

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2015 – 6.30PM
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324

1. Call to Order

- Vice President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order at 6.30PM.

2. Roll call

- Secretary John Mah called a roll call. Nine members of the board, along with over eighteen stakeholders were in attendance; a quorum was declared.

Here (9)	Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Alex Orozco, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, Freddie Rymond, David Uranga, and Glen Wilson
Absent (2)	Pamela Gentry and Tom Johnson

3. Flag Ceremony

- Principal Michelle Wells held the flag and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Reports/Presentations by Public Officials

CD 12 - Jonathan Coto, representing Mitchell Englander’s office, presented an update:

- Thursday, July 30, was the Reseda Boulevard Great Streets Art Walk and Scavenger Hunt, between Parthenia and Nordhoff Streets. This event was well attended; many people did not realize how many great shops existed along Reseda Boulevard. This event was partially sponsored by a \$10k challenge grant from WYOBI (?). They hope to use this money to sponsor three more similar events and they look forward to partnering with CSUN, San Fernando Valley, Northridge Sparkle, and other such non-profits.
- Friday, August 14 will be DWP day at Councilman Englander’s office. If you are interested, please contact Ron Rubine at the office.
- Tuesday, August 18, there will be a Wildlife Town Hall at the Mason Park Gymnasium, 10500 Mason Avenue, Chatsworth, beginning at 6PM. Come join wildlife officers discuss the wildlife program, tips to avoid encounters with wildlife (including spraying cayenne pepper around your house), and the types of wildlife living in Los Angeles.
- Wednesday, September 9, a new rescue mission may open along Reseda Boulevard.

Scott Mark Schmerelson is our new LAUSD school board member. He pledges to work with all the schools in the valley and has two people working with him to improve education, including former opponent Ankur Patel. Ankur is like the Energizer Bunny, and one of the smartest people around.

5. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda items

Holly Rasey, Director of Development for the North Valley YMCA, thanked NWNC for \$1k for the Thanksgiving food baskets. This helped provide over 3,000 Thanksgiving meals to the community last November. Holly told the story of a young girl that was very stressed because her grandmother was running late, and the girl was afraid that she would not be able to have a thanksgiving dinner. Holly was also grateful to people from Councilmen Englander’s and Fuentes’s offices that come to help assemble these Thanksgiving packages.

Glen Bailey, President of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council addressed the NWNC:

- He showed Neighborhood Watch signs that cost approximately \$20/each.
- Both councils have opted for online voting, so he suggests that they work together to get the message out. Perhaps they can share facilities, such as at the Northridge Park.
- They hoped to increase the flags along Reseda Boulevard for Memorial Day, Flag Day, and July 4; however, this was scaled back.
- September 26 will be the Congress of Neighborhood Councils; early registration is recommended. One of the workshops will be a case study of “Great Streets” including a discussion about Reseda Boulevard.

6. Special Guest Speakers from the Public Arts Initiative of the Museum of the San Fernando Valley, speaking on a new concept for the Tampa Medians Roger Dolin and Maryley Carrillo Camacho

- They were unable to attend.

7. Motion to Approve July 2015, minutes

- The minute-taker’s copy of the financial statements did not include page 3; hence the minutes reflected inaccurate data. The total should be \$11k, rather than \$4k. This was tabled until a follow-on meeting.

8. Treasurers Report by Glen Wilson

- Glen summarized the treasurer’s report, including outstanding commitments.
- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report; Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Motion to Approve July 2015, Monthly Expense Report.

