

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

- I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call
 - President Jorge Jiménez called the meeting to order at 6.34PM and welcomed [eventually] eight board members and at least eight stakeholders.
 - 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 (arrived at 7.03PM)
Absent (1) Greg Wood
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 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, March 13th beginning at 6.30PM. This month's special guest will be Grayce Liu, Interim Manager, LA Personnel. She will discuss starting levels for the city, including council file 24-0275 https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-0275-S1_rpt_pah_08-28-24_bfi.pdf, as well as the length of the hiring process and positions in the Emergency Management Department (including Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)) not hiring due to the city's budget.
 - They will also discuss the upcoming neighborhood council elections and the Zoom licenses with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) General Manager Carmen Chang.
 - Additional information can be found at VANC's website at <https://vanc34.org/>
 - Jorge reminded everyone that while voting, all board members should have their cameras on.
- IV. Special Speaker Jason Hector, Treasurer for Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC), will share his experience of working with the Parks and Recreation Forestry Team, in conjunction with PRNC's brush abatement practices as wildfire prevention efforts
 - The PRNC [which has four parks] and NWNC [which has merely two parks, Oakridge Estate and Limekiln Canyon] both share a concern for the Limekiln Canyon, covering both neighborhood councils from Sesnon Boulevard to Chatsworth Street. Jason shared multiple photos of dead trees, dried bushes, litter, easily flammable palm trees, and potential kindling in that area.
 - Jason and his team, including Mikkie Loi, CD12, and Tree Surgeon Supervisor Leon Boroditsky from the city's Recreation and Parks Department, coordinated a team of ten individuals for two-days to help clean-up the area near the Wilbur Tampa Park. The cost for this Special Fund Account for Brush Clearance was split evenly between CD12 and the PRNC.
 - Treasurer Joel asked how these funds are transferred; Jason replied this is via a city council file for a "Special Fund Account for Brush Abatement". CD12's Legislative Director Josh Yeager handles city council files, funds transfer, and can assist with the movement of these funds from one city account to another. Jason urged the NWNC to agendize this issue at their April meeting with the hope that they can use these funds during this fiscal year (ending June 30th).
- V. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for February 2025

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the February minutes; Jorge Jimenez and Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of NWNC Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for February 2024

- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to approve the February MER; Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
January 28	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Web Services	\$ 250.00
February 2	PY Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	165.50
February 9	Mail Chimp	Newsletter Distribution	45.00
February 10	In Peacock Printing	Election Postcards	4,665.92
		Total	<u>\$5,126.42</u>

- The Canoga Park Senior Citizen’s Club received their \$500 to support the May 16th Salute to Recreation Senior Dance, but they have not yet cashed the check.
- Treasurer Joel reported that the NWNC has \$11,291.99 remaining in the budget for the remainder of the year, including a great deal of funds in “Community Improvement”. He recommended [if permitted] rolling over funds to the next fiscal year, and establishing a Special Fund Account for Brush Abatement, as Jason suggested.

VII. Announcements

- April 1st NWNC Executive Board meeting
- April 8th NWNC General Board Meeting
- DONE Training Updates for Board Members
 - Jorge reported that all NWNC board members are current with their training.

VIII. Presidential Comments

- Jorge reported that eight candidates have already registered for the Tuesday, May 20th election. Due to his increased responsibilities and travel at his job, Jorge will not be available to support the NWNC as he has done in the past, and will not seek re-election.

IX. Government Reports

- Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division
 - The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
 - Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora was unavailable for this evening’s meeting.
 - Devonshire Community Relations Volunteer Mikkie Loi reported that SLOs are currently stretched very thin, unavailable to attend neighborhood council meetings, and requested that board members attend Coffee with a Cop and/or Neighborhood Watch meetings.
 - SLO Anthony Sigston, who patrols southwest of Lassen Street and Tampa Avenue remains out on medical leave.
 - Homeless coordinator Sean Taylor is out on bonding leave; Phillip Yu is handling that responsibility in Sean’s absence.
 - The Devonshire Division has two officers on loan, James Black and Danny Douelfakar, from other city precincts.
 - Monday, March 24th beginning at 6PM, SLOs Corral and Sigston’s substitute will host their monthly Neighborhood Watch Zoom Meeting beginning at 6PM
 - Wednesday, March 26th beginning at 6PM, SLO Zamora will host her monthly Basic Car meeting at the Northridge United Methodist Church at 9650 Reseda Boulevard.
 - Saturday, April 26th beginning at 8AM will be the annual Pancake Breakfast and Open House at the Devonshire Station at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue

- Regretfully, gang members from other areas of LA are coming to Northridge to attack homes.
- If the victim of a crime, please make an official report. Please do not merely leave a voice mail at the front desk. The forms are online at <https://www.lapdonline.org/file-a-police-report/>.
- The LAFD will host CERT beginning Monday, May 5th at 6.30PM at the Granada Hills Charter High School, 10535 Zelzah Avenue. This seven-week training will cover:

Disaster Awareness, Psychology, and Medical Operations	Industrial Control Systems
Fire Suppression	Light Search and Rescue
Hazardous Materials	Terrorism
- Additional information and registration can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lafd-cert-granada-hills-tickets-1280688015329>

b. CD12 City Council Representative

- Adina Barco from CD12 reported that this is MyLA311 week. Whether it is via the app, website, or simply calling 311, MyLA311 is the most direct way to report issues on our city streets, including illegal dumping, potholes (which can damage cars), graffiti, animal services, and so much more. The Board of Public Works encourages residents to use the service and come together to know about this critical tool. Get started by visiting <https://myla311.lacity.gov>, download the app, or call 311.
- CD12 is sponsoring a MyLA311 contest whereby the neighborhood council with the most 311 requests will win a prize.
- CD12's Rapid Response Team also picks up discarded items. In February, they visited nineteen locations and retrieved over two-hundred pieces
- The county property near 10631 Corbin Avenue has become a collection site for illegal dumping.

c. Other Government Departments/Agencies

- No other government representatives were available to provide a report.

d. DONE

- John Darnell, the NWNC's Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) from DONE, was unavailable.

e. Budget Advocates

- The advocates co-chair Glenn Bailey reported that their annual white paper is available at https://www.budgetadvocates.org/_files/ugd/f03c84_17341704205f406e95d2dce3965a7814.pdf. Over thirty city departments submitted recommendations.
- Monday, April 21st, Mayor Bass will release her budget. Due to the anticipated budget shortfall, there is a rumor that there may not be any permitted rollover of neighborhood council funding for FY2025-26.
- Monday, April 28th beginning at 6.30PM, the advocates anticipate hosting a Zoom meeting; attendees will include representatives from Mayor Bass's office, City Controller Kenneth Mejia's office, etc.
- The 2025 Budget Day will be Saturday, June 21st beginning at 8.30AM at City Hall. This is the advocate's most expensive event of the year. It would be greatly appreciated if any neighborhood councils have extra funds that they can contribute to this event. The advocates must pay for things such as security staff, etc. In the funding motion, please mention that this is for the advocate's Budget Day, not merely for the Budget Advocates. Otherwise, if you state Budget Advocates, the money will just go into a general fund.
- For additional information, the advocates website is <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>

- Kathleen recommended also checking “CityWatch LA” to find out where our money goes.

X. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- Jorge reported that the committee met last Tuesday, March 4th to discuss many items on tonight’s agenda.

b. Public Safety

- Chairwoman Kathleen thanked Mikkie Loi for attending the NWNC meetings.
- She mentioned that many people complain that the 911 emergency line is frequently busy. Please do not call 911 if you return home and find that your home has been burglarized. That is a call for the LAPD’s non-emergency line at 1-877-ASK-LAPD. Please save 911 if someone is undergoing an immediate threat or having a heart attack.
- Kathleen also expressed concern about the potholes; please reach out to MyLA311 to report such road hazards.
- To deter burglaries, please light up your house in the evening; do not simply depend upon motion detectors. Also, keep all your doors and windows locked; thieves have been known to enter via back doors.
- The NWNC’s April meeting may include a discussion on SB79, which will make it faster and easier to build multi-family housing near transit stops, such as train and bus lines, leading to higher-density housing developments. While the intent of SB79 may address supply issues, its provisions further undermine local governance, bypass local decision-making processes, and impose unintended burdens on communities. Currently, there is no city council file; however, that may soon change.

c. Government Affairs

- Greg was absent hence there was no report.

d. Planning and Land Use

- Diana mentioned that a Mexican restaurant is being developed at 19626 Nordhoff Street, adjacent to Northridge Toyota; this is the space previously occupied by the Tilted Kilt.
- In addition, additional apartment buildings are being constructed in the Northridge community.

e. Elections

- Jorge reported that the NWNC currently has eight certified candidates to fill the six opportunities on the board; five of these positions will be for At Large Representatives, the sixth position is for a Community Interest Stakeholder.
- Additional information can be found at <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections/neighborhood-council-elections>.

f. Homelessness

- Angelica did not have any updates.

g. Beautification

- Jorge will attempt to implement Jason’s suggested “Special Fund Account for Brush Clearance” to prevent wild fires.

h. Budget

- Treasurer Joel briefly mentioned these numbers.

