

DRAFT MINUTES  
 Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
 General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom  
 Tuesday, 10 January 2023

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.17PM and welcomed ten board members and at least ten stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:  
 Here (10) Abigail Bailes, Brian Cathcart, Jorge Jimenez, Janis Kraft, Jennifer Krowne, Sonny Liampetchakul, Joel Lowell, Angelica Robinson, Glen Wilson, and Greg Wood  
 Absent (1) Kathleen Edwards

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- A computer video led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comments

- Jason Hector from the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) mentioned that there are three big dead pine trees near the LADWP facility at 11051 Tampa Avenue. He could reach out to CD12 on the NWNC’s behalf, but perhaps it would be better if the NWNC reached out themselves. When the PRNC reached out, CD12 installed new trees. Abby replied that Jorge is already working alongside CD12 for new trees.
- Stakeholder Lionel Mares reported that Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9AM, Sherman Way would be closed to vehicular traffic between Lindley and Shoup Avenues for the annual CicLAvia. Please visit their website at <https://www.ciclavia.org> for additional information.
- In addition, Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, StreetsLA will host a meeting with Councilwoman Nithya Raman from CD4 to advocate for increased bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Glenn Bailey from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council mentioned that the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils would feature Jennifer Valdivia, the newly appointed north valley representative to the Bureau of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC). The agenda also includes a discussion of the proposed EmpowerLA budget for FY2023--24.
- Glenn also reported that CalTrans originally predicted finishing the work at the Reseda Boulevard exit from the 118 freeway by the end of 2022. This completion date has moved to late March 2023.

IV. Announcements

Agenda Item	Event	Date	Time	Notes
a.	NWNC Executive Committee Meeting	Tuesday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>	7PM	Via Zoom
b.	NWNC General Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.15PM	Via Zoom

## V. Presidential Comments

- Abby mentioned that when a new person comes to the board, they are optimistic that things will be accomplished. However, standard government procedures seem to show things down. Please look at the NWNC with good faith.

## VI. Welcome Guest Speaker – Paola Posada, Neighborhood Council Election Administrator for NWNC's Region Two (northwest valley)

- Abby mentioned that the NWNC looks forward to replacing seven seats via their election on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Paola reported that the 2023 NWNC elections would be hybrid via mail, or ballots may be dropped off at any polling location in Region Two; the city clerk's team continues to work on a specific polling location within the NWNC boundaries.
- Vote by mail ballots will start being mailed on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Applications can be requested via the following online portal <https://clerk.lacity.org/clerk-services/elections/nc-elections>.
- The county's election drop-boxes will not be used; there will be signage that the boxes are sealed to prevent folks from dropping off their ballot.
- A negative COVID test result and masks will be required to enter a voting site. Otherwise, voters can complete their ballots remotely in their vehicle.
- Votes will be counted on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> with unofficial results on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and official results on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. New board members will take their positions on July 1 and be officially sworn in at the July 11<sup>th</sup> NWNC meeting.
- For additional info, please visit the election website at <https://clerk.lacity.org/clerk-services/elections/nc-elections>.
- Glenn Bailey added that later this month, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) will host a meeting for region two election and outreach representatives.
- NWNC candidate registration opens Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>; we hope to have a list of candidates (with their statements and photographs) by Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

## VII. Government Reports

### a. Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division

- Abby reminded everyone about the telephone number 1-877-ASK-LAPD for non-emergencies.
- Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora's reported that her territory is from Lassen Street to Roscoe Boulevard, and Tampa to Variel Avenues, including the mall.
- Her neighborhood watch meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month via Zoom; it is unknown when in-person meetings will be held again.
- The LAPD is thankful for extra funds provided by CD12 to cover overtime at the Northridge Fashion Center, the Vineyards of Porter Ranch, and the Northridge Plaza Shopping Center along Corbin Avenue (where Target and Kohls are located).
- Her Northridge territory had 62 crimes in December. Christmas week usually sees a great many crimes, but Northridge saw merely five.
- Sandra's territory saw a total of 1,193 crimes in 2022, whereas SLO Parker's territory saw 906 crimes (a 200% increase from the previous year). This area has seen many burglaries nearly every night, but most crimes take place Thursdays and Fridays between midnight and 6AM.
- SLO Efen Corral's area (covering most of Chatsworth) saw a 280% increase with nearly 300 crimes.

