

DRAFT MINUTES
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
Regular General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom
Tuesday, 11 February 2025 at 6.15PM

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Jorge Jiménez called the meeting to order at 6.17 p.m. and welcomed eight board members.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
 Here (8) Diana Delgado, Kathleen Edwards, Nicolas Haddad, Kevin Herzberg, Jorge Jiménez, Janis Kraft, Joel Lowell, and Angelica Robinson
 Absent (1) Greg Wood
 Resigned (2) Zaven Atashian and Brian Cathcart

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comment

Merab Ruiz, the recreation coordinator at Richie Valens Rec Center, asked if a funding request for the Kids Salute could be placed on the agenda. Jorge encouraged her to submit an NPG for the NWNC March board agenda so it could be considered. Diana asked her to elaborate on the funding request. Merab said the event is called “The Salute to Recreation” which would feature live entertainment, carnivals and food trucks, and many other events throughout the weekend. She would like to focus the funding on the Children’s stage. It will take place at the Northridge Rec Center May 16-18, 2025. Jorge asked if she had a specific amount in mind. She said she would like to ask for \$5,000 although they have different sponsorship levels.

Angelica said she remembered participating in these events when she was in high school. She feels it is a good community event for young people and families.

Glenn Bailey spoke about the VANC meeting coming up at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 2/13/25. The Sepulveda Transit Corridor will be on the agenda as well as NC elections and other topics of interest. (Go to: VANC34.org and LANCC.org for more info.) Kathleen encouraged the board members to attend either meeting whenever possible as they are very informative.

IV. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for January 2025

- (Lowell) made a motion to approve the January minutes; (Kraft) seconded this motion, and it passed.
 Aye (7) Delgado, Edwards, Haddad, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell and Robinson
 Abstain (1) Herzberg
 Absent (1) Wood (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

V. Approval of NWNC Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for January 2025

- (Edwards) made a motion to approve the January 2025 MER; (Robinson) seconded this motion.
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Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
December 19	Kristina Smith/Mail Room	Web Services	\$250.00

January 2	PY Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	165.50
January 9	Mail Chimp	Email Newsletter	45.00
January 15	Apple One	Minutes	115.20
		Total	<u>575.70</u>

- Diana asked where the funding comes from. Joel explained that the city provides \$32,000 each year to NCs for funding.
- Jorge added that the fiscal year goes from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
- Diana asked if money could be provided to other communities.
- Jorge said the money must benefit stakeholders in Northridge West.
- Angelica listed an exception with the Earthquake Preparedness event which was outside of our area.
- Kathleen said that in a state of emergency, sometimes there is a broader opportunity to fund outside entities. She said she would send Diana a copy of the Funding manual.

- Greg Wood joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m. bringing the total board members to nine. –

The motion passed unanimously:

Aye: (8) Edwards, Robinson, Jiménez, Lowell, Haddad, Kraft, Herzberg, Wood

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (0)

Ineligible: (1) Delgado

VI. Announcements

Jorge reported that the agenda holder at the Matador Credit Union has been removed. He said this has happened before. The agenda holder will need to be replaced at the next board meeting.

Kathleen said that sometimes stakeholders don't realize that they can't remove the agenda.

Kevin said he is friends with one of the board members of the credit union. He offered to contact him to see if he would serve as a contact for that location.

Jorge said that he actually saw an unhoused person remove the agendas and throw them in the trash.

- a. March 4, 2025 NWNC Executive Board meeting
- b. March 11, 2025 NWNC General Board Meeting: Greg Wood said he would be out of town on this date and unable to attend. Jorge said he would be out of town, himself, but attending the meetings via Zoom.
- c. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Training Updates for Board Members
 - Jorge said that Diana needs to complete her trainings. He also thought there might be others on the board that need to complete trainings.

VII. Presidential Comments

- Jorge said he is excited that it is election season and encouraged the board to spread the word and to recruit new board members. Jorge is going to put together a playbook for the different roles on the board. There is a 30-day grace period for the funding training for new board members. Jorge said there have been three new applications for the board.

