

DRAFT MINUTES
 Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
 General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom
 Tuesday, 9 August 2022

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.18PM and welcomed [eventually] all ten board members and over nine stakeholders.
- 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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Veteran Jorge Jimenez led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comments

- Glenn Bailey stated that he hoped that the new LAUSD Superintendent, Alberto Carvalho, would be available to attend the monthly Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting on Thursday, August 11th at 6.30PM. Mr. Carvalho had previously been unable to attend the June or July meetings.
- Folks from Metro may also attend this meeting to talk about the Bus Rapid Transit project.

IV. Announcements

Agenda Item	Event	Date	Time	Notes
a.	NWNC Executive Committee Meeting	Tuesday, September 6 th	7PM	Via Zoom
b.	NWNC General Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 13 th	6.15PM	Via Zoom
c.	NWNC Ice Cream Social	Saturday, September 17 th	10.30AM to 2.30PM	At the Oakridge Park; including a historic designation at the Oakridge Estate House
d.	2022 LA Congress of Neighborhood Councils	Saturday, September 24	Via Zoom	This is open to board members as well as stakeholders

V. Presentation of NWNC Certificate of Acknowledgement to Yi Ding.

- Ding thanked everyone for this certificate, and was granted a virtually round of applause.

VI. Presidential Comments – 2022-23 Goals for the NWNC

- Abby urged board members to think about their goals and priorities for FY2022-23.
- The following were the goals and priorities for FY2021-22:
 - Help our NWNC neighbors get answers and services from the city
 - Communicate with city leaders on behalf of the NWNC neighbors
 - Actively support groups who are helping our neighborhood with Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs)
 - Accomplish Community Impact Statements (CISs) that make NWNC a healthier and happier place to be

- Abby also congratulated the moms and dads who have kids going back to school; some as soon as this Thursday, August 11th to Granada Hills Charter High School.

VII. Government Reports

a. Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division

Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora was not available, so Mikkie Loi from the Community Police Advisory Board reported the following:

- She thanked the NWNC for participating in the Tuesday, August 2nd National Night Out
- SLO Efren Corral is now the SLO for most of Chatsworth.
- There will not be basic car meetings in August, but the SLOs from the LAPD's Devonshire Division will continue to communicate.
- Wednesday, August 10th, the Valley Traffic Division will host their monthly Zoom meeting beginning at 6.30PM. Jeff Bell is their interim officer for the Devonshire Division; please reach out to Officer Bell with any traffic concerns.
- Please mark your calendar for the Supports of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID)'s 25th annual All You Can Eat Pasta Dinner on Friday, October 7th at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at Plummer Street and Balboa Boulevard.
- Mikkie also reported that aggravated assaults are on the rise. In July, the Devonshire Division saw the following crimes:
 - 50 Serious, part one crimes (thirteen in SLO Zamora's area), including
 - 1 Rape
 - 9 Grand theft autos
 - 9 Robberies
 - 12 Thefts

b. CD12 City Council Representative

- Public Safety Deputy Matt Hernandez, who interacts with LAFD, LAPD, and other public safety departments, thanked the NWNC for participating in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2nd, and reported the following:
 - There is concern regarding an upcoming ballot measure, which would allow land use managers to use vacant hotel and motel rooms for homeless individuals (who would first be referred by their service provider). This anticipated ballot measure has not yet been fully approved to appear on the March 2024 ballot, as there are a great many unknowns:
 - Eminent domain has not yet been determined
 - How will this measure differentiate from project room key? Sonny added that project room key was used during COVID whereupon the housing department reserved an entire hotel (engaging space that would have been used by travelers)
 - Who would pay for any damages or illnesses caused by the unhoused?
 - What about those who are here for vacations, tourism, and business travel?
 - Could the new Hampton Inn of Porter Ranch be designated as a homeless shelter?
 - Matt discussed city council file 20-1376-S1, which amends municipal code 41.18. This prohibits tents on public rights of way within 500' of fire hydrants, schools, licensed day care centers, and driveways. Although previously approved by city council, this expired during the COVID pandemic. This again passed city council earlier this day.

c. Other Government Departments/Agencies

- No one from other government agencies was available to provide a report.

