

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNK)
REGULAR - General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 13 March 2018
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324

1. Call to order, roll call, pledge of allegiance
 - President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order at 6.26PM, welcomed over twenty stakeholders, [eventually] twelve board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Here (12) | Pamela Bolin, Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, Jenni Heckscher, Greg Kromhout, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Mikkie Loi, Jon Manuel, Colleen Pick, Jacalyn Williams, and Glen Wilson |
| Resigned (1) | Earl Fagin |

2. Comments by Public Officials
 - Matthew Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for CD12, reported the following:
 - Wednesday, February 28, the city council adopted Councilman Englander’s motion to prohibit marijuana-related advertising.
 - Tuesday, April 3 will be a special Election Day to choose a member of the state assembly representing the 45th District.
 - Wednesday, April 4, will be the Homeless Connect Day at the Freedom Church, 9200 Owensmouth Avenue, Chatsworth. This will be like a job fair for the homeless. They can meet with representatives of the Department of Mental Health, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and the Department of Motor Vehicles (so they may get ID cards). There will also be the opportunity for a mobile shower, clean clothes, breakfast, and lunch. Currently, homeless individuals may visit the Freedom Church on Fridays for a shower and a lunch.
 - Saturday, April 21 will be the 25th Annual SOLID All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast beginning at 8AM for \$9/person, and the LAPD Devonshire Division’s Annual Open House beginning at 10AM. This will be held at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue. You will get to meet your Senior Lead Officers and tour the Devonshire Station.
 - In addition, the LAPD is currently undergoing a nationwide recruiting effort for a new police chief.
 - LA Municipal Code 85.02 permits a person to reside in their vehicle provided that it is more than 500’ away from licensed schools, pre-schools, daycare facilities, and parks, and in non-residential areas after 9PM. This code will expire on Sunday, July 1. Councilman Englander hopes to revamp and extend this ruling.
 - Jose Galdamez from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported the following:
 - Monday, March 19, beginning at 6PM, DONE and the city clerk’s office will host Neighborhood Council Election Feedback Training at the Canoga Park Community Center, 7248 Owensmouth Avenue.
 - Thursday, March 29, at 6PM will be the annual EmpowerLA Awards Dinner at City Hall. The deadline for nominations has been extended until Friday, March 16.
 - Sunday, April 15 is the deadline for Neighborhood Councils to amend their bylaws.

- In April, DONE will host Planning 101 Project Planning workshops; this training will provide an overview of the basic elements of planning, land use, and zoning. The valley classes will be as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| North Valley | South Valley |
| Monday, April 16 | Monday, April 30 |
| 6PM to 8.30PM | 6PM to 8.30PM |
| Granada Hills Charter High School | North Hollywood Recreation Center |
| 10535 Zelzah Avenue | 11430 Chandler Boulevard |

- Linda Hernandez from the LA City Attorney's office [with her office at the LAPD's Devonshire station] reminded everyone that services are available for crime victims. This includes accompanying a victim to court appearances, legal aid, reimbursement for medical bills, counseling, moving costs, reimbursement for loss of work pay, etc.
- Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate Glen Bailey reported that the advocates met with Mayor Garcetti on Friday, March 9, and reached a milestone with their white paper (which is actually blue and black). This report includes three pages of recommendations, followed by reports of meetings with forty city departments, input from budget day meetings in January, etc. This report can be seen on the advocate's website: <http://ncbala.com/>
- This website also includes a stakeholder satisfactory survey. Thus far, merely 500 surveys have been completed [for the entire city]. They hope to get over 1,000 responses.
- The final budget (for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018) will be released on Friday, April 20.

