

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 12 April 2016
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324

1. Call to Order

- President Tom Johnson called the meeting to order at 6.41PM.

2. Roll call

- A roll call was performed; seven members of the board, along with over twelve stakeholders were in attendance; a quorum (which is seven) was declared.

Here (7)	Bill Fox, Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, Colleen Pick, Brent Robinson, and Glen Wilson
Absent (4)	Hayk Gasparyan, Pamela Gentry, John Mah, and Freddie Rymond
Resigned (1)	Debbie Penman

3. Flag Ceremony

- President Johnson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Reports/Presentations by Public Officials

a. CD12 Jonathan Coto

- Wednesday, April 6, Councilman Englander co-authored a motion requesting the City Council to approve and adopt a policy that would dedicate at least two-thirds of the City's share of future local return funding from the proposed Measure R2 ballot measure toward the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the City's streets that are in rated in "D" and "F" condition.
- In the June 2016 election, Metro may propose a \$.005 sales tax for transportation projects; this could create over \$120B over 20-years
- The city council recently laid out a framework for citywide sidewalk repair.
- The LAPD recently launched a 15-member Devonshire daytime, Monday through Friday, community volunteer patrol to monitor neighborhoods, carry city-provided radios, and report to the LAPD. Potential volunteers can reach out to Councilman Englander's office or the LAPD's Devonshire Division. Chairman of the Public Safety Committee Bill Fox added that Simi Valley has a similar and very successful program.
- Earlier this month, Councilman Englander's office and others received the Outstanding Achievement Award for their efforts on the Reseda Boulevard Great Streets program from the Association of Environmental Professionals. The street's accessibility for pedestrians and bicycles was highlighted.
- Sunday, May 22, Councilman Englander, the Valley Interfaith Council, and Food Forward invite everyone to join "Citrus Sunday". They will collect citrus fruit and donate it to food pantries. Last year, 13,000 lbs. of backyard fruit were donated. Drop-off locations, 9AM to 1PM, are as follows:
 - Fire Station 87, 10124 Balboa Boulevard
 - Granada Hills Charter High School, 10535 Zelzah Avenue
 - Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Office, 11139 Woodley Avenue

- Fields Market, 3321 Saticoy Street
 - Mason Park, 10500 Mason Avenue
 - Dearborn Park, 17141 Nordhoff Street
 - Northridge Park, 10058 Reseda Boulevard
 - CD3 District Office, 19040 Vanowen Street
 - Jonathan Coto is taking on more responsibilities at Councilman Englander's office; Granada Hills native (and CSUN graduate) Jessie Strobel will replace Jonathan at the monthly NWNC meetings.
- b. LAPD Patti Peteque
- Ms. Peteque was unable to attend tonight's meeting
- c. City Attorney Feuer's Office
- Bill Larsen from the LA City Attorney's office addressed the NWNC to talk about group homes. They have received a great many telephone calls concerning a seven-bedroom house near the intersection of Chatsworth Street and Melvin Avenue that may become a "sober living" home. Bill mentioned that the house is not yet in operation. A neighboring stakeholder mentioned that there are many people living there. However, no one has complained.
 - The city attorney's office cannot prohibit a sober living from coming to the neighborhood, as long as they have six or less people (plus house manager) residing there. However, they can prohibit a potential boarding house (or hotel) with more than seven residents.
 - The owner/operator has a similar facility in Woodland Hills, yet they have no nuisance reports. Sometimes, parolees will stay at such houses. If there is a problem (such as excessive smoking, marijuana, or guns) the LAPD will report back to their parole officer.
 - Licenses are not required to operate a group home and they do not dispense medications.
 - If there are any arrests, the city attorney's office can evict everyone and shut the place down. In addition, the health department can shut them down; that is unlikely, as it appears to be a nice house in a good neighborhood.
 - If the residents have insurance, the insurance company can pay \$4-5K/month, per resident.
 - Stakeholder Debbie Penman asked how many of these houses are within the city of LA; hundreds was the reply. Debbie was concerned about the value of adjacent houses; perhaps they can go into a commercial or industrial area? There are some industrial areas, yet the owners and residents prefer large homes in residential neighborhoods. Currently, there is no restriction concerning distance from schools, etc.
 - Debbie Penman would like to see a restriction limiting the number of group homes in Northridge; Bill replied that such a bill has been sitting with the city council for ten years, and it is unlikely to ever pass.
5. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda items.
- No one volunteered for this agenda item.
6. President's Remarks
- The NWNC election was the previous Saturday, April 9. Peter Lasky, Bill Fox, Freddie Rymond, and Hayk Gasparyan were re-elected. However, Hayk has moved away from the area and might not be able to serve. Freddie Rymond has a medical condition, but he will attend meetings when he is able. Lloyd Dent was elected, but his poor physical health will prevent him from serving. The new board will be seated at the next NWNC meeting on May 10.