- Sandra urged that if folks see a suspicious vehicle, please call it in. Those people may be waiting for folks to go out for the night. Please also file a report if you have footage from your Ring [or similar front door] camera.
  - The LAPD's gang unit is very active in this area. There was recently a shooting at Schoenborn Street and Lindley Avenue. Gang members have also been visiting Park Parthenia. Although they no longer live there, they stop by and visit.
  - Narcotic units are watching the RVs. The narcotics team, along with the SLOs, can get search warrants to tour a suspicious RV. If they receive a report of a vacant RV, they will check it daily for a week. If there is no response, they may request a tow away.
  - The LAPD's Valley Traffic Division (VTD) meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 6.30PM. Their Zoom link is <https://lapd.zoom.us/j/86806957415>
  - Please email Sandra at 34957@lapdonline for any non-emergencies, including suspicious items or meeting invitations (please grant them a 30-day window).
  - Please call 911 if you witness a crime in progress. Do not call the front desk, as they cannot send vehicles.
  - Jorge mentioned that he and his neighbors watched as four suspicious people in a BMW drove back and forth along their street. The riders mentioned that they were waiting for a friend from a house that the neighbors knew to be vacant. Sandra recommended that they call 911 for something like that.
  - LAPD Community Relations volunteer Mikkie Loi reported that the December NWNC meeting included a discussion regarding drivers not stopping at the intersection of Shirley Avenue and Prairie Street. A volunteer unit monitored seven violators. They reported this to the VTD who sent an officer. He observed merely one violator but will continue to keep this intersection on his rotation.
  - Abby mentioned an issue that arose at an executive committee meeting; are there any guidelines for monuments for folks who died at an accident site? Sandra did not know about that and could get back to her about that issue.
  - Someone mentioned that there was a concern about the traffic light pattern at the Tampa exit from the westbound 118 freeway. This would be a Department of Transportation issue, but violators could fall under the VTD.
  - Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, the LAPD will host meetings with retailers and business owners; the Porter Ranch meeting will be at 10AM, the Chatsworth meeting will be at 11AM. They hope to have future meetings quarterly.
- b. CD 12 City Council Representative
- Public Safety Deputy Matt Hernandez from CD12 reported that he just came from a debriefing, alongside Councilman Lee, at the Iverson Road sinkhole in Chatsworth.
  - Councilman Lee hopes to host "Conversations with the Councilman" within the next three months; Matt will have additional information at the February 14<sup>th</sup> NWNC meeting.
  - Please reach out to Matt if anyone would like Councilman Lee to attend their event.
  - Glenn Bailey heard that John Lee co-authored a motion [earlier today] for virtual city council meetings. Matt did not have any information on that as he was at the sinkhole all day.
- c. Other Government Departments/Agencies
- Jenna Sickenius, field representative for newly elected assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo, reported that she has been in touch with Eric from CalTrans regarding the closure of the Reseda Boulevard off-ramp. Eric mentioned that phase one of the construction has been

completed. However, they have been unable to proceed due to the holidays and rain. Crews are onsite to monitor the potential damage from the rain.

- Please reach out to their office via their website at <https://a40.asmdc.org> regarding any state issues, as they serve as a bridge to the various agencies. Jenna's co-worker Gabby monitors the "contact me" area of that website.

d. DONE

- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Joel Gonzalez from DONE was unavailable to attend this meeting.

e. Budget Advocate

- Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that they have met with most of the city's departments in support of their annual white paper. They have not yet met with the LAFD, LAPD, Street Services, nor Recreation and Parks Departments.
- Several reports have been drafted, yet none have been finalized.
- The advocates are also working on the transition alongside Mayor Bass. She will release the city's budget on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Advocates have reached out to DONE to co-host a meeting/town hall to discuss their proposed budget requests. The tentative date is Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>; this will allow time for a full presentation and a Q&A.
- The advocate's 2023 Budget Day will be Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. It is not yet known if this will be in-person at city hall, hybrid, or via Zoom.
- Jason Hector from the PRNC strongly encourages the NWNC to request an increase to the pre-pandemic neighborhood council budgets back up to \$42k. He also urged all board members to attend as many city meetings as possible.

## VIII. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

b. Public Safety

- There was no report as Kathleen was absent.

c. Planning, Land Use, and Zoning (PLUZ)

- Chairwoman Jennifer stepped down as she lacks the time due to her other commitments. Brian volunteered to serve in this capacity.

d. Elections

- Glen Wilson had no news to report.

e. Homelessness

- Sonny reported that Mayor Bass has initiated a state of emergency for homelessness. She hopes to house 15,000 by the end of 2023.
- The most recent LA county homeless count reflected 69,000 individuals; most are within the city.
- Earlier today, the county's board of supervisors approved local homeless services, as well as to provide quarterly reports for major homeless expenditures.

