

DRAFT MINUTES  
 Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
 Regular General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom  
 Tuesday, 8 October 2024 at 6.15PM

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Jorge Jiménez called the meeting to order at 6.18PM and welcomed nine board members and at least three stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
  - Here (9) Aaminah Babatunde-Bea, Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Nicolas Haddad, Kevin Herzberg, Jorge Jiménez, Janis Kraft, Joel Lowell, and Angelica Robinson
  - Absent (2) Zaven Atashian and Greg Wood

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comment

- No one had any public comments.

IV. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for September 2024

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the September minutes; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed.
  - Aye (6) Cathcart, Edwards, Haddad, Jiménez, Kraft, and Lowell
  - Abstain (2) Babatunde-Bea and Herzberg
  - Absent (3) Atashian, Robinson, and Wood

V. Approval of NWNC Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for September 2024

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the September MER; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
August 29	Apple One	Meeting Minutes	\$332.80
September 3	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	165.50
September 20	Kristina Smith/Mail Room	Web Services	250.00
September 20	Kristina Smith/Mail Room	Web Services	250.00
Total			<u>\$998.30</u>

- Three checks have been written which have not yet cleared the bank:

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
September 20	Kristina Smith/Mail Room	Web Services	\$ 250
September 24	North Valley Family YMCA	Neighborhood Purpose	5,000
September 27	Museum of the San Fernando Valley	Grant (NPG)	2,466
Total			<u>\$7,716</u>

- Rollover funds allocation to the NPG account may be discussed during the November meeting.

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

- a. The NWNC Executive Board would normally meet on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. However, that is election night, and that meeting may be rescheduled.

- b. November 12<sup>th</sup> NWNC General Board Meeting
- c. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Training Updates for Board Members
  - Jorge reported that all NWNC board members are up to date with their training.
  - Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1PM will be a presentation by Robert Bader, who recently authored the book, “Zeppo, the Reluctant Marx Brother”. A screening of the Marx Brother’s 1932 movie “Horse Feathers” will follow. Admission is \$10.
  - Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10AM, will be a 75-minute docent-led historic tour of the Oakridge Estate. Admission is \$15.
  - Kathleen mentioned that on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, she attended the North Valley Neighborhood Council Summit, along with Mayor Bass, City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto, Councilman John Lee, Bureau of Neighborhood Commissions (BONC) Commissioner Keren Waters, and EmpowerLA General Manager Carmen Chang. Mayor Bass thanked all the neighborhood councils for all that they do. Kathleen appreciated that Mayor Bass was able to attend, and she noticed that Mayor Bass took extensive notes. The NWNC received a certificate for twenty years of service.
  - Glenn Bailey added that while the NWNC was certified in October 2004, the Northridge East Neighborhood Council was certified a month later in November 2004. At the time, the area councils suggested having one Northridge Neighborhood Council, but BONC determined that this council would be too big.

#### VII. Presidential Comments

- Jorge mentioned that he recently attended the Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> “Intro to the City Budget” presentation hosted by the Budget Advocates.

#### VIII. 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 and Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora were unavailable for this evening’s meeting.
- b. CD12 City Council Representative
  - No one from Councilman Lee’s office was available.
- c. Other Government Departments/Agencies
  - David Bright from Mayor Bass’s office is the West Valley representative who works closely with CD3 and CD12. He can be reached at david.bright@lacity.org. He reported that the city now has a new police chief, Jim McDonnell. In reaching this selection, Mayor Bass received a great deal of input from the LAPD officers, community leaders, neighborhood council members, and the public. Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Bass and Chief McDonnell will host a virtual meeting.
  - The city is focusing on cleaning up homeless campsites with the goal of finding additional space for everyone to live. A recent clean-up resulted in nearly 25 people moving from the streets of Sun Valley to interim housing.
  - Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9AM will be a “Sports and Entertainment Supplier Diversity Summit” at the LA Convention Center. Representatives will discuss how businesses can prepare for the 2028 Olympics.

