

NWNC's Government Affairs Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2019 @ 6:45 PM

Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf outdoor patio @ 18705 Devonshire St, Northridge

NWNC Board Members Attending: Abby Bailes (Govt. Affairs Committee Chair), Bill Fox (Committee Member), Peter Lasky, Glen Wilson, Kathleen Edwards

Stakeholders Attending: Victoria Estrada, Grace Jimenez, Erika Marais, Maribel Campos, Jaelle (last name not provided)

1. Meeting Called to Order & Roll Call @ 6:53 PM
2. Comments by Stakeholders on Non-Agenda Items within the jurisdiction of the Committee:
 - Maribel Campos, GHCHS Parent Ambassador, informed us that there is an upcoming LAUSD Board Member Election in March 2020. She is supporting candidate: Marilyn Koziatek, who is running for LAUSD Board Member District 3, against incumbent, Scott Smerlson. She asked the Committee to consider ways to outreach to NWNC stakeholders for information about this upcoming election and candidates. The Committee will refer this to the Outreach Committee to discuss.
3. Government Affairs Committee Chair Comments: Abby Bailes thanked the stakeholders for attending, encouraged them to participate in future Government Affairs and General Board Meetings, and discussed how stakeholders can send public comments on Council Files.
4. ITEM 1 -Sex Ed in CA Public Schools and Parental Rights. At the recent Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC) Board Meeting, the Committee became aware of stakeholder interest in Sex Ed curricula in local public schools. Several stakeholders spoke about their concerns about lack of transparency about the curriculum that will be used in LAUSD schools. Victoria Estrada and Grace Jimenez showed materials from the CA Board of Education that included links to websites that students are referred to for more information, such as:
 - <https://amaze.org>
 - <https://www.teensource.org>
 - <https://sexetc.org>
 - <https://pflag.org>
 - <https://www.afraidtoask.com>
 - www.stayteen.org - <https://powertodecide.org/teen-talk>
 - <http://www.iwannaknow.org>
 - <https://familypact.org>
 - <https://projectula.org>

Victoria Estrada – Shared her concerns and experience at Frost MS, not being able to get information easily, attempting to opt out and being rejected, pulled child out of school because of objection to this curriculum. There is confusion about provisions of the law.

The Committee discussed a Town Hall on this topic. This is a large project and is estimated to take at least 2-3 months, or longer. The Committee discussed potential locations, such as Northridge Rec center, GHCHS Highlander Hall, or other venues such as the Northridge Christian Church and Shepherd of the Hills Church to be determined. Possible speakers were discussed, such as Christy Smith, Scott Smerlson, LAUSD Local District Northwest Superintendent Narcoda, school principals, LAUSD instruction, psychologist, medical health professionals, Tim Kordic, Parents, LAUSD Health Ed Dept., CA Dept of Education, John Lee, sex Ed instructors, and others. Need to discuss potential moderator for the Town Hall.

Discussed how to cooperate in this Town Hall with other Neighborhood Councils. Should we send stakeholders to approach these groups, other groups, such as the league of women voters, VANC? Neighborhood Council President Peter Lasky said that he will attend an upcoming Presidents Meeting for local NCs and will approach them about this idea.

Abby Bailes made the motion to have a Town Hall Meeting to inform stakeholders about the Sex Ed Curriculum that is being implemented in local school. This motion was seconded by Bill Fox. The vote was 5 yes and 0 no. Motion passed 5:0. This motion will be presented to the Executive Committee to be included on the agenda for the General Board Meeting in November 2019.

Abby Bailes stressed the need for stakeholder support in order to make the preparations. She motioned to create an Ad Hoc Committee for the Town Hall on Sex Ed, which would include Board Members and Stakeholders, Erika Marais, Grace Jimenez and Victoria Estrada. This motion was seconded by Bill Fox. The vote was 5 yes and 0 no. Motion passed 5:0.

Abby Bailes motioned to add two new stakeholders to the Government Affairs Committee: Grace Jimenez and Victoria Estrada. This motion was seconded by Bill Fox. The vote was 5 yes and 0 no. Motion passed 5:0.

5. ITEM 2 – Review of the Weekly Legislative Reports from LA City Council and discussion of any legislative items that impact the NWNC community (10 minutes) – No comments was provided on this report.
6. ITEM 3 – Discussion of potential council files to be considered to a Community Impact Statement. (10 minutes)
 - Council File 13-1493-S8, Citywide Sidewalk Vending Program (Sidewalks and Parks) / Outreach and Education Service Providers / Pre-Qualified List: Introduced on September 27, 2019 and Chief Legislative Analyst report, dated September 27, 2019, is relative to the PreQualified List – Sidewalk Vending – Outreach and Education of service providers for the Citywide Sidewalk Vending

Program.

- Bill Fox has been a licensed street vendor for 15 + years. He has to comply with regulations from LA City and LA County and pay fees. He says the unlicensed street vendors are not following health and safety guidelines for food handling and preparation and do not have to pay the same fees. There has been a large increase of these vendors in our community. He would like the Committee to find out more about the Council File and possibly submit a CIS that includes the negative impact of these vendors in our neighborhoods.
- Abby Bailes said that she wants to make sure that this does not create an unnecessary regulation that restricts entrepreneurialism, but rather focuses on health and safety for the public. Can we reduce the burden on licensed food vendors and restaurants and level the playingfield for all.
- Kathleen Edwards will address this issue at the next meeting of the Public Safety Committee on Saturday 10/19, in order to answer questions such as who inspects? Who is looking at the health and safety and enforcement? She will ask John Lee, about this topic.
- Motion was presented by Abby Bailes to table discussion on this matter and pass it to Public Safety. Motion Passed 5:0.

[Council File 11-1705](#) to consider changes to allow digital billboard in LA

- Peter Lasky said that NWNC did create a CIS about 2 years ago. The Board opposed these digital billboards. Possible issue for Land Use Committee.
 - Kathleen was concerned about the dangers of distraction related to these signs.
 - Discussion was tabled to continue at next meeting in order to get more information.
7. ITEM 5 - This item was skipped because Patricia Morejon did not show up for the meeting.
 8. ITEM 6 – Stakeholders may present items for consideration for next Government Affairs meeting. (3 minutes)

Bill Fox mentioned that on the new assessments for property taxes, there is a “Safe Clean water” charge. He called the phone number next to the assessment to find out more. He was told that the money was because of Prop W – Passed recently. Measures hard scape x 2.5 cents per square feet. How will the money be spent? Raise the money to develop a plan. Not clear.
 9. Set date and time for next Committee meeting (3 minutes) – 3rd Wednesday on each month – November 20, 2019 @6:45 PM Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf.
 10. Adjournment 8:05 PM