

Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 9 May 2017
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324

1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance

- President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order at 6.16PM and welcomed twenty-five stakeholders, along with eleven board members.

Here (11)	Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, Tom Johnson, Peter Lasky, Mikki Loi, Jon Manuel, Colleen Pick, Brent Robinson, Freddie Rymond, Michelle Wells, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Hrug DerManuelian

- Peter Lasky led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

2) Comments by Public Officials

- Jessie Strobel reported the following:
 - Thanks to all who attended the Conversation with Council on Wednesday, April 26.
 - The city council is currently in the budget process which keeps Councilman Englander busy as he serves as Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee.
 - Wednesday, May 17, beginning at 5.30PM, at the Mayall Academy of Arts and Technology Magnet School, 16701 Mayall Street, there will be a Town Hall meeting to discuss upcoming Public Works projects.
 - Councilmember Mitchell Englander is proud to commence the fifth class of the E12 Excellence in Public Service high school leadership development program to train and cultivate the next generation of young leaders in our community. This interdisciplinary program will teach students how to navigate the network of public agencies, facilitate collaborative coalition building, and master interpersonal skills to succeed at school and in the workplace. Applications must be turned in by Monday, May 15.
 - Tuesday, June 6, beginning at 6PM, Councilman Englander’s office will host an Open House at their office at 9207 Oakdale Avenue. The theme will be hometown history and refreshments will be available.
 - Lloyd Dent expressed concern about the litter along Tampa Avenue; Jessie mentioned that she would mention this to her co-workers.
- Legislative Aid Armine Sargsyan to Assemblyman Matthew Dababneh reported on the following newly passed assembly bills:
 - AB1421 Requires a study of the noise and vibration levels produced by trains in residential areas.
 - AB1542 Adds a new crime for conspiring with an attacker to videotape a violent felony (also known as Jordan’s Law).
 - SB57 As written and amended by state Senators Henry Stern and Robert Hertzberg, this will place an immediate moratorium on the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility.
 - Assemblyman Dababneh will host a Budget Town Hall meeting on Saturday, June 3 at the Westfield Topanga Community Center, 21710 Van Owen Street, Canoga Park
- Gibson Emora recently joined the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) as a Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst. He does outreach for DONE, and looks forward to attending more NWNC meetings.

- Rafael De La Rosa recently joined the Government Relations Office of CSUN. Wednesday, May 10, beginning at 6.30PM, there will be a Public Information meeting at the Orange Grove Bistro concerning a potential new hotel project. Although the RSVP deadline has passed, everyone is welcome.

3) Guest Speaker, David Meza from the Southern California Gas Company

- David Meza is a Public Affairs Manager for SoCalGas. He has a strong political background, having previously worked for elected officials.
- SoCalGas hopes to become more engaged with the community. They have not operated the Aliso Canyon facility since late 2015. The leak was repaired in February 2016. The new standard for the wells [as based out of Aliso Canyon] will become the norm for the USA, as well as [possibly] the world.
- 68 of the 115 wells have been approved by the state; these would store approximately 29,000 cubic feet of gas. 47 additional wells remain to be tested. Someone asked why it takes so long to test the wells; David replied that each test takes approximately a month.
- SoCalGas storage is currently very low, and they would like to increase the storage level to accommodate the summer gas usage. They have already submitted their application to the state to partially re-open Aliso Canyon with new internal workings. Additional information is available online. Three other gas storage facilities in Southern California will also have access to these reports.
- SoCalGas also has a brush clearance program on their 32-acres above Porter Ranch. Judging by the trucks, neighbors thought they were using pesticides. SoCalGas does not use pesticides and have since asked the transportation contractor to use different vehicles.
- Staff from SoCalGas walk the facility and inspect every well four-times a day. They also use infrared cameras to measure potential methane (which is released from underground everywhere). However, these cameras are not constantly operating.
- David had pictures of the before and [proposed] after of the Aliso Canyon storage facility. He also used a water bottle to demonstrate the effectiveness of the new steel piping.
- Jon Manuel brought up the issue of the community's lack of trust in SoCalGas.
- Lloyd Dent mentioned that he was never informed of available filters, air-strippers, or other issues regarding Aliso Canyon. David offered his personal support in resolving Lloyd's concerns.

