

DRAFT MINUTES
 Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
 Regular General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom
 Tuesday, 10 September 2024 at 6.15PM

- I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call
 - President Jorge Jiménez called the meeting to order at 6.20PM and welcomed eight board members and at least three stakeholders.
 - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
 Here (8) Zaven Atashian, Kathleen Edwards, Nicolas Haddad, Jorge Jiménez,
 Janis Kraft, Joel Lowell, Angelica Robinson, and Greg Wood
 Absent (3) Aaminah Babatunde-Bea, Brian Cathcart, and Kevin Herzberg

- II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - Nick and Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. General Public Comment
 - Glenn Bailey mentioned that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), representing the valley’s thirty-four neighborhood councils, would meet via Zoom on Thursday, September 12th beginning at 6.30PM. This month’s guest speaker will be Tim Campbell from CityWatch, who has many stories to tell from his thirty-years as a performance auditor. He will discuss homelessness and other issues.
 - Additional information can be found at VANC’s website at <https://vanc34.org/>

- IV. Special Speaker – Jackie Langa, President of the Museum of the San Fernando Valley (MSFV) will Share Information about the Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) submitted to the NWNC to support the Valley Art Faire on Sunday, October 27th at the MSFV
 - Jackie reported on that Sunday, October 27th the MSFV at 18904 Nordhoff Street will host a Valley Arts Faire to promote and market local San Fernando Valley artists by offering them an engaging space on a historical site in which to display and/or sell their work. This event supports the all-volunteer non-profit museum’s mission to give a voice to all valley cultures through their public arts initiative.
 - By inviting the arts community and offering space with tables, chairs, and other items in which to display and/or sell their art to the public, we give artists, the public, and local businesses an opportunity to share our valley’s diversity, artistic culture and communal spirit while creating lasting impressions and connections.
 - There will be no charge for neighborhood councils to attend this event.
 - As will be discussed in agenda item XII.b, Jackie is requesting \$1,866 from the NWNC for this event as follows:

300 copies of the museum’s dual-sided all color tri-fold 8x14” educational mural history/how-to booklet handouts	\$ 300
Printing and creation of marketing fliers, banners, local newspaper ads, and social media/Facebook ad pushes. Printed fliers for the NWNC and museum to distribute and place in public and press vehicles	640
500 8oz Arrowhead water bottles	126
25 8’x30” tables and 75 chairs	800
Total	<u>1,866</u>
 - She added that they are not requesting funds from other neighborhood councils.

- V. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for July 2024
 - Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the July minutes; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (7) Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood
 Abstain (1) Robinson
 Absent (3) Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, and Herzberg

VI. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for August 2024

- Jorge Jiménez made a motion to table this agenda item; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and the motion passed.
 - Aye (7) Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood
 - Abstain (1) Robinson
 - Absent (3) Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, and Herzberg
- Joel Lowell made a motion to remove the previously mentioned tabling motion; Jorge Jiménez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the August minutes; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed.
 - Aye (6) Atashian, Haddad, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood
 - Abstain (1) Edwards
 - Absent (4) Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, and Herzberg, and Robinson

VII. Approval of NWNC Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for August 2024

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the August MER; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
July 10	LA Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)	Zoom License	\$ 387.48
July 26	Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID)	Repurposing of Force Open Simulator	5,000.00
August 1	Wal-Mart SuperCenter	Storage Containers	26.23
August 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	153.50
August 2	Apple One	Meeting Minutes	179.20
August 6	US Post Office	PO Box Rental	302.00
August 6	Smart and Final	Ice for National Night Out	6.01
		Total	<u>\$6,054.42</u>

VIII. Announcements - Comments from the Board Members on non-agenda items within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction

- a. October 1st NWNC Executive Board Meeting
- b. October 8th NWNC General Board Meeting
- c. DONE Training Updates for Board Members
 - Jorge reported that all NWNC board members are up-to-date with their training.

IX. Presidential Comments

- Jorge urged everyone to stay safe and hydrated during this wicked heat wave.
- He thanked the ad hoc advisory committee that is coordinating the October 27th Valley Art Faire.

X. Government Reports

- a. Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division
 - The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
 - Devonshire Community Relations Volunteer Mikkie Loi reported that there is a new Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Anthony Sigston working out of the Devonshire Division; his email address is 40990@lapd.online.

