NORTHRIDGE WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Draft Minutes
Tuesday, October 13th, 2026
at 6:15 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER:

a) Call to Order by Presiding Officer Janis Kraft at 6:18 p.m.
b) Roll Call: Janis Kraft, Kathleen Edwards, Lopsie Schwartz, David Uranga, Sam Dulys, Peter Lasky, Nathan Lichtman, Jeff Diamond, and Nicolas Haddad. Quorum established with nine board members.
c) Pledge of Allegiance recited.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Glenn Bailey stated that the LADWP presented on LA100 as it relates to water and power rates. There is a recording on the website LANCC.org under the "Alliances" webpage. Referring to a stakeholder's question about a proposed 200 apartment complex at 18444 Plummer Street, Glenn identified it as the former Rite Aid store. There are comments being taken on environmental issues with the deadline extended to Oct. 26th at the Planning Department. It will be on the NENC agenda on Oct. 21, 2025.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

a) **Announcement on emails**: Janis asked the board to check emails every day.
b) **Empower LA Brown Bag Lunch**, Wednesday October 14, 2026 from 12 noon to 1pm on planning community clean-ups to increase neighborhood engagement.
c) **Training update**: Vincent Auterio from EmpowerLA said everyone is good to go.
d) **Virtual meetings:** Vincent reviewed how chairpersons need to deal with disruptions in meetings and set time limits. (See Virtual Governance Protocol).
   - John Hales asked for clarification on whether non-committee members can speak on issues outside of the public comment period.
   - Lopsie asked about whether comments that create an unsafe space should be allowed.
   - Vincent said it might be necessary to take a recess, as needed, or if there is a real threat, to call the police.
   - Peter asked whether non committee members are allowed to speak at a committee and joint board meeting.
   - Vincent said they could only speak to clarify a question.
   - Kathleen asked if foul language is permitted during public comments.
   - Vincent said even foul language is protected speech.

e) NWNC Bylaws, Article V, Section 7: Janis reiterated this bylaw language for newer board members: **Absences - "Any NWNC Board Member who misses three (3) regularly scheduled consecutive Neighborhood Council Governing Board Meetings {GBMs} or optionally, four (4) total Governing Board Meetings during any twelve (12) month period shall be automatically removed from the Board."**
   - Vincent reminded board members that on virtual meetings, their cameras have to be turned on.

- Kathleen asked Vincent to clarify what emails board members should be using based on her NWNC email being hacked.
- Vincent pointed out that the NWNC webmaster should be generating emails for each board member as dedicated emails for board business.

f) **Town Hall on CA new Housing Laws**: Janis announced this meeting on 10/19/26 7pm – 9pm at North Middle School 17960 Chase St. Northridge. For more information www.northridgesouth.org.
- Michele Hale said the Town Hall is at Northridge Middle School.
- Esteban Escobar expressed concern about Sherwood Forest Homeowners Association and the Sherwood Forest Coalition creating divisiveness on the issue of new housing. He hoped that the various NCs contributing to this Town Hall would remain independent in their reviews and be open to addressing the housing crisis.

g) **CD12 Conversations with Councils** – Janis announced that CM Lee holds quarterly conversations with the NCs. The next one is on Monday October, 26th 6pm-7pm with representatives from the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Services, Office of Community Beautification, and Los Angeles Conservation Corps. RSVP by October 17th by emailing alejandra.moscoso@lacity.org or calling (818) 882.1212
Matthew Smith, representing CM John Lee's office, said the location will be the Granada Hills Recreation Center.

h) **Preparing for Natural Disasters** on October 29, 2026 6-730pm: Janis announced that this is a Zoom webinar on the Neighborhood Council Preparedness Plan. Register https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/. Attendees will hear from experts in the Los Angeles emergency preparedness space and walk away with a planning tool that can be used and shared.
Glenn Bailey said this template should be modified for each NC and there should be a public safety person representing this meeting.

i) **Report on 9/26/26 Congress of Neighborhoods**: Lopsie attended the Congress and reported on it. Peter also attended and he spoke about the Homeless Liaison position. Jeff also attended and spoke about the breakout sessions he attended.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE MOTIONS

a) **Approval of September 8, 2026 General Board meeting minutes**. Tabled to the November meeting.

b) Approval of outstanding Monthly Expenditure Reports (MER):

August 2026 MER-re-agendize MER for approval and need signed BAC:
(Uranga/Schwartz) moved approval of the August 2026 MER.
The motion carried: 6-0-3.

