

DRAFT MINUTES
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom
Tuesday, 11 January 2022

I. Meeting Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.21PM, welcomed over fourteen attendees, and ten board members.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:

Here (11)	Abigail Bailes, Brian Cathcart, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Jorge Jimenez, Janis Kraft, Jennifer Krowne, Joel Lowell, Lucio Padilla, Angelica Robinson, and Glen Wilson
Absent (2)	Bill Fox and Sonny Liampetchakul

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Scott Schmerelson from the LAUSD led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comment

- Glenn Bailey reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) would meet Thursday, January 13th at 6.30PM. This month's guest speaker will be mayoral candidate Congresswoman Karen Bass.
- The February meeting of VANC, on Thursday, February 10th, will feature LAPD Chief Michael Moore.
- Tapio Kartiala from the Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire thanked the NWNC for the recent \$3,500 grant to renovate the local LAPD station at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue. They also received \$35k to renovate the gym, as well as trailers used to alert traffic. Their upcoming financial goals include \$10,500 to renovate a staircase.
- Victoria Dochoghlian, the new Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations at CSUN, reported that in-person classes at CSUN have been postponed until Monday, February 14th. In the interim, these first few weeks of school [as well as at most public universities throughout California] will be online.

IV. Announcements

- Yi Ding announced that she would resign when her family moves to Chatsworth in May. She will gladly pass along any projects that she has been working on. Please reach out to her if you are interested in serving on the Education Committee or as Vice President of Outreach. Abby thanked Ding for all her contributions to the NWNC.
- Saturday, January 22nd is the NWNC Ice Cream Social at the Oakridge Estate Park. All are invited. Please reach out to friends and neighbors about this upcoming event.
- If anyone has any ideas for the Pledge of Allegiance videos for the NWNC meetings, please reach out to a board member.

V. Government Reports

a. Public Safety

- Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora reported that thieves recently murdered LAPD three-year veteran Fernando Arroyos [from the Olympic Division]. Sadly, years ago, after three years on the job, Sandra's partner was murdered during a domestic violence call.
- The LAPD and Sandra may set-up a table and distribute literature at the January 22nd Ice Cream Social.
- SLO Patty Peteque has an interim officer filling in for her.
- The SLOs will host their monthly watch meeting on Thursday, January 20th at 6PM.
- The Northridge Mall has had problems with Link scooters. Shoplifters hop onto their scooters to escape. The scooter company has since modified these scooters to disable them within shopping malls.
- There is a concern about Apple air tags. Bad guys can zip-tie these small tracking devices to your license plate. Then, they follow you home and rob you of your recent purchase(s). Your iPhone may provide you with an indication that you have some sort of tracking device near you. If you get this alert, please stop your car and search for this air tag. Alternatively, drive to the nearest LAPD station. Kathleen added that these devices could be used to track valuable laptops, iPads, and other such purchases.
- Sandra mentioned that the LAPD has lost ten employees, and two spouses to COVID. 803 staff members are currently quarantined. The LAPD now has merely 924 officers and 2,689 civilian employees. There are currently merely three officers in the Devonshire Division's detective area.

b. City Council Representative

- Matt Hernandez from John Lee's Council District 12, who serves as the liaison to the LAPD, LAFD and other public safety departments, mentioned that the city council returned this past Friday, January 7th. Council meetings will be via Zoom until further notice.
- District Director Eric Moody recently retired. Lorena Espinal has joined CD12's staff as a field deputy and Dan Rosales handles any issues pertaining to planning and zoning, etc.
- Two teenagers were recently killed in an auto accident caused by a drunk driver. Councilman Lee attended the vigil in their honor.
- For additional information, please reach out to Matt at matthew.hernandez@lacity.org

c. LAUSD Board Member for District 3, Mr. Scott Schmerelson

- Board member Schmerelson was joined by his deputy director of school and community engagement, Tammy Ramirez and reported that through recent redistricting, they gained a few schools, but lost five schools. Their district no longer extends to Valley Glen and Reseda. Locally, he supports the Nobel Charter Middle School (whose 6th grade recently acquired new furniture) and the following elementary schools:
 - Beckford Avenue
 - Calahan Street
 - Topeka Drive Elementary (and their new principal, Katherine Chavez)
- The LAUSD looks forward to welcoming their new superintendent, Alberto Carvalho in March. He has over fourteen years of experience leading the Miami schools, the fourth largest school district in the USA (behind New York, LA, and Chicago). Megan Reilly will continue to serve as interim superintendent.
- Although the overall vaccination rate is higher within the LAUSD than the general population of LA, there are currently 62k active COVID cases among staff and students, merely two of

these cases were from school-based transmission. This past week has seen 66k positive tests as a result of 457,589 tests; this reflects a 14.32% positivity rate. The LAUSD previously saw less than 1% testing positive.