Annual Budget			\$32,000.00
Adjustment			6,603.86
Budgeted Amount			38,603.86
Expense to Date	Funding Request	\$18,107.88	26,075.47
	Credit Card	7,967.59	
Total Outstanding	Commitments	0.00	1,236.40
	Pending Payments	1,236.40	
Net Available			<u>\$11,291.99</u>

i. Outreach

- Janis did not have anything new to report.

j. Education

- Committee Chairman Nic Haddad reported that the NWNC community has no private schools, but we do have four public schools:

Beckford Avenue Elementary	Nobel Charter Middle
Calahan Street Elementary	Topeka Drive Elementary
- He recently signed up for the school's newsletters, as recommended by NEA John Darnell.

XI. New Business

a. Discussion and possible motion to approve Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) funding of up to \$5,000 in an NPG submission by Supporters of Shadow Ranch and Woodland Hills Parks Inc. to support the Salute to Recreation Family Festival being held on May 16th through 18th at the Northridge Recreation Center

- Coordinator Merab Ruiz works for the city at the Richie Valens Recreation Center of Pacoima and alongside the Supporters of Shadow Ranch. They recently submitted an NPG for the Salute to Recreation Family Festival and Carnival at the Northridge Recreation Center. This is the first time in several years that this event has taken place.
- The Salute to Recreation Family Festival is a long-standing community tradition that promotes recreation, health, and cultural diversity while fostering connections among residents of all ages and backgrounds. This grant will support free and low-cost activities, live entertainment, and interactive experiences. Funding will also enhance outreach efforts to include underserved communities, reinforcing the festival's role in promoting wellness, inclusivity, and community spirit in Northridge and the greater San Fernando Valley. By making these attractions accessible to all attendees, the festival fosters a welcoming environment where families of all backgrounds can participate, play, and celebrate the joys of recreation.
- This event will attract over fifty vendors, multiple food trucks, as well as tournaments for volleyball, soccer, pickleball, cheer, dance, etc.
- Kathleen and Diana requested a breakdown of the costs for arts/crafts, inflatables, etc. They also mentioned that section 11b, concerning if they had a relationship with an NWNC board member, and if that person had consulted with the office of the city attorney, was incomplete. There was also a concern about who would provide tables, easy-ups, etc.
- Merab replied that the budget would be whatever they collect. If approved for merely \$3k rather than \$5k, the event will still take place. However, certain activities would be cut.
- Joel defended the NWNC in stating that it was not merely their ability to review everything. The city can be very picky about these NPG forms; if anything is missing, it will be returned and delayed.
- As this event attracts folks from around the San Fernando Valley, Mikkie asked which other neighborhood councils had been approached. All three Northridge neighborhood councils have

been approached, as well as three adjacent neighborhood councils. The Northridge East Neighborhood Council has agreed to sponsor this event with promotions and marketing.

- Kathleen wondered if all of the recently approved Proposition K funds, meant to combat the inadequacies of the city’s youth infrastructure, resulting in unmet needs for park, recreation, childcare, and community facilities, had been depleted.
- Janis asked about the sponsorship packages, which were presented as follows:

\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10x10’ space to market company • One [up to 3x6’] Banner placement • Event Sponsorship Announcements • ¼ page Advertisement in Event Program • Social Media Promotion • Additional marketing as requested and approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One [up to 3x6’] Banner placement • Event Sponsorship Announcements • Business Card Advertisement in Program • Social Media Promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Sponsorship Announcements • Business Card Advertisement in Program • Social Media Promotion