Voting Yea: (6) Kraft, Edwards, Dulys, Lichtman, Diamond, Haddad.
Opposed: 0
Abstaining: (3) Schwarz, Uranga and Lasky

(Lichtman/Dulys) moved approval of the September 2026 MER.
The motion carried: 8-0-1
Voting Yea (8): Kraft, Edwards, Schwartz, Dulys, Lichtman, Diamond, Haddad, and Uranga.

Opposed: 0
Abstaining: (1) Lasky

V. NEW BUSINESS

a) **NWNC 2026-2027 Treasurer:** Janis announced that David Uranga is now (as of 10/6/2026) NWNC Treasurer, per 9/8/26 GBM board vote.

Sam Dulys is now Secretary per same vote.
Glenn Bailey offered his help with mentoring David.

b) **PLUZ committee:** Janis gave an update on a proposal for the Open Container Wine Tasting Bar, (aka: Liquor License Brokers) for a conditional use permit. It will be located outside of the Northridge Fashion Center, 9301 Tampa Ave. Lili Damaso said it would be for onsite and offsite consumption for beer and wine with seating for up to 30 patrons. They would be open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. She is hoping for a November 17th or 18th date with the Planning Department. It would be within the Northridge Fashion Center by the corner of Tampa and Nordhoff. The grapes come from vineyards in Armenia. They will also sell light snacks and alcoholic slushies.

- Daniel Movsesian, one of the owners, was present to answer questions.
- Peter Lasky asked whether patrons could take their open alcoholic beverages with them into the mall.
- Lili said no alcohol would be allowed off-site. The off-site request is for purchasing closed containers.
- Nathan asked for clarification on the location.
- Lili said it would be outside by the theater.
- Kathleen asked if they have had any opposition from other locations.
- Daniel said they have not received negative reviews or conflict from the businesses in the area.
- Jeff asked if they will sell Craft Beer.
- Daniel said they are still selecting Craft Beer. He clarified the food would be charcuterie plates.
- Janis asked how they would stop people from leaving with open containers.
- Daniel and Lili explained that the bartenders would have training to not allow patrons to leave the site with open containers.
- Kathleen asked about the permit.
- Janis asked if they needed NWNC to write a letter of recommendation.
- Lili stated that they were doing community outreach in conjunction with asking for their permit to be approved. They were hoping for a letter of support.
- Nathan asked how patrons would pay for what they order.
- Daniel said they would have tabs, as in a restaurant.
- Lopsie pointed out that the Yard House has an outdoor seating area. She likes the idea of sitting outside for meetings.
- Sara Bacon from Northridge South NC asked if there are similar businesses like this in L.A.
- Daniel said this is a new concept with a container. However, the Americana has something similar.
- Sara said she was concerned that shopping malls are traditionally teenager hangouts. She felt it would create a lot of policing whereas restaurants have a more secure setting.

- Daniel said restaurants with outdoor patio seatings don't have direct oversight of their patrons, whereas they would be watching their patrons and would do a better job of addressing those concerns.

(Schwartz/Uranga) moved to write a letter of support for OCW of Northridge LLC.

- Uranga asked what happened to Bar Louie.
- Nathan said it went out of business.
- Kathleen had concerns about the neighboring restaurants and problems with teenagers in this area.
- Sam said teenagers aren't really spending time in malls these days.
- Peter asked about their other locations and if there have been problems relating to the concerns raised.
- Daniel said they have not had any issues with their locations.
- Peter asked what a letter of support would say.
- Janis said it would come from the PLUZ committee and come back to the board for approval.
- Nathan said it sounds like this concept is more upscale and not inexpensive.
- Lopsie said it might draw more business professionals.

The motion passed unanimously: 9-0-0
Voting Yea: (9) Edwards, Schwartz, Uranga, Dulys, Lasky, Lichtman, Diamond, Haddad, Kraft.
Opposed: 0
Abstaining: 0

c) Update: 10/5/26 the PLUZ committee: Conditional Use Permit proposal for a skilled nursing facility conversion at 9644 Claire Ave, Northridge CA

Janis stated that Douglas Ayala from The Blueprint is looking to do a skilled nursing conversion at that location. About 35 neighbors brought questions to the Executive Committee on 10/6/2026. She contacted Dan Rosales at CD12 to see if their office was aware of the request. The executive board said it would look into planning a further meeting regarding the eldercare facility and would notify the neighbors so they could attend the meeting. As of this time, Mr. Ayala has not provided the letter of recommendation he said he had from CM Lee.

