

DRAFT MINUTES
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom
Tuesday, 12 July 2022

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.16PM and welcomed nine board members and over eight stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:

Here (9) Abigail Bailes, Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Janis Kraft, Jennifer Krowne,
 Sonny Liampetchakul, Joel Lowell, Angelica Robinson, and Glen Wilson

Absent (1) Jorge Jimenez

Off the Board (1) Lucio Padilla

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Abby Bailes led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comments

- Stakeholder Michele Hales has noticed beautiful planters, with draught-resistant plants, along Reseda Boulevard, between Roscoe Boulevard and Lassen Street. She wondered who took care of these planters. Glenn Bailey from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) reported that the Northridge Business Improvement Project installed those planters over ten years ago. However, that civic group has since disbanded. Since that time, several Northridge neighborhood councils have agreed to take care of the planters. Don Larson and a previous NENC board member voluntarily collect the trash and waters those plants.
- Unfortunately, those planters have been the victims of vandalism.
 - A horrific accident at the Chevron gas station, at the southwest corner of Reseda Boulevard and Plummer Street, destroyed the nearby bus shelter and two solid concrete planters.
 - A few of the planter's succulents have been stolen.
 - A vandal poured cement into one of the planters.
- Michele also mentioned that the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council would host a town hall to discuss the proposed apartment building at the southeast corner of Plummer Street and Shirley Avenue. Jennifer replied that [as of now] that project would proceed. The NWNC's appeal was denied because they lack the power to reject a project unless it is against the law. This is of concern as the developer's traffic numbers were inaccurate. They used traffic calculations that were acquired during the pandemic, when the nearby movie theatres, restaurants, and shops were closed.
- Glenn Bailey reminded everyone that the monthly Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils would be held on Thursday, July 14th at 6.30PM via Zoom. This month's special guest speaker will be Mr. Alberto Carvalho, the new superintendent of the LAUSD.
- Someone from the LADWP may also address water restrictions and the draught.

IV. Announcements

- Brian Cathcart reported that he recently attended a regional grievance panel meeting, hosted by Tom Soong, Director of Awareness and Engagement for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). A great deal of information was shared on what is considered a valid

grievance, how to file a grievance, etc. Additional information can be found on their website at <https://empowerla.org/grievance/>.

V. Presentation of NWNCC Certificate of Acknowledgement to Yi Ding

- This agenda item was tabled as Yi Ding was not available.

VI. Presidential Comments

- Abby congratulated the USA on their recent 246th anniversary.
- Lucio Padilla has missed four meetings in a recent twelve-month period; therefore, he is no longer eligible to serve on the NWNCC board.
- The regularly scheduled Tuesday, August 2nd Executive Committee meeting will be postponed until Wednesday, August 3rd so that board members can attend the LAPD's Devonshire Division National Night Out at the Northridge Park.

VII. Government Reports

a. CD12 City Council Representative

Public Safety Deputy Matt Hernandez, who interacts with LAFD, LAPD, and other public safety departments, reported the following:

- CD12 looks forward to co-sponsoring National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2nd, alongside the LAPD, at the Northridge Park. They will provide popcorn and the LAPD will distribute water. Please bring a blanket, chairs, and snacks to join Councilman John Lee for a screening [at sundown] of Disney/Pixar's Encanto.
- CD12 will partner with Operation Gratitude for a volunteer activity at the Porter Ranch Vineyards on Saturday, July 16th. Registration will begin at 7AM, or one can register in advance at <https://www.operationgratitude.com/events/los-angeles-offsite/>. Operation Gratitude is a local non-profit that assembles care packages for our overseas troops. These 5,000 packages will include letters, ChapStick, and other items to remind our brave men and women of home.
- The city council approved Councilman Lee's motion to allocate \$270,000 of discretionary funding for LAPD overtime to address the immediate needs at the LAPD's Devonshire and Valley Traffic Divisions.
- Councilman Lee introduced city council file 41.18C, which amends the current municipal code to prohibit sitting, lying, sleeping, or storing property within 500' of fire hydrants, schools, licensed day care centers, and driveways. This will affect encampments, but not RV parking.
- Stakeholder John Hales asked about Matthew Vallecilla; Matt Hernandez mentioned that Kathy Leterry will replace Matthew as the new public works liaison. She previously served as their front desk person and worked alongside Mr. Vallecilla with the sanitation department.
- Someone from the Systems and Regional Planning Department suggested that CD12 install radar feedback signs throughout the district. Matt recently partnered with the city's Department of Transportation; they hope to complete this project by August. It is unknown how many signs will be installed or where they will be placed. Multiple locations must be surveyed prior to installation.

b. Public Safety

Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora just got back from vacation, July 4th was her first day whereupon she was greeted with a stack of reports and over 300 emails.