3. Guest speaker Patrick Frank from the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight

- Mr. Frank feels that people ought to decide the location and quantity of billboards in their community, which can be a traffic hazard. Therefore he requests a Community Interest Statement (CIS) from the NWNC opposing Council File 11-1705, introduced at the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee on December 12, 2017.
- This Council File 11-1705 allows for new digital signs outside the high-density commercial Sign Districts (such as LA Live and the Sunset Strip) and permits billboards in almost any type of commercially zoned property. If the bill passes, the sign companies could erect a new digital sign, with messages changing every eight seconds, on nearly any commercial lot. It also allows on-site digital signs, which promote the specific company where they are situated.
- Under the PLUM version of the law, a billboard would be allowed on any commercial property with 150' of street footage, as long as they get a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Via this CUP, business owners might erect their own billboards.
- In order to post one electronic/digital billboard, the sign companies must remove ten static billboards.
- These new billboards will continue to be banned in state and federal parks, but may be permitted in city parks.
- This ruling is currently with the city's PLUM Committee; Northridge's Councilman Englander is a member of this committee, chaired by Jose Huizar. Mr. Frank revealed that Councilmen Huizar and Englander receive free billboards.
- Pam Bolin mentioned that some billboards along Sunset Boulevard generate \$40k/month to the city.
- Pamela made a motion to agendize this issue in the April NWNC meeting; Bill Fox seconded the motion, yet there was no vote. This will be discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting, and will most likely appear on the April agenda.

- Per a stakeholder's comment, citizens may attend PLUM meetings and object to these billboards.
- The people of Reno, Nevada placed a similar electronic billboard restriction their ballot. However, it took over seven years to fight and was eventually over-turned.

4. Comments from stakeholders on non-agenda items

- Sally Thompson from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a volunteer division of the LAFD, reported that their Battalion Ten has monthly meetings at the
Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Adult Recreation Center
5056 Van Nuys Boulevard
Sherman Oaks
- These meetings are open to the public. Their next meeting will be Sunday, March 18, whereupon they will discuss wound care, including how to do a sling, etc.
- The April 22 meeting will discuss what to do in an active shooter scenario and advanced knowledge of CERT situational awareness (such as being in a mall, office, or running an errand).
- In the event of a disaster, first responders will go to where they can see and help the most people (hospitals, schools, etc.); it may take days for them to get to individual residences.
- Paul Johnson, representing assembly candidate Ray Bishop, addressed the NWNC. Ray was born in Topeka, KS, and received a Purple Heart in Vietnam in 1966.
- In the 1970s, he ran several community hospitals; in the 1980s, he ran a comedy club. Since then, he has served on LA's PLUM Committee.
- Ray is similar to Bernie Sanders, in that he would like to eliminate the influence of dark money and corporate legislative lobbying.
- Anne Dorsey, representing Ankur Patel, hopes that everyone votes on Tuesday, April 3. Ankur is not taking money from any corporations, and is running because he wants to improve the education system, protect the environment, and provide health care for everyone.
- Tyler Hendershot, Operations Manager of Los Angeles Lime Bike, reported that since launching the Lime Bike program at CSUN in January, they have had over 6,000 riders take 47,000 rides. Their facility is open 7AM until 9PM, seven-days a week, with their customer service telephone (888-LIME-345) staffed 24/7. This issue will be agendized for the April NWNC meeting.
- Marcie from the Northridge Library thanked the NWNC for the generous 2017 gift that allowed the library to purchase a display unit. A Certificate of Appreciation to NWNC has been placed in the library's meeting room for all to see.
- Northridge East Neighborhood Council's (NENC) President Glen Bailey thanked the NWNC and all who attended the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Council's (VANC) 15th annual mixer held Thursday evening, March 8, at CBS Studios in Studio City. Three city council-members gave presentations. VANC looks forward to the 16th annual mixer in 2019.
- Glen also reported that Tyler Hendershot from Lime Bikes attended the February meeting of the NENC, and they look forward to continuing discussing this issue at their next meeting on Wednesday, March 21, at the Northridge Women's Club, 18401 Lassen Street.