4) Guest Speaker, Don Larsen from Northridge Sparkle

- Don introduced Linda Dunham and Chris Sales of Northridge Sparkle. Northridge Sparkle has a great deal of art, and is now a 501C3 Foundation.
- Don offered some wonderful ideas to make Northridge a more attractive community, including:
 - Remove advertising and flyers. It is illegal to post a sign on a city pole. If someone is advertising a garage sale or a lost dog, he will let that go. However, after the garage sale, please remove it.
 - Please help pick-up trash.
 - Carry spray paint. If you see graffiti, hit it with some grey spray paint to hide the graffiti. You will not get into trouble.
 - Paint fire hydrants with yellow oil-based paint, and use a cardboard box to prevent over-painting onto the sidewalk.
- Don and Peter Lasky reported that the drip system along Tampa Avenue is almost complete. There are two medians at the south end that require their pipes to be fixed; Councilman Englander's office is taking care of that.
- Councilman Englander's office also offered to mow these medians.
- Manuel Gomez, who is in charge of the special work projects around the city, along with the mulch manager, visited the Tampa medians of Northridge. They offered free mulch to Don, provided Don takes care of the weeds and the overgrowth on the medians.
- Don suggested that now that we have the drip system along Tampa Avenue, perhaps we could have topiary. Don could make multiple topiary pieces that will work well with the medians. One option would

be to use the symbols on the Chinese calendar. Don already has the necessary light rebar, chicken wire, and the welding equipment in his garage. The topiary will take approximately six months.

- Northridge Sparkle recently put up the fiberglass horse by the Stereo 1 Shop at 8901 Reseda Boulevard; this highlighted their theme of the history of Northridge. A second horse could go up by the fire station at 9861 Reseda Boulevard at Lassen Street. The fire station horse will have the theme of the fire department. The firemen love this idea, and the city has already approved it. The blank horse is approximately \$1,800, plus \$1k for paint. They could have the horse purchased, painted, and installed within six months for approximately \$4k.
- Don Larson is currently working on steel artwork for the corner of Zelzah Avenue and Nordhoff Street.
- Stakeholder Marcy asked who would maintain the topiary; Don offered, and said he would recruit the meeting's stakeholders to join him. If and when Don passes on, his son and the Northridge Sparkle Foundation will take over.
- Stakeholder Marcy is not a fan of the horses and asked how much longer will they be there. These horses may be there forever. The previously exhibited angels throughout Los Angeles have been sold and are now on private property.

5) Comments from Stakeholders on Non-Agenda Items

- Glen Bailey, President of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council, reported the following:
 - Saturday, September 9 will be the annual Congress of Neighborhood Councils at City Hall. Thanks to NWNC for contributing \$1k to this worthwhile event.
 - The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) will meet Thursday evening, May 11. This month's featured guest speaker will be Brenda Barnett, General Manager of Animal Services.
 - Sunday, June 11, beginning at 9AM, the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council will host the Chatsworth Orange Line Tour (COLT) from the Chatsworth Train Depot. This family-friendly event will explore local bike infrastructure, businesses, and neighborhoods. One could walk an eight-mile route or cycle a twenty-mile route.
 - The neighborhood council funding program has officially transferred to the City Clerk's office. Glen was part of a focus group that helped create this streamlined funding process.
- Stakeholder Doris expressed concern about the speeding along Tampa Avenue (especially near Devonshire Street) and requested that the LAPD look into this.
- Jill Stewart is a lifelong journalist at the LA Times and LA Weekly. She worked on the defeated campaign for Measure S. She reported that the planning process at City Hall is broken. LA is 20-years behind major cities in the western USA. Without planning, we are losing a great many of the urban trees. Recently, several meetings were not public. She will submit a potential motion to the NWNC requesting transparency in city government. For additional information, Jill offered her cellular telephone number.
- Stakeholder Richard Matthews from Save Porter Ranch, along with the county supervisors, feels that we do not need the storage facility at Aliso Canyon. As Aliso has been closed for over a year, we have made it fine through cold winters and hot summer days. Contrary to statements by SoCalGas, the winter usage is stronger than summer storage. Although 68 wells have been inspected, we still do not have a root cause analysis to determine what initially caused the leakage. Earlier in the meeting, David Meza mentioned that Aliso Canyon could store 29,000 cubic feet; the actual number is considerably larger at 18,000,000,000 cubic feet.

6) Presidential Comments

- Need for Budget Representatives for fiscal year beginning in July, NC Budget Day, June 24, at City Hall, 7:30AM-12:30PM
 - This agenda item's meeting time was corrected to 12.30PM (originally posted until 4PM).