VIII. Government Reports

a. **Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division:** SLO Sandra Zamora was unavailable for this evening's meeting but Devonshire Community Relations Volunteer Mikkie Loi relayed crime stats that were shared at Coffee with a Cop:

- From the week of Jan. 26 – Feb. 1, 2025, the Devonshire Division reported 70 crimes including:
- 4 robberies, 11 aggravated assaults, 15 burglaries, one grand theft, person, 20 thefts, 8 burglary thefts from vehicles, and 12 grand theft autos.
- On Feb. 12, 2025, Operations Valley Bureau is holding a Human Trafficking Forum at 6 p.m. on Zoom.
- On Feb. 26, 2025, Officer Zamora is holding her Basic Car 17 A67 meeting remotely.
- Feb. 27, 2025, LAPD Operations Valley Bureau is starting their Community Police Academy, weekly on Thursdays until April 10, 2025. Applications are available for this.
- On Feb. 28, 2025, Valley Traffic will hold a car seat installation event at the Shepherd Church, 8 a.m. – noon. 818 644-8023 to reserve your space.
- March 4, 2025 is Tip a Cop at CA Pizza Kitchen from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics, So CA. athletes.
- March 11, 2025, REI will host Coffee with a Cop.
- On April 26, 2025, the Annual Open House and Pancake Breakfast will be held.

She added that Senior Lead Officer Anthony Sixton is out on medical leave. Email: DevonshireSLO@lapd.online to get through via email. Download the LAPD Devonshire app to keep up with all the news.

- Jorge said he had a personal experience with the Emergency Care Response Team which came out to an incident. Also, Jorge heard from a police officer that break-ins are happening daily so tell your neighbors to be vigilant to make your homes safer.
- Greg asked if any studies have been done about the effectiveness of night lighting around homes as a deterrent to break-ins. Jorge did not know. Greg said if something tangible could be done, that would be a big deterrent and inexpensive.
- Mikkie said there are flyers that LAPD puts out with advice to the community with resources for safety. She suggested downloading the DevonshireLAPD app.
- Diana said that 80% of the homes in her neighborhood have been burglaries, including hers. She has city lights out on her street and asked how to get increased police presence and whether certain areas can be monitored.
- Mikki said the numbers of police are down but she suggested getting ahold of the senior lead officer for the specific locations that are in trouble. There are volunteer community patrols who are assigned to certain areas with "VCP" on the cars. They are seeking volunteers, too, to serve on these patrols. Jorge added that there is a dedicated Senior Lead Officer for each area.
- Jorge read a stakeholder's comment about his request to LAPD to raise the brightness of the street pole lights. LAPD said this could not be done but someone from Street Lighting was able to do that for him from their office.
- Jeff Diamond said the Basic Car meeting on Feb. 26th is really informative and is a good opportunity to see what the city is doing.
- Jorge said that meeting is held at the same time as the board meeting but any updates received are published on the NWNC website.

- Jorge then read an email from Jeff, who tried to contact the Mayor’s office about an issue but only got an automated response.
 - David Bright, the Mayor’s rep, apologized for that happening and put his email in the chat section to directly follow up on the issue: David.bright@lacity.org.
- The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.

b. CD12 City Council Representative – Adina Barco is an administrative assistant with CD12. She works with the weed abatement contractors for the city, West Valley Alliance Conservation Corps. She also works on rentals for events and with the Charter Bus Program. She gave several legislative updates including this: The week of Jan. 13th, Councilmembers Lee and Park and others introduced a motion to address the impacts of the wildfires and to increase city safety. This includes an Independent Action Report which measures the emergency response of the county to the wildfires. Her report included several other updates focused on emergency preparedness, public safety, price gouging on home rentals, tenant protections for those affected by the wildfires, legislation regarding potential fire debris dumping at Sunshine Canyon, funding for behavioral health resources for the city, and reporting on reserve fire trucks and LADWP water resources. There will be a homeless count on Feb. 18, 2025, a Black History Month celebration on Feb. 15th at the Museum of the San Fernando Valley, and a home composting and urban gardening class on Feb. 15th from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the LAPD Devonshire Division. For more info, email her at: adina.barco@lacity.org. She works out of the Chatsworth office: 818 882-1212.

