



Northridge West Neighborhood Council

Joint ECM and Whole Board Meeting

2:00 pm

Friday, July 31, 2020



Executive Officers

Rana Sharif, President
Abigail Bailes, VP of Administration
Kelly Sooter, VP of Outreach and Communication
Yi Ding, Secretary
Joel Lowell, Treasurer

Board Members

Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky
Bill Fox, Jennifer Krowne,
Josue Toscano, Kathleen Edwards
Glen Wilson

MINUTES

Zoom ID: 918 7326 0399

Zoom Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91873260399>

By Telephone: Dial 669-900-9128 and enter 918 7326 0399 followed by the '#' symbol

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Northridge West Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically.

Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must dial 669-900-9128 and enter **918 7326 0399** and then press # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by email: NCsupport@lacity.org or phone: (213) 978-1551.

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS - In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed **9401 Reseda Blvd, in the clear box, to the left of the gate adjacent to the parking lot** and at our website: northridgewest.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Rana Sharif at (818) 280-9587 or email: rsharif@northridgewest.org.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS - The public is requested to dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to **TWO (2)** minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.



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SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte el Departamento de Empoderamiento Vecinal, al (213) 978-1551 o por correo electrónico ncsupport@lacity.org.

Notice to Paid Representatives - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS – Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- **9401 Reseda Blvd, in the clear box, to the left of the gate adjacent to the parking lot**
- <http://www.northridgewest.org>
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>



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- I. Meeting call to order
 - A. 2:01pm
 - B. Meeting attendees
 1. Board: Rana, Ding, Kelly, Abby, Joel, Gail, Kathleen, Glen.
 2. 8-10 stakeholders
 - II. Comments by stakeholders on non-agenda items
 - III. Approval of June 25th minutes
 - A. Kelly made the motion, Abby seconded, and Executive Committee (EC) voted unanimously to pass the motion.
 - B. To agendaize the motion to approve the May ECM minutes at the next ECM
 - IV. Presidential comments
- Business Items (voting):**
- V. Discussion and possible motion to support City Planning Application (**ZA-2019-7512-MPA**) for a Conditional Use Permit for California Fish Grill. This approval is for the sale beer and wine for onsite consumption at a new site currently being developed by the property owner.
 - A. For case summary and documents: <https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjM0NDIyO>
 - B. Terry Womack (California Fish Grill case representative from EBI Consulting) briefly introduced the case (everything will be served over the counter, 11am-9:30pm, no happy hour); Joel asked about the location and then made the motion, Abby seconded, and EC voted unanimously to pass the motion.
 - VI. Discussion and possible motion to submit a statement in writing to Los Angeles City Attorney, Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez, and Los Angeles City Ethics Commission requesting an inquiry and public statement clarifying Councilmember John Lee's participation and involvement in the events surrounding the indictment of former Councilmember Mitch Englander
 - A. Rana started the discussion by emphasizing the importance of being respectful when talking about this important issue and explaining that this was not a conversation about what had or had not happened, plaintiff culpability, or investigation. She stated it as a motion for clarity, said that we were not able to have an opportunity for conversation when inquiring about this in the past, and suggested the board discussion led by what stakeholders think and hear feedback from stakeholders. Kathleen emphasized that the board should be responsible for our stakeholders not external influences and Rana agreed.
 - B. Stakeholders:
 1. Patty Glueck identified herself as a Northridge West stakeholder and shared how she was shocked by the news and now concerned with John Lee sitting on the PLUM Committee. She read the Ethics Committee, and hope to make sure our councilman abides by rules.
 2. Katherine Tattersfield identified herself as a constituent of John Lee living in Chatsworth. She supported the investigation and VI motion, thought supporters of John Lee would also support this to seek for clarification and transparency, and appreciated NWNC's openness on this issue.
 3. Pilar Schiavo from West Valley People's Alliance shared that her daughter graduated from Granada Hills High School and supported VI to get to the truth. She also suggested not have John Lee on the PLUM committee during the investigation and hoped NWNC would pass this to uphold truth and democracy.
 4. Zach Volet identified himself a West Hills resident and shared he was glad VI is on agenda and pointed out one of the things that got overlooked was that there was a conflation of criminality and



ethical malpractice. He also argued that John Lee has not been charged with crime, but as we know he is a cooperator as Staffer B. He explained that typically you would let an underling get away if he/she has cooperated to bring down the target of the indictment but this does not mean that just he/she has not done something criminal, he/she has not done something that is unethical. Zach said John Lee had lied about his academic record and other scandals such as sexual harassment and criticized how John Lee had knowingly taken endorsement from somebody charged with crime/indicted and judged that John has ethics problem.