- Beckford Avenue Elementary School recently had 46 active COVID cases among staff and students. This past week has seen 62 positive tests as a result of 620 tests, reflecting a 10% positivity rate.
- For additional information and to view the LAUSD's updated policies for the Spring 2022 semester, please visit <https://achieve.lausd.net/spring2022>
- The vaccination deadline for students 12-years and older has been extended to Fall 2022. If students do not meet this vaccination deadline, online learning will remain an option. Additional information can be found at <https://achieve.lausd.net/studentvaccine>
- Turning Dreams Into Reality, the 2nd annual Virtual International Newcomer Student Leadership Conference (for grades 8 to 12) will be Saturday, January 22nd from 8AM to 12.30PM. Current teachers who were once international newcomers will participate. Workshops will include:
 - Community Support
 - Leadership
 - Opportunities for Post Secondary Education
 - Self Advocacy
 - Social Emotional Learning
- Spring Enrichment course registration will open Monday, January 10th through Saturday, January 22nd. Additional information can be found at <https://enroll.lausd.net/en/enrichment>. All classes will virtual and after the regular school day, beginning Monday, February 7th; courses will include:
 - Animation
 - Arts (including dance, music, theatre, and visual)
 - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
 - World Language
- The LAUSD Parent and Family 2021-22 Legislative Learning Group held meetings on Mondays, September 20th and November 1st; their next meeting will be January 31st at 5PM to:
 - Learn about the various levels of government legislative processes
 - Build the capacity of parents and families to become more civically engaged
 - Make a difference on behalf of the students in LAUSD
 - Provide opportunities to be informed on key education policies
 - Provide input and recommendations on bill ideas for the LAUSD 2022 Advocacy Agenda
- Participants who complete at least two of the three workshops will receive a certificate.
- Registration information can be found at https://lausd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4vgMtEVgSI6K8Bt1DKTeJA
- The LAUSD will sponsor the following Zoom meetings at 10AM and 6PM; login at <https://lausd.zoom.us/j/85339488574>
 - Know Your Rights on Thursday, January 27th
 - Parent Participation at Individualized Education Program Team Meetings on Thursday, February 24th
- Saturday, February 5th the LAUSD will co-host, alongside the Village Nation Partnership, an African-American Parent Empowerment Summit, discussing Agents of Change: Navigating and Thriving. The keynote speaker will be world-renowned educator, Dr. Christopher Emdin. Registration is available at <https://bit.ly/SummitTVNP2022>.

