

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

1. Meeting Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.16PM, welcomed over thirteen attendees, and ten board members.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:

Here (10)	Abigail Bailes, Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Jorge Jimenez, Janis Kraft, Jennifer Krowne, Sonny Liampetchakul, Joel Lowell, Angelica Robinson, and Glen Wilson
Absent (3)	Yi Ding, Bill Fox, and Lucio Padilla

- Five soccer players led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. General Public Comment

- John and Michele Hales reported that there was a recent “smash and grab” robbery at about 3.30PM on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at the CVS at 18020 Chatsworth Street. A hundred students from Granada Hills Charter High School left the school’s campus and crossed into the shopping center to attack that drug store. Seventeen of the kids were caught, arrested, and immediately released. The school’s Administrative Director Lori Zaragoza wrote back to the Hales, reporting that the school was extremely embarrassed by this action.
- Andrew Krowne, a representative to the Aliso Canyon Research Study Community Advisory Group (CAG) reported that they may proceed with an independent health study. Several CAG members have already created a non-profit with the hopes of applying for an NWNC Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG). He wondered which NWNC committee would best examine this NPG for presentation to the full NWNC. This will be further discussed offline.

3. Announcements

- Sonny reported that he and Ding attended a recent meeting of the West Valley Alliance on Homelessness. The LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) will coordinate their annual homeless count on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Please visit their website at <http://www.lahsa.org> for additional information and to register to volunteer.
- Janis mentioned that she and Jorge represented the NWNC at the Environmental Awareness Day on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Chatsworth Train Station. Jorge did a fantastic job with the environmentally friendly bracelets.
- Abby presented an NWNC Certificate of Acknowledgement to Frank Gallucci. Frank has been the AYSO Regional Commissioner for Region 795 since March of 2011. Having played soccer in AYSO for thirteen years in his childhood and having his son start soccer with AYSO in 2010, it was a natural fit. Under his tenure, and with the help of his fellow board members, the region has seen:
  - A growth in players,
  - Secured new fields for the younger divisions,
  - Aligned the local region program fully with the National AYSO program,
  - Started the region’s first annual tournament,

- Expanded the region's Spring Program,
- Had two teams place in the Western State's Games, and
- Implemented volunteer recognition awards at the yearly opening ceremonies.
- Besides volunteering his time for his local Region 795, he also volunteers for Area 10V, which serves most of the San Fernando Valley. Frank is also the Assistant Area Director for Area 10V and recently joined the Section 10 board which oversees eight other areas between San Luis Obispo and Bakersfield.
- His belief that family and community come first have helped mold Region 795 into what it is today.

#### 4. Government Reports

##### A. Public Safety

- LAPD's Devonshire Area Community Advisory Board member Mikkie Loi mentioned that earlier today, NWNC's Senior Lead Officer Sandra Zamora participated in an LAPD/Police Activity League Supporters toy collection at the Wal-Mart, Porter Ranch. They amassed over two shopping carts of toys for underprivileged youth. They will return to Wal-Mart on Wednesday and Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to collect more toys.
- The LAPD/Devonshire Division is experiencing an increase in auto thefts and follow-home robberies. Please be aware of your surroundings and do not be an easy target. Continue with the LAPD's motto: Hide It, Lock It, Keep it.