- Jeff asked for feedback from CD12.
- Matt Smith said he would follow up with Dan.
- Nathan asked about the size of the facility.
- Janis said they have an ADU in the back and might want to convert that for workers.
- Lopsie said the floorplan had some errors.
- Nathan asked if the neighbors were opposed to it.
- Janis said it seemed that way and there may be others in that neighborhood. She suggested having a committee meeting on this topic and making flyers up to bring everyone in who has concerns.
- David suggested tabling this until more information is received.
- Jeff asked if there was discussion on trash collection.
- Janis said it came up under "environmental."

Further action was tabled on this item.

d) **Approval of NWNC Committee Members and Committee Chairs:**
(Lasky/Edwards) moved to approve the following committee chairs:
Executive Committee -- Chair, Janis Kraft (Janis, Kathleen & Lopsi)
Govt. Affairs – Chair, Sam Dulys (David, Sam & Lopsi)
Bylaws, Standing Rules, Grievances -- Chair, Kathleen Edwards (Janis & Kathleen)
Planning and Land Use – Chair, Sam Dulys (Janis & Sam)
Election Chair - Chair, Janis Kraft (David & Janis)
Homelessness – Chair, Peter Lasky (Nicholas, Nathan & Peter)
Beautification – Chair, Jeff Diamond (Peter, Lopsi & Jeff)
Budget Committee – Chair, David Uranga. (Jeff & David)
Outreach Committee – Chair, Lopsi Schwarz (Nathan, Peter & Lopsi)
Education Committee – Chair, Nathan Lichtman (David & Nathan).
Public Safety – Chair, Jeff Diamond (Kathleen, David & Jeff)

The motion carried: 8-0-0
Voting Aye: (8) Kraft, Edwards, Schwartz, Dulys, Lichtman, Diamond, Lasky and Haddad.
Opposed: 0
Abstaining: 0
Absent: David Uranga

(Lasky/Schwartz) moved to approve the members of each of the above committees.

The motion carried: 8-0-0.
Voting Aye: (8) Kraft, Edwards, Schwartz, Dulys, Haddad, Diamond, Lasky & Lichtman.
Opposed: 0
Abstaining: 0
Absent: David Uranga

e)Discussion on booth at SFV Art Fair 11/1/26-Sunday 12noon to 4pm. Janis asked for board members to work at the booth.

VI. FUNDING MOTIONS

a)Motion to discuss and vote to approve up to $1600 NPG for the Friends of the Northridge Library. Meredith Boyle of Friends of the Northridge Library was introduced. They are asking for funding for the purchase of a Kodo Spectrum Light Lab (table) for the Children's Section of the Northridge Library. The purpose of the Lab is to support STEM learning and encourage children to think like little scientists as they experiment with light and shadow, color combinations, and magical properties of reflection and refraction. She spoke about the positive attributes of the light tables at other branch libraries. They are requesting $1,600 from NWNC which would be half of the cost. She also discussed the role of Friends of the Library in creating and funding programs.

- Jeff asked which NCs she has reached out to.
- Meredith said just Northridge West and Northridge South.
- Kathleen asked why they aren't approaching other area NCs. She also asked about the warranty on the table.
- Meredith said it is a one-year warranty.
- Lopsie asked how much usage the light table would get per month.
- Meredith said they are very busy but she wasn't qualified to respond to that question.
- Lopsie asked why they chose this product over another that is smaller.