- Brian asked if the LAUSD could provide extra help to parents for Zoom links. Scott has pushed for volunteer parents at onsite schools to assist with this task. These volunteers will also receive free COVID tests. Another concern is that parents can log onto Zoom meetings via their cellular telephones. However, some cellular telephones require purchased minutes.
 - Someone asked about the weekly meetings at the LAUSD headquarters at 333 South Beaudry Avenue. These virtual Tuesday meetings are available via Zoom, and can be attended by anyone. Agendas and links are available at <https://boe.lausd.net/LAUSDBdMtgAgendas>. The LAUSD appears on television channel 58 (channel 3 on Spectrum Cable). These meetings are also live-streamed and rerun on Sundays.
 - Abby mentioned a potential initiative for school vouchers; they are currently collecting signatures to place this on the November ballot. Scott did not yet know anything about this.
- d. Government Departments/Agencies, including the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)
- Atziri Camarena attended on behalf of the NWNC's regular Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Adriana Cabrera. Atziri has been with DONE and the City Clerk's office for eight years.
 - The mandatory [every two years] anti-bias training deadline for all board members was recently extended to Monday, January 31st. Please reach out to Atziri or Adriana if anyone has issues accessing their Cornerstone training account. Glenn Bailey added that submitting a PDF of the completed training certificate could sometimes help prove training completion. Atziri confirmed that Jennifer has completed her mandatory training.
 - Tuesday, January 25th, there will be a Neighborhood Council Funding and System Portal Training Program beginning at 6PM. These training sessions are open to all board members as well as stakeholders. This is required training for board members serving as treasurer, 2nd signer, alternate signer, and/or bank cardholder.
 - The deadline to modify the NWNC bylaws is Friday, April 1st. Approval is only required if the NWNC makes any changes to their bylaws. A template is also available.
 - Kathleen thanked Atziri for attending this evening's meeting.
 - Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the advocates have submitted a preliminary report to Mayor Garcetti
 - Saturday, January 29th at 10AM, the budget advocates will host a town hall on DONE's fiscal year 2022-23 budget proposal. This will start with a presentation by DONE's general manager Raquel Beltran. A discussion of how these budget proposals could affect neighborhood councils and alliances will also be included.
 - A few of the advocate's reports were completed following various meetings with department leadership. The advocates hope to have all reports (which help prepare the annual budgetary white paper) by early February.
 - The 2022 Budget Day will be the morning of Saturday, June 18th. It appears that this meeting will probably be via Zoom.
 - For additional information, please visit the Advocate's website at <http://www.budgetadvocates.org> or email Glenn at glenn.bailey@budgetadvocates.com.
- e. NWNC Presidential Comments: 2021 Year in Review
- The NWNC began 2021 with elections that brought several new board members to our existing board – all are eager to serve our community. We worked together to establish NWNC Board

Priorities to guide our efforts to better serve everyone. The following are some of the ways that NWNC has worked to achieve these goals in 2021.

Priority 1 Help our NWNC neighbors get answers and services.

- We responded directly to hundreds of email inquiries with knowledgeable responses.
- In 2021, we hosted 50+ public committee and general board meetings to address issues happening in our community.
- We provided helpful links, tools, and community events announcements at <https://northridgewest.org>, email blasts and social media.
- We conducted outreach to local businesses and continue to work together on public safety.

Priority 2 Communicate with city leaders on behalf of NWNC neighbors.

- We hosted NWNC's local, regional, and national leaders, including Congressman Brad Sherman, Assemblymembers Suzette Valladares and Jesse Gabriel, Councilman John Lee, LAUSD's Scott Schmerelson, LAPD Officers and other city officials.
- We submitted numerous Community Impact Statements (CIS) to give a voice from Northridge West on city council files, ordinances, and guidelines on matters such as COVID vaccine requirements, zoning guidelines, youth sports rules, defending free speech, and land use projects.
- We attended community events and spoke to the city about the needs of Northridge West

Priority 3 Actively support groups who are helping our neighborhood.

- YMCA Thanksgiving Baskets Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG)
- Granada Hills Holiday Parade NPG
- Environmental Awareness Day support
- Volunteers Cleaning Communities support
- Granada Hills Charter High School Robotics Team/Robodox NPG
- Awarded several NWNC Certificates of Acknowledgement for local leaders making a positive impact in our community

Priority 4 Accomplish Community Improvement Projects that make NWNC a healthier and happier place to live.

- Funded and advocated for local tree trimming, dead tree removal, traffic lights, and street maintenance.
- Supported and volunteered at street, freeway, and park clean up events.
- Maintenance and graffiti abatement for installed public art utility boxes in NWNC
- Responded to public safety requests from homeowners and the local business community

f. Certificate of Acknowledgement awarded to Jill Mather from Volunteers Cleaning Communities

- Jorge recommended Jill for this recognition.
- Jill founded the Volunteers Cleaning Communities (VCC) in 2020. In 2021, they collected 3,785 bags (equal to 54,574 lbs.) of litter. They also clean unhoused encampments.
- There was a concern that our children will inherit this earth, which is now a big trashcan.