- The following expenses were incurred in July 2015:

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
July 1	Overdraft Return Fee	Operations	Union Bank	\$ 33.00
July 2	Host Town Northridge	NPG	Kiwanis Club of Northridge	500.00
July 8	Advertising – July 2015	Outreach	Decision Publications	315.00
July 8	Office/Storage – July 2015	Operations	Decision Publications	150.00
July 8	Minute Taker for June 17	Operations	Apple One	69.30
July 13	Chips, Water and Soda	Outreach	Smart and Final	58.39
July 16	Party Ice for July 14 Meeting	Outreach	Vons	6.75
July 16	Sandwich Platter for July 14 Meeting	Outreach	Subway	60.00
July 23	Monthly Maintenance on Reseda Blvd	CIP	American Heritage Landscape	200.00
			TOTAL	<u>\$1,392.44</u>

- Glen Wilson made a motion to accept the Monthly Expense Report for July 2015; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

10. President’s Comments

- Vice President Lasky spoke on behalf of President Tom Johnson who would like the committee chairmen to get together with their committees to think about their budgets.
- On a personal note, Peter added the following:
 “I would like to share some thoughts about working with the board this last year and to thank those stakeholders who have shown patience and interest in the council.

I would like to thank the board for showing up and taking part in this experiment of small grass roots democracy because nothing positive happens if you do not take the time to attend these meetings and consider and deliberate about issues concerning our neighborhood.

Some of you may have seen the tangible results of board actions. We are most known for "Operation Clean Sweep"; people have said how much better the main streets look because of the work of our volunteers from the community and of board members like Glen, Freddy, Debbie and Tom.

Some of you may have benefited from the free First Aid Classes that we sponsored, or learned something useful from the Disaster Preparedness Fair thanks to the efforts of Tom Johnson, Steve Koch and Glen Wilson, or benefited from programs that we have contributed to, like the support of the Friends of the Northridge Library, YMCA-Thanksgiving Food Drive, SOLID in Supporting the Devonshire Police Division and the Special Olympics or the Street Blitz's, which fixes potholes, curbs and sidewalks.

However there is much that goes on that you do not see and I would like to think some of the board members whose work goes unnoticed.

Debbie Penman recently made the corner of Plummer and Tampa much safer by getting the homeowner's association to trim their trees that were blocking street signs.

This last year David Uranga did something new for us that we have not done before which is to put on Political Forums in which stakeholders meet the candidates for local offices. David is also willing to step up and help in other capacities like organizing our participation in the National Night Out, and of course taking on the challenge of chairing the Public Land Use Committee a job that is often maligned and certainly under appreciated, and the new responsibility of Budget Rep.

Steven Koch and Colleen Pick worked to find us a new Webmaster and to develop a new website that hopefully will be here soon. Colleen is personally responsible for seeing the \$4,900 dollars stayed with us instead of being turned back to the city. This year only a thousand dollars was turned back as opposed to the \$7,000 that was returned last year. This is also because of Glen's growth in doing the treasurers job.

I would like to thank John for weighing on issues of bylaws, and explaining legal questions that come up from time to time and for his cogent and succinct council.

Glen Wilson is of course the man for all seasons in Chairing the Beautification Committee, Northridge Vision Rep, VANC Rep, and now also a Budget Rep. The most recent Street Blitz occurred solely because of Glen.

The bottom line is that things happen because someone takes ownership of a problem or issue and comes up with a plan to deal with it and sees it through.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that there are three empty seats, if you have an interest please see John or myself after the meeting or send us an email.

11. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Joint Clean Up with the Key Club and Northridge Christian Church on August 15, 2015, with a funding line of up to \$300 for refreshments, Funding to come from Outreach Budget (Wilson)
 - Someone asked Glen how many people are anticipated for this event, the reply was twenty from the Key Club as well as twenty from the Northridge Christian Church, so they are anticipating forty people.
 - They will clean Wilbur Avenue, from Chatsworth Street to the 118. If time allows, they may go southward from Chatsworth Street.
 - A stakeholder asked about the time frame; the reply was 8AM to noon.
 - Freddie Rymond made a motion to approve this expenditure; Steven Koch seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and Motion to Approve a Joint Clean Up with CSUN on August 29th 2015, with a funding line of \$300 for refreshments, funding to come from the Outreach Budget. (Johnson, Wilson)
 - Per a presentation from Francesca Vega from CSUN from the July 14 meeting, this is a new kind of event to engage the freshman class of CSUN, to introduce them to the community.
 - David Uranga made a motion to approve this expenditure; Debbie Penman seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and motion to approve up to \$400 for tools/equipment for Beautification Projects, funding to come from the Beautification Budget
 - Debbie reminded the board that this was for commercial grade tools.
 - Debbie Penman made a motion to approve this expenditure; John Mah seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

