not through the schools.
 - In September, the LAUSD looks forward to full-days of schooling. Masks will still be mandatory at that time. In addition, vaccinations will be available to all middle and high school students.
 - Michelle added that the LAUSD has a mask-waiver application requiring a doctor's reason for not wearing a mask.
 - Thursday, June 17th, the LAUSD will host a virtual career fair from 10AM to 2PM.
 - Friday, June 18th, COVID vaccinations will be available at the Nobel School.
 - Jay Basinger mentioned that Mr. Schmerelson was his mentor when he taught at the Cleveland Charter High School in Reseda. He does not support vaccinations for children. Teenagers will need to present with a form signed by a parent; he predicts that kids will forge their parent's signature. Tara replied that this parental release is a law, not an LAUSD policy.

- Javier Reyes from Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares’s office (who represents the area north of Devonshire Street) reported that she is already making an impact with the following victories:
 - Her first bill, AB267, allows for the proper management of forest and grasslands to prevent wildfires. CEQA requires an agency to prepare and certify an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out. The existing law exempts forest thinning from these CEQA requirements. AB267 would extend this exemption to 2026, allowing for federal property to continue with fire prevention projects. This bill unanimously passed out of the assembly and is now with the state senate.
 - AB277 requires that the Safe at Home program application forms, contacts, and restraining order information for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse, human trafficking, etc. be available in California’s six most commonly used languages. This recently unanimously passed the assembly.
 - AB1456 will expand the Cal Grant program to introduce a new path for college affordability and allow older people to qualify for college education. California's primary student financial aid program was designed sixty years ago and no longer meets the needs of struggling college students. In 2020, seven of ten students lost some or all of their income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This increased financial pressure highlights the need for longer-term reform of financial aid.
 - AB1339 would require the Public Utilities Commission to develop a net energy metering replacement for eligible customer-generators and require that large electrical corporations offer this same standard contract.
 - Javier quoted President Coolidge in stating that sometimes it is better stop bad bills than to submit good bills.
 - Suzette is now recruiting folks to serve on her Advisory Councils.
 - She will always vote for bills that keep decisions local, rather than having determinations dictated from Sacramento.

- Field Representative Alberto Vargas from Assembly District 45 reported that Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel was involved with fourteen bills that passed from the assembly (most unanimously) to the senate. These included continued support for restaurant’s outdoor seating, homelessness, EDD, etc.

- Alberto and Jesse have acknowledgement certificates available for small businesses. Please reach out to them to nominate a business for one of these certificates.

- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) Adriana Cabrera from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported that she is always available to help.
 - The LA Redistricting Commission will meet with neighborhood council board members to discuss and recommend potential redrawn district boundaries. This will include information gathered from the recent census. Please RSVP to redistricting@lacity.org.
 - Sunday, June 20th is the last day for neighborhood councils to use their bankcard during this fiscal year.
 - Adriana congratulated and thanked all incoming, outgoing, and current board members. As a former neighborhood council board member, she is familiar with board member’s conflicts and responsibilities.
 - New board members will be sworn in during the next NWNC board meeting on Tuesday, July 13th.
 - Please reach out to Adriana at 213-673-7469 or email her at Adriana.cabrera@lacity.org with any questions and/or concerns.

- Kathleen asked, since coffee shops have reopened, could committees meet in person. Adriana replied that the “stay at home” order remains in place with no in-person DONE meetings.
- Andrew Krowne from the Aliso Canyon Health Research Study CAG reported that their next quarterly meeting would be Monday, June 28th at 6PM
 - The CAG continues to miss vital information, including full disclosure of the radiation report and the chemical list.
 - The health study must be:
 - Community centric
 - Scientific based
 - Absent political influences
 - The CAG publicly came out with a vote of no confidence with the Department of Public Health study. The Chatsworth, Porter Ranch, Granada Hills North, and Granada Hills South Neighborhood Councils also recently submitted votes of no confidence. Andrew hopes that the NWNC could submit a similar vote during one of their upcoming meetings.
 - Peter asked who [besides SoCalGas] has the desired list of chemicals from Aliso Canyon. Andrew replied that SoCalGas is the only ones who have the list of chemicals, and they are the only company that knows what chemicals were used [after the blowout] to plug the holes. This is one of the key reasons why the CAG are adamant to pierce that veil of secrecy.
 - For additional information, please visit their website at <https://alisohealthstudycag.org>.