- There continues to be a great deal of shoplifting as well as grand theft auto and burglary from motor vehicles at the mall. Automotive burglary is especially prevalent in the parking area closest to Nordhoff Street and Tampa Avenue. Although the LAPD is working closely with mall security, everyone is reminded to not keep things in their car.
 - Residential burglaries have decreased but please do not lower your guard and continue to harden the target to make it more difficult for criminals.
 - Wednesday, September 25th beginning at 6PM SLO Sandra Zamora will host her monthly in-person Basic Car Meeting at the Northridge United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 9650 Reseda Boulevard. Among the agenda items will be a presentation by representatives of the Northridge Hospital on Stop the Bleed, whereupon the first fifty registrants will learn what it takes to stop blood loss, including
 - Hemorrhage control
 - Review and practice vital skills, and
 - Act quickly when it counts
 - Concurrently, SLOs Corral and Sigston will host a Neighborhood Watch Meeting at the Vineyards at Porter Ranch, 20065 Rinaldi Street.
 - Friday, September 27th from 5PM to 8PM will be SOLID's 27th Annual All You Can Eat Pasta Dinner for \$15/person at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 9501 Balboa Boulevard. Tickets are available at soliddevonshire.org. That same evening, beginning at 6PM, the Police Activity League Supports (PALS) will host a Crime Busters Bingo Night, including an auction, games, prizes, food, and drinks at the LAPD's PALS facility at 8721 Wilbur Avenue.
- b. CD12 City Council Representative
- Special Projects Deputy Jonathan Coto from CD12 reported that council members Lee and Traci Park (from West LA) introduced a motion opposing Assembly Bill 1082, which recently passed the assembly and is currently with the state senate. This bill would amend the vehicle code to restrict the towing of vehicles with five or more parking citations.
 - Councilman Lee recently acquired funding to support an additional day of support for CD12's Rapid Response Team's sanitation truck.
 - The Northridge Pool at 10058 Reseda Boulevard has extended their hours of operation from 1PM to 5PM through Sunday, September 29th.
 - CD12's Excellence in Leadership Program is a high school leadership development program to train and cultivate the next generation of young leaders in our community. Students will interact with a dynamic group of leaders in public service and learn:
 - How the city functions,
 - Participate in the political and civic process,
 - Formulate public policy, and
 - Expand their leadership capacity
 - Applications are due by Friday, September 13th.
- c. Other Government Departments/Agencies
- No other government representatives were available to provide a report.
- d. DONE
- The NWNC's Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate from DONE, Joel Gonzalez, was unavailable to provide a report.
- e. Budget Advocates, budgetadvocates.org

- Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that they are working on an “Intro to the City Budget” presentation, hosted by Jacob Wexler from the office of the city’s administrative officer. As a developer of the city budget, he will share his expertise on budgets, including revenue, policies, preparation, where to find info, etc. This will be Saturday, September 14th beginning at 1PM via Zoom.
- The advocates have recently created department teams comprised of advocates, budget representatives, neighborhood council board members, former board members, and stakeholders. They will meet in October and November.
- The 2025 budget day will Saturday, June 21st beginning at 8.30AM at City Hall.
- In response in Kathleen query, Glenn explained that the Budget Advocates go back to the formation of the neighborhood council system in 1999 under Mayor Hahn. The advocate’s current structure has twelve regions [each with three advocates] covering the 99 neighborhood councils. The NWNC is in region two, which covers eight neighborhood councils in the northwest valley. The advocates serve a two-year term. The neighborhood council budget representatives lack a term limit; they can serve for a brief or long-term period.