- Perhaps the NWNC could do this as a sponsorship via the Outreach budget account, rather than as an NPG? Joel reported that the NWNC’s budget funds would have to be moved around, as neither NPG nor Outreach has available funds. This may require a special meeting on Tuesday, March 18th to discuss Outreach and/or NPG funds to support this event, as the funds are required by Tuesday, April 1st.
- Diana asked about the attendance; Merab replied that they anticipate several thousand attendees. 20,000 flyers are being distributed. This has also been posted on the area’s recreation centers social media accounts, including her Richie Valens Recreation Center’s social media, which has over 17,000 followers.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to postpone this agenda item until a special board meeting [tentative set for Tuesday, March 18th] to discuss sponsorship as an Outreach, rather than as an NPG; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Discussion and possible motion to approve Jeff Diamond, Northridge West stakeholder, to join the board of NWNC, filling a vacant At-Large Board Member seat

- This seat expires in 2027.
- Jeff has lived in the valley since 1959, and along Lassen Street for over thirty-five years. Although mostly retired, he got involved with the Adopt-a-Street program; this led to his activities with the Volunteers Cleaning Committee (VCC). He has been with VCC for over four years. As a VCC ambassador, he visits apartment buildings and instructs folks on the city’s willingness to pick-up wayward furniture via their MyLA311 program. He also presented a tutorial on MyLA311 at the NWNC’s January meeting.
- He was previously wrist-slapped by the NWNC due to his overgrown trees along the sidewalk in front of his home.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion for Jeff Diamond to join the NWNC; Diana Delgado seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Jorge administered the oath of office to Jeff and advised him that Kathleen would reach out regarding mandatory training, etc. Kathleen was excited to welcome Jeff to the board, and hopes that he considers joining the Public Safety and/or Beautification Committees.

c. Discussion and possible motion on creating an Ad Hoc committee to review NWNC’s Standing Rules, and recommend amendments, changes, or additions, as needed

- Jorge mentioned that the NWNC could reinstate former board members whose membership was revoked due to excessive absences.

- Joel Lowell made a motion to create an ad hoc committee to review the NWNC’s Standing Rules and discuss this revocation option; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Kathleen and Jorge volunteered to serve on this committee.
- d. Discussion and possible motion for approving Zoom as the preferred virtual meeting platform for use whenever holding NWNC’s virtual meetings
- Kathleen asked if the committees could also use the Zoom software; the reply was affirmative.
 - Microsoft Teams and [the less user friendly] Google Meet are other options, but they must be city approved. Everyone agreed that Zoom is the most useful platform.
 - Janis Kraft made a motion to approve Zoom as the preferred virtual meeting platform; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Jorge will let John Darnell know that the NWNC has voted to continue with Zoom.
- e. Discussion and possible motion for NWNC to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) in support of Council File CF25-0193 Hanoi, Vietnam/Sister City which is a motion to approach the City of Hanoi, Vietnam to become a “Sister City” with Los Angeles and [ultimately] encourage them to end their dog and cat meat trade (for consumption)
- This council file 25-0193 was originally suggested by the VANC, and then submitted by Kathleen at the March 4th Executive Committee meeting. The previously submitted council file 19-0002-S101 was discussed six years ago.
 - Janis questioned the importance of sister cities. Kathleen replied that this was first presented by Vietnam to open the door to cultural interaction. San Francisco also has a sister city relationship with Hanoi, yet it is unknown if they required that the cat/dog food issue be addressed. Hanoi shares many of the same issues as Los Angeles, including air quality, tourism, historical structures, etc.
 - Joel felt that these are separate issues that should not be brought up together.
 - Glenn added that the NWNC could express recommendations in the CIS, such as “support if amended”.
 - Kathleen Edwards made a motion to approve this CIS in support of LA’s sister city relationship with Hanoi; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed.
- Aye (7) Delgado, Diamond, Edwards, Haddad, Herzberg, Jiménez, and Robinson
 Abstain (2) Kraft and Lowell
 Absent (1) Wood
- f. Discussion and possible motion to invite all certified NWNC candidates to attend a GBM, introduce themselves and their candidacy to our stakeholders and board members, and for our board to share examples of the work involved, and requirements for being a board member with NWNC
- This will give current board members the opportunity to advise potential board members.
 - Joel will reach out to the elections administrator for the candidates contact information.
 - Glenn Bailey added that Paul Posada from the City Clerk’s office could reach out to the candidates with invitations from the NWNC.
 - Joel Lowell made a motion to invite all certified NWNC candidates to attend the April 8th GBM; Diana Delgado seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

- Jorge Jimenez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.54PM; Diana Delgado and Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.