

Minutes for the May 13, 2014 Board Meeting of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM in the auditorium of Calahan Elementary School located at 18722 Knapp St. in Northridge, CA 91324.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led.

Roll Call

NWNC Board members present: Tom Johnson (president), Peter Lasky (VP of administration), Pamela Bolin (VP of Outreach), John Mah (secretary), Glen Wilson (treasurer), Steven Koch, Daniel Luna, Freddie Rymond and David Uranga.

NWNC Board members not present: Pamela Gentry and Matthew Vallecilla.

Reports or Presentations by Public Officials

Jessie Levine, field deputy to 12th District Councilman Mitch Englander, reported that there was little legislative activity at this time because the councilman was involved with budget hearings. Ms. Levine also announced that: a) recent meetings have been held at the councilman's district office with members of Operation Clean sweep, b) this Sunday is Citrus Sunday so people can drop off their citrus fruit at various locations in CD12, c) there is a pancake breakfast fundraiser for Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) this Saturday, d) the "Senior Social" is on May 30th and e) on May 30th and 31st there will be Aloha Family Festival events.

(At this point President Tom Johnson began his President's Comments but several minutes later, public officials Sanan Shirinian and Leyla Campos appeared at the meeting and asked to address the board. For the sake of continuity, their comments are presented in this portion of the Minutes.)

Sanan Shirinian, a new staff member of Assemblymember Matthew Dababneh (45th District), spoke about 3 pieces of legislation sponsored by him: 1) a measure to bring voting machines up to date, 2) a bill requiring pet insurance companies to fully disclose the terms of coverage to persons inquiring about such insurance, and c) a measure mandating the State Department of Real Estate to seek address information from its licensees.

Leyla Campos, the director of field operations of the northwest region for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) introduced herself. She discussed neighborhood council training offered by DONE and announced that ethics training would be held by the City Attorney's Office on May 29, 2014.

President's Comments

Mr. Johnson gave an update of recent NWNC activities.

A joint meeting of the Outreach and Budget & Finance committees was held on April 30, 2014. VP of Outreach Pam Bolin is preparing an NWNC pamphlet for to be distributed as part of our outreach efforts. Ms. Bolin had a mock-up of her proposed pamphlet and explained its contents.

A Planning, Land Use and Zoning committee meeting chaired by Council Member Daniel Luna will be held on May 19, 2014.

David Uranga, chair of the Elections committee, will be holding a candidates forum.

John Mah and Matthew Vallecilla are chairing a joint meeting of the Bylaws and Ad Hoc Standing Rules committees also on May 19, 2014, please see web site for more details.

Glen Wilson is the new treasurer and has assumed the accounting duties.

Mr. Johnson seeks more community involvement. He wants more fact finding to be conducted by the NWNC committees so there will be more time by the board for other actions.

Public Comments

Stakeholder William Kuzmin announced that he was appointed to a real estate organization's governmental affairs committee. He introduced Syla Boyalouzian, a real estate associate, who made some brief remarks.

Review and Acceptance of Past Minutes

November 12, 2013 Minutes: **Motion and Vote:** A motion was unanimously passed to table the minutes for this date.

February 11, 2014 Minutes: There were no comments or discussion. **Motion and Vote:** A motion to accept the minutes passed with 8 yeses and 1 abstention.

April 8, 2014 Minutes: **Motion and Vote:** A motion to accept the minutes was unanimously **passed.**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Glen Wilson explained the April, 2014 Monthly Expenditure Report. Of note was the Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) in the sum of \$2,935.58 which was rounded up to \$2,600 which resulted in a difference of \$13.00.

Motion and Vote: A motion to accept the April, 2014 Monthly Expenditure Report was **passed** unanimously.

Calahan School NPG

At a board meeting several months ago there was approval of an NPG grand to Calahan School for \$2,587.92 with an invoice for that amount but it was stated as \$2,600.00.

Motion and Vote: A motion to amend the Calahan School NPG amount to \$2,587.92 from the previously stated amount of “up to \$2,600” unanimously **passed**.

Motions to Approve Committee Chair Appointments by the President

Motion and Vote: A single motion to approve the appointment of chairs to the committees stated in items 9(a) through 9(j) with the exception of the committees in subsections (g), (h) and (i), as enumerated in the agenda for this May 13, 2014 meeting, was unanimously **passed**.

Motion and Vote: A separate motion to table the appointment of chairs to the committees as stated in items 9(g),9(h) and 9(i) was unanimously **passed**.