- Glen Wilson will continue as NWNC’s Budget Representative; if anyone else (stakeholder or board-member) is interested, please reach out to Peter Lasky.
- The most recent chairman of the Land Use Committee (LUC) recently resigned; if anyone is interested in serving on the LUC, please reach out to Peter.

- 7) Discussion and motion to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee to have Cynthia Conteas-Wood join the Board to fill the Vacant Homeowner-2 Seat
- Cynthia was born and raised in Northridge, and returned four years ago; she intends to stay here forever. She currently works as a school nurse and does a great deal of public service and volunteering. She previously worked at UCLA/Westwood and Harbor UCLA Medical Centers.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve Cynthia Conteas-Wood’s election to the NWNC; Tom Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Jessie Strobel administered the oath of office to Jon Manuel and Cynthia Conteas-Wood.
 - As Cynthia has already completed all mandatory board member training, she immediately took her seat on the board.
- 8) Consideration and vote on the recommendation from the Beautification Committee to approve a bid of \$2,000 for the removal of six dead trees and remove four existing tree stumps on the Tampa Avenue Median by American Heritage Landscape. They turned in the lowest bid
- Peter Lasky made a motion to table this agenda item; Tom Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- 9) Consideration and motion to approve the recommendation of the Education Committee of a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) request by Northridge Beautification, the 501C3 of Northridge Sparkle of \$4,000 to be used for Beautification Projects. Suggested projects are the purchase and installation of a horse similar to the one recently placed on the corner of Reseda Boulevard and Rayen Street. The horse would be custom painted and decorated by an artist of our choice with a color scheme chosen by our board and the community. As an alternative Beautification Project we could continue with the Beautification of the Tampa Median by placing topiary designs, or some other project that the board and stakeholders could determine. The funding would come from the Budget Category #400 NPGs
- Peter Lasky made a motion to table this agenda item; Tom Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- 10) Consideration and motion to approve the recommendation of the Education Committee of a NPG request for the Valley Relics Museum of \$500 to be used to support the Senior Dance to be held June 2, 2017. The funding would come from the Budget Category #400 NPGs
- As funds are available, Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Tom Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Dent, Fox, Johnson, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Conteas-Wood
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

- 11) Discussion and Motion to Approve Don Larsen as the Northridge West Senior of the Year
- Brent Robinson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- 12) Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$300 for the purchase of a toner cartridge, and drum for Peter Lasky’s Black & White Brother DCP 7065DN, a black and color cartridge for an HP DeskJet F380 color printer, 1/3-cut tab file folders and a high capacity stapler for Glen Wilson to be used on NWNC business

- As funds are available, Michelle Wells made a motion to approve this agenda item; Lloyd Dent seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

13) Motion to approve a funding line of \$200 to be used for miscellaneous expenses for the Hawaiian Festival. The funding will come from the Outreach Budget #200

- As funds are available, Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Tom Johnson, Freddie Rymond, and Michelle Wells seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

14) Motion to approve the revised budget for May and June of this fiscal year. The revised budget will move funds from Operations or other accounts with a surplus to make up for deficits in other accounts

- Brent Robinson made a motion to table this agenda item; Tom Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Conteas-Wood, Dent, Fox, Johnson, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Lasky
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

15) Discussion and motion to approve the Monthly Expense Report (MER) for April 2017

- This was previously discussed [and subsequently tabled] as agenda item 10 during the special meeting.

16) Motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 Meeting

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (9)	Fox, Johnson, Lasky, Loi, Pick, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (3)	Conteas-Wood, Dent, and Manuel
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

17) Committee Reports by Committee Chairs

- Budget Committee Chairman Glen Wilson mentioned that they would have multiple follow-on meetings throughout the year.
- Outreach Committee Chairman Brent Robinson mentioned that NWNC participated in the CSUN Earth Day Event, alongside representatives from thirty elementary schools. This event was moved indoors due to high winds. In addition, Glen Wilson did a great job of getting out the message.
- Bill Fox expressed delight that NWNC is moving forward with the Neighborhood Watch information.

18) Reports by liaisons

- Peter Lasky, liaison to Northridge Vision, reminded everyone of the public information meeting at CSUN's Orange Grove Bistro on Wednesday, May 10, beginning at 6.30PM regarding the potential new hotel.