- SLOs Zamora, Parker, and their cadets will be in Porter Ranch on Saturday morning, July 15th to assist CD12 and Operation Gratitude assemble care packages for our overseas troops.
- Tuesday, August 2nd will be the National Night Out at the Northridge Park. The LAPD has invited several food trucks to participate in this event, including Kona Ice.
- The LAPD has been unable to impound any RVs this past month. Please contact Colin Crews at CD12 with any concerns.
- Monday, July 11th was the first night of the Community Emergency Response Team training in Porter Ranch.
- Wednesday, July 13th the Valley Traffic Division will host their monthly meeting.
- Thursday, July 21st SLO Zamora will host her monthly Basic Car meeting.
- Besides the \$5,000 from the NWNCC, additional funding has come through for the improvement of the LAPD's offices at the Devonshire Station. The officers will need to work remotely, with their laptops, during the week that the offices are renovated.
- Stakeholder John Hales mentioned that for the past two years, neighbors have noticed a tall gentleman standing near the corner of Canby Avenue and Chase Street. Some believe that he may be a dealer, as many people drive up to him and exchange things (possibly drugs). Sandra asked that John send her an email outlining this information, along with photographs (if available). She will then forward this on to the LAPD's Narcotics Division.
- Kathleen asked about the delay in impounding RVs. Unfortunately, the city lacks available vacant lots to hold impounded RVs.
- Someone from the Systems and Regional Planning asked about homeless encampment clean-ups. Sandra replied that the LAPD does not do homeless encampment clean-ups. Clean-ups are coordinated with city councilmembers. Those who do the clean-ups contact the LAPD in the event they encounter a hostile individual.
- Sandra added that the LAPD is currently hiring. She would appreciate serving as a mentor to help potential applicants study for a test or provide any guidance to anyone who would like to apply to the LAPD.

c. Other Government Departments/Agencies

- Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares from the 38th district reported that the state legislature is currently on their summer recess. The legislature will return in August to begin their debate on over 600-bills. Prior to their adjournment, they passed the state's \$300b budget. She hoped they would have suspended the gas tax, as California already has a \$97m surplus.
- She has lived in this area her entire life having been raised in Sylmar. Her first job was at Six Flags Magic Mountain before attending College of the Canyons and graduating from CSUN.
- Her wildfire insurance assembly bill 2450 is scheduled to pass out of the senate Appropriations Committee in August. Now that wildfire season is forever, this bill will increase wildfire insurance access for homeowners who are often at risk of losing their insurance coverage.
- Ms. Valladares is concerned about the rapid increase in crime throughout California. Culver City's police department saw a 90% increase in crime this past year. In addition, catalytic converters can be stolen in less than two minutes. She is supporting legislation to do more to apprehend those criminals. LA's current district attorney seems to be pro-criminal. Accountability is key. Victim's rights are [sadly] under attack. Oftentimes, victims do not receive proper notification of parole hearings. Hence her assembly bill 1847, alerts

crime victims [as a constitutional right] of their perpetrator's upcoming parole hearings. This pro-victim legislation has already gone through the state senate and assembly.

- Crime and homelessness are attached to mental health. She currently serves on a bi-partisan committee that calls for accountability concerning mental health issues. This mental health crisis can also be tied to school shootings. The November 2019 shooting at Saugus High School broke the heart of Southern California.
- She is also in favor of gun restrictions. Owning a ghost gun is currently a misdemeanor, it should be a felony.
- School safety bill, AB312, written by Ms. Valladares, encourages people to report bullying behavior. Less than 4% of California's 1,000+ school districts have such a reporting system in place. This bill is currently in the Appropriations Committee.
- Ms. Valladares reported that she was excited to present an Outstanding Latina award to SLO Sandra Zamora in Sacramento a few weeks ago.
- Their office is available to help any constituents deal with state agencies; please feel free to reach out to them at 661-286-1565.

d. Budget Advocate

- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that this would be his last monthly budget advocate report. The budget advocates held their bi-annual election on Saturday, June 25th. Brian Allen and Garry Fordyce will continue as budget advocates for the northwest valley, Region 2, along with their new regional budget advocate from the Northridge South Neighborhood Council. Although no longer the co-chair of the advocates, Glenn will continue in his roll on the advocate's Executive Committee.
- Saturday, June 18th was the annual Budget Day. The advocates were joined by Paul Krekorian (Chair of the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee), City Administrative Officer Matthew Szabo, and many others. This two-hour meeting was recorded and is posted on their website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/budget-day-2022>.
- Abby asked about the city budget for FY 2022-23, which is \$11.8b. This is significantly less than the state's \$300b budget.