- Meredith said it was selected by the librarian but also to allow multiple children to interact at the same time. It also provides storage space and they know that it is functional from testing it at other libraries.
- Lopsie then shared her screen showing the smaller table.
- Meredith stated that some of the accessories on the smaller product are not safe with younger children.
- Peter asked about the value of this light table.
- Meredith pointed out free discovery and unguided interaction is important for children's development.
- Glenn Bailey spoke about the library being a shared facility between Northridge East and South.
- Kaye Sergeant, treasurer of the Friends of the Northridge Library, said the library would purchase additional supplies for the Lab.
- Nathan has two children in this demographic and the Northridge Library has been an amazing resource for kids. He asked whether they have taken into consideration that kids can be loud when playing with this resource.
- Meredith said the new children's librarian has figured out ways to move furniture to mitigate sound. The kids will make noise when playing with it but they don't expect it to be especially loud.
- Nathan asked if they offer tutoring and help with homework for kids.
- Meredith said her son is a Homework Helper. She said there are a lot of teens who do that for their volunteer hours.
- Janis asked what kind of recognition the NWNC would get.
- Meredith said a plaque and certificate on the wall and they would invite the board to see the impact of their contribution.
- Janis asked if Northridge South has funded this yet.
- Meredith said they have it on their agenda for October.
- Janis asked what they will do if they don't get the money.
- Kaye said they would approach Northridge East NC for funding.
- Meredith said they are worried the cost will go up if they wait on placing an order.
- Kathleen asked what age was appropriate.
- Meredith said age 2 and up. She said the product is supported by STEM.
- Janis asked if they don't get full funding, would NWNC get their money back.
- Kaye said they would return the money if they don't have full funding.
- Vincent said an NPG would need to be filled out to show that they have proof of completion for the project.
- Kathleen asked for the motion to state "contingent upon receiving full funding," which Vincent agreed would be helpful.
- Glenn explained the refund process and suggested holding off on the funding request until Northridge South approved it.
- Lopsie asked what funding is available.
- Janis said there is $10K for NPGs and reviewed other funding requests.
- Nathan added that money could also be moved from other budgets.

(Lichtman/Uranga) moved to fund $1,600 for an NPG to the Friends of the Northridge Library for the purpose of purchasing a Kodo Spectrum Light Lab. The motion carried: 8-0-1.

Voting Yea: (8) Kraft, Edwards, Schwartz, Uranga, Duly, Haddad, Diamond & Lichtman.
Opposed: 0
Abstaining: Lasky

b) Printing Outreach Materials: (Lichtman/Schwartz) moved to fund up to $200 for special flyers for notification to neighbors re: proposed Claire Ave ElderCare Facility expansion with the acknowledgement that NWNC will consider local bidders and potentially cost-saving techniques for printing such as a half sheet.

- Nathan asked if generic outreach flyers could be used for this.
- Lopsie said the board told stakeholders they would specifically let them know about any movement on this.
- Kathleen asked if the Outreach Committee no longer had to submit multiple bids.
- Peter asked how these copies would be distributed.
- Janis said David, Janis and Nathan would help to distribute the flyers.
- David asked how much money Outreach has in its budget.
- Janis said $11,135.50 is available.

The motion carried unanimously: 9-0-0.
Voting Yea: (9) Kraft, Edwards, Schwartz, Uranga, Dulys, Haddad, Diamond, Lasky and Litchman.
Opposed: 0
Abstaining: 0

(David Uranga left the meeting at ___?)

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Janis announced that NWNC is signed up to table at the SFV Art Fair 11/1/26-Sunday 12noon to 4pm.

VIII. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

a) **Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division** (non-emergency number 1 877-ASK LAPD): **Mikki Loy, Devonshire Senior Lead Office announced:**
   - Oct 26 – Coffee with a Cop at the Target on Nordhoff.
   - Packa Police Car Toy Drive on at Walmart and TJ Maxx with several dates.
   - The Toy Giveaway is on Dec. 12, 9am – 12 p.m. at LAPD Devonshire PALS Youth Center, 8721 Wilbur Ave.
   - LAPD has a survey for the community to provide feedback.
   - In November, the basic car meetings go dark and there is an All-Basic Car Pot Luck in November, TBD.
   - Valley Traffic Officer Dan Rizzo is back and is now looking over the Damage Division.

b) **CD 12 City Council Representative, Matthew Smith** (rep. CM John Lee) is standing in for Merka.
   - The Weed Abatement program is in full effect on Lassen, east of Corbin Ave., Wilbur, south of Rinaldi, and Tampa, south of Rinaldi.
   - He announced the 11th annual Drive in at Shadow Ranch Park in West Hills with free Wendy's hamburgers, Dept. of Sanitation displays and Barry's Acai on Nov. 7th.

