

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 13 December 2016
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324

Call to Order and Roll Call

- President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order and welcomed thirty-eight stakeholders, along with ten board members. Lloyd Dent performed the roll call.

Here (10)	Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, Tom Johnson, Peter Lasky, Mikkie Loi, Colleen Pick, Brent Robinson, Freddie Rymond, Michelle Wells, and Glen Wilson
Absent (3)	Hrug DerManuelian, John Mah, and David Uranga

1. Pledge of Allegiance

- Peter Lasky led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Reports and Presentations by Public Officials

a. Jessie Strobel, Field Deputy for Councilmember Englander, reported the following:

- The City has officially launched the “Safe Sidewalks LA” sidewalk repair program. This 30-year sidewalk repair program provides an investment of \$1.4B to fix sidewalks (33% of which are in disrepair) making them accessible to everyone.
- The first priority will be near city facilities, such as fire stations, police stations, parks, libraries, and recreation centers. The next phase will repair broken sidewalks and ensure ADA compliance.
- Through a cost-sharing initiative, the city’s follow-on phase will offer a limited number of rebates, up to \$2k, to homeowners willing to fix their own sidewalks.
- The City Council voted to expand the Nurse Practitioner Response Unit (NPRU) program for the LAFD. The NPRU is an alternative Emergency Medical Services response system that allows non-critical 911 calls to be handled by nurse practitioners instead of the LAFD.
- Councilman Englander is participating in the 32nd Annual Police Activity League Supporters (PALS) Toy Drive, to be held Saturday, December 17. Anyone interested in donating should drop off toy(s) at the PALS headquarters at 8721 Wilbur Avenue or Councilman Englander’s Office at 9207 Oakdale Avenue.

b. Officer John Parker, SLO, LAPD, reported the following:

- In a review of the year-to-date statistics, the Devonshire Division has seen a 9.7% increase in violent crimes, and a 2.7% increase in property crimes. Of the 21 Divisions in Los Angeles, Devonshire ranks 11th in the city, and 4th of the seven valley divisions. The Harbor Division had the best statistics and the West Valley had the worst increase.

		2016	2015	% Change
Violent Crimes	Homicide	6	3	100.0%
	Rape	71	59	20.3%
	Robbery	235	174	35.1%
	Aggravated Assault	409	421	-2.9%
Property Crimes	Burglary	990	1,130	-12.4%
	Motor Vehicle Theft	639	509	25.5%
	Burglary Theft From Vehicle	1,562	1,485	5.2%

Personal/Other Theft	1,786	1,723	3.7%
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- In Officer Parker’s opinion, these statistics have a direct correlation with proposition 47 (which reclassified some felonies as misdemeanors) and 57 (which increased parole opportunities for non-violent crimes).
 - Everyone is reminded to never leave anything visible in your car, such as purses and/or cellular telephones. The LAPD recently had an incident near Super King whereupon a purse was stolen as the owner loaded her trunk.
 - LAPD has seen a 20% increase in radio calls due to homelessness and drug addiction.
 - Stakeholder Ron Wengler asked about a homeless encampment near Tampa Avenue and the LADWP facility, just south of the 118. The LAPD has spoken to those residents, including a couple of brothers. It is not illegal to be homeless, and many of the homeless do not want the resources and help that the city offers them.
 - LAPD.ORG, Nextdoor.com, and crimemapping.com are excellent resources for proactive crime prevention:
 - In December, the Devonshire Division will focus on the Porter Ranch Shopping Center and the Northridge Fashion Center.
 - The officers feel very fortunate to have such a great volunteer workforce.
3. Guest Speakers: SoCalGas, and Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC).
- Susan T. (along with David Meza), Public Affairs Manager of SoCalGas, addressed the NWNC:
 - The Aliso Canyon facility has been in place for decades, with natural gas used by 11m clients for cooking and heating of homes, restaurants, hospitals, schools, etc.
 - The nearby storage facility at Aliso Canyon has enabled SoCalGas to avoid rolling blackouts. Since sealing the leak, SoCalGas has made numerous upgrades to immediately detect a leak. Additional information is available at their website, socalgas.com. They have replaced all casings and 40-miles of new piping. In addition, they have installed Fenceline monitoring along the south side of Aliso Canyon.
 - They have sent multiple emails to the neighboring 60,000 residents. To receive these emails, please visit the website, and enter your email address.
 - November 4, SoCalGas sent a letter to the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). SoCalGas will host a public meeting (mostly likely in the west valley) in late January or early February (with 15-day notice to residents). After this meeting, SoCalGas will go to the Public Utilities Commission who will have the final word on whether to re-open Aliso Canyon.
 - There is no pressure coming from untested wells, as all untested wells have been isolated.
 - Stakeholder Tracy expressed concern that there are no emergency shut-off valves; Susan mentioned that there is no good technology for valve shut-off of this magnitude. A stakeholder expressed concern that the SoCalGas lied when they said they had functional automatic shut-offs. He recommended people call 1800-SMOG rather than SoCalGas.
 - It was revealed the normally accepted points per million (by volume) is 2.2; this morning, it was 2.5 points per million.
 - Stakeholder Bob asked how many wells are at Aliso Canyon. There are 114 wells; SoCalGas inspects them four-times per day. In addition, they have a 24-hour station to monitor any pressure changes.
 - Someone asked Susan where she lived (Walnut) and the protocol to replace the valves. David Mesa replied that there is a video on their website to highlight the technical data on the wells and valves.
 - Colleen Pick asked for the definition of a well; each non-linked well is 8,000 feet underground, like 114 individual straws going into a watermelon.