VI. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Beautification: Update on the launch of the NWNC Adopt 1 Street outreach campaign, Tampa Median beautification, and other projects

- The Beautification Committee is attempting to encourage volunteerism. Jill reported that two NWNC board members have already voluntarily adopted two streets here in Northridge.
- The committee is also working on the Tampa Avenue median topiaries. The current topiaries are workable, but the shrubs may take forty-years to grow. Ivy and/or creeping fig are

- options upon removal of the current box shrub. Jorge continues to gather information, which he will share with the committee at their next meeting.
- Jorge has already reached out to the city's Department of Cultural Affairs regarding a potential staircase project.
- b. Outreach: Discussion and delegation of tasks for the promotion and preparation for the NWNC Ice Cream Social on Saturday January 22nd from 2PM to 4PM at the Oakridge Estate Park
- Ding reported that the city has already approved this event.
 - A flyer is posted at <https://northridgewest.org/event/nwnc-ice-cream-social/>
 - Although not required, they have received eight RSVPs. The ice cream will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. However, it would be nice to get an idea as to how many people will attend.
 - Abby will confirm everything with the All American Softy Ice Cream Truck.
 - Jorge volunteered to print and distribute flyers throughout the community. Joel recommended that they use the NWNC credit card or provide a detailed receipt for reimbursement.
 - Abby will coordinate this printing task at the FedEx Office Print Center. Glen added that Office Depot may give a very generous discount if we mention that we are with the city clerk's office.
 - Kathleen suggested that each board member distribute 40 to 170 flyers throughout their community.
 - Ding may also email these flyers to the area schools.
 - Kathleen expressed concern about damage to the park during the recent rainstorms. Abby will work with the city's Recreation and Parks Department to confirm that their representatives will be there. They may also have access to electricity and [possibly] a sound system. However, they may charge \$60/hour.
 - CD12 will provide chairs and sanitizers; it is unknown if they will provide masks.
 - Jorge and Abby will coordinate a time to go to the storage locker to access the NWNC brochures for distribution.
 - Abby and Joel will coordinate the water purchase.
 - Although the event starts at 2PM, set-up can start at 1PM. They will need volunteers to direct traffic, set-up, and clean up.
- c. Education: Update on Nobel Middle School NPG and other projects
- This proposed project, which could cost \$11k, may be completed in the summer (which would be during the next fiscal year). Atziri commented that it will be okay as long as the project starts by June 30th (last day of this fiscal year).
 - The city clerk's office will ask about the source of the remaining funds. Abby replied that the PTA may provide the additional funds. Alternatively, the NWNC could specifically financially support something such as paint or cupboards.
 - Glenn Bailey stressed that NPGs cannot serve as "reimbursement" or backfill for spent funds.
- d. PLUZ: Update on recent requests for PLUZ review of community projects
- Jennifer may have additional information on a project at the February meeting.
- e. Homelessness: Update on current projects and community events
- This agenda item was tabled in Sonny's absence.

- f. Public Safety: Update on current projects and community events
 - o Kathleen mentioned that the city council might soon discuss AB1603; this would decrease the value of thefts from \$950 down to \$400. The Government Affairs Committee may propose a CIS.
 - o Next Door has had several recent discussions on coyotes. Previously, coyotes would travel alone. However, coyotes are wandering in packs of five or more. Perhaps the NWNC could purchase coyote warning signs?
 - o Earlier, there was a police commissioner meeting where they discussed 37 officer-involved shootings. A large percentage of weapons used against the police are now knives, chains, swords, etc. (rather than guns).
 - o The Bureau of Neighborhood Commissioners will meet just a few more times prior to adopting the proposed Digital Communications Policy.

- g. Executive Committee: Update on current projects and community events.
 - o Abby mentioned that the next Executive meeting would be Tuesday, February 1st.

VII. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible motion to remove Jay Bassinger from the NWNC Education Committee
 - o Abby Bailes made a motion to remove Jay Bassinger from the Education Committee; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Discussion and possible motion on the NPG submitted by Nobel Middle School requesting funds to rebuild the Parent Center on campus
 - o Abby Bailes made a motion to table this agenda item; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Motion for approval of minutes of the regular meeting from December 2021

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

IX. Motion for approval of the December Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)

- Joel reviewed the following recent expenditures:

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
November 30	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	October Web Services	\$250.00
November 30	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	November Web Services	250.00
December 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	128.50
December 3	Apple One	Minutes	211.20
		Total	<u>\$839.70</u>

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the December MER; Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

- Abby Bailes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.31PM; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.