

DRAFT MINUTES  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom  
Tuesday, 14 September 2021

1. Meeting Call to Order
  - President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.17PM, welcomed over seven attendees, and eleven board members.
  
2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum
  - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
    - Here (11) Abigail Bailes, Brian Cathcart, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Bill Fox, Jorge Jimenez, Janis Kraft, Jennifer Krowne, Sonny Liampetchakul, Angelica Robinson, and Glen Wilson
    - Absent (2) Joel Lowell and Lucio Padilla
  
3. Pledge of Allegiance
  - A group of youthful soccer players from Mason Park led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  
4. Comments by Stakeholders on Non-Agenda Items
  - Because the city is in crisis, Rob Wilcox is running to be LA's next City Controller. He previously served as deputy to Controller Laura Chick for seven years, followed by Director of Community Outreach for City Attorney Mike Feuer.
  - The city currently lacks a strategic plan to homelessness; he believes that he can provide that plan.
  - As September is National Preparedness Month, we must be certain that our city is prepared.
  - If you believe LA is on the right track, he is not your candidate. For additional information, please visit his website at <https://robforcontroller.com>
  
5. Announcements
  - Abby reported that there was a clerical error on the August 31<sup>st</sup> vote count. Originally, abstentions were counted as no votes, reflecting six yes and seven no. However, the correct count is six yes, three no, and four abstentions. This will enable the letter concerning protocol for organized youth sports to move forward.
  - There will be a meeting of the Board of Neighborhood Commissions (BONC) on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.
  - Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM, there will be a meeting of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)'s draft version of their Code of Conduct Policy.
  - Yi Ding, Sonny Liampetchakul, and Lucio Padilla will represent the NWNC at the 2021 Civic University for Neighborhood Councils on Thursdays, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>
  - The annual NWNC Board Retreat/Planning meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> (instead of Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup>) beginning at 8PM (instead of the aforementioned 6.15PM).
  
6. Update from Congressman Brad Sherman
  - Congressman Sherman mentioned that he would host a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> where he will talk in more detail about issues that affect his constituents.
  - He urged those whose passports may expire in the next year to please submit renewal paperwork ASAP. Passports usually take a month to renew; at this time, they are taking nearly six months.

- Andrew Krowne expressed concern about the restaurant revitalization program, which helped many restaurants survive during the pandemic. However, this revitalization program has since terminated.
- Many people in the USA do not support another twenty-years in Afghanistan. If we waited another three or six months, the Taliban army would have still taken over just as quickly. Many of the Americans left behind have Afghan families and chose not to leave.
- Many people are staying home these days because they do not want to be risk being near unvaccinated people who lack the antibodies.
- The LAUSD rules may be the biggest influence on families. Within a few months, the Pfizer vaccine may be approved for children age five to twelve.
- Sonny expressed disappointment that the homeless population has not decreased since 2018. It seems many homeless moved here from other states. Congressman Sherman explained that [per the constitution] we could not restrict business owners or homeless individuals from moving from one state to another. People who lack contacts in LA are not the problem. Most have drug abuse or mental issues, and COVID has made everything worse. One of the key issues is that the rents are just too high in LA. Many of the homeless units cost \$500k. There is no country in the world that can afford that. If one is making just \$25k/year, they cannot afford \$2k/month rent. At the current rate, we may not be able to reduce homelessness until 2024. By then, the pandemic should be under control.
- Jennifer added the frustration of seeing the city build luxury apartments rather than adequate shelters for the homeless. Jennifer added that rents were frozen for renters, but the landlord's mortgages remained due. Brad replied that landlords received foreclosure exemption.

#### 7. Other Comments by Other Public Officials

- Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12, can be reached at [matthew.hernandez@lacity.org](mailto:matthew.hernandez@lacity.org) and reported the following:
  - The frequency and quantity of calls to CD14 to report homeless encampments is key. These calls support CD14's requests to the LA Sanitation Department to direct them to the local Caring Actions Responding to Elders (CARE) team in the area.
  - CD12 has requested overtime funding to support the LAPD; this will allow for more motor officers throughout CD12 to help defer vehicles from speeding. Sadly, there was recently a fatal accident whereupon a 16-year old driver hit and killed a woman.
  - Kathleen expressed concern about illegally parked RVs. Matt stated that one can only park an RV in front of their own home; otherwise, it is illegal and should be reported.
- Field Representative Alberto Vargas from Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel's Assembly District 45 reported the following:
  - The legislative sessions concluded last Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Assemblyman Gabriel is back in the district, attending multiple events. Please contact their office at 818-346-4521 if you would like Mr. Gabriel to address your group.
  - During this recent legislative session, Assemblyman Gabriel presented twelve assembly bills, many of which passed:
    - 57 Enables law enforcement to better prevent, respond to, and document hate crimes.
    - 61 Expands outdoor dining options across California. This includes an urgency clause, meaning the measures will go into effect immediately upon Governor Newsom's signature.
    - 77 Requires any substance use disorder treatment program to be licensed by the Department of Health Care Services.