d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Joel Gonzalez from DONE mentioned that Digital Communications Policy Training would begin on Tuesday, August 30th at 6.30PM via Zoom. The new policy will become effective on Tuesday, October 4th.
- Neighborhood council funding training (mandatory for treasurers, credit card holders, and signers) will be held on Tuesdays, October 9th at 2PM and October 23rd at 6PM.
- Additional information on the Neighborhood Council Core Institute training is available at <https://empowerla.org/workshops-trainings/>. Previous training opportunities (including reviews of Robert’s Rules of Order, the Brown Act, Town Halls, Hosting Political Forums, etc.) are also available online via this website.
- DONE will pay (or reimburse) for one Zoom license for each neighborhood council. Each license costs approximately \$200. If desired, a neighborhood council could pay for additional licenses.
- The virtual Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be on Saturday, September 24th with the theme “The Future of LA”.
- Council File 11-1020-S3, which amends the city’s administrative code regarding the budget advocate’s fund account and term substitution, is currently with the city council’s Budget and Finance Committee.

e. Budget Advocate

- Glenn Bailey reported that the Budget Advocates annual budget day was held on Saturday, June 18th and the recording is available on their website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>. This website also includes training from previous years.
- The new budget advocates have started their two-year term. They will host a retreat on Saturday, August 20th to define priorities and establish committees.
- Glenn will continue his service to the advocates by serving in Region 3 (covering the southwest valley). Region three advocates (for the northwest valley) Brian Allen and Garry Fordyce will be joined by new advocate Scott Wright from the Northridge South Neighborhood Council (NSNC). Brian, Garry, and Scott hope to distribute monthly written reports.
- The structure of the budget advocates started twenty-years ago under Mayor James Hahn. Each neighborhood council appointments two budget representatives. Region two covers eight neighborhood councils, hence sixteen representatives choose the three advocates. If representatives are not available, the treasurer [and if necessary, the president] votes for the advocates.
- The advocates meet bi-monthly on the 1st Monday at 7PM and on the 3rd Saturday at 9.30AM.

VIII. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive

- Abby reported that the NWNC might host a retreat this autumn, after the September 17th Ice Cream Social. It is hoped that this could be held at a restaurant so that the public may attend.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen would like to hear from stakeholders for safety issues that should be brought to the NWNC’s attention.

c. Planning and Land Use

- Chairwoman Jennifer will host a meeting on Friday, August 19th or 26th.
- She has great concern about the upcoming new apartment building to be built on the northwest corner of the mall’s parking lot. When Jennifer attended a Zoning Committee meeting, the hosts mentioned that they never received the opposition letter from the NWNC.

- She was disappointed that the city is very lenient towards developers. Jennifer had over 900 signers on her petitions, yet they did not seem to matter to the city. The people of Northridge, Chatsworth, and Granada Hills have been trying to stop big projects, including a proposed Home Depot at 16830 Devonshire Street.
 - Brian suggested tracking the letter; perhaps it was sent to the wrong person, or whoever received the letter may not have properly acknowledged it.
- d. Elections
- Glen Wilson reported that the 2023 election would reflect seven of the thirteen available seats on the NWNC. As he will be up for re-election, Glen may be ineligible to lead the Elections Committee.
 - Glenn Bailey reported that the city clerk's office will run the elections and coordinate ballots, vote tallies, etc. He added that the Neighborhood Council Election Handbook could be released very soon to help govern the election rules.
 - Abby and Kathleen will meet with DONE on Thursday, August 11th; that meeting may include a discussion on the upcoming election.
- e. Homelessness
- Sonny has a map of available hotel rooms for unhoused individuals.
 - He also discussed the recently passed city council file 20-1376-S1, which amends municipal code 41.18. This requires signage prohibiting campsites within 500' of schools, day-care facilities, libraries, subway entrances, and facilities that house homeless individuals, such as the Trebek Center at 18140 Parthenia Street.
- f. Government Affairs
- Abby mentioned that potential government affairs issues could be brought before the Executive Committee in lieu of the Government Affairs Committee.
- g. Beautification
- Jorge recently met with Matt and Kathy from CD12 at the August 2nd National Night Out. They discussed that if stakeholders see any tree issues on the streets that should be corrected, they should reach out to Matt so he can report these issues to the city's Urban Forestry Department.
 - Jorge and Jill Mather (from Volunteers Cleaning Communities) are coordinating a big cleanup along Devonshire Street.
 - Jorge may work with the West Valley Alliance. He and Kathleen mentioned that this agency works with the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) to help clean-up Reseda Boulevard.
 - Regretfully, the NWNC struck out with the "Beautify LA" grant. However, Jorge is trying to revive the art installation project. He hopes to further discuss this with Myrka Martinez from Councilman Lee's office.
- h. Budget
- There is a \$.86 foreign transaction fee for website hosting; this appears to be holding up the entire Monthly Expenditure Report (MER). Joel's recent email correspondence with the city clerk's office has resulted in no reply. Once this issue is resolved, the city clerk's office will release the MER.
 - If this issue is not resolved by the September 6th Executive Committee meeting, Abby may request that the NWNC submit a letter of protest.