19) Comments by board members on non-agenda items

- Jon Manuel and Tom Johnson mentioned the Earth Day Cleanup along Wilbur Avenue.
- Mikkie Loi mentioned that Thursday, May 18, beginning at 7PM, the LAPD's Devonshire Division's basic cars A23 and A81 will host their Neighborhood Watch meeting at St. John Eudes Church, 9901 Mason Avenue. The guest speaker will be Kevin Taylor, West Valley Representative for Mayor Garcetti who will discuss the mayor's agenda.
- Mikkie Loi also mentioned that Saturday, May 20 is the annual Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) fundraising pancake breakfast. After breakfast, the Devonshire Division will host station tours beginning at 10AM.

20) Adjournment

- Tom Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Freddie Rymond seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**NWNC Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, 9 May 2017
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324**

- President Peter Lasky called this meeting to order at 7.51PM.

1. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

2. Motion for Reconsideration of Agenda Item 13 passed by the Board at the meeting on May 2. The motion is brought by board member Mikkie Loi pursuant to Article VIII Meetings, Section 4: Reconsideration. The board may reconsider and amend its action on items listed on the agenda if that reconsideration takes place immediately following the original action or at the next regular meeting

- Mikkie Loi mentioned that anything over \$2,500 must go through an additional layer of approval. As this approved agenda item was for \$5k, it should have been considered as two separate motions; also, multiple vendors are not allowed per agenda item.
- Peter Lasky made a motion to split the previously approved agenda item into two separate [and approved] agenda items; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Dent, Fox, Johnson, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Conteas-Wood
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

3. Motion to rescind the approval of the Agenda item 13 previously passed at the May 2 meeting

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Brent Robinson seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Dent, Fox, Johnson, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Conteas-Wood
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

4. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$2,500 for the purchase of Neighborhood Watch Signs to be installed by Hightech Signs and Banners

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this agenda item, with a revised amount of \$2,499 (rather than \$2,500); Brent Robinson seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Dent, Fox, Johnson, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Conteas-Wood
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

5. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$2,500 for the purchase of Neighborhood Watch pamphlets and decals

- Brent Robinson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Tom Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Dent, Fox, Johnson, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Conteas-Wood
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

6. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$250 for renewing our lease of a mailbox at Mail Box World, 18543 Devonshire Street #437, Northridge 91324

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Tom Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Dent, Fox, Johnson, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Conteas-Wood
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

7. Discussion and motion to approve a new Chairperson of the Public Land Use and Zoning Committee

- No one volunteered, so this agenda item was tabled.

8. Discussion and motion to approve new or additional Budget Representatives

- No one volunteered to be a new budget representative.
- Peter Lasky made a motion to re-elect Glen Wilson as the NWNC Budget Representative; Brent Robinson seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (11)	Dent, Fox, Johnson, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Robinson, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Conteas-Wood
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

9. Discussion and motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held 5/2/2017

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Michelle Wells seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (8)	Fox, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Rymond, Wells, and Wilson
Abstain (4)	Conteas-Wood, Dent, Johnson, and Robinson
Absent (1)	DerManuelian

10. Discussion and motion to approve the Treasurers MER for April 2017

- Peter Lasky and Tom Johnson met the previous Sunday (May 7) to review the Treasurer’s Report. This report stated that NWNC might have spent more money than was actually spent. They were able to resolve a discrepancy of \$6,200 down to approximately \$400 within the cash analysis portion of this report.
- In addition, there was a concern regarding funds spent for NPGs. NWNC cannot guarantee that they have adequate funds to support the \$4k for Northridge Sparkle, as well as the \$2k for tree removal.
- In previous years, a neighborhood council had until June 30 to spend money. As there is a transition to the City Clerk’s office, councils can spend until June 11. The following are the cut-off dates for FY 2016/17 spending:

June 1 (Thursday)	Last Day to submit Funding Request Forms
June 7 (Wednesday)	Last Day to Issue Union Bank Online Checks
June 11 (Sunday)	Last Day to Use Bank Card and Spend Money

- Peter Lasky requested that DONE perform an audit of the NWNC finances. As DONE may not have the resources to do that, Peter would like to hold-off until after Michelle Wells’s audit.
- Tom Johnson requested that the President and Treasurer sign copies of the MERs.
- There was a concern if the unspent balance was accurate; as of April 30, that number is true.
- There was no vote and this agenda item was tabled.

11. Motion for Adjournment

- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the special meeting; Tom Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.