- The Granada Hills Centennial Fair, Oct. 17th, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Chatsworth Street.
- There have been West Nile Virus cases reported in the area so make sure you get rid of any containers with standing water.
- In reference to people being allowed to speak openly, he suggested watching the City Council meetings on YouTube and hearing the language people use during their two minutes.
- David asked who is clearing the brush.
- Matt said the LA Conservation Corps is doing the brush abatement and is being paid with discretionary funds. He reminded everyone that weed abatement is the property owners' responsibility.
- Lopsie asked about the distance they will clear.
- Matt suggested she call their office and talk to Adina.
- Jeff said Conservation Corps has done a good job in the past but the weeds always grow back. So notifications to the property owners are necessary.
- Lopsie asked about how they will prevent flooding from drains being clogged with pine needles and other debris.
- Matt said they have talked to LASAN about clogged drains. People can report that on the 311 app, or call their office to get ahead of El Nino before streets get flooded.
- Micki asked about rabid bats in the area.
- Matt said there was one report. He works with all the Public Works departments: Sanitation, Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Street Lights & Urban Forestry, should anyone have an issue.

c) **Other Government Departments/Agencies**: None.

d) **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment** - Vincent Auterio spoke about the Brown Bag session the following day on cleaning up the neighborhoods, cohosted by the Dept. of Sanitation. They offer many resources which they will discuss on that noon webinar.

LA28 is the private organization working with the City to prepare for the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics. Their next First Friday session will be on Nov. 6th at 10 a.m. to update the NCs on essential info.

2027 NWNC Election will be in May. Paola Posado will be your election admin and she will provide a voting ballot model. Also, the City Clerk will provide up to $150.00 for a voting location. He reminded the board to outreach to stakeholders who might want to join the board.

e)**Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates**, Glenn Bailey, www.budgetadvocates.org:

- Glenn stated that there have been two training sessions, posted on: Budgetadvocates.org.
- The third session will be on Nov. 14th at 1 p.m. for those who are meeting with 40+ city departments. After these meetings, the budget advocates will write up reports on each department.

- The mayor released her budget letter asking each department to respond to her with their priorities.
- There is a vacancy in Region 2 for another budget advocate. He also spoke about Region 6 and their needs.

IX. NWNC Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee: Janis Kraft – No report.
b) Public Safety: Jeff Diamond – No report.
c) Government Affairs: Sam Dulys – No report.
d) Planning and Land Use: Sam Dulys) – It was covered in the meeting.
e) Elections - Janis is working on this.
f) Homelessness: Peter Lasky is setting up a committee meeting and asked for suggestions on a location and ideas. He has already met with various city officials on ideas that he has.

- Kathleen suggested a Homelessness Town Hall.
- Glenn Bailey spoke about the recent Town Hall held on this subject and the efforts that have come out of it. He will share this info with Peter.

g) Beautification: Jeff Diamond spoke about the upcoming Conversation with the Councilman on Oct. 26th in regards to a brochure on brush clearing.
Also, a request from Granada Hills High for assistance with painting utility boxes. He has contacted CD12 about this. The high school is now requesting funding but Granada Hills HS isn't in NWNC's area.
He will create an agenda for a meeting, possibly next week.

- Sam asked for clarification on deadwood cleanup and brush removal on Limekiln Canyon.
- Jeff referenced property owners' responsibility and Urban Forestry's role on clearing brush in the gully.
- Kathleen said they have a trifold brochure that could be used if they update it. She reiterated property owners' responsibilities.
- Mikki referenced the city's letter to homeowners in previous years where property owners could be fined if they didn't take care of this.
- Matt Smith said the Bureau of Street Services Enforcement Division Chief Gary Harris sends the letters out. This usually comes from a 311 report, followed by a letter and an inspection, but there are plenty of opportunities for home owners to take action before they are fined.

(Nathan left the meeting at 10 p.m.)

- Lopsie spoke about a neighbor who questioned why they had to clear brush beyond their property.
- Matt said there is a misconception about the sidewalk which is shared ownership. The home owner is responsible for the sidewalk outside their property if someone sues them. They are also responsible for trimming trees.
- Jeff asked if they could get tips on how to speak with homeowners at the Conversation with Council.
- Kathleen said she could share a municipal code on this for Lopsie.
- Peter said the Code is 5608. He and his neighbors got cited years ago.
- Glenn suggested having your gardener take care of the parkway on the other side of their wall, as needed.

- Jeff said there are tools that are effective in pulling weeds. Jeff also got cited in the past.

h) Budget - David Uranga – No report

i) Outreach - Lopsie Schwartz wanted to know about holding an in-person meeting. She would like some help with setting up a committee meeting.

- Janis said the NCs have to do at least one in-person meeting each calendar year. Last year, they held a Holiday gathering at CA Pizza Kitchen. There was also a meeting in July at the Toyota Dealership. They will plan for an in-person meeting before the end of the year.

j) Education: Nathan Lichtman – No report.

Janis offered to help with setting up agenda and meetings.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 10:20 p.m.

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Atwork-