Jorge asked Adina what the action plan is to monitor those parks that are closing, as they turn into crime sites for graffiti artists and the unhoused and this creates further risks. Adina said she would research this and get back to him.

Jeff Diamond asked for an update on the two electrical boxes that Mikkie has spoken about. Adina said she addressed these with 311 and that the traffic control boxes were completed and painted.

Greg Wood said he was glad plans were to assess the wildfires but didn’t see the connection to closing parks that people use to manage risk. These are public facilities and it takes that away from people who want to use the parks.

Adina said closing the high-risk parks would prevent intentional fires from being started.

c. Other Government Departments/Agencies

- David Bright from Mayor Karen Bass’s office said that due to the fires there is a Disaster Recovery Center in Westwood where people who have been impacted by the fires can connect with different agencies. It’s like a one-stop shop for everything they need. They have helped about 4,000 homeowners already.
- He asked everyone to go to LACity.org for more info. The North Valley YMCA is the location for the volunteers in this area.
- Also, the Greater LA Homeless Count takes place on Feb. 18, 2025 at 8 p.m. Go to: Count.LAHSA.org for more info.

Glenn Bailey shared a link to the Budget 101 session taking place on March 6, 2025 on Zoom.

d. DONE

- The NWNC has a new Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) from DONE, John Darnell. John reported that the elections are coming up. The candidate filing deadline is March 3, 2025 for NWNC. Voting will be only done by mail and it opens on March 21st and closes May 20, 2025. The new board will be seated on July 1, 2025. On March 6, 2025, Budget 101 will be held virtually at 6 p.m. Attendees can learn how to comment on the budget at this training.

June 21, 2025 is Budget Day which starts at 7:30 a.m. at City Hall. There will be presentations in the City Chambers on the budget. Region 2 will have an opportunity to give feedback to the city agencies after the presentations. There is a budget deficit and with the fires, he said he thought it would be an interesting Budget Day.

- Kathleen noted that Controller Mejia is doing some sort of Town Hall on the budget. John said that he was aware that Mr. Mejia has done a lot of outreach and attended Budget Day.
- Kathleen asked who to contact to get the new board members Cornerstone Training credentials.
- He said that for any updates to the roster, use the email: rosters@empowerla.org and also copy John on it.
- Kathleen asked what locations can be used for NWNC in-person committee meetings. She felt it would be better if someone from the city approached potential locations, including the Northridge Mall.
- John asked her to send him the potential locations so they can do an ADA inspection and get them approved.
- Jorge added that Joel has tried to secure a location that meets the city's requirements and has not succeeded, so it would be helpful to have city assistance with this objective.
- Kathleen said the NEA has been responsible for this in the past.
- John said they have a list of city facilities that they can share, including Nobel Middle School.
- Kathleen said the problem is that NWNC would have to pay to use the schools after hours.
- Jorge concurred with John that Nobel Middle School might be a good option since NWNC has supported funding requests for them in the past.
- Diana asked John if she could get set up with the training for funding. John said the training info was sent out earlier that day.

e. Budget Advocates

- Advocate Glenn Bailey said Budget Day will be on June 21, 2025 with registration in May. He added the link for Budget 101 is open for board members and stakeholders. There is a discussion on having a Town Hall for DONE's budget, alone. The other Town Hall will be for the citywide budget. They have met with most of the city departments to give input from the NCs. Then they will write a White Paper with their recommendations and shared with NC board members. The CF25-0600 is the council file for the new budget. That's where you can file a community impact statement.
- Glenn is NWNC's Budget Advocate for District Two. The Northwest valley is represented by the following three advocates:
 - Brian Allen from Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

