

Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – 6.30PM
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street
Northridge 91324

1. Call to Order

- President Tom Johnson called the meeting to order at 6.40PM.

2. Roll call

- Over eleven stakeholders were present, along with six board members (which was insufficient for a quorum).

Here (6)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, Colleen Pick, David Uranga, and Glen Wilson
Absent (5)	Pamela Jane Gentry, John Mah, Alex Orozco, Debbie Penman, and Freddie Rymond

3. Pledge of Allegiance

- Tom Johnson led us in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Reports and Presentations by Public Officials

a. CD12 - Jonathan Coto

- Councilman Mitch Englander introduced a motion for increased penalties for street racing. This will allow LAPD to seize, auction, and destroy cars. A similar motion was introduced for hit-and-runs, which allows for impoundment of vehicles. If a hit-or-run results in bodily injury or death, the vehicle may also be seized, auctioned and/or destroyed.
- A stakeholder mentioned that Councilman Englander is working on a reward system for reports of hit-and-run crimes.
- April 4, 11AM to 2PM, the Annual Spring Egg Hunt and Health and Safety Fair will be held at the Northridge Park/Recreation Center.
- If you have any questions regarding CD12, please contact Cindy Varela at 818-349-0535
- Someone asked about the senior dance, but the response was not audible.

b. City Attorney - Alin Sahagian

- Ms. Alin Sahagian was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

c. BONC Commissioner - Lydia Grant

- Ms. Lydia Grant was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

d. 27th Senate District – Rosalba Gonzalez

- Rosalba is a field representative for State Senator Fran Pavley, who represents the 27th Senate District.
- Senator Pavley is currently on leave from the legislature for a few days while she tends to her hospitalized husband; she is expected to return to work shortly.
- Rosalba distributed the monthly newsletter, and listed the committees that Ms. Pavley serves: Senate Natural Resources and Water (Chairwoman), Select Committee on Climate Change and Assembly Bill 32 Implementation (Chairwoman), Energy, Utilities, and Communications, Environmental Quality, Budget and Fiscal Review, Governance and Finance, Legislative Ethics, as well as Budget Subcommittee #2 (handling Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy, and Transportation)

- December 30, Senator Pavley introduced SB62, which may develop creative strategies to attract and retain excellent teachers, including student loan forgiveness incentives.
 - Tuesday, March 17, at 6PM, Senator Pavley will speak at the “Los Angeles as a Model of Urban Resilience” symposium at the Grand Salon, University Student Union, CSUN.
5. Special Guest Speaker, Hector Banuelos, Bureau of Street Services, Department of Urban Forestry
- The Department of Urban Forestry controls over 700,000 trees along 6,500 miles of roadway.
 - The main challenge with landscaped medians is irrigation, or lack thereof.
 - The only way to repair the street medians is replacement, but there is little money for that task.
 - Currently, many weeds are growing in the medians; by summer, the medians will be mainly dirt.
 - Mayor Garcetti supports watering twice a week; this is okay in the winter, but is not sufficient during the summer.
 - Prior to the 1990s, the Urban Forestry had hundreds of employees, city hall support, and an adequate budget. At this time, they have less than 100 staff members; contractors handle a great many tree trimming tasks.
 - The principal of this school mentioned that they have trees on Etiwanda that are very weak; Hector advised her that those weak trees are his team’s responsibility and she should reach out to his staff.
 - A stakeholder asked about the procedure if a neighborhood wanted to trim trees on their street; Hector mentioned that they could get a tree trimming permit.
 - Steven Koch mentioned that his church got a tree-trimming permit and made it a team activity.
 - Steven also asked how could they learn the types of trees along their streets.
 - Steven asked about the procedure for residents to improve medians; Hector replied that it might be difficult as the city is very concerned about public safety.
 - Colleen asked about the preference for watering for a longer period of time merely twice a week, rather than watering for a shorter period more than twice a week. Hector replied that it is dependent upon the type of lawn; it is not a good idea to water more than three times per week.
 - A stakeholder mentioned that he felt the water rationing rules were poorly written; rather than saying “a minute of water”, water should be measured by volume rather than time.
6. President's comments
- a. Introduction of Ms. Frances Pollock Meeting Minutes writer
 - Frances was introduced at the new meeting minutes writer.
 - John Mah will remain as secretary, but is stepping aside from the minute-taking responsibilities.
 - b. Introduction of Brand New NWNC Brochures reflecting the vision, commitment, accomplishments, committees, and inspiration for community involvement
 - Congratulations to Peter and Paul Gentry for the community flyer; this reflects the accomplishments, goals, and visions of NWNC.
 - c. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Training held February 28
 - DONE training was held on Saturday, February 28 at Coco’s; this learning experience brought many issues to the forefront.
 - d. Formation of Ad Hoc committee to recommend new City approved web site vendor
 - DONE has a list of ten vendors that neighborhood councils can use to select their web providers.
7. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
- Stakeholder William Kuzmin asked about the new minute taker, her employer’s (Apple One) contract with the City of Los Angeles, as well as how long it takes to generate minutes.