7. Updates from Senior Lead Officer (SLO) and LAPD Devonshire Area Community Advisory Board

- SLO Zamora reported a few of the recent crimes in the community:
 - Five grand theft autos
 - Four robberies (three with knives)
 - Two burglaries from vehicles
- She also presented a review of the borders of the four SLOs who serve the NWNC territory:

Name	Email	Telephone	Area
John Parker	36560@lapd.online	818-832-0715	North of Lassen; East of Tampa
Patti Peteque	31373@lapd.online	818-832-0827	South of Lassen; East of Tampa
Dan Del Valle	27677@lapd.online	818-832-0875	West of Tampa; North of Nordhoff
Sandra Zamora	35947@lapd.online	818-832-0773	West of Tampa; South of Nordhoff

- Tuesday, June 29th from 11AM to 1PM will be Coffee with Captain Kathleen Burns (and the aforementioned SLOs) at Starbucks, 9020 Reseda Boulevard.
- The LAPD’s monthly Valley Traffic Division Meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6.30PM.
- The LAPD reminds everyone that private fireworks are illegal in this city. The Shepherd of the Hills Church at 19700 Rinaldi Street will do a fireworks show this year, but they will not host the other things that they usually have, including vendors, a bounce house, etc. People are expected to remain within their cars to watch the show.
- Please prepare your pets for the upcoming fireworks and make certain that your dogs are tagged.
- If you know any veterans with PTSD, please reach out to them and invite them over to your house for a picnic and/or barbeque.
- Mikkie Loi joined Senator Stern and SLO Zamora in reminding everyone of the dangers of fireworks and the upcoming fire season. As discussed two years ago [after the Saddle Ridge Fire] wireless alert systems can fail; please always have a back-up system.

- In the event of a fire or other such disaster, do not wait for the LAPD or LAFD to tell you to leave your home, get out while you can.
 - She reminded everyone that the LAPD is data driven. Please complete crime reports online at https://www.lapdonline.org/home/content_basic_view/60409
8. Presidential Comments
- Abby offered congratulations to anyone who has a graduate in their household. She has a high school graduate, and looks forward a new phase of life.
 - Sunday, June 20th is Father’s Day. Abby thanked all the dads for being the backbone and strength of the Northridge community.
9. Discussion and motion to approve a letter to the City Elections Officials regarding NWNC Election feedback from the Outreach and Elections Committees
- Abby reviewed this agendized letter, including the referencing of the following four concerns:
 - The most frequent feedback the NWNC received was stakeholder’s discomfort uploading drivers licenses to the website and that the online portal appeared to require multiple forms of documentation. A number of stakeholders explicitly told the NWNC that they refused to vote because of the cumbersome process. There was also some confusion caused by the paper application form that does not state that ID is required for registration.
 - Confusion over candidate and voter eligibility for Community Interest Stakeholders. Some applications were processed and received by voters who did not submit IDs.
 - Low voter turnout caused by contradicting information about documentation and the mail-only voting process. Voting in-person is still preferred by many stakeholders.
 - Confusion caused by conflicting ballot drop box information on the city’s website.
 - Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this letter; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
10. Presidential appointments and motions for Board approval to fill two vacant NWNC Board seats: At-Large 3 (2023) and At-Large 5 (2023)
- Sonny Liampetchakhul ran in the recent April 27th election yet lost in a tie vote. His two sons who are now grown and he has the available free time to support the NWNC.
 - Abigail Bailes made a motion to elect Sonny Liampetchakhul to serve on the NWNC; Jennifer Krowne and Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Janis Kraft moved to Northridge two years ago, is treasurer of her HOA, and has expressed a keen interest in the NWNC.
 - Abigail Bailes made a motion to elect Janis Kraft to serve on the NWNC; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (7)	Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Lowell, Padilla, and Toscano
No (2)	Krowne and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Lasky
Absent (1)	Bahman
 - Jay Basinger moved to Northridge five years ago and loves this community. His daughter just graduated from the 5th grade and will enroll in Nobel Junior High School in August. He is against police reform and is very concerned about homelessness.
 - Abigail Bailes made a motion to elect Jay Basinger to serve on the NWNC; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, yet he did not receive as many affirmative votes as Janis Kraft.