XI. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- Jorge reported that the committee met on Tuesday, September 3rd; many of tonight’s agenda topics were discussed.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen reported that there are several cooling centers available in the west valley, including the Northridge Pool, the Wilkinson Multi-Purpose Senior Center at 8956 Vanalden Avenue, and the following libraries:

10640 Petit Avenue, Granada Hills	19036 Vanowen Street, Reseda
11371 Tampa Avenue, Porter Ranch	20939 Sherman Way, Canoga Park
16244 Nordhoff Street, North Hills	21052 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth
- Kathleen expressed concern about human trafficking. West Gage Avenue, between South Figueroa Street and the 110 freeway, has been exposed as ground zero for trafficking, with a victim as young as 11-years. Under current law, human trafficking of a minor incurs a sentence of up to twelve years in prison. If the crime involves force, fear, fraud, deceit, coercion, violence, duress, menace, or threat, the sentence is fifteen years to life. If the person is convicted of inflicting great bodily harm on the victim while trafficking them, a judge can add up to ten years to a prison sentence. Under the new law, people convicted of child sex trafficking can face potential life sentences.

c. Government Affairs

- Greg recently attended a presentation by Public Democracy LA. This was a great learning experience.
- One of his accomplished neighbors [and a former client] Diana Delgado expressed interest in joining the NWNC board. It is strongly recommended that board members recruit friends and neighbors to join the NWNC.

d. Planning and Land Use

- There was no report as Brian was absent.

e. Elections

- Glenn mentioned that he attended the city clerk’s workgroup meeting on Tuesday, August 27th. The 2025 election will be 100% vote by mail. Paola will continue as the elections administrator, with Michael Lektorich from the city clerk’s office overseeing the entire operation. They discussed the following dates:

Friday, January 17 th	Candidate Filing Period Begins
Monday, March 3 rd	Candidate Filing Period Ends
Friday, March 21 st	Deadline to Announce Board Affirmation
Tuesday, April 15 th	Candidate Photo/Statement Deadline
Tuesday, April 15 th	Ballot Mailing Begins
Sunday, May 11 th	Vote-by-Mail Application Period Ends
Tuesday, May 20 th	Election Day
Tuesday, May 27 th	Unofficial Results Due
Wednesday, June 4 th	Official Results Due/Certification Deadline

- Ballots must be postmarked by the Tuesday, May 20th election day. Additional information can be found at <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections/neighborhood-council-elections>.
- The NWNC will not do self-affirmation; they will assume that whoever registers to vote lives within the NWNC boundaries. However, it could be a red flag if they receive 40+ registrants at the same street address.
- The city clerk’s election officials will have their own ballot boxes. However, they will not be within every neighborhood council. They may be located at a few [but not all] parks and libraries.

f. Homelessness

- Angelica did not have a report.

g. Beautification

- Jorge had not updates.

h. Budget

- Treasurer Joel reviewed the current NWNC financials:

Annual Budget			\$32,000.00
Adjustment			6,603.86
Budgeted Amount			38,603.86
Expense to Date	Funding Request	\$6,078.68	
	Credit Card	1,720.34	7,799.02
Total Outstanding	Commitments	2,466.00	3,216.00
	Pending Payments	750.00	
Net Available			<u>\$27,588.48</u>

- He added that a future NWNC meeting should discuss the allocation of the \$6,603.86 rollover from the previous fiscal year.

i. Outreach

- Janis reported that she is working alongside Jackie from the MSFV for the October 27th Valley Arts Faire.

j. Education

- There was no report.

XII. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible motion to approve funding \$5,000 for an NPG submitted by the North Valley Family YMCA to support their annual Thanksgiving Baskets distribution program for families in need in the north San Fernando Valley area.
 - The NWNC approved a \$2,500 NPG during their August meeting. However, Maihili Patil, Chair of the North Valley YMCA, reported that since food prices have increased, along with additional requests for food, the YMCA now requests an additional \$2,500, bringing their total request to \$5,000.