8. Approval of February NWNC Board Meeting Minutes
 - As the meeting lacked a quorum, this agenda item was not addressed.
9. Treasurers Report, Glen Wilson
 - As the meeting lacked a quorum, this agenda item was not addressed.
10. Discussion and motion to approve February 2015 NWNC Monthly Expense
 - As the meeting lacked a quorum, this agenda item was not addressed.
11. Report, discussion and possible motion to approve \$400 for buying Refrigerator Magnets as part of Outreach.
 - As the meeting lacked a quorum, this agenda item was not addressed.
12. Discussion and possible motion to approve a \$300 funding line (NPG) for the purchase of water for the March 27, 2015 12k Trovey Run Co-sponsored with Nobel Middle School.
 - As the meeting lacked a quorum, this agenda item was not addressed.
13. Discussion of board members gathering signatures by stakeholders in support of the resolution approved at the February 10, 2015 general meeting stating the need for refurbishment of the Tampa Medians. *The resolution is to be submitted to Councilman Englander.*
 - As the meeting lacked a quorum, this agenda item was not addressed.
14. Discussion and possible motion to amend the 2014/2015 NWNC Budget to approve transferring \$2,000 from Category 400 Neighborhood Purpose Grant to Category 200 Outreach.
 - As the meeting lacked a quorum, this agenda item was not addressed.
15. Discussion and possible motion to approve a \$2,000 funding line for CERT Training, conducted by the LA Fire Department as a community safety Outreach event. The training will be over the course of three consecutive Saturdays for 8 hours each day.
 - As the meeting lacked a quorum, this agenda item was not addressed.
16. Reports by Committee Chairs
 - Steven Koch mentioned that he was at the well-attended joint meeting of the Public Safety and Education Committees on Monday February 23. Senior Lead Officer John Parker from the Devonshire Division and the Deputy City Attorney were also in attendance.
 - The main topic was the safety concerns of the Nobel School gate on Tampa. Eight speakers supported the gate; no one was opposed to the gate.
 - Officer Parker mentioned that burglaries and assaults have increased.
 - David Uranga mentioned that the Planning Land Use and Zoning Committee does not have any pending applications; however, they are laying down markers.
 - Peter Lasky, Chairman of the Tampa Median Ad Hoc Committee, discussed that if the public thinks refurbishment work should be done with the medians, we should develop support from CD12.
 - Glen Wilson, representing the Beautification Committee, mentioned that this Thursday, March 12 will be the weekly Operation Clean Up on the west side of Wilbur Avenue, between Devonshire and Mayall Streets.
 - Treasurer Glen Wilson, representing the Budget and Finance Committee, mentioned that since we do not have a quorum, we could not discuss the upcoming Nobel Middle School 5k run. By the time we have the next meeting, it may be too late for this \$300 expenditure.
 - Although we have funds for education and non-profits, it is best to agendize such expenditures a month (or longer) ahead due to the lengthy approval process. Glen recently received approval for the candidate town hall meeting that was held on Tuesday, February 17.

- DONE would like to have neighborhood councils submit their budgets by July 1.
- The upcoming neighborhood council elections may cost \$5k of the \$37k budget.
- Tom Johnson talked about emergency training that will be very useful in the event of a natural disaster. Emergency service providers, such as the fire department, will immediately take care of public facilities; however, they will not be able to immediately go door-to-door to make certain that everyone is safe.
- Tom mentioned that NWNC is considering hosting no-cost Red Cross-certified CPR training.
- Tom introduced Jennifer, who has expressed a desire to run for one of the vacant positions on the NWNC.
- NWNC seeks to support the schools within its parameters, including Calahan, Beckford, and Topeka Elementary Schools. Last year, NWNC ~~provided Calahan with~~ supported an NPG of approximately \$2,500 for Calahan Elementary School to purchase equipment, including ~~worth of~~ radio communication devices.

17. Adjournment

- President Tom Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7.36PM.