- In response to someone’s query, the best way to reach Mayor Bass is via her website at <https://mayor.lacity.gov/>. There is a tab there for “Constituent Services” whereupon someone from her staff will reach back to respondents.

d. DONE

- The NWNC’s Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) from DONE, Joel Gonzalez, was unavailable to provide a report.

e. Budget Advocates

- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey thanked Jorge for attending the September 14<sup>th</sup> “Intro to the City Budget” presentation hosted by the Advocates. This presentation is now available online at [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/hYuAFNf5VB-fkheWmSh16zGrPpqRNTadjl5BzxeeRpHQmAA1ly5Ei2qPk3cBldT1rk7THWmavtH5i6sl.uonwkOle0MI\\_87\\_2?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share\\_recording\\_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2F7FbUNAcelFAqUWC67SXM\\_FYaACqwB-nfFC-TTiHpSI3WiVT7kifS-TjHFMnCowXh.dl\\_ErMTdTfMqC3Za](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/hYuAFNf5VB-fkheWmSh16zGrPpqRNTadjl5BzxeeRpHQmAA1ly5Ei2qPk3cBldT1rk7THWmavtH5i6sl.uonwkOle0MI_87_2?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2F7FbUNAcelFAqUWC67SXM_FYaACqwB-nfFC-TTiHpSI3WiVT7kifS-TjHFMnCowXh.dl_ErMTdTfMqC3Za)
- Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6.30PM, the advocates will host a Zoom meeting on “How to Set Up Meetings with City Departments and Bureaus”. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn how they may assist the advocates in preparation for their 2025 White Paper. Jorge looks forward to this meeting and learning more about the white and blue books.
- The advocate’s upcoming report to the neighborhood councils will include Mayor Bass’s comments.
- The 2025 budget day will be Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 8.30AM at City Hall.
- For additional information, the advocates website is <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>

IX. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- Jorge reported that the committee met on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> whereupon they discussed the October 27<sup>th</sup> Valley Art Faire and other things.
- DONE NEA Joel is working to coordinate an in-person location for NWNC board and committee meetings. The previously used Northridge Christian Church at 18901 Chatsworth Street may no longer be available.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen mentioned Healthvana, a patient platform for healthcare providers to help engage, communicate, and manage patients by delivering actionable information via mobile phones. Since 2015, the company has helped facilitate millions of interactions between patients and their healthcare providers. They are now on a mission to help end HIV. They are fortunate to be featured in hundreds of articles across numerous outlets, including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and NPR. Additional information can be found at their website at <https://www.healthvana.com/>
- She also advocated for the recent COVID shot, advised folks to receive their flu vaccine, as well as the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine for those over age 75. For additional information, please visit the county’s Public Health website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/> or call them at 833-540-0473
- In a review of the storage locker, everyone is reminded that the NWNC has idle walkie-talkie [or ham radio] equipment. This will be further discussed in agenda item X.b.

- Stakeholders are urged to participate in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Enrollees in this seven-week program learn about
 

Disaster Fire Suppression	Light Search and Rescue
Disaster Medical Operations	Patient Assessment
Disaster Preparedness	Terrorism
Disaster Psychology	
    - This CERT training was further discussed in agenda item X.b. For additional information, please visit their website at <https://www.cert-la.com/>, call their main line at 213-202-3136, or email them at [lafdcert@lacity.org](mailto:lafdcert@lacity.org)
  - c. Government Affairs
    - There was no report as Greg was absent.
  - d. Planning and Land Use
    - Brian expressed concern about Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADUs). A recent assembly bill required municipalities to have an approved ADU plan in place by 30 January 2025. Perhaps the NWNC should issue a statement to Councilman Lee regarding this issue?
    - Kathleen mentioned that she has several recently constructed ADUs on her small street. There is a concern about congestion, as these ADUs do not require parking, and commercial vs. residential property. One neighbor has their main house, plus four ADUs. The original plan for ADUs mentioned that the owner must remain in the main house.
    - Although not in the NWNC community, stakeholder Joy mentioned that a multi-family dwelling might be built at the southwest corner of White Oak Avenue and Kinsie Street, once the existing house is torn down.
  - e. Elections
    - Mary Lou Gallietta from the city clerk’s office will forward information to Jorge regarding the NWNC’s Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> election; he will then pass this along to the NWNC. In the interim, information can be found at <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections/neighborhood-council-elections>.
  - f. Homelessness
    - Angelica did not have a report.
  - g. Beautification
    - Jorge did not have any 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	\$6,828.68	
	Credit Card	1,905.79	8,734.47
Total Outstanding	Commitments	0.00	
	Pending Payments	7,626.00	7,626.00
Net Available			\$22,243.39

- He hopes to discuss the allocation of rollover funds to the budget's NPG account during the November meeting.
- The updated inventory list has been reported to DONE. Joel has filed the mandatory paperwork to salvage an old NWNC computer; he is awaiting a call from DONE as to when they may come and retrieve that obsolete item.

i. Outreach

- Janis reported that she is working with Jackie Langa from the Museum of the San Fernando Valley for the October 27<sup>th</sup> Valley Arts Faire. Jorge and Joel will join her at the NWNC table.
- The museum hoped to limit the artist attendees to 25, yet over thirty talented artists from the northwest valley have already signed up. They can no longer accept additional artists.
- Janis thanked Glenn Bailey from the Northridge East and Jim Stewart from the Northridge South Neighborhood Councils for their support.

j. Education

- There was no report.