- Mikkie Loi asked if they did soil testing, and how deep do they go. They did thousands of interior and exterior air and soil testing; it is unknown how deep. Additional information is on the website.
 - Issam Najm, President of the PRNC introduced himself.
 - Issam feels that SoCalGas should take a closer look and change course.
 - The PRNC recently wrote a letter to Governor Brown, with cc: to multiple elected officials; this letter is available on the PRNC website.
 - Issam served on the very transparent Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Committee, along with NWNC's Tom Johnson, which was open to the public and live-streamed.
 - He urged NWNC to not join SoCalGas's Citizen's Advisory Committee; he recommends that NWNC join PRNC in requesting that all meetings be transparent and open to the public.
 - David Mesa mentioned that SCGC does not hold private meetings; the meetings are open to the public. However, if SoCalGas had 100+ attendees at their Citizen's Advisory Committee meetings, nothing would be accomplished.
 - Issam reiterated that Aliso Canyon is not a supply facility; it is a storage facility, with gas coming from out of state.
 - When this storage facility was opened in 1972, it was a remote facility, with no nearby homes or businesses. Susan added that the wells have been replaced since that time.
 - SoCalGas feels that they are doing a sufficient task by informing nearby residents of potential leaks. They recently evacuated their employees, yet felt it was okay for the children of Porter Ranch. Issam's wife and daughters evacuated because it was affecting them (he stayed behind).
 - PRNC is not demanding an immediate shut down; they are requesting an eventual safe and reliable shutdown.
 - Bill Fox asked if there was a similar storage facility somewhere else. There is a 2-billion cubic foot facility in Playa del Rey; however, Aliso Canyon is an 86-billion cubic foot facility.
 - Someone asked if new gas had been added; no, it remains at the minimum 15-billion cubic feet.
 - Someone asked about a risk analysis. SoCalGas asked the national labs to do a full analysis, yet they did not request a quantified risk analysis.
 - The Air Quality Management District has proven that air in Porter Ranch is cleaner than the air in downtown LA.
4. Motion to vote to support the letter by Porter Ranch Neighborhood to Governor Brown and other state and local government officials calling for the closure of the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage fields
- Peter Lasky recused himself as he is a member of the SoCalGas's Citizen's Advisory Committee.
 - Brent reviewed the key points of the letter, including the bolded points at the end of the letter, and the distribution (Senators Boxer, Feinstein, Mayor Eric Garcetti, etc.).
 - Issam reiterated the concern regarding safety at the Aliso Canyon facility.
 - Colleen Pick would like to abstain from voting; Michelle Wells would like to delay voting, pending a further analysis from both sides.
 - Issam mentioned that PRNC's letter was submitted to the NWNC several days ago, with sufficient advance notice to review the material. However, SoCalGas's material was presented to the board this evening, leaving the NWNC insufficient time to review all the material.
 - Tom expressed concern if someone was involved in a lawsuit, can they vote on this issue? Issam mentioned that the City Attorney has requested that neighborhood council voters make a public statement that they are involved in a potential lawsuit.

