

NORTHRIDGE WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 at 6:15 PM

I. **CALL TO ORDER at 6:15 p.m. by Janis Kraft, president of Northridge West Neighborhood Council.**

- **Board Roll Call:** Quorum of seven (7) established.
- **Present: (7)** Janis Kraft, Kathleen Edwards, Joel Lowell, Sam Dulys, Nicolas Haddad, Jeff Diamond, and Richard Young. Kevin Herzberg arrived at 6:19 p.m. and Krystal Sims at 6:20 p.m. bringing the board members present to 9.
- **Absent: (2)** Nathan Lichtman, Diana Delgado, and Alanna Flax-Clark.

II. **The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.**

III. **ADMINISTRATIVE MOTIONS –**

- a) **Approval of January 13, 2026 General Board meeting minutes.** (Kraft/Lowell) moved to approve the board meeting minutes of January 13, 2026 as revised. The motion carried unanimously:

Voting Yea (9-0-0): Kraft, Edwards, Lowell, Dulys, Haddad, Diamond, Young, Herzberg and Sims.

Opposed (0)

Abstaining (0)

Absent: (3) Lichtman, Delgado, and Flax-Clark.

- b) **Approval of January 2026 MER.** (Kraft/Dulys) moved to approve the January 2026 MER. Treasurer Joel Lowell reported that \$5,100 remains in the budget for NPGs, \$2,500 for Community Improvement, \$3,004 for Outreach, and a little over \$3,000 for Office Expenses. The motion carried unanimously.

Voting Yea (9-0-0): Kraft, Edwards, Lowell, Dulys, Haddad, Diamond, Young, Herzberg and Sims.

Opposed (0)

Abstaining (0)

Absent: (3) Lichtman, Delgado, and Flax-Clark.

IV. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- Glenn Bailey attended the recent Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) meeting. He said the DWP is asking for a rate increase in April. The Valley Economic Alliance will be speaking at VANC about possible partnerships. There will also be an update on charter reform and the City Clerk's proposed postponement of NC Elections from 2027 to 2029.
- Matt Larson, a vendor with Public Meetings.org, introduced his Salt Lake City, UT company.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a) Janis suggested that board members turn on their cameras when in a Zoom meeting. She thanked everyone who participated in the Homeless Count.
- b) She said Kathleen Edward will discuss and give updates on Sober Living homes within NWNK boundaries.

VI. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

a) **Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division:**

Adam Knabe, Fire Chief at Battalion Fire Station 15, cautioned drivers to be careful during the rainy season as roads are slick with oil. The rain can also fuel undergrowth which is easily ignitable. He suggested removing vegetation within 5' of your house and to keep kids away from the flood channels and rivers.

Mikki I. asked about the penalties for those who don't remove vegetation. He suggested she contact their Fire Prevention Bureau.

LAPD Updates: Mikki is a volunteer with Devonshire Sr. Lead Office. She gave a report on the uptick in thefts of cash during the Lunar New Year. Would be thieves are scoping out ATMs and waiting for opportunities for people to leave cash envelopes in their cars so it's best to be aware at all times when withdrawing money. If someone approaches and wants to speak with you, this could be a ploy to distract you. Sr. Lead Officer Zamora's next meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26th at 6 p.m. at Northridge United Methodist Church. CERT classes are starting up again on March 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Community School in Chatsworth.

Glenn Bailey said he reported a bus bench with graffiti at Reseda and Prairie.

b) CD 12 City Council Representative: Myrka Martinez from Council Member Lee's office, gave a report. The CM voted to approve funding for an additional 130 police officers for the rest of the year as he is a strong supporter of public safety. The LA Metro board approved an alternate route for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor which will add a future layer of connectivity from the Valley to the Westside. The City Council voted to close a loophole for the city's tax code. This is aimed at illegal cannabis operations. The councilmember voted against an increase in the hotel tax. A new supportive housing development has opened in the council district to give people living on the street supportive resources.

c) Assembly District 40: Jenna Sickenius, representing Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, gave a report on upcoming events including free tax services and free tacos. She talked about a web workshop in April which will be promoted via mailers. There will be a hike held in early April. The Assemblymember is filing 17 bills currently including a bill limiting predatory lending aimed at small business, a bill to protect victims of crimes against children (initiating in Riverside County), consumer protection, victim protection, and making sure public dollars are going back to taxpayers. Jenna said this was her last week as she is leaving the office of the Assemblymember.

d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Vincent Autiero announced a webinar on February 12 for writing community impact statements on charter reform. The Congress of Neighborhoods planning committee wants input from NCs on what

should be featured in the breakout sessions for the next Congress, and which electeds should be invited. Mayor Bass delivered the State of the City address recently. She talked about her accomplishments with homelessness and partnerships for the World Cup, among other things. There was a free lunch event in Sylmar recently to support community shelters. Vincent announced Summer Night Lights, a program that will happen at local parks for youth this summer.