5. Michelle Manire Fowle said she was from Westwood Indivisible and West Valley People's Alliance. She echoed everyone's points to say that it would be helpful to have transparency and although she does want to support the councilmember, she has concerns with his ethics and is most concerned with him sitting on the PLUM Committee.

C. Board:

1. Abby appreciated everyone's input and asked if any staff from Lee's office had been invited to the meeting. She had no problem with asking for clarification but did have a question in terms of who we should direct the letter to. Abby personally reached out to John Lee's office and shared that FBI has done the investigation and it is closed without pending investigation. She confirmed that the board was asking for clarification not investigation and emphasized we were not doing guilt by association which does not implicate crime. She reminded the board the relationship between Lee and our community and the unique situation of Lee being the only republication on city board, not to make excuse but to make sure the board was not condemning but only asking for information.
 2. Rana responded that depending on the outcome, we could determine if we should move forward. She confirmed this was not asking for investigation.
 3. Kathleen commented many participants today were on national organizations and not necessarily relevant to our community and tried to make a motion for the issue to go to the Government Affairs committee. Rana commented that only EC members could make a motion.
- D. Stakeholder Carl Peterson said he didn't believe the investigation was over and emphasized that it was not guilt by association and that there were specific activities of Staffer B that could be potentially criminal activities-escorts, bribery, illegal gifts. He also pointed out that Lee disavowed his Republican membership.
- E. Board member Kathleen shared Lee was not found guilty during the investigation and that people have been passing false information of him not admitting being Staffer B. She indicated that he was being transparent once the FBI investigation was revealed.
- F. Stakeholder Katherine Tattersfield followed up by saying that Lee had not said he was or was not Staffer B so we should ask for clarification. She also said we were asking him to be removed during the city council investigation not an FBI investigation.
- G. Kathleen commented Lee confirmed that he was Staffer B, both on his social media and publicly on newspapers. She reiterated he was being transparent, despite the false information being circulated, and she would send twitter information about Staffer B if Katherine would like. Rana reiterated the content of the motion. Kathleen opposed to politicize this issue. Ding asked if there was any concern if we passed the motion and Rana explained that the motion would only pass it onto the General Board Meeting where we could invite someone from John Lee's office to speak.
- H. Stakeholder Betty from West Valley said we needed to call out corruption and hoped the board voted in favor of this motion. Abby agreed that the Government Affairs committee should have priority over review, investigation of this issue, and made the motion that this issue be appointed to the Government Affairs Committee who would then make recommendations to the Board. Kelly expressed that she was in favor of passing motion VI onto the GBM and suggested that the outcome of the letter asking for clarification could



trigger the next steps for Government Affairs to follow up.

- I. Kelly made the motion to pass the motion VI "to submit a statement in writing to Los Angeles City Attorney, Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez, and Los Angeles City Ethics Commission requesting an inquiry and public statement clarifying Councilmember John Lee's participation and involvement in the events surrounding the indictment of former Councilmember Mitch Englander" onto the GBM, Ding seconded it, and the EC voted unanimously to pass the motion.

Non-Business Items (non-voting):