- 309 Requires the Department of Education to create a mental health referral protocol for use by schools. These protocols would provide guidance to help educators better identify students with mental health needs and quickly and efficiently connect them with appropriate services.
- 396 Will expand access to crucial food and nutrition resources for thousands of California public college and university students.
- 787 Authorizes local jurisdictions to receive credit towards their annual regional housing needs allocation goals if they convert existing homes into deed-restricted affordable units for working families.
- 977 Mandates enhanced accountability and transparency by creating a system of uniform reporting requirements across state-funded homelessness programs.
- 1422 Authorizes the Department of Health Care Access and Information to permit a critical care unit to inform their employees and post their program flexibility requests on the department's publicly accessible website.
- 1487 Creates a new "Homelessness Prevention Fund" to support education, outreach, and direct legal services aimed at preventing displacement and homelessness for particularly vulnerable renters.
  - Abby asked if the assemblyman has an opinion of the vaccination mandate. Mr. Gabriel did not take an opinion on that issue and Governor Newsom requested no controversial bills at this time.
- Andrew Krowne, NWNC representative to the Aliso Canyon Health Research Study Community Advisory Group (CAG) reported the following:
  - They have been in a quiet period. Their next quarterly meeting will be Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM, via Zoom ID 830-0028-4857
  - There are currently over 35,000 cases pending against Aliso Canyon; not all of these will go to trial. The first set of the trials will be determined randomly and may begin in early 2022.

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

- SLO Zamora is away and DACAB member Mikkie Loi discussed the following crime statistics:
  - SLO Parker's area (north of Lassen Street, between Tampa and Zelzah Avenues) has seen year-to-date crime go down 15.5%. The week of August 29<sup>th</sup> saw an aggravated assault, a grand theft auto, a burglary theft from a vehicle, a theft, and two burglaries.
  - SLO Ojedo's area (temporarily substituting for SLO Peteque), between Roscoe Boulevard, Lassen Street, Tampa and Zelzah Avenues, saw their year-to-date crime increase by 2.4%. The week of September 5<sup>th</sup> saw a theft, a robbery, a burglary, two burglary thefts from vehicles, and five grand theft autos.
  - SLO Zamora's area (between Roscoe Boulevard, Lassen Street, Tampa and Canoga Avenues) has seen their year-to-day crime increase by 5.4%. The week of September 5<sup>th</sup> saw an aggravated assault, a robbery, two burglaries, three grand theft autos, and three burglary thefts from vehicles.
  - SLO Zamora's monthly basic car meeting on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> will include Active Shooter Training.
- You may reach any of the SLOs at the newly created email for all of them at [devonshireslo@lapd.online](mailto:devonshireslo@lapd.online)
- Mikkie reported that burglaries and window smashing are hitting the Reseda Boulevard corridor pretty hard. The officers are advising businesses to remove valuable merchandise (such as

tablets) and empty their cash register (showing the empty till) to reduce any temptation. SLOs can also provide “No Cash in Register” signage.

- Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2PM will be “Coffee with a Cop” at the Starbucks at 11850 Balboa Boulevard.
- If you are a victim of a crime, please make an official report with LAPD online at <https://www.lapdonline.org> or file a report in-person at the Devonshire Station at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue. Leaving comments on social media or a voice mail at the station does not constitute an official report and will not appear as a crime statistic; it is as if the crime never happened. Please take the time to file a report, as each LAPD station strategizes based on crime statistics.

9. Presidential Comments

- In the interest of time, Abby postponed this agenda item until October.