##### B. Government Departments/Agencies, including the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- Matt Hernandez from John Lee's Council District 12, who serves as the liaison to the LAPD, LAFD and other public safety departments, mentioned there was a recent reinstatement of Mayor Garcetti's "State of Emergency" which resulted in vaccine mandates. John Lee voted against this, but it was approved anyway. LA's State of Emergency will continue for another month, until it is voted on again in mid-January.
- CD12 is extremely concerned about the December 7<sup>th</sup> Smash and Grab at the CVS in Granada Hills.
- For additional information, please reach out to Matt at [matthew.hernandez@lacity.org](mailto:matthew.hernandez@lacity.org)
- Adriana Cabrera, the NWNC's Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate from DONE thanked the NWNC board for their agendas which serve as a notable example for the other neighborhood councils.
- DONE recently extended the training deadline from Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- By Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, Adriana hopes to coordinate a pickup time for an NWNC representative to visit the election ballot depository. If these ballots from the April 2021 election are not collected by 2022, they will be destroyed.
- All NWNC board members should have recently received a new password to access the Cornerstone training database.
- Jennifer thanked Adriana for attending this evening's meeting.
- Victoria Dochoghlian introduced herself as the new Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations at CSUN. She resides in Granada Hills and previously worked as a Field Representative for Assemblywoman Laura Friedman of California's 43<sup>rd</sup> District (including Burbank, Glendale, and La Canada), and looks forward to working alongside the NWNC.

- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the advocates have been meeting with the various city departments. Each department was supposed to submit their budget reports to the city by Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- A few of the advocate’s reports were completed following various meetings with department leadership. If anyone has something they would like input into these white paper reports, please let the advocates know. These white papers may be distributed prior to the Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> NWNC meeting.
- The council file for the 2022-23 budget will be CF-22-0600.
- The advocates and other neighborhood council alliances have been asked to host town halls. They look forward to hosting these meetings to discuss the DONE budget proposals weekdays in early 2022, beginning at 5PM or 5.30PM (so as not to interfere with the regularly scheduled monthly neighborhood council meetings). It would be advisable to have at least one board member of each neighborhood council attend these meetings.
- DONE also asked all the neighborhood council alliances to do a presentation of their 2022/23 budget projections.
- The 2022 Budget Day will be the morning of Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. It is unknown if this meeting will be in-person or via Zoom.
- For additional information, please visit the Advocate’s website at <http://www.budgetadvocates.org> or email Glenn at [glenn.bailey@budgetadvocates.com](mailto:glenn.bailey@budgetadvocates.com).

C. NWNC Presidential Comments

- Abby wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.
- There will be no executive committee meeting in January. The monthly NWNC meeting will be Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

5. New Business

A. Discussion and possible motion to approve a vendor from the multiple vendor estimates for the proposed Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> NWNC Ice Cream Social Outreach Event

- Paperwork to support this Ice Cream Social has already been sent to DONE. Yi Ding hopes to submit the final paperwork (with the vendor’s information) to DONE by Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>:
- Kathleen estimates that this event may attract a hundred attendees with a budget not to exceed \$500.
- Glenn Bailey recommended mentioning a first choice (All American Softy) and a back-up vendor (Recess), just in case.

Vendor	Ice Cream
Albert’s	Pre-packaged treats
All American Softy	Vanilla, Chocolate, and Swirl
Recess	5-6 flavors, scooped, with toppings
Handels	3-flavors, scooped, with toppings; this local vendor is just outside the NWNC boundary

- Abby Bailes made a motion to have All American Softy provide the ice cream, with Recess as a back-up (just in case All American Softy is unavailable); Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and possible motion to appoint NWNC Board Member, Brian Cathcart, to serve on DONE’s Regional Grievance Panel