X. New Business

a. Discussion on consideration of updating the NWNC logo with a new design.

- After seeing multiple logos at the September 28<sup>th</sup> Congress, Jorge mentioned that the current NWNC logo shows the silhouette of a house and a tree, but it is difficult to read the words.
- Kathleen mentioned that this logo was established over twenty years ago, and a great deal of money was spent on publicizing it on signs, business cards, shirts, etc. She would prefer not to change the logo due to the potential cost factor. Janis agreed that the logo should not change until all of the existing promotional items are depleted.
- Joel and Angelica recommended reviewing the logos of other neighborhood councils, including Tarzana, Winnetka, Northridge South, and Highland Park.
- Stakeholder Joy suggested hosting a competition, open to the artists in the community, for a potential new logo.
- Brian and Jorge suggested asking the stakeholders what they think of the NWNC logo. Perhaps we could place the original logo alongside proposed new logos, and ask the stakeholders for their opinions?
- Brian Cathcart made a motion to advance this discussion regarding updating the NWNC logo; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Discussion and possible motion to select designated NWNC board members to receive CERT training and become designated point persons for using the NWNC emergency radio walkie-talkies when needed.

- Aaminah, Kevin, Jorge, and Janis offered to take this CERT training in 2025. For those who are already certified, refresher courses are frequently offered at the LAFD station 87 at 10124 Balboa Boulevard, Granada Hills, and station 88 at 5101 Sepulveda Boulevard, Sherman Oaks.
- Kathleen added that David Brown from the Southern California Preparedness Foundation and former NWNC board member Sonny Liampetchakul would be excellent leaders as they have a great many resources. Glenn added that Marty Wahl from Chatsworth is an expert on radio usage and would also be a great asset.

- A rooftop antenna and a ham-radio license are not required to operate the NWNC’s hand-held units.
- c. Discussion and possible motion for NWNC to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) on Council File 24-0562 Bus Driver/Transit Rider/Safety/Protection/Assessment/LA Department of Transportation/LA Police Department/MV Transportation/Teamsters Local 572 which instructs the Department of Transportation (LADOT), with the assistance of the Police Department, the City Attorney’s Office, MV Transportation, and Teamsters Local 572, to report in sixty days with an assessment of bus driver safety concerns, safeguards implemented, and recommendations to protect the City’s contract bus drivers and the transit riding public safe from harm, including estimated costs and implementation timelines, as well as a summary of steps that are being implemented by the LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to protect their bus drivers.
  - Jorge mentioned that this stems from several incidents earlier this year, including on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, when video captured an unhoused woman attacking a DASH driver near the intersection of Central Avenue and Jefferson Boulevard. The driver can be heard telling the passenger to get out of the bus as the assailant reaches over a protective barrier.
  - This event occurred just two days after LA County Metro bus drivers staged a “sick out” protesting similar safety concerns. Recently, Metro declared a public safety emergency in response to several high-profile assaults. For example, a person carrying a gun hijacked a driver and another was stabbed.
  - Frontline transit workers across the county have been dealing with increasing hostility from unruly passengers. Federal data has demonstrated that between 2008 and 2022, the number of assaults nationwide resulting in death or medical transport increased from 168 to 492. Research from the Urban Institute has shown that assaults on transit workers have tripled over the last fifteen years. The violence inflicted on bus drivers is unacceptable and the city should quickly respond to ensure that our bus drivers and passengers are safe.
  - On September 25<sup>th</sup>, a hijacking resulted in a murdered transit rider while the driver had to continue driving under duress.
  - Brian added that this council file is long overdue. He knows a bus driver who had to take early retirement due to an attack, which led to his disability. This has gone on for too long and he is thankful that this issue has finally come to life.
  - Kathleen Edwards made a motion for Jorge Jiménez to draft a CIS stating the NWNC’s support for council file 24-0562; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
  - Kevin recently heard Mayor Bass remark “as we welcome the Olympics in 2028, the world will look to us for safety”.

#### XI. Adjournment

- o Angelica made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.02PM; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.