- Tom Johnson mentioned that LADWP has multiple volts going through their transformer off Tampa Avenue. He asked what is the potential impact on the community if we do not have the nearby storage facility.
- A stakeholder pointed out that SoCalGas are marketing people, and it was very bad that they presented this information tonight, rather than providing it earlier. This is a public safety issue, not an energy issue.
- Brent asked if a risk analysis, to the health and well-being of individuals, had been done; if so, is it public. Lloyd Dent added that his granddaughter developed nosebleeds and a cough.
- Bill Fox made a motion to table the vote on the PRNC letter until the January meeting; Lloyd Dent seconded the motion, yet it did not pass.

Vote Tonight (5)	Dent, Loi, Robinson, Wells, and Wilson
Table (4)	Fox, Johnson, Pick, and Rymond
Recuse (1)	Lasky
Absent (3)	DerManuelian, Mah, and Uranga

- Brent Robinson made a motion to join PRNC in support of a letter calling for the closure of the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility; Lloyd Dent seconded the motion, and it passed.

Yes (7)	Dent, Fox, Loi, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
No (1)	Johnson
Abstain (1)	Pick
Recuse (1)	Lasky
Absent (3)	DerManuelian, Mah, and Uranga

5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Debbie Penman asked Jessie Strobel if NWNC could get Councilman Englander to support clean up of Tampa Avenue. This gateway to Northridge risks becoming the “broken window syndrome” with trash near Chatsworth Avenue.
- Jason Hector mentioned the dying trees, perhaps Councilman Englander could remedy this. Jessie Strobel mentioned that she would connect Jason with Jonathan Coto, who is the liaison between the Urban Forestry Department and Councilman Englander’s office.

6. President Peter Lasky Comments

- Thanks to Mikkie Loi and Colleen Pick for the delicious catered food, under budget, from Dickey’s Barbecue Pit at 9035 Reseda Boulevard.
- Thanks to Lloyd Dent for serving as NWNC’s homeless liaison. We could use another person to serve on the committee with Lloyd.
- The NWNC recently passed a \$9,800 expenditure for a drip irrigation system to support the trees along Tampa Avenue. The submitted plans have been approved.
- If anyone is interested in attending neighborhood council’s Civic University 1.0, to be held at California State University LA on three consecutive Tuesdays, January 17, 24, and 31, from 6PM to 9PM, please speak up. Peter Lasky and Colleen Pick attended the training last year, and got a great deal from the experience.

7. Update on sober living home. Motion to approve NWNC writing a letter of support for the Coalition Against the Sober Living Home on Los Alimos near Beckford Avenue School. The letter would be a request to Congressmen Sherman asking him to follow up with HUD into the allegations that the FHA loan for the home was obtained fraudulently and should be called and the buyer prosecuted. The letter would only be sent if there were requests from the coalition asking for our support.

- To qualify for an FHA loan, the owner must reside there for one year. After a year, he can be rent out the facility. However, the owner soon after listed the home for rent. Congressman Sherman's office has been put on notice of this fraudulent activity.
- If interested in discussing, please reach out to Bill Fox to join the Public Safety Committee.
- A stakeholder mentioned that he was concerned about calling it a sober living house. Others mentioned that this could house convicted parolees. In addition, there was concern that the manager, Juan Greer, is a convicted murderer.
- Peter Lasky made a motion to send a letter to Congressman Sherman in support of the Coalition Against the Sober Living Home, and against this fraudulent FHA loan; Michelle Wells seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Motion to approve the purchase of another posting box and the change of posting location to Calahan Elementary School if our posting box is removed again. The cost of the posting box is approximately \$25.

- Peter Lasky made a motion to replace the \$25 mailbox that was stolen from the credit union; Lloyd Dent, Tom Johnson, and Freddie Rymond seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

9. Consent Calendar

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the consent Calendar; Freddie Rymond seconded the motion, and it did not pass, as the consent calendar must be unanimous.