14. Motion to approve a funding line of up to \$800 for a water meter/tools/equipment for Beautification projects at the Oakridge Estate, funding will come from the Beautification Budget
 - Tom Johnson is the sponsor of this agenda item.
 - Colleen mentioned that this expenditure is for tools and equipment to hook up to the nearby fire hydrant, it is not to directly water the trees at Oakridge Estate. Tom told her that this would be used for a post-hole digger to install PVC pipe around the trees.
 - Stakeholder Marcie issued a concern if the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreations Department takes care of this, as it is their park. Jonathan Coto offered that Megan Cottier from his office has worked with the Oakridge Estate Park. However, Friends of Oakridge reached out to the NWNC for help with watering the trees.
 - A stakeholder, Mr. Guzman, asked if this money is to go to the Friends of Oakridge or to the LADWP? He was concerned that \$800 could be spent in merely a month. In addition, who will go onto the gated property to install this irrigation system? Mr. Guzman felt that NWNC was not putting enough money towards this project.
 - Peter Lasky suggested that we “bite the bullet” on this issue, and pay the amount. If the trees die from lack of water, it will be difficult for the trees to come back.
 - Steven Koch made a motion to approve this expenditure [as the agenda item is written]; Colleen Pick seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

15. Motion to approve the recommendation of President Tom Johnson to appoint Glen Wilson and David Uranga as the 2015/16 Budget Reps
 - Glen Bailey mentioned that the wording of this motion should state “2015/16” rather than merely “2015” (as originally appeared in the meeting’s agenda). Glen also mentioned that

one of the Budget Reps responsibilities [through June 2016] is to attend the “Budget Day”, currently scheduled for Saturday, October 17.

- Freddie Rymond made a motion to approve this recommendation to appoint Glen Wilson and David Uranga as the 2015/16 Budget Reps; Steven Koch seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

16. Comments by Committee Chairs

- Glen Wilson – Beautification Committee – Saturday, August 15 – Joint Cleanup with the Key Club and the Northridge Christian Church, along Wilbur Avenue from Chatsworth Street to the 118.
- Alex Orozco reminds everyone that school starts next Tuesday, August 18; please be careful, especially around the Nobel Middle School.
- Glen added that students at Nobel Middle School (at the northeast corner of Tampa and Lassen) could no longer be dropped off along Lassen Street.
- Colleen Pick mentioned that NWNC’s new Webmaster, Wendy, is working on the website, and wondering who will host the website.
- Colleen also mentioned that LADWP would hold a meeting on Tuesday, August 18, beginning at 6PM at the Canoga Park Senior Center, 7326 Jordan Avenue. Colleen attended an LADWP meeting a few weeks ago, and it was pretty scary. Lawns are dying while electric bills are being increased.
- Glen added that the LADWP MOA/MOU meets on the 1st Saturday of each month, beginning at 8:45AM.
- Steven Koch – Public Safety – Along Van Alden Street, between Lassen and Plummer, two women (one petite Asian lady who does not speak English) have been scavenging in people’s back and side yards. These two women have a large recycling operation at their home.

17. Comments by Northridge Vision Rep, Glen Wilson

- Jonathan Coto mentioned that the Northridge Vision meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month; their next meeting will be next Wednesday, August 19, at 2PM.

18. Comments by Budget Representatives

David Uranga thanked everyone for their support

19. Adjournment

At 7:50PM, Peter Lasky adjourned the meeting.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED DURING THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2015.