Approval of Committee Budgets for 2014-2015

Stakeholder William Kuzmin wanted an explanation of the \$11,000 attributed to “Education.” President Johnson explained that the education expenditures were allocated to NPGs.

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve up to \$11,000 for category 400 [IRS Code 501(c)(3) organizations] was **passed** unanimously.

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve \$7,000 for category 200 Outreach was unanimously **passed**.

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve \$500 for Planning & Land Use **failed** on a unanimous vote.

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve \$8,000 for Community Improvement (i.e. Beautification) was unanimously **passed**.

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve \$11,000 for Operations(category 100) was unanimously **passed**.

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve funding in the amount of \$780 for Public Safety **failed** on a vote of 7 noes and 2 abstentions.

Motion to support the LA Congress of Neighborhood Councils

At this point a motion to support the LA Congress of Neighborhood Councils in the amount of \$500 was heard. Glenn Bailey of Empower LA spoke about the importance of the Congress of Neighborhood Councils and its workshops to neighborhood councils. The annual event, which will be held at City Hall on September 20, 2014, is a \$40,000 production.

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve funding in the amount of \$500 for the LA Congress of Neighborhood Councils **passed** on a vote of 8 yeses and 1 no.

Motion to support the Kiwanis Club Aloha Festival Senior Dance

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve \$500 for the Kiwanis Club Aloha Festival Senior Dance was unanimously **passed**.

Motion to Nominate Stakeholder Joanne Phillips as Northridge West Senior of the Year

Motion and Vote: A motion to nominate stakeholder Joanne Phillips as Northridge West Senior of the Year was unanimously **passed**.

Motion to Approve to \$150 for a 20” by 24” NWNC Map

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve up to \$150 for an updated 20” by 24” map of the NWNC boundaries was unanimously **passed**.

Motion to Approve Up to \$500 for Reusable NWNC Bags

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve up to \$500 for reusable NWNC was unanimously **passed**.

At this point in the board meeting, stakeholder William Kuzmin commented that he considered the outreach efforts in board agenda items 14 through 17 to be “passive” and would not prompt stakeholders “to get involved” in the neighborhood council. In a brief exchange, VP of Outreach Bolin responded that she disagreed with Mr. Kuzmin.

Motion to Approve Up to \$500 for T-shirts

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve up to \$500 for t-shirts for NWNC outreach, with the shirts to be given away, was **passed** with 7 yeses, 1 no and 1 abstention.

Motion to Amend the Motion to Approve Up to \$500 for NWNC Polo Shirts with Board Approval Required before Production

Motion and Vote: A last minute motion was introduced to approve up to \$500 for NWNC polo shirts with board approval required before production of said shirts, **failed** with 7 noes and 2 yeses.

Motion to Approve Up to \$500 for NWNC Polo Shirts

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve up to \$500 for NWNC polo shirts to be worn by board members at outreach events, was **passed** with 8 yeses, 1 no.

Motion to Fund Up to \$2,000 for Street Post Banners

Stakeholder Brian Reff commented that expenditures of over \$500 required 3 bids.

Motion and Vote: A motion to fund up to \$2,000 for street post banners **failed** with 3 yeses, 3 noes and 3 abstentions.

Motion to \$1,000 in Funding to SOLID

Becky Leveque, a co-founder of Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire, explained SOLID's need for funds. There is a \$40,000 proposal for modernizing communications at LAPD's Devonshire Division and for items not paid by the city including refurbishment of the Division's building. With the contribution to SOLID, the NWNC will have a plaque on the side of the building and receive other recognition.

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve \$1,000 in funding to Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire **passed** with 8 yeses and 1 abstention.

Motion to Approve "\$1,200" for a CPR and First Aid Training Instructor and \$362.42 for Food and Water

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve \$1,280 for a CPR and First Aid Training Instructor and \$362.42 for Food and Water at an event held on March 29, 2014 was unanimously **passed**.

Motion to Approve Expenditure for Clean-up and Maintenance of Reseda Blvd. Median

Stakeholder Brian Reff commented that any vendor selected by the NWNC would have to be paid by "P-card." VP of Administration Lansky remarked in essence that American Heritage Landscape's bid was the most professional of the 3 bids received.

Motion and Vote: A motion to approve \$800 for the initial \$280 clean-up and \$200 monthly maintenance of the Reseda Blvd. Median located between Superior and Kinzie Streets by American Heritage Landscape was unanimously **passed**.

Adjournment at 8:46 PM

John Mah, Secretary