- Garry Fordyce from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council
- Scott Wright from the Northridge South Neighborhood Council
- For additional information, the advocates website is <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>

IX. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- Jorge reported that the executive committee met last Tuesday to decide what items would be on the budget. This is an open meeting for anyone who wants to attend.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen asked everyone to attend their meetings. There are people stealing people's identities to collect FEMA funds. She asked Jorge about his experience with the Community Emergency Response Team.
- Jorge said there were two crisis care officers to respond to the issue he called about.
- Kathleen also reminded everyone about LAPD's child seat installation event on Feb. 28th from 8 a.m. to noon at Shepherd Church. She said that about 80% of the seats are incorrectly installed.
- Human Trafficking is on the uptick in the Valley. There will be a Zoom meeting tomorrow by LAPD Valley Operations at 6 p.m. For more info, go to: northridgewest.org for the flyer.
- In regards to requesting police patrols on a regular basis, she said it would not likely happen due to decreased numbers of police officers on the force. She suggested Diana get together with the Senior Lead Officer to get some sort of patrol going in her area. Kathleen offered to help her make the connection with someone who could help because most of the police patrols need to go to fatal accidents or other disturbances.
- Jorge said that Mikki has a form available on how to create a neighborhood watch group.

c. Government Affairs

- Greg said there has been a lot of response to fire prevention. As far as human trafficking, the nonprofit ZOE has a short video about human trafficking and Greg said LAPD has been working with ZOE on a sting operation to arrest people involved and to rescue children. Possibly 200 children were rescued in the process. He called it "human slavery."
- Kathleen said it is upsetting to know that it is going on in the Valley.

d. Planning and Land Use

- No report.

e. Elections

- Jorge reported that the deadline to apply for a position on the NWNC board is May 3, 2025. Vote by mail will end on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.
- In the interim, information can be found at <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections/neighborhood-council-elections>.
- Joel asked what would happen if there are not enough applicants?
- Jorge and Kathleen agreed that if this happens, all applicants become board members. Jorge added that there are two vacancies and if someone wants to fill these, they can do so before the election. There are 60 days before May 20, 2025 to serve.
- Kathleen added that it is a good way for people who want to check out serving on the board to do so without making a full, two-year commitment.

- Glenn Bailey said the process would be board affirmation instead of an election, if there were not enough candidates. Eighteen of the 32 Valley NCs had this happen in the last election. The process of seating all board members on July 1st is different than in the past because, in the past, you were able to wait until your next board meeting after the votes were certified to seat your new board members. That's if there is an election held.
- Kathleen asked if there were vote by mail applications that could be handed out or if these could be put on the website for NWNC.
- Jorge said that they are promoting a link to the site where people get the applications to vote. He was also going to look into whether they can print out the applications. He suggested that maybe they could set up an Outreach event to promote voting by mail and to help stakeholders with this process.
- Kathleen asked if there were not enough applicants to have a quorum, which would be 7 people, what would happen?
- Glenn said there is a "loss of quorum policy" which allows the board to go below that number until they can get the proper quorum.

f. Homelessness

- Angelica did not have a report.

g. Beautification

- Jorge mentioned that homeowners are responsible if their property abuts a street that has an overgrowth of weeds. He suggested putting an event together with community volunteers to hand out flyers to property owners as to what their responsibilities are to keep their property safe. He invited Jeff Diamond to help with that.
- Jeff said CD12 suggested some amendments to the flyer.
- Joel said he would love to participate in this event.

h. Budget

- Treasurer Joel Lowell said although it was noted that there was \$18K left in the budget, that number is closer to \$13K due to the expenses incurred with the election postcard. So, at the next meeting, the board will need to reallocate funds for the election.

i. Outreach

- Janis said 100 additional postcards were ordered to distribute to coffeehouses, libraries and anywhere else where possible candidates could find them. She will email everyone when the postcards arrive.
- Jorge said he had to change the back of the postcard to show more diversity.

j. Education

- There was no report.