- Andrew supported Brian’s nomination and urged all board members to step up and serve on committees. He requested a brief description of Brian’s upcoming responsibilities as a member of this panel. Adriana added that another NWNC board member could also serve as a panelist. Glenn Bailey previously served on a grievance panel and added that members would receive extensive training.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to have Brian Cathcart serve on DONE’s Regional Grievance Panel; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- C. Discussion and possible motion to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) on Council File 21-1414 which instructs the City Planning Department and Department of Building and Safety to prepare instructions, standards, and reports to clarify the implementation of SB9, a new Zoning and Subdivision law that will go into effect in January 2022.
- Sonny mentioned that the current requirements include a parking space; he hopes this increases to two spaces [per unit] to reduce street parking.
  - John Hales added he has attended many meetings whereupon six of these developments were reviewed. Two spaces were suggested; however, many of the residents are not using their two parking spaces for cars.
  - Kathleen expressed concern that SB9 took away the canopy requirements; this was never properly addressed by the state.
  - Matt Hernandez added that the neighborhood notices and approvals should be sent out to a six-block radius. If one house refuses to sign, it cannot be approved.
  - Brian added that we must all fight to make certain that Northridge property values do NOT decrease.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to support this CIS on Council File 21-1414 to establish the following rules:
    - Increase the additional setbacks to greater than four feet
    - Include rules to maintain trees and urban canopy
    - Two off-street parking spots per unit
    - Public notice and approval from neighbors within a six-block radius.
  - Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- D. Discussion and possible motion to approve NWNC letter offering our “conditional support” for the proposed standalone Starbucks Café, Case #APCNAV2021-6010-2C-CU-SPR located at 18602 Devonshire Street, pending resolution of concerns related to traffic, access, and parking.
- Jennifer expressed concern that Reseda Boulevard and Devonshire Street is an extremely dangerous intersection. Starbucks has not yet completed a full traffic analysis. The Planning, Land Use, and Zoning (PLUZ) Committee urged Starbucks to do this analysis before they will approve or reject this project.
  - Development Manager/Consultant Rachel Novak replied that Starbucks has not yet received the traffic study [which the LA Department of Transportation did not require].
  - Jennifer added that, as discussed by the PLUZ, this new Starbucks drive-through could improve the beauty of the shopping center. In addition, the order box will be far enough from the service window to grant adequate space and time for beverage preparation.
  - Jason Hector from Porter Ranch thanked Starbucks for including their traffic diagram and back-up material within their PowerPoint presentation.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to write a letter of conditional support for this Starbucks; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- E. Discussion of possible motion to approve NWNC letter offering our “conceptual support” of the proposed Brookfield five-story, 350-unit apartment building with accompanying six-story parking structure, Case # DIR2021-7970-SPR-UHCA, located at 9450 Shirley Avenue, along with outlining concerns raised by the community.
- Jennifer mentioned that the PLUZ has held two meetings regarding this project. They continue to have a concern with traffic along Shirley Avenue and security issues, which must be addressed prior to approval.
  - The PLUZ has requested a more efficient way for people to go from the parking structure to the mall’s north end, including the theatres and Buffalo Wild Wings.
  - Kathleen added that the developers never sent sufficient information, including a traffic report. They did a report during the pandemic when traffic was light. She was surprised that the city’s Department of Transportation is permitting this project.
  - Land Use Consultant Kristen Lonner apologized for the delay in submitting the current traffic report. She reported that commercial and multi-family housing are both allowed within this C1 zone. In addition, they are working with the mall, which has sufficient security to include this new development.
  - Joel mentioned that he attended a recent meeting whereupon this project did not receive positive input.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to write a letter of conceptual support for this proposed five-story apartment building and six-story parking structure; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, yet it did not pass.

Aye (2)	Bailes and Liampetchakul
No (8)	Cathcart, Edwards, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Lowell, Robinson, and Wilson
Absent (3)	Ding, Fox, and Padilla

- F. Discussion and possible motion to submit a letter to CD12, Devonshire Division LAPD, and LA City Traffic Services outlining concerns related to the proposed Brookfield five-story, 350-unit apartment building with accompanying six-story parking structure, Case # DIR2021-7970-SPR-UHCA, located at 9450 Shirley Avenue.
- Kathleen requested that we include the LAFD as an addressee on this letter of concern.
  - Jennifer Krowne made a motion to write a letter of concern for this proposed five-story apartment building and six-story parking structure; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- G. Discussion and possible motion to comment on the latest draft of the Digital Communications Policy dated October 2021
- Abby reported that the NWNC has already submitted two letters in response to the proposed Digital Communications Policy, requesting the removal of the following two items:
    - From 9.2-C, the restriction of emojis from one’s personal private email account
    - From 9.2.G, restricting the posting of a response regarding any pending matter
  - These restrictions could be seen as a violation of one’s first amendment rights.
  - Jennifer commented that although all board members took an oath concerning ethics, this could take things too far.
  - Glenn Bailey added that the final revised version of this policy is to be presented at the Bureau of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) meeting of Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, with a decisive action in March.