VIII. NWNC Committee Reports

- Kathleen mentioned that the next Public Safety Committee meeting would include a discussion of the 4th annual Valley Preparedness Fair and the difficulty in acquiring neighborhood watch signs. The city recently rejected eight of ten locations for neighborhood watch signs.
- Abby mentioned that the next step in planning in-person hybrid meetings would be to have a meeting with the city's ADA representative along with Pastor Rick of the Northridge Christian Church.

IX. New Business

- a. NWNC Executive Officer Elections to be conducted by (DONE)
- Joel Gonzalez reviewed the job descriptions of the executive officer positions.
 - Joel Lowell nominated Abby Bailes to be President, there was an open election, and she was re-elected unanimously.
 - Abby Bailes nominated Kathleen Edwards to be Vice President Administration, there was an open election, and she was re-elected unanimously.
 - Kathleen Edwards nominated Janis Kraft to be Vice President Outreach, there was an open election, and she was re-elected unanimously.

- Kathleen Edwards nominated Sonny Liampetchakul to be Secretary, there was an open election, and he was re-elected unanimously.
 - Sonny Liampetchakul nominated Joel Lowell to be Treasurer, there was an open election, and he was re-elected unanimously.
- b. Discussion and possible motion to move the celebration of the Historical Designation plaque at Oakridge Park and a NWNC Outreach/Ice Cream Social event to Saturday, September 17th in coordination with Volunteers Cleaning Communities (VCC) Devonshire clean up.
- Jill Mather and her VCC group will be near the Oakridge Estate Park on Saturday, September 17th, so the NWNC chose to invite them to participate in this plaque recognition, house tour, and ice cream social.
 - Sonny mentioned that the house tour could be done in twenty-minutes in groups of twenty-people. He thought this event may exceed two hours. He also reminded everyone that the NWNC will not have access to electricity or water from the estate. However, the volunteer tour guides will run the fans during the tours. Tour participants will be required to wear masks and provide proof of vaccination.
 - Kathleen added that, due to ADA restrictions, the tour may be of merely the 1st floor. Sonny believes that this ADA issue may be resolved by September to allow access to the 2nd floor.
 - There was a brief discussion of providing ADA compliant portable rest rooms, which can cost approximately \$1,000 for four facilities (two for men and two for ladies). However, Joel reminded everyone that in January, when the NWNC hosted their ice cream social, they sent people across the street to use nearby rest rooms.
 - Stakeholder Joy expressed disappointment that this event is held on a Saturday, which is the Sabbath for many.
 - Sonny mentioned that the permit requests the hours; however, he will purposely make it vague.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- c. Discussion and possible motion to spend up to \$2,000 on an NWNC Outreach/Ice Cream Social event
- This \$2,000 was previously approved in June for the previous (2021-22) fiscal year. This proposed \$2,000 budget may increase during a future NWNC meeting.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this expenditure; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- d. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for June 2022 NWNC.
- Treasurer Joel reviewed the following May expenditures:

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
June 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	\$ 135.50
June 17	Hope of the Valley	Skateland to Hopeland Wall	500.00
June 20	Home Depot	Maintenance for Tampa Median Topiaries	108.37
June 21			152.21
June 21			135.78
June 21			130.31
June 21			19.66
June 21	Hope of the Valley	Naming Cubicle Bedroom	3,000.00

June 22	Home Depot	Maintenance for Tampa Median Topiaries	181.77
June 22			26.00
June 23			153.96
June 30			120.89
		Total	<u>\$4,664.45</u>

- The NWNC’s 2022-23 budget/admin packet was recently approved.
- Nine purchases [totaling \$1,028.95] from the Home Depot were recently spent on maintenance for the Tampa Median Topiaries.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this June MER; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Recap of 2021-22 Financials

Annual Budget		\$32,000.00
Adjustment		<u>10,000.00</u>
Budgeted Amount		<u>42,000.00</u>
Office Expenses	\$6,514.18	
Outreach	4,742.55	
Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG)	13,500.00	25,785.65
Community Improvement	1,028.92	
Balance Remaining		<u>\$16,214.35</u>

- Although the NWNC can rollover the maximum of \$10k, they must surrender the remaining \$6,214.35 to the city’s general fund. To alleviate this in the future, the NWNC will attempt to spend larger amounts at the beginning or middle of the fiscal year.

e. Approval of Monthly GBM Minutes for June 2022 NWNC Meeting Minutes.

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the June minutes; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

- o Abby reported the August meetings would be as follows:

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Executive Committee	Wednesday August 3 rd	7PM	Zoom
General Board	Tuesday August 9 th	6.15PM	Zoom

- o She then adjourned the meeting at 8PM.