e) **Budget Advocate Report:** www.budgetadvocates.org: Glenn Bailey stated that the Department hosted Budget 101 in January. The budget advocates have met with most of the 40+ city departments and will create their White Paper by the end of February. The budget advocates recently discovered that the City Clerk has proposed to the Mayor that the 2027 NC elections should be moved to 2029 to save money. He suggested agendizing this for discussion at NWNC's next meeting and providing input to your Councilmember. The Mayor will be announcing the budget on April 20th. The City Clerk is requesting the same \$25,000 allocation to NCs for the next fiscal year. There will be a Town Hall held by the budget advocates after the Mayor announces the budget. Budget Day is June 27th. They are asking each NC to contribute \$500.00 toward this event.

VII. FUNDING MOTIONS

a) **Discussion and possible vote to approve up to \$2500 for Salute to Rec and Parks NPG request.** Janis spoke about funding this two-day event's children's area. There was discussion about possibly working with Northridge East NC to share a table and costs. The event is being held on 5/16 & 5/17 at Northridge Park. Janis stated that Merab Ruiz, the primary contact for this event, will speak at the March board meeting. **The vote was tabled until the March meeting when Merab can attend and answer questions.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Discussion and possible vote to create a Planning Committee to work on changes to our neighborhood tri-fold information and/or a creating a possible Flyer.** Janis stated that the Planning Committee will be responsible for content revisions and obtaining printing costs. She noted that Mary was helpful in putting a flyer together to promote NWNC. Kathleen also suggested Sam Dulys could use Canva for the design. (Kraft/Edwards) moved to create a Flyer Creation Committee with committee members. Jeff, Kevin, Kathleen and Sam all said they would be interested in serving on this committee. **Due to questions regarding whether this would be deemed an Ad Hoc Committee, the decision was made to table action until the next board meeting.**

b) **Discussion and possible vote to "support in concept" the proposed LANCC Charter Reforms.** Janis introduced this item saying that board members of LANCC had suggested that a CIS be sent to the City with proposed language. Information on the proposed Charter Reforms can be found on the homepage of www.LANCC.org.

- Glenn Bailey explained the charter reform process and suggestions that LANCC proposed but were disregarded by the City's Charter Commission.
- Janis read the CIS's sent by Northridge East NC and Reseda NC and asked the board for their input on what language to use.
- Kathleen said she agreed in concept with the language LANCC proposed.

- Richard shared a letter which was sent by email to board members asking them to take individual action on their own.
- Kathleen then proposed language for the CIS.

(Kraft/Lowell) moved: “The Northridge West Neighborhood Council voted to "support in concept" the Charter Reform recommendations approved by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) as well as those approved by the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates and to file a Community Impact Statement to the Charter Reform Commission and to the City Council. The LANCC recommendations were approved by the Northridge West Neighborhood Council representatives voting at its regular monthly meeting held on February 10, 2026. This vote was a culmination of weekly meetings held during November and December of 2025 by the LANCC Charter Reform Ad Hoc Committee that included participants from NCs throughout the City. Recommendations include topics such as Neighborhood Councils, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, the City Budget, an Office of Transparency and Accountability, City Council activities, the Ethics Commission, the City Attorney, and ongoing Charter reform.”

The motion carried unanimously.

Voting Yea (9-0-0): Kraft, Edwards, Lowell, Dulys, Haddad, Diamond, Young, Herzberg and Sims.

Opposed (0)

Abstaining (0)

Absent: (3) Lichtman, Delgado, and Flax-Clark.

- c) **Discussion and vote for 4 board members to have access to the CIS posting system.** (Kraft/Dulys moved that Kathleen, Sam, and Richard be given access to post CISes on behalf of the NWNC. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Voting Yea (9-0-0): Kraft, Edwards, Lowell, Dulys, Haddad, Diamond, Young, Herzberg and Sims.

Opposed (0)

Abstaining (0)

Absent: (3) Lichtman, Delgado, and Flax-Clark.

- d) **Consideration and nomination for possible motion for a “Senior of the Year.”** Janis explained that the NWNC approved an NPG for the Dance and therefore can nominate a Senior to be considered for this award to be presented at the Senior Dance on May 15, 2026.

- Richard Young nominated Kathleen Edwards for the award stating that she should receive this because of her longstanding service to NWNC and her experience..

(Kraft/Diamond) moved to nominate Kathleen Edwards for the Senior of the Year award. The motion carried unanimously.