- Janis Kraft made a motion to approve this additional \$2,500 for the YMCA Thanksgiving baskets, bringing the total to \$5,000; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Kathleen requested a follow-up thank you letter, including photographs of the November 15-17 assembly event.
- b. Discussion and possible motion to approve funding of a total of \$2,466 for an NPG submitted by the MSFV to host a Valley Arts Faire on October 27th at the MSFV in Northridge.
- Joel mentioned that when this event was originally proposed, it would have cost the NWNC \$4,000. However, now that the MSFV is hosting, paying for the promotional fliers, etc. [as discussed in agenda item IV], the cost has gone down significantly.
 - Joel Lowell made a motion to approve this NPG; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (6)	Atashian, Haddad, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood
Abstain (1)	Edwards
Absent (4)	Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, Herzberg, and Robinson
- c. Discussion and possible motion for the NWNC to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) on Council File 24-0867 opposing the motion presented by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez to amend Neighborhood Council Bylaws to require councils to hold a Youth Board Member Seat, and impose term limits on board members.
- Although the NWNC supports youth involvement, they have a hard enough problem recruiting regular board members. Requiring a youth member is not advised. Greg advised inviting and encouraging youth to be board members but not make it mandatory. Term limits should be at the board's discretion, not a requirement.
 - Kathleen recently attended a meeting of the neighborhood council coalition. They agreed to oppose these requirements as it is against the spirit of the neighborhood council system.
 - Glenn added that during every two-year election cycle, 50% of the board members drop out to be replaced by new members. He knows of several council whereupon the board members have been around for more than five years.
 - Greg Wood made a motion to submit a CIS opposing a mandatory youth board seat and term limits; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- d. Discussion and possible motion for NWNC to file a CIS on CF 24-0602 to Energy and Environment Committee Motion relative to instructing the Chief Legislative Analyst to report relative to policies and recommendations to transition away from future use of synthetic turf or artificial grass.
- Kathleen mentioned that the city's Urban Forestry Department is against this artificial turf, as the excessive heat is killing trees. She added that a chief legislative analyst is tasked with writing a report on this.
 - Janis wondered why a legislative analyst is writing this, rather than a scientist. Janis and Greg also expressed concern about the micro-management of this. Some say that it causes pollution, but how much? Merely breathing and driving create pollution.
 - There was also a concern that these artificial lawns are only good for up to ten years; what will the landfills look like in ten years with all that former artificial turf?
 - Glenn and Terry Saucier [from the Tarzana Neighborhood Council] reported that the Neighborhood Council Coalition Alliance has had meetings and developed a fact sheet about this issue. Excessive water has been used to wash and cool this artificial turf. In addition, walking on this very hot surface has hurt people and pets. Regretfully, the city's Recreation and Parks Department has spent millions resurfacing soccer fields; however, these fields may only last ten years.
 - Jorge Jiménez made a motion to draft a CIS on CF 24-0602 regarding artificial turf for discussion [and possible approval] at a future NWNC meeting; Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (6)	Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Jiménez, Lowell, and Robinson
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No (1)	Wood
Abstain (1)	Kraft
Absent (3)	Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, and Herzberg

- e. Discussion and possible motion to salvage a non-essential NWNC computer being held in storage from the list of items in the physical inventory report created in July 2024.
 - Jorge will submit a request to the city to approve this salvaging, and [once approved] the city will send someone to Northridge to retrieve this obsolete computer.
 - Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the salvaging of this old computer; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- f. Discussion and possible motion to approve the Mail Room to continue managing the NWNC’s web services for this fiscal year of 2024-25.
 - DONE requires that a new contract be processed every four years.
 - Kathleen expressed concern that the NWNC meeting notices are not posted on Patch; someone replied that Kristina Smith and The Mail Room lack access to Patch. However, Jorge added that the Kristina and the Mail Room post NWNC meeting notices to Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor and X (formerly Twitter).
 - Greg Wood made a motion to approve The Mail Room to continue NWNC website services; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- g. Discussion and possible motion to appoint an NWNC board member to represent the NWNC as a representative of the Budget Advocates
 - Glenn mentioned that this representative would be a point of contact between the NWNC and the advocates.
 - Terry Saucier from the Tarzana Neighborhood Council supports this and feels that all neighborhood councils should engage with the other council’s budget advocates and representatives.
 - Jorge volunteered to serve as a budget representative.
 - Kathleen Edwards made a motion for Jorge Jiménez to serve as the NWNC’s budget representative; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- h. Discussion and possible motion to approve an NWNC recruitment flier for circulation when vacant board member and committee member seats need to be filled.
 - Someone mentioned that the NWNC may soon have two vacant seats to fill. A potential candidate could be Greg’s neighbor, Diana Delgado.
 - Jorge mentioned that he was unable to log in and access the NWNC tri-fold brochure, created for board member recruitment and marketing at the June 1st Meet the Horses [and Park Rangers] event at the Oakridge Estate Park.
 - Jorge Jiménez made a motion to table this agenda item, pending a budget and recruitment flier for circulation; Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment

- o Greg Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.40PM; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.