- Brian urged community standards, including prohibiting retweeting any hate speech. There are clear separation postings when speaking as a public citizen versus speaking as a board member.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to resubmit NWNC’s suggestions to the BONC’s Digital Communications Policy; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- H. Discussion and possible motion for maintenance of the Tampa Median topiaries. Possible motion for funding up to \$100 for wires needed to repair the topiary structures.
- Abby, Jorge, and Joel recently met with sculptor Darlene Kerns, who determined that the current frames will not support the proposed topiary. There is no concrete footing which could support the weight of the frames and the current topiary is held together with merely plastic zip ties. Ms. Kerns would have to increase her estimate to allow for footing, welding, etc. The NWNC may need to hire a concrete specialist for this footing.
  - Although there have been a few protestors regarding this topiary [and its failure to grow], Abby would prefer not to rip out the entire project.
  - Kathleen suggested acquiring multiple estimates for the concrete pad. In addition, she has photographs of iron horses which could be purchased.
  - Jennifer proposed a fundraising event to garner interest from the community. There was previously a suggestion to have an art show at the Northridge Park. Perhaps the NWNC could sponsor this art show?
  - Brian, Joel, and Jason stated that the NWNC should not move backwards. It is best to move forward and finish these horses. Other metal structures could be placed elsewhere in Northridge to “tie it all together”.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to spend up to \$100 for galvanized wires (to prevent rust), materials, and maintenance to repair the Tampa Avenue median’s topiary; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
  - Kathleen asked who would do the wiring. Abby, Jorge, and Jason will manage that task.
- I. Discussion and possible motion for funding up to \$250 to add temporary, battery powered lights on the Tampa Topiaries and to submit a permit for use of lights on topiaries.
- Abby asked the city if we could do this under our current topiary maintenance contract.
  - Brian suggested mentioning “permanent” rather than “temporary” for a better chance of support from the city. Abby then suggested changing “temporary” to “removable”.
  - Jennifer recommended up-lighting for improved aesthetics. She also expressed concern about theft.
  - Joel suggested solar powered lighting once the topiary grows in.
  - Jorge agreed that doing something with the lighting [at this time] would show progress.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to spend up to \$250 for temporary/removable battery-powered lights for the Tampa Avenue median’s topiary; Kathleen Edwards and Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9)	Bailes, Cathcart, Edwards, Jimenez, Kraft, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Robinson, and Wilson
No (1)	Krowne
Absent (3)	Ding, Fox, and Padilla

- 6. NWNC Committee Reports
  - Elections Committee

Regretfully, Glen Wilson is unavailable to go downtown to pick-up the ballots. Sonny will connect with Adriana to retrieve this election material.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from November 2021

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the November minutes (following a few brief corrections); Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Update on the 2022 DONE Budget and Motion for Approval of the November 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
November 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	\$128.50
November 6	Apple One	Minutes	147.20
		Total	<u>\$275.70</u>

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the MER; Abby Bailes and Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Treasurer Joel reported the following budget numbers:

Annual Budget			\$32,000.00
Adjustment			10,000.00
Budgeted Amount			<u>42,000.00</u>
Expense to Date	Funding Request	\$5,065.61	
	Credit Card	1,171.77	6,237.38
Total Outstanding	Commitments	0.00	500.00
	Pending Payments	500.00	
Net Available			<u><u>\$35,262.62</u></u>

- In a review of the city’s DONE budget, there was a slight increase in salaries and a recent rebranding of training (as shown on page 20).

9. Adjournment

- Joel Lowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.30PM; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.