i. Outreach

- Janis is working on the September 17th Ice Cream Social alongside her fellow committee members Angelica and Sonny.
- As the NWNC is running low on promotional items, Janis has spoken with four companies which could provide these items:

4Imprint	Deluxe
4AllPromos	PrintGlobe
- She received quotes for crayons, whistles, Frisbees, and twist-and-chill fans, with the NWNC logo attached. This will be further discussed in agenda item IX.d.

IX. New Business

a. Possible motion to approve applicant, Mr. Greg Wood, for the vacant seat, At Large #9

- Greg has already reviewed the NWNC by-laws and attended the Executive Committee meeting.
- His family has lived in Northridge for over forty years, his kids attended Nobel Middle School, and they remain active in the community.
- He previously served on the Commission for Disabilities for the city (appointed by Mayor Riordan) as well as an advisor for the city’s Diversity Committee. Greg has also served as Chairman of Joni and Friends, a faith based organization.
- Greg has several degrees from UCLA and served as an adjunct professor at Pepperdine. He was a control systems engineer at Hughes Aircraft, and then changed his career to become an attorney, mediator, and arbitrator. He has written several pieces of legislation concerning trade secrets, and saw several become law.
- Jorge asked which committee Greg would be interested in joining. Greg replied that he would like to contribute to the Government Affairs Committee, due to his experience in that area. He could also support other committees.
- Brian asked whatever happened to Bobby Cagle who appeared at the April meeting; this may be discussed off-line.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve Greg Wood joining the NWNC; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (6)	Bailes, Edwards, Jimenez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wilson
Abstain (3)	Cathcart, Krowne, and Liampetchakul
Absent (1)	Robinson

b. Discussion and possible motion to appoint up to two Budget Representatives to represent NWNC, default appointees are Treasurer and President

- Sonny and Treasurer Joel volunteered for this position.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve Sonny and Joel serving as Budget Representatives for the NWNC; Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

c. Discussion and possible motion to increase spending on NWNC’s Ice Cream Social and Oakridge Estate Historic Site Dedication event on September 17th from \$2,000 to \$3,000

- The ice cream vendor has a minimum of \$900 for 200 servings. However, there may be more than 200-servings as this event may attract 250 to 400 attendees.
- If the NWNC does not spend the full \$3,000, the money will remain in the treasury.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9)	Bailes, Cathcart, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Robinson, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Edwards