Aye (6)	Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Krowne, Toscano, and Wilson
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No (2)	Lasky and Lowell
Abstain (2)	Fox and Padilla
Absent (1)	Bahman

11. Discussion and possible motion to approve Clark Thomas as a member of the Outreach Committee
 - Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Yi Ding seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and possible motion regarding the resolutions authored by Councilman Koretz in opposition to [California state bills] SB9 and SB10 that relate to housing, zoning, and public land use and how it could impact our neighborhoods
 - Maria and Jeff Kalban from United Neighbors did a presentation before the NWNC that can be found at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HorgcBUhC7XXo_gzNW5CF_9QXIJRoq_k/view. This is one of several resources of information which can be found at their website <https://www.unitedneighbors.net>
 - SB9 allows demolition of part of a house to build an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). SB10 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.
 - State senator Atkins (from San Diego) considered this a practical solution.
 - SB9 and SB10 do not allow for a fight; once these are approved, developers could start immediately, including tearing down trees.
 - The Kalbans reported that the trickle down theory does not work; otherwise, Manhattan would have been affordable years ago.
 - Peter and Kathleen thought this was an outstanding presentation and asked what we should do. Maria replied that these two bills have already passed the senate and are with the assembly, where they could go for a full vote in August. Maria urged everyone to reach out to assembly-members to make certain that they cast a no vote. Jesse Gabriel has been neutral. Suzette Valladares has promised to vote no.
 - John Hales reported that developers are already building within 10' of his house. However, the person who approved this recently started their fourteen-month prison sentence.
 - Glenn Bailey reminded everyone that neighborhood councils are advisory to the city; they do not take positions directly to other levels of the government. He urged the NWNC to reference the two related city council files:
 - SB9 corresponds to LA City Council file 21-0002-S18
 - SB10 corresponds to LA City Council file 21-0002-S21
 - He added that city council files that begin with 21-000 are part of the city council's legislative program.
 - For additional information on the United Neighbors program, please reach out to Maria at maria.unitedneighbors@gmail.com
 - Kathleen Edwards made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible motion regarding a Master Plan Approval (MPA) to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine (Type 41 ABC liquor license) for on-site consumption in conjunction with the operation of a new restaurant located within the retail portion of a new mixed-use development "The Shops at Symmetry." The subject restaurant will occupy a 3,415 square feet interior tenant space with 105 seats, and a 410 uncovered square foot patio area sitting up to 39 patrons. The proposed hours of operation inclusive of alcohol serving hours are 11AM to 10PM. The request also includes that the public hearing for this case to be waived.

- Liquor License Agent Consultant Liliger Damaso, representing the new plant-based Tulsi Indian Restaurant, requested this agendized MPA to support Tulsi serving beer and wine.
 - 19535 Nordhoff Street already has a master Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow all tenants to serve alcohol past 11PM. However, the Tulsi owners are not interested in serving that late and would like to waive the public hearing requirement.
 - As a member of the Planning, Land Use, and Zoning Committee, Andrew Krowne supports this MPA; however [next time] he would appreciate this request coming before the committee.
 - Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve Tulsi serving beer and wine; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Abigail Bailes made a motion to grant Tulsi’s request to waive the public hearing; Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed.
- Aye (7) Bailes, Ding, Fox, Lasky, Lowell, Padilla, and Wilson
 No (1) Krowne
 Abstain (2) Edwards and Toscano
 Absent (1) Bahman

14. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Board Action Certification (BAC) to co-sponsor a clean-up of Limekiln Canyon Park with CD12 and the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) on Saturday, July 10th

- This Limekiln Canyon Park clean-up idea came from high school students from Porter Ranch.
- Jason Hector from the PRNC reported that he presented this project to CD12 and already filed the DONE-approved event form. He asked that the NWNC advise him if they have their own tools.
- As there is currently no budget, the July NWNC meeting could include a financial approval for snacks, etc.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and possible motion to spend up to \$1,500 to purchase business cards for new board members (including \$95 of encumbered funds for business cards), nametags, and NWNC branded hand sanitizers for outreach distribution

- Treasurer Joel reminded everyone of the NWNC’s current financial situation:

Annual Budget			\$32,000.00
Adjustment/Rollover			13,555.11
Budgeted Amount			45,555.11
Expense to Date	Funding Requests	23,595.22	29,897.94
	Credit Card	6,302.72	
Total Outstanding	Commitments	0.00	0.00
	Pending Payments	0.00	
Net Available			\$15,657.17

- Jason from the PRNC expressed concern about sending money back to the city. Of the net available of \$15,657.17, \$5,500 already has been for allocated for urban forestry.
- The NWNC has \$95 remaining in the rolled-over encumbrance portion of the budget.
- New NWNC shirts are not necessary, as there are unused shirts in the storage unit.
- Janis, Sonny, Angelica, Joel, and Kathleen mentioned that they do not yet have business cards.
- Peter mentioned that the nametags are \$9 to \$12/each and usually came from Badge Busters Inc. of Woodland Hills.
- Someone suggested purchasing extra hand sanitizer, but Joel reported that would be an Outreach expense and can wait until FY2021-22.

- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve spending up to \$500 for business cards and nametags (as Office expenditures); Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

16. Discussion and motion to approve the 2021-22 NWNC Administrative/Budget Package

- Treasurer Joel reviewed the proposed administrative/budget packet:

	Host Reseller Group (Website)	\$ 20	
	2co.com ICDSOFT (Web Service)	100	
	USPS Post Office Box Rental	220	
Office/	Golden State Storage	1,500	
Operational	Mailroom (Web Hosting)	3,000	\$10,000
Expenditures	Apple One (Minutes at Board Meetings)	2,160	
	Meeting Meals/Snacks	1,600	
	Board Retreat	500	
	Miscellaneous	900	
Outreach	Outreach Projects	5,000	5,000
Neighborhood			
Purpose	NPG	7,000	7,000
Grants			
Community			
Improvement	CIP	10,000	10,000
Projects			
	Totals	<u>\$32,000</u>	<u>\$32,000</u>

- This budget is merely for the annually budgeted \$32k; the [up to] \$10k rollover is not included.
- Joel added that recurring expenditures would not require a BAC.
- PRNC Treasurer Jason suggested that instead of “Miscellaneous”, this budget could reflect “name tags” “business cards”, “shirts”, etc. In addition, the board retreat could be categorized as a “special meeting”.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this proposed budget packet; Joel Lowell and Bill Fox seconded this motion, and it passed.
 Aye (8) Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Fox, Krowne, Lowell, Padilla, and Wilson
 Abstain (1) Lasky
 Absent (2) Bahman and Toscano

17. Discussion and motion to approve the May 2021 Monthly Expense Report

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
May 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	\$128.50
May 10	AppleOne Employment	Minutes	192.00
May 10	AppleOne Employment	Minutes	102.40
May 19	AppleOne Employment	Minutes	192.00
		Total	<u>\$614.90</u>

- Joel mentioned that he was happy to see Your Way Tree Service payments were processed.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve the monthly expense report; Peter Lasky and Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

18. Discussion and motion to approve the May 11th GBM and May 18th Special Meeting Minutes

- The May GBM minutes required two corrections:
 - The NWNC NEA is now Adriana Cabrera instead of Gibson Nyambura, and
 - Gail Lapaz’s task of distributing a flyer inaccurately implied that she created that flyer

- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve the corrected May 11th minutes; Peter Lasky seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - The May 18th Special Meeting Minutes were not voted upon.
19. Discussion of the Neighborhood Council Congress on Saturday September 25th event online. Board motions of approval of contribution with BAC are accepted. Volunteers who wish to participate in any of the myriad aspects leading up to and including the event are highly encouraged to join in.
- Abby reviewed the planned virtual September 25th Congress of Neighborhood Councils.
20. Update on the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) Social Media Policy
- Glenn Bailey reported that these meetings frequently conflict with the monthly NWNC meetings.
 - Monday, June 21st there will be a meeting at 1PM whereupon BONC will get into the meat-and-potatoes of DONE's recommendations.
 - Kathleen will attempt to attend and read the NWNC letter at this BONC meeting.
21. Update on the Tampa Median Project permits, funding and timeline
- Abby reported that Councilman Lee's office agreed to handle this task. Therefore, the Tampa Median Project has been handed over to CD12.
 - Regretfully, this task will now go slower than anticipated.
22. Report by Budget Advocate
- Wednesday, June 2nd, the city's FY2021-22 budget was approved by city council and signed by Mayor Garcetti.
 - The city council file 21-0600 covering this budget action can be seen at <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=21-0600>
 - If not for the federal infusion of money, the city would be in sorry shape. Barring any additional federal funds, the city could see a deficit in FY2022-23.
 - This fiscal year includes 210 budget memos submitted in early May in conjunction with the Budget and Finance Committee's deliberation of Mayor Garcetti's budget. These memos are viewable at <https://cao.lacity.org/budgetmemos.htm>
 - This year's annual Budget Day will be Saturday, August 21st. Once the new NWNC board is seated, Glenn Bailey requested that two budget representatives be chosen as part of the July agenda. Budget Day presentations will also be posted on LA CityView Channel 35.
23. Reports by NWNC Committees
- Tuesday, July 6th at 7PM, the Executive Board meeting will include a discussion of the election process for the executive positions.
 - The July 13th NWNC meeting will include electing folks to the executive leadership positions, including president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
 - The Government Affairs Committee will meet in July.
 - Abby mentioned that it will be assumed that those board members who currently serve on a committee will want to stay on that committee. She urged those who currently serve on merely one committee to please consider which other committee(s) they would like to serve.
24. Announcements by Board members
- Bill and everyone thanked Peter for his many years of service to the NWNC.
25. Adjournment
- Abigail adjourned the meeting at 9.21PM.