Yes (8)	Dent, Fox, Lasky, Loi, Pick, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
No (2)	Johnson and Robinson
Absent (3)	DerManuelian, Mah, and Uranga

a. Approval of Monthly Expense Report for November 2016

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the November Monthly Expense Report; Brent Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
Nov 3	Storage	Operations	Golden State Storage	\$ 103.50
Nov 7	CPR/First Aid Training	CIP	LA Training Solutions	480.00
Nov 7	Refreshments for CPR/First Aid Training	CIP	Vons	36.48
Nov 9	Sandwich for General Meeting	Outreach	Subway	60.00
Nov	New Mailbox for Six Months	Operations	Mail Box World	120.00
Nov 10	Advertising	Outreach	Decision Publications	315.00
Nov 14	Online Change of Address	Operations	USPS.com	1.00
Nov 14	Reduce Print of Tampa Median	Operations	FedEx Office	1.91
Nov 14	Chips and Cookies for Clean Up	CIP	Smart & Final	30.67
Nov 17	Website	Outreach	Moore Business Results	200.00
Nov 18	Minute Taker	Operations	Apple One Employment	103.95
Nov 21	SR Assoc Realto	Operations	SR Assoc Realto	8.38
Nov 25	North Valley Family YMCA	NPG	North Valley Family YMCA	1,000.00
			TOTAL	<u>\$2,460.89</u>

b. Approval of Minutes from the November 8, 2016 Meeting

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the minutes of November 8; Brent Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed.

Yes (8)	Dent, Fox, Lasky, Loi, Pick, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (2)	Johnson and Robinson
Absent (3)	DerManuelian, Mah, and Uranga

10. Reports by Budget Reps, Brent Robinson, Glen Wilson
 - The City Council recently voted to increase each neighborhood council's annual budget by \$5k; this will be available in early 2017.
 - The annual budget day will be held Saturday, February 25, at City Hall.
11. Reports by Northridge Vision Reps, Glen Wilson, Peter Lasky
 - A new Chick-Fil-A (to go near the northwest corner of Reseda Boulevard and Devonshire Street) and a new assisted living center (along Prairie Street, between Shirley and Corbin Avenues) were recently discussed.
 - They may be restoration of the Aliso/Limekiln trail (near the train tracks); this is within the South Northridge Neighborhood Council and will be funded as part of an \$8.2m bond approved in 2004.
12. Reports by Committee Chairs
 - Bill Fox is recruiting interested parties to serve on the Public Safety Committee.
 - Stakeholder Ron Wengler is the operations manager for Operation Clean Sweep. They give advance notice to the Sanitation Department when/where they will clean the streets. They collected money for a gift card for the driver(s) from the Sanitation Department who go above and beyond the call of duty. This action alleviates the need to bag the debris and trimmings; instead, they simply shovel the debris into the hopper.
 - Tom Johnson reported that there was graffiti along Chatsworth Street; this was immediately reported to Jessie who will take care of it.
13. Report by Homeless Liaison, Lloyd Dent
 - Wednesday, November 30, Lloyd Dent attended a meeting of the neighborhood council homeless liaisons at City Hall. Most of the meeting was Q&A.
 - The Venice neighborhood council reported that they have a program whereby they meet with the homeless, and contact their families. They successfully reunited homeless individuals with family members in Ohio and New Zealand.
 - A representative from the Mid-Wilshire Neighborhood Council mentioned their concerns about people living in their cars, and using homeowner's hoses to bathe.
14. Comments by Board Members on non-agenda items
 - Brent Robinson encouraged stakeholders to be involved, especially regarding issues relating to public safety.
 - Mikkie Loi made a plug for Neighborhood Watch, and the importance of knowing your neighbors, not just for crime prevention, but for disaster preparedness as well.
 - Ron Wengler encouraged everyone to get involved in the next door website. He gave the example of locating a dog wearing a pink sweater. By immediately going to next door, someone was able to locate the dog's owner (who had already posted a photograph of the dog). You must join the website, but it is not shared with anyone outside your community.
15. Adjournment
 - Tom Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9.15PM; Brent seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED DURING THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2017