- f. Government Affairs
  - No update was available.
- g. Beautification
  - Jorge recently connected with a stakeholder who asked about the Tampa Avenue topiaries. He also met with a landscaper, who is working with the city to become certified. It is often difficult to find licensed landscapers to do the work.
  - Sonny added that there may be a new sprinkler system along Tampa Avenue, but it may not be turned on yet.
- h. Budget
  - Treasurer Joel reported that the NWNC has received their \$10k rollover from the previous fiscal year.
- i. Outreach
  - Janis reported that the Outreach Committee met last week, and discussed the following possible outreach activities:
    - Erect the NWNC booth at grand openings, new restaurants, and polling places
    - Co-host a blood drive alongside Providence Cedars-Sinai Hospital
    - Represent the NWNC at the LAPD's February 28<sup>th</sup> meetings with retailers and business owners

#### IX. New Business

- a. Motion to move \$1,000 from Clean Streets Special Funds to Neighborhood Council Election Outreach
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- b. Motion to move \$8,000 from Rollover funds to Neighborhood Council Election Outreach; motion from Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) passed 3:0
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- c. Motion to move \$2,000 from Rollover funds to Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG); motion from ECM passed 3:0
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- d. Motion to approve the 6x9" postcard mailing for NWNC Elections Outreach
  - Kristina recommended adding "vote" in addition to the verb "run" to this postcard.
  - There was a discussion about moving elements of the postcard around.
  - The postcard's QR code will direct folks to the <https://northridgewest.org> website
  - The reverse side of the postcard will include a map of the NWNC's boundaries.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the 6x9" postcard with the aforementioned modifications, including updating the QR code and changing the return address to NWNC rather than northridgewest.org; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- e. Motion to spend up to \$5,000 from NC Election Outreach funds for C&M Printing services to print and mail the NWNC Election postcard to NWNC residents
  - This postcard project will take two-weeks from submittal [to the printer] to mailing. Households should receive them on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> to support the candidate registration, which opens Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
  
- f. Discussion about possible NWNC Election Outreach event in May-June 2023. Possible motion to create an Ad Hoc Committee to coordinate this event
  - This will be an ad hoc committee, looser than a regular formal committee, to create an election outreach event on either Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> or June 3<sup>rd</sup>. These dates would have to be confirmed with the city's Recreation and Parks Department to verify the availability of the Oakridge Estate and Park.
  - This outreach event could include a meet/greet with local NWNC candidates. The ad hoc committee could reach out to area schools to see if they could provide a band or orchestra for entertainment; in exchange, the NWNC could publicize the NPG system.
  - Janis has already reached out to the Music Department at the Nobel Charter Middle School; they may submit an NPG for music cases.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this ad hoc committee comprised of Janis, Sonny, and Jorge; Brian Cathcart and Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
  
- g. Discussion and possible motion to submit previous comments to BONC and DONE regarding the Digital Communication Policy during open comment period; motion from ECM passed 3:0
  - 5 April 2022, BONC approved the Digital Communication Policy without considering the NWNC's comments regarding free speech. This policy has now been reopened.
  - Glenn Bailey reported that the new deadline could be BONC's meeting of Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>; comments can be added [prior to the vote] during this meeting.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to submit the previous comments to BONC and DONE regarding digital social media; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Here (8)        Bailes, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Wilson, and Wood  
 Abstain (1)    Cathcart  
 Absent (2)     Edwards and Robinson
  
- h. Discussion and possible motion to send By Laws recommendation for Censure Process Equality to BONC
  - During the BONC meeting of 5 April 2022, an update to the by-laws was submitted stating that a board member could call for a fellow board member's censure. However, this censure action could come back to the person who requested the censure and could lead to their own censure. BONC's Review Committee struck these comments.
  - The NWNC would now like to resubmit this by laws comment.
  - Glenn Bailey added that this censure request wording was approved by BONC and installed into the by-laws template, which cannot be changed. He suggested that the NWNC write a Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding this policy. Additional information can be found at BONC's resolution on "a Uniform Policy for Board Member Censure" which can be found at <https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NC-Board-Member-Censure-Policy-2020-03-03.pdf>.

- Abby Bailes made a motion to submit by laws recommendations for the censure process equality to BONC, addressing the policy and including a CIS regarding this issue; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

i. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Reports (MERs) from December 2022

<b>Date</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
December 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	\$135.50
December 15	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Monthly Web Service, August	250.00
December 15	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Monthly Web Service, September	250.00
December 15	Kathleen Edwards	Ice Cream Social	13.13
		Total	<u>\$648.63</u>

- The December MER also included a \$1k NPG to EnrichLA for their local program at the Topeka Elementary School. This check was written, but the EnrichLA team has not yet cashed the check. That will probably appear in the January MER.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the November MER; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

j. Approval of Monthly GBM Minutes for December 2022 NWNC Meeting Minutes.

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the November minutes; Greg Wood seconded this motion. However, many board members did not receive or review the December minutes; hence this agenda item was postponed until February.

X. Adjournment

- Abby adjourned the meeting at 8.29PM.