X. New Business

- a. **Discussion and possible motion to approve NPG funding of \$500 in an NPG submission by Canoga Park Senior Citizens' Club to support the Salute to Recreation Senior Dance being held on May 16, 2025 at the Northridge Recreation Center.**

Myrka Martinez represents the Canoga Park Senior Citizens Club. She explained that their event starts May 16, 2025 and is part of a 3-day event in conjunction with Rec and Parks. The requested funds would go toward the purchase of food, which in total is about \$3,000. They are also reaching out to the other NCs in CD12. This event will provide free food and drinks and live entertainment.

Jorge added that this year's theme is "Footloose: 1980s Music." He went last year and brought his mom when they had Motown music, and he was impressed with the whole production.

Joel said that NWNC supported it last year with \$500.00.

Jorge said the food was fantastic last year.

Kathleen commented on how well it was put on and how everyone dances. She encouraged all the board members to attend. She suggested getting there early. It opens at 5 p.m.

(Kraft) made the motion to approve this NPG. (Lowell) seconded the motion.) The motion carried unanimously:

Yea: (7) Edwards, Lowell, Angelica, Kraft, Haddad, Wood, Jiménez

Opposed: (0)

Absent: (1) Herzberg

Abstaining: (0)

Ineligible: (1) Delgado

Myrka stated that the NWNC logo would be on the flyer.

b. Discussion and possible motion to select a NWNC board member to fill the vacant Secretary position.

Jorge explained that any board member could move into this position on the executive committee. He then detailed the functions of the secretary.

No one volunteered to take this position.

c. Discussion and possible motion on selecting board members to fill vacant NWNC committee chairperson seats.

Jorge said that a chairperson is needed for Planning and Land Use and also, Education. Jorge said he would give up chairing Beautification if someone else wants it.

d. Discussion and selection of NWNC board members to volunteer posting or distributing NWNC election information postcard flyers in high traffic locations (libraries, coffee shops, community organizations, etc.)

- Jorge explained that this would be to distribute the flyers previously spoken about.
- Kathleen said these need to be distributed quickly. She hired kids to do that last time.
- Angelica asked if they were not being mailed out.
- Jorge said they were but these are for businesses. He is going to post on community boards in different businesses that have high-traffic areas.
- Diana asked Jorge to explain what is involved in Planning and Land Use.
- Jorge elaborated on the duties of this committee.

- Kathleen said there are some other meetings that take place re: planning and land use that could be helpful.
- Diana noted that she would be interested in the Planning and Land Use Committee once she completes her qualifications. She is especially concerned about keeping the integrity of neighborhoods rather than creating more high density.
- Jorge also said it's important to have stakeholders weigh in on these and any other issues.

(Edwards) made the motion to nominate Diana Delgado as chairperson of the Planning and Land Use Committee. (Lowell) seconded the motion.

- Jorge added that there is a Planning 101 training for this position and the chairperson needs to schedule and hold a meeting every month with an agenda.
- Kathleen said there is a website you can sign up for where there are new businesses doing something that might be of interest to the NWNC board.

The motion carried unanimously:

Yea: (8) Edwards, Lowell, Angelica, Kraft, Haddad, Wood, Jiménez, Delgado

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Absent: (1) Herzberg

Nick asked Jorge to explain the position of chairing the Education Committee.

Jorge detailed what this position requires.

(Lowell) made the motion to nominate Nicolas Haddad as chairperson of the Education Committee. (Robinson) seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously:

Yea: (8) Edwards, Lowell, Angelica, Kraft, Haddad, Wood, Jiménez, Delgado

Opposed: (0)

Abstaining: (0)

Absent: (1) Herzberg

Jorge said he would put together a tutorial on how to set up an agenda.

Kathleen will help with that process too.