10. Motion Approve the August 2021 Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
August 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	\$ 128.50
August 6	Apple One	Minutes	64.00
August 16	Badge Busters	Badges	119.41
August 17	US Postal Service	Mailbox Rental	246.00
August 25	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Web Hosting	250.00
		Total	<u>\$807.91</u>

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this MER; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed anonymously.

11. Motion Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) Request from North Valley YMCA for Thanksgiving Baskets up to \$1,500

- The YMCA’s new Executive Director Dave Hartmire explained that their goal is to raise \$75k to distribute 3,500 meal baskets to low-income families and individuals in the north valley for pick-up or distribution via the local schools. Each basket contains a Happy Thanksgiving flyer listing generous supporters [including the NWNC] who make this program possible. The NWNC will also be named in press releases and on the Recognition Wall of the YMCA’s lobby.
- Kathleen asked how many families benefit from this charitable activity. Last year, over a hundred families in Northridge benefited from this action.
- Ding asked Dave if there was anything else that the NWNC could do to support them.
- Jennifer Krowne made a motion to increase this amount to \$2k; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, yet Glen Wilson reminded everyone that we could not increase the agendized amount so there was no vote.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item for \$1,500; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, yet it failed.
  - Aye (2) Cathcart and Wilson
  - No (8) Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, and Robinson
  - Absent (3) Fox, Lowell, and Padilla
- This agenda item may be brought up at a future NWNC meeting with a different dollar value.

12. Motion NPG Request from Granada Hills Community Foundation (GHCF) for Annual Holiday Parade and Street Fair, up to \$1,500

- Laine Caspi from the GHCF reviewed this NPG request.

- The GHCF requests a \$50 contribution from each group that marches in the parade. However, if they don't have the \$50, it is waived.
- This request for funds would be split 50/50 between the street fair (on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>) and holiday parade (on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>).
- Jennifer asked if they receive funds from other neighborhood councils. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council recently approved \$3,500 (as it is within their district), the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council approved \$4,500, and the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approved \$1,000. Each neighborhood council will be publicized in the Daily News and receive a prime booth location to enable representatives to reach out to their stakeholders.
- Kathleen mentioned that she previously requested the GHCF's financials statements. Laine replied that the Foundation is a 501c3; any extra collected funds are rolled over to the following year's parade and street fair budget.
- The GHCF is NOT the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce, as the chamber does not do fundraising activities. All their money goes straight to the Foundation.
- In response to Abby's question about what would happen if the pandemic closure returns, the fair and parade will proceed to the best of their abilities.
- Andrew Krowne reminded everything that, although the NWNC's annual NPG budget is \$7k, this number could be adjusted.
- Kathleen asked if the request to support both the fair and parade are on the same NPG; the reply was affirmative. By approving this NPG, one is supporting both the fair and the parade.
- Kathleen added that we might not be able to host this outreach activity as soon as Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this GHCF NPG for \$1,500 to support only the parade; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it failed unanimously.
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this GHCF NPG for \$1,000 to support only the parade; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed.
  - Aye (9) Bailes, Cathcart, Ding, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Robinson, and Wilson
  - Abstain (1) Edwards
  - Absent (3) Fox, Lowell, and Padilla
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to approve this GHCF NPG for \$500 to support only the parade; there was no second, and subsequently no vote.

13. Consent Calendar Motion Approve committee appointments as follows:
- a. Elections Committee Angelica Robinson member
  - b. PLUZ Committee Remove Brian Cathcart as Chairman
  - c. PLUZ Committee Appoint Jennifer Krowne as Chairwoman
  - Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve these committee appointments; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
14. Motion Approve CIS for a proposal from Darden Restaurant Group for a new Longhorn Steakhouse Restaurant to be located at the Northridge Fashion Center under case number ZA-2020-189 CUB. Longhorn will be utilizing the existing CUB and complying with all the operating conditions.
- Planning and Licensing Consultant Brett Engstrom reported that the Longhorn Steakhouse would bring a popular full-service restaurant to this facility at 19400 Plummer Street (space previously occupied by the Macaroni Grill).
  - Longhorn has a family atmosphere, similar to Olive Garden. Hours of operation will be from 11AM to 10PM Sunday through Thursday, and 11AM to 11PM on Friday and Saturday.