- The March meeting minutes did not make the agenda; the May meeting will include the March as well as the April minutes.
- Glen Wilson has done an outstanding job as our treasurer; however, he could use additional support.
- Tom has reached out to Pamela Gentry; she has missed several meetings, and it is unknown if she wants to remain on the NWNC board. A stakeholder mentioned that Pamela should be removed from the board.

7. Discussion and motion to approve \$422.30 for Webmaster services for month of February 2016
- Earlier today, Tom reached out to the web-mistress from Moore Business Results. Part of the agreement is that she be paid every month. If not paid in time, NWNC may incur late fees.
 - Brent asked that the web-mistress indicate the potential late fees on her invoices, as well as an itemized list of her assignments (how many posts, how many emails, etc.). Tom requested that she provide specific dates/times on her invoices.
 - Tom mentioned that another web-support vendor supports 20+ neighborhood councils and charges a fraction of what Moore Business Results charges.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to pay the Moore Business Services invoice for \$422.30; Steven Koch seconded this motion and it passed.

Support (6)	Bill Fox, Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Oppose (1)	Brent Robinson
Absent (3)	Pamela Gentry, John Mah, and Freddie Rymond

8. Discussion and motion to approve \$517.50 to Golden State Storage for the storage of NWNC property and equipment for March-July 2016
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and it passed unanimously with no opposition.
9. Discussion and motion to approve a \$500 Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for the Senior Dance and Hawaiian Festival.
- This event will be Friday, June 3, beginning at 5:30PM. This \$500 will go towards paper goods, ice, drinks, entertainment, etc. and will help keep the costs reasonable for the attending seniors.
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Brent Robinson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously with no opposition.
10. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$200 for refreshments for future NWNC events i.e. Citrus Sunday
- Gail Lapaz expressed concern if there will be sufficient fruit by May 22 as the trees are getting sparse.
 - Steven asked what other events will be funded with this money. This money may be used for NWNC's Outreach table at the Hawaiian Festival, as well as possibly an NWNC table at the Wednesday PM farmer's market at the mall.
 - Glen Wilson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and it passed unanimously with no opposition.
11. Discussion and motion to approve Gail Lapaz, a longtime Operation Clean Sweep volunteer, as recipient of the NWNC Senior of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Hawaiian Festival Senior Dance
- Peter Lasky introduced Gail Lapaz.

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and it passed unanimously with no opposition.

12. Discussion and motion to approve \$2,000 NPG for the Valley History Museum. The grant enables the museum to provide design drawings for the sculpture garden to be presented to the Department of Cultural Affairs, Bureau of Engineering, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, CD12, Department of Urban Forestry and other agencies, stakeholders and local business's.

- Peter Lasky explained that every election, candidates run because they want to do something for the community. This is the chance for this board to leave a legacy.
- Over 50,000 people will see these sculptures every day. This will get people focusing on the medians, and perhaps people will think about saving the nearby 50-year-old trees.
- Steven Koch supports this idea, however what is this \$2k for? Peter replied that this would be used to prepare the paperwork and drawings to be submitted to the Cultural Affairs Commission. Merely taking a photograph would not meet the requirements.
- Peter Lasky made a motion for this \$2k NPG; Colleen Pick seconded this motion, yet it was superseded.
- The original idea for the sculpture was so that people could look up close and touch it. However, as it will be in the first of five medians along busy Tampa Avenue, over 50,000 people will see the sculptures from their cars.
- A stakeholder was concerned that there was no agenda item to transfer the funds from Outreach or Elections to the NPG budget account, and there was no Finance Committee meeting to discuss this reallocation. Therefore, he felt this should be tabled until a meeting of the Finance Committee and a DONE submittal.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to table this agenda item until the May meeting, following a meeting of the Finance Committee; Steven Koch seconded this motion and it passed.