- e. **Discussion and possible motion for NWNC to file a CIS (Community Impact Statement) in support of Council File 25-0065, State Fireworks laws or Regulations / Fireworks Related Fires / Illegal Fireworks (Lee – McOsker – Hutt - Nazarian): Introduced January 22, 2025. Motion is requesting the City Attorney in consultation with the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to report in 30 days with pathways to strengthen provisions within the City ordinances and state laws governing fireworks, integrating ways that the City of Los Angeles can work to reduce the public safety risks associated with illegal fireworks and provide stronger deterrents against their use and sale.**

- Janice talked about how an empty lot behind her street was full of people lighting illegal fireworks that were flaming and exploding. This was a week before the fires. When she

called LAPD, she got an automated message to fill out a form online. She is the board president of her HOA and would like to share the outcome of this motion to her board.

- Greg said there were so many explosions going on around his home last July. He wished there was something else that could be done about the danger of illegal fireworks although he fully supports this motion.
- Jorge said this encourages a report to create a plan to take more action. He agreed that everything has escalated since he moved to Northridge in 2017. He then read the CIS in full. He talked about how illegal fireworks affect pets and even military veterans from added stress.
- Janice agreed with Greg and suggested that she had doubts as to what LAPD would do to enforce this.
- Jorge replied that through this CIS, he hoped those who violate this would feel the full brunt of the laws.
- Mikkie said LAPD has to actually witness people lighting illegal fireworks. They've also sent letters to people who the neighbors reported through the neighborhood prosecutor. But she said this doesn't always work as violators might go to a friends house and still set them off. She said there has to be another or a better way to enforce this. She was in Hawaii when the fires there burned down the community on Maui.
- Kathleen said if they could increase the penalties for those setting off illegal fireworks, the word will get out and it might affect it. She also mentioned those who set off fireworks two weeks before the 4th of July.
- Diana spoke about two blocks of apartment buildings by Parthenia and Tampa who set off really large fireworks that they have illegally purchased across the border. There was an apartment building that caught on fire. If there are certain hot spots that LAPD could patrol, they should be cited with large penalties. She also felt there should be outreach to the Latino community and media to get that message across. On-Air personalities would also be very effective to get the word out.
- Jorge said this motion would initiate a comprehensive analysis of everything and come up with a plan for enforcement.
- Angelica is a dog mom and 100% supports this. She then said it is important to be ethical about the language used when referring to people in our community as it could be deemed offensive. She has seen the noise level change and helicopters over our head increase but it is still illegal to target certain communities and as community leaders, we have to be mindful of our language when it comes to stakeholders in our community.
- Greg commented on LAPD's policy of having to see people lighting fireworks off to make an arrest. Another way to catch these criminals would be to make it illegal to possess illegal fireworks.
- Jorge said the board could create PSAs, flyers and other efforts to counter the risk of illegal fireworks.
- Diana apologized for her comments but said she wanted to be an asset to the board.
- Jorge said that the trainings from the city would really help with understanding how board members need to interact with the community.
- Janice said she was in favor of the letter and felt creating a flyer would be very helpful. She will personally go door to door in her gated community to distribute it.
- Joy created a patrol form that she created for her neighborhood watch and was approved by LAPD. She also talked about the need to remove any language that related

to ethnicity. She sent the form to Jorge. Regarding the fireworks, she served on CERT and several years ago, had a direct line to LAFD to report illegal fireworks.

- Angelica recommended bias training for board members.
- Kathleen said she thinks it is an excellent idea to reach out to the Spanish-speaking community and to have bilingual language on the flyer.

(Robinson) moved the motion. (Wood) seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Yea: (8)

Opposed: (0)

Abstained (0)

Absent (1) Herzberg

Jorge will submit the CIS right away.

Regarding the apartment fire that was believed to be started by illegal fireworks, Glenn Bailey mentioned a row of palm trees that were not maintained along the frontage of those blocks where the apartment fire was ignited. He tried to get an answer from the fire department on this issue but was not able to get a response. He feels the city could do a better job of removing fire hazards.

XI. **Adjournment**

- Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9.13PM; Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-