- d. Discussion and possible motion to spend up to \$2,000 to purchase NWNC outreach items
- Janis mentioned that items purchased would be for the minimum available for review prior to making a commitment for a large quantity of items.
 - Abby added that the Outreach Committee does not need to spend the full \$2,000 at this time; once approved, Janis and the committee can re-order additional items in a few months.
 - Brian asked if vendors could deliver a sample item by September 12th for review at the September NWNC meeting.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this \$2,000 expenditure; Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- e. Discussion and possible motion to submit feedback letter to the Neighborhood Council Clerks Funding Department, Director of Neighborhood Council Funding, Janet.A.Hernandez@LACity.org regarding change of rules for purchase of Neighborhood Watch signs, process, and permits for neighborhood councils
- The NWNC submitted multiple forms, worked with the LAPD, and coordinated the purchase of Neighborhood Watch signs. However, the city blocked this purchase.
 - In response to this rejection, the NWNC would like to write a letter to the Director of Neighborhood Council Funding for the Neighborhood Council Clerks Funding Department, Ms. Janet Hernandez.
 - Kathleen suggested cc'ing the city's director of funding, as well as CD12.
 - Sonny suggested making this Neighborhood Watch signage expense a type of Outreach. However, that suggestion was rejected.
 - Glenn Bailey reported that the NENC purchased these signs a few years ago; however, the rules have since changed. He recommended that this letter should be escalated to the highest level, as there are three levels above Ms. Hernandez.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this letter; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- f. Discussion and possible motion to cancel affiliation with the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness (WVNAH)
- The WVNAH has voted upon and supported several questionable issues, such as retaining a bicycle chop shop as a valid source of income. However, this chop shop could be an illegal business that generates criminal activity.
 - Although the NWNC chooses to no longer support WVNAH, individual board members could continue to support them.
 - Brian asked if there was evidence that WVNAH violated their own or the NWNC's by-laws.
 - Kathleen added that NWNC board members and stakeholders are prohibited from voting [at WVNAH meetings] on WVNAH issues.
 - The WVNAH may have politicized issues by endorsing certain candidates. Kathleen offered to send a screenshot whereupon the WVNAH endorsed a candidate for controller. Such endorsements should not be tolerated.
 - Brian suggested sending a letter to DONE and CD12, explaining why the NWNC is withdrawing from the WVNAH.
 - Mihran Kalaydjian from the Warner Center Neighborhood Council (previously with the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council) suggested adding Supervisor Kuehl's office to distribution of this letter.
 - Joel wondered if this issue has been discussed with other neighborhood councils. Steve Slutzah from the NSNC mentioned that there are multiple neighborhood councils that are considering withdrawing from the WVNAH. Abby added that the WVNAH is using the NWNC as a sponsor.

- Glenn Bailey added that when WVNAH first started, it was about sharing information with the sixteen neighborhood councils west of the 405. Each neighborhood council had a vote, as well as the six or eight chairs of the WVNAH, and a group called the “West Valley Yes” organization. He added that the WVNAH has never voted on a newly introduced issue. They will discuss an issue, ask meeting attendees to return it to their neighborhood council for discussion, and then vote on this issue at a follow-on meeting. They also do not present a CIS to the voters prior to voting on this CIS. This action is a clear violation of several neighborhood council by-laws. He added that WVNAH probably did not know that this was agendized for tonight’s NWNC.
- Brian suggested agendizing alliances, as the committees are agendized.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to cancel the NWNC’s affiliation with WVNAH; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, yet it did not pass.

Aye (1)	Edwards
No (9)	Bailes, Cathcart, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Robinson, and Wilson

- Brian Cathcart made a motion for the NWNC to write a letter of concern to DONE (with a cc: to CD12 and Supervisor Kuehl) regarding WVNAH’s violations of by-laws (including not allowing a vote by area neighborhood councils) prior to cancelling the NWNC’s affiliation; Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the original letter of concern to WVNAH as a “cease and desist” request, with cc: to DONE, CD12, and Supervisor Kuehl’s offices; Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9)	Bailes, Cathcart, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Robinson, and Wilson
No (1)	Edwards

- g. Motion to approve the NWNC Elections Form to be submitted to the City
- The form for the NWNC’s 2023 elections has been completed, requesting the voting time from 9AM to 3PM. The location will either be the Noble Middle School (at Lassen Street and Tampa Avenue) or the Northridge Christian Church (at Chatsworth Street and Wilbur Avenue); the city will make the final decision.
 - Outreach Chair Janis Kraft will serve as elections coordinator, with Glen Wilson as her deputy.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- h. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report for July 2022
- A \$.87 foreign transaction fee is holding up this MER, so there was no discussion at this time.
- i. Approval of Monthly GBM Minutes for July 2022 NWNC Meeting Minutes
- There was a slight correction on page 4, item D, whereupon the last sentence was deleted.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the July minutes; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (8)	Bailes, Cathcart, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Robinson, and Wilson
Abstain (2)	Edwards and Jimenez

- X. Adjournment
- Abby adjourned the meeting at 8.35PM.