- This restaurant will provide approximately 100 full and part-time local jobs. Longhorn strives to find the best talent who match their core values and deliver great guest experiences.
- Over 90% of Longhorn’s managers are promoted from hourly positions and 99% of their directors of operations are promoted from within. They promote 150 team members into management positions every year.
- Every day, team members spend extra time to prepare, package, freeze, and store unreserved surplus food for donation to local food banks, shelters, and other charitable organizations.
- Last year, their restaurants donated more than 335,000 lbs of wholesome and ready-to-eat food. Since 2008, Longhorn has donated more than 23m lbs. of food to help those in need.
- Darden/Longhorn is a proud member of the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council and supports women-owned businesses throughout the supply chain.
- With each new Longhorn Restaurant opening, a portion of proceeds from pre-opening training events is donated to help local organizations. As restaurants are remodeled, furniture, fixtures, art, and plateware are donated to Habitat for Humanity ReStores.
- As a member of the Red Cross Annual Disaster Giving Program, Darden donates meals to help feed local families affected by natural disasters.
- Longhorn serves guests at over 500 restaurants in 28-states. They look forward to this Northridge restaurant being their second California facility (the first is in Rancho Cucamonga).
- The previous tenant, Macaroni Grill, occupied nearly 10,000 square feet with close to 300 seats. This new Longhorn will occupy 5,730 square feet with 220 total seats (184 inside and 36 on their new patio).
- Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this Longhorn Steakhouse request; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

15. Motion     Approve CIS regarding council file 12-0460 Zoning Code/Reorganization of Administration Provisions (processes and procedures ordinance)/LA Municipal Code Amendment.
- Kathleen and Abby recommended tabling this, as there are many connecting issues including environmental impact studies.

16. Motion     Approve Certificate of Acknowledgement to Peter Lasky
- Mikkie Loi recommended this certificate of acknowledgement for Peter Lasky. Peter held a number of executive leadership positions within the NWNC for many years.
  - Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this certificate of acknowledgement; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

17. Motion     Approve the August 10<sup>th</sup> GBM and special meeting minutes
- There were corrections to a few areas of the minutes from August 10<sup>th</sup> that will be handled very soon.
    - The GBM minutes reflect a typo on page 6 under agenda item 17
    - Special meeting, agenda item 4 (on page 1), 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet “... whether a person should or should not get the vaccine ...” contains incorrect wording
    - Special meeting, agenda item 4 (on page 2), comments by Cheryl include excessive spacing
  - Abigail Bailes made a motion to approve this August meeting minutes; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed.
 

Aye (9)	Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Robinson, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Cathcart
Absent (3)	Fox, Lowell, and Padilla

18. Update on the LA City encampment cleanups, tree trimming, and trash removal
  - Jorge reported that CD12 and CalTrans do not yet know how they are going to handle all the work that must be performed.
  - Sonny added that homeless campsites have expanded throughout the valley since the pandemic began in March 2020. There was recently one of the first campsites clean-ups in over 18-months. The LA Homeless Services Authority always visits the campsites prior to these clean-ups.
  
19. Update on Community Impact Statement – DONE’s Proposed Code of Conduct amendment dated July 19<sup>th</sup> and the draft workplace equity policy
  - This agenda item was tabled.
  
20. Announcements Sign up for Congress of Neighborhood Councils – a virtual meeting for neighborhood council board members
  - The agenda for the September 25<sup>th</sup> annual Congress of Neighborhood Councils is being discussed amongst the organizers. Everyone is urged to register for this very worthwhile congress.
  
21. Reports by NWNC committees
  - Jorge wondered why more was not invested in clean-up activities throughout the city. This is especially critical, as we will host the Olympics in seven short years. He hopes to get statistics from Matt Hernandez, and those numbers will tell a story.
  - Andrew Krowne expressed concern about hiccups regarding NPGs. In the future, he asked that the executive leadership make certain that the NPG applications are complete prior to submittal to the full board.
  - Ding has reached out to people about how the NWNC could support after-school programs; she will report back to the NWNC with these results.
  - Angelica requested that crosswalk guards be placed near the Nobel Middle School; this is definitely a citywide concern.
  - The Outreach Committee is now using Airtable to collaborate their data.
  - Kathleen recently met with Officer Zamora; they hope to organize a meeting with stakeholders on how to organize a “Neighborhood Watch” group.
  
22. NWNC Board member retreat on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>
  - This meeting was postponed until Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8PM.
  
23. Report by Budget Advocates
  - An advocate was not available to give a presentation at this meeting.
  
24. Adjournment
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.51PM; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.