Support (5)	Bill Fox, Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Brent Robinson, and Glen Wilson
Abstain (2)	Peter Lasky and Colleen Pick
Absent (3)	Pamela Gentry, John Mah, and Freddie Rymond

13. Discussion and vote of the board to approve a letter written by Debbie Penman asking for a greater effort by the city to come up with a plan to better maintain the city's urban forest. The letter will be sent to CD12, the City Council and the Mayor.

- Tom Johnson made a motion to table this agenda item until the May meeting, pending a print out of the letter; it is unknown who seconded the motion yet it passed.

Support (6)	Bill Fox, Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Colleen Pick, Brent Robinson, and Glen Wilson
Abstain (1)	Peter Lasky
Absent (3)	Pamela Gentry, John Mah, and Freddie Rymond

14. Committee Reports by Committee Chairs, Northridge Vision Rep and Budget Reps

- The Northridge Vision Representatives had a meeting to discuss the Tampa Medians.
- Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Bill Fox, met with the LAFD at Fire Station #70 at the corner of Lassen Street and Reseda Boulevard.
- Tom Johnson mentioned that someone has been dumping trash at the corner of Devonshire and Chatsworth Streets. They have been very good about neatly organizing the trash bags, but it is ugly and illegal. A stakeholder suggested a GoPro camera in the trees; however, Colleen mentioned that such an angle would not get a good photograph of the license plate(s).

- Steven Koch expressed concern about the response time of the LAPD. Unless it is an emergency, responses can take thirty-minutes to two-hours.
- Outreach Vice President Brent Robinson has set-up a booth at the Wednesday evening's farmer's market at the mall; they have gotten a great deal of support for the Tampa Median project. In addition, the Easter Egg Hunt at the Northridge Recreation Center was a ton of fun. The kids loved the candy, and it gave NWNC representatives a chance to interface with the parents; everyone is looking forward to continuing such activities at the upcoming Hawaiian Festival.
- A stakeholder added that the Planning and Land Use, Education, and NPG Committees require a chairman, and should come back to life prior to the next NWNC meeting on May 10.
- Glen Wilson added that, in support of a Planning and Land Use Committee meeting, the front section of an upcoming development near Nordhoff Street and Shirley Avenue (between Sears and Lowe's) will see reduced parking (from 2.17 to 1.8 parking spaces per unit). This may be discussed during a public meeting at the Marvin Braude Constituent Services Center, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard.

15. Comments by Board Members on non-agenda items.

- Steven Koch is concerned about:
 - Abstentions: It should be clearly written into the by-laws to show DONE how NWNC looks at abstentions; some neighborhood councils consider them YES votes.
 - Absences: Per the by-laws, there are no excused absences.
- Debbie Penman mentioned that she would like to see a restriction on people blurting out comments during a meeting.

16. Discussion and motion to approve March 2016 NWNC Treasurer's Monthly Expense Report (MER).

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
March 2	Extra Keys for Rear Gate	Operations	Lowe's	\$ 2.15
March 3	Storage Rental	Operations	Golden State Storage	103.50
March 8	Chicken/Steak Fajitas	Outreach	Baja Fresh	141.68
March 8	Storage Rental	Operations	Glen Wilson	48.00
March 9	Mailing MER and Motions	Operations	USPS	6.45
March 7	Office and Storage Rental	Operations	Decision Publications	150.00
March 7	March Advertising	Outreach	Decision Publications	315.00
March 9	Reseda Boulevard Maintenance	CIP	American Heritage Landscape	200.00
March 9	Office and Storage Rental	Operations	Decision Publications	150.00
March 9	February Advertising	Operations	Decision Publications	315.00
March 25	Chocolate Candy	Outreach	Smart & Final	26.97
			TOTAL	<u>\$1,458.75</u>

- Following a brief review of these charges, Glen Wilson made a motion to approve the March MER; Tom Johnson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously with no opposition.

17. Adjournment

- Tom Johnson made a motion to adjourn at 8:37PM; Brent Robinson seconded this motion and it passed unanimously with no opposition.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED DURING THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, 10 MAY 2016