Voting Yea (9-0-0): Kraft, Edwards, Lowell, Dulys, Haddad, Diamond, Young, Herzberg and Sims.

Opposed (0)

Abstaining (0)

Absent: (3) Lichtman, Delgado, and Flax-Clark.

- e) **Discussion and/or possible action to approve or not approve recommended changes to the final draft of the NWNC Bylaws as proposed by the Bylaws Ad hoc Committee for 2026.** The board extensively discussed each of the

proposed changes to NWNK's Bylaws. However, Vincent Autiero noted that many of those proposed changes were not allowed. Therefore, the board tabled approval of the bylaws changes until the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee has more time to review them and make specific recommendations. The bylaws changes are due to DONE no later than 4/1/26.

- f) **Discussion and possible vote for Ad Hoc committee to review and possibly make corrections to NWNK Standing Rules.** Due to the lateness of the meeting, this motion was tabled for a vote until the March board meeting.
- g) **Discussion and possible vote on appointing 2 budget reps to represent NWNK on the Budget Advocates Committee.** Currently, Janis and Joel are the two budget reps. Janis stated that these positions are open now. The reps will be responsible for taking notes and reporting action at the Budget Advocates meetings if Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey isn't available. Stakeholders are also allowed to serve as budget reps. **This motion was tabled to allow for more volunteers to respond.**
- h) **Discussion and possible vote on having a board retreat in July or August 2026.** If the board agrees to move forward with a board retreat, the Outreach Committee will spearhead the retreat after getting information from NEA Vincent Auterio on how to proceed. **This motion was tabled until the March meeting.**
- i) **Discussion on new Agenda Template and due dates for committee meetings per SB707.** Janis said she would send out an email to the board on the changes to the template.

VIII. NWNK Committee Reports

- a) **Executive Committee** (Janis Kraft) – No report.
- b) **Public Safety** (Jeff Diamond)
 - Jeff recently assumed the role of chairperson of this committee. There will be a meeting in the future to focus on sober living facilities. Jeff spoke about getting a procedure in place regarding the homeless. He referred to an encampment that was recently removed. He also talked about opportunities for sidewalk repair within the Council District and using MyLA311 to report graffiti.
 - Sam was in touch with LAPD Senior Lead Officer Zamora. He spoke about the shooting that took place on New Year's Day where resident Keith Porter was shot and killed. He referred to it as a controversial situation and noted that a vigil was held by his family recently.
 - Kathleen referred to Jeff's idea to hold a Street Challenge where stakeholders adopt a street and report illegal dumping, potholes, graffiti, shopping carts, etc. She talked about holding a contest for who could submit the most infractions, giving them certificates of appreciation. It could also be a challenge posed to Northridge East NC.
 - Janis suggested speaking to the businesses that own the shopping carts as they should be removing them off the streets.
 - Kathleen said that the laws have changed and stores are no longer required to collect their old shopping carts.
- c) **Government Affairs** (Richard Young) Richard said his committee has been reviewing legislation but they have not held a meeting in the last month.
- d) **Planning and Land Use** (Diana Delgado) – Kathleen said Diana was not able to

attend the meeting due to her need to attend a conference.

e) **Elections** (Janis Kraft) – No report.

f) **Homelessness** (Nathan Lichtman) – Nathan was absent but Sam reported that he met with Matthew from LAHSA about how they could work together and proposed a few ideas. One was to have a board member do a ride-along to see how they interact with the homeless and visit a homeless shelter.

- Kathleen suggested that Janis speak with the city attorney to give input on working with LAHSA.
- Vincent disagreed saying he did not believe there was any conflict with Sam discussing ideas with Mathew.
- Glenn spoke about a Town Hall on homelessness.
- Janis suggested inviting Mathew to the committee meeting.
- Kathleen suggested someone from the city also be invited.
- John Hales said he was interested in the homeless count but he was disappointed to learn that the Northridge South NC was not invited to participate in the homeless count and they have a lot of encampments there.

g) **Beautification** (Sam Dulys) Sam said he hasn't held a meeting yet but hoped to do so in February by tying in with Public Safety. He is going to look into working with CD12 on brush abatement. He also wants to work on topiaries.

h) **Budget** (Joel Lowell) – No report.

i) **Outreach** (Nathan Lichtman) Janis announced there will be a meeting on Feb. 23, 2026 at 3 p.m. on Zoom.

j) **Education** (Krystal Sims) – Krystal said there were no new developments so there will be no meeting this month.

- Kathleen stated that the committees can meet at the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf on Monday and Tuesday evenings after 7 p.m. or before 3 p.m.
- Vincent noted that his Outreach & Awareness Director was invited to the Salute to Recreation but can't commit to attending it.

IX. **MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:15 p.m.**

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, AtWork-