- VII. Discussion and update regarding City Clerk's review of Northridge Beautification Foundation's NPGs
- VIII. Discussion and update regarding Education Committee school outreach project (Ding)
 - A. Ding shared the project to build NWNC awareness and a relationship with families in our community by reaching out to elementary schools with hand sanitizers and NWNC branded postcards. Ding will send the board the updated [Survey Monkey link](#) and thanked Kelly for ordering the outreach materials. Kelly asked Joel to help with the BAC and updated everyone on the progress of the printing of postcards.
- IX. Discussion and update regarding street cleaning, weed abatement, and trash clean-up (Abby)
 - A. Abby gave an update that John Lee's office successfully received and assigned funds to clean streets which would happen within the next week. This would start with Tampa. Abby also commented the effectiveness of calling the office about this issue. She shared two organizations involved in this were West Valley Alliance and LA Conservation Corps' Clean and Green Program which NWNC could potentially contract with in the future. Gail and Rana suggested us communicate with Chris Williams to make sure we are not duplicating efforts and Kelly commented that Chris had been very dedicated for this and this could go to the Beautification Committee to follow up. Abby supported additional help with cleanup.
 - B. Kelly shared a plan like Neighborhood Watch where different neighborhood leads will be responsible for a couple of streets.
 - C. Mikkie asked if Chris Williams used to take breaks during summer and Gail & Kelly said they would usually work during summer and let us know when they would take a break.
- X. Discussion and update regarding website updates and monthly Committee feature (Kelly)
 - A. Kelly shared important updates of the website and commended that Kristina had been amazing
 1. The Reference Guide is now up on the About Us tab.
 2. An area to house all the handouts and recordings
 3. New tab for project status which provides updates and transparency
 4. Also playing around with design to increase legibility.
 - B. Joel suggested to add mailbox info to the website; Kathleen suggested to have accurate info of meetings since some stakeholders were upset about the wrong info; Joel asked if we needed to resolve the problem of the limitation to send only one eblast 24 hours and Kelly responded that NWNC didn't usually use it that often and proposed Kristina could look into other options if people were interested in exploring and thought we would use it more actively.
- XI. Discussion and update regarding the Utility Box project (11:11 & Kelly)
 - A. Kelly gave an update of the project in terms of asking for feedback from stakeholders and the board. 11:11 will put together a recommendation of the final boxes and present it to NWNC, Porter Ranch, CD 12, and Cultural Affairs in the next couple of weeks.
 - B. Kelly aims to bring to the GBM more concrete information about the boxes and commented the variety of different points of views. Joel asked the number of people who voted and if the voting was open and Kelly said we do not have such info and the voting was closed.
- XII. Discussion and motion to approve the **July 14, 2020 GBM Minutes**
- XIII. Discussion and motion to approve the **July 2020 Monthly Expense Report** (pending posting)
- XIV. Committee Chair check-ins and possible recommendations for the August General Board Meeting
 - A. Gail shared an update from the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance of Homelessness that 1) they have been working with the Board of Education to find properties unused by schools to house families and homeless people 2) there would be a town hall for unhoused people on August 27 and Gail asked for help finding potential panelists and publicizing it. The planning committee was looking for unhoused people across the board for age, disability, etc. Rana offered to help Gail connect with Spectrum News. Kelly provided some background of this event with just unhoused people instead of just promoting all the efforts and reminded us



to be respectful of their privacy and make sure to ask for consent if they would be on TV. Ding expressed full support for the event and offered to connect Gail to CSUN low-income and homeless students, Basic Needs Committee, and the local library communities that are connected to homeless people in the area.

- XV. Additional recommendations for the August General Board Meeting
- A. Rana confirmed with Gail that she would add the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance of Homelessness Town Hall
 - B. Kathleen suggested to include discussion on the role of NCs (who we should advocate for, city charter, California Constitution) and expressed her concern with participants being connected with national organizations and not necessarily from our area and the risk of NWNC being influenced by political duress; Kelly suggested us look at the NC fact sheet from EmpowerLA to look at the demographics and other background info of our stakeholders; Rana supported this discussion and emphasized the importance of agendizing important conversations like this and inviting more stakeholders come to NWNC meetings; Gail commented that there were non-political issues she never treat as political; Rana acknowledged Kathleen's frustrations and encouraged us to keep all the concerns in alignment with the goals NWNC.
 - C. Ding suggested to add Board of Education Town Hall and Rana confirmed.
 - D. Gail asked about the mural project and Beautification Committee Chair Kathleen shared the challenge of space/safety to put the mural and said they would have a meeting soon. Glen shared some change of city personnel.
 - E. Gail asked about the emergency preparedness topic and the [Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair](#) and Mikkie shared she heard it would be virtual this year and encouraged Gail to contact the organizing committee.
- XVI. Adjournment
- A. 3:31pm