- Peter Lasky thanked Gisela and the League of Women Voters for their recently distributed 40-page pamphlet containing useful information for the homeless.
 - Daily News Beat Reporter Liz Chow recently asked Peter for suggestions about what the Daily News can do to be more relevant. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Peter or Liz. Three immediate suggestions were:
 - A stakeholder suggested articles about people doing interesting things.
 - Gail Lapaz would like to see something written up about the Homeless Connect day.
 - A stakeholder requested a summarization of what the city council does during a given week.
 - Thursday, March 29, beginning at 6PM will be a Town Hall Meeting concerning the Long Term Health Impacts of the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak. The moderators will be Patrick Healy (from NBC/Channel 4) and Diane Gonzales (a PhD candidate with an extensive background in public health). Peter would like each board member to take approximately 50 to 70 flyers, and distribute throughout their community. Peter also requested that Matt Hernandez distribute this as part of Councilman Englander's weekly email blast.
 - The speakers will include Dr. Nordella, the Porter Ranch physician who released a study documenting higher-than-normal levels of carcinogens found in his patients. Representatives of Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Congressman Brad Sherman, State Senator Henry Stern, Assemblyman Dante Acosta, and the LADWP will join Dr. Nordella.
 - Lloyd Dent added that the gas company was remiss in not notifying people about the effects of the gas explosion at Aliso Canyon. His 4-year granddaughter was coughing and had nosebleeds until the gas wells were capped.
5. Discussion and motion to approve a recommendation by the Education Committee to approve the Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) of \$1,000 for the North Valley YMCA Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA on Saturday, April 21
- Jane Stanton, Executive Director of the North Valley YMCA, reported that they anticipate over 500-families coming to their Health Kids Day to learn about healthy foods, lifestyles, etc. This event will also give the kids the opportunity to sign-up for summer camp, etc. There will also be several groups (including the NWNC) with booths; this \$1,000 will help with the canopy's costs.
 - Bill Fox made a motion to approve this \$1k NPG expenditure; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
6. Discussion and motion to approve a recommendation by the Education Committee of an NPG for \$3,000 for the Northridge Beautification Foundation (NBF) for the purpose of cleaning and improving areas to be determined by the board such as Devonshire Street, Tampa Avenue, or other busy and highly visible through fares in our boundaries
- Usually when an NPG is discussed, someone from the non-profit appears to represent this project. As there was no one here from the NBF, Jenni Heckscher recommended that this agenda item be tabled.
 - Gail Lapaz wondered why this was handled by Education Committee; since most NPGs go to local schools [traditionally] the Education Committee handles NPGs.
 - Colleen Pick mentioned that we are all familiar with what Don Larson has done for the benefit of the community, and urged support for this expenditure.
 - The unsigned original NPG requested \$5k; however, the agenda stated \$3k. Glen Bailey mentioned that a council could reduce the requested amount (\$5k to \$3k). However, they cannot increase the requested amount. Last month, Northridge South (south of Nordhoff Street) and the NENC (east of Reseda Boulevard) each donated the requested \$5k.

- Jon Manuel mentioned that the NWNC already gave the NBF \$4k during this fiscal year. With this additional \$3k, they would receive greater than 16% of the NWNC’s annual budget.
- Jenni Heckscher made a motion to table this agenda item; Gail Lapaz seconded the motion, and it passed.

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Aye (6) | Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Loi, Manuel, and Williams |
| No (4) | Dent, Fox, Pick, and Wilson |
| Abstain (2) | Bolin and Lasky |

7. Discussion and motion to amend Article V, Section 1: B Community Interest Stakeholder to the following, Two (2) Stakeholders who are at least 18 years of age or older at the time of the election and who live, work, own property, or claim a substantial and ongoing stake within the boundaries of Northridge West Neighborhood Council. The intent is to match the language of page 14, attachment B and page 5, Section 4. In simple terms the change makes the language plural in all sections as opposed to single in Article V, Section 1: B
 - Peter Lasky Fox made a motion to approve this technical correction; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and motion to approve filing a CIS regarding CF 17-1432 Motel/Hotel Transitional Housing ordinance to convert and facilitate the use of existing motels and hotels for Supportive Housing and/or Transitional Housing. Moreover, these housing facilities would also serve to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Motel/Hotel Transitional Housing ordinance to convert and facilitate the use of existing motels and hotels for Supportive Housing and/or Transitional Housing. Moreover, these housing facilities would also serve to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Motel/Hotel Transitional Housing ordinance to convert and facilitate the use of existing motels and hotels for Supportive Housing and/or Transitional Housing. Moreover, these housing facilities would also serve to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness.
 - Gisela mentioned that this is a great way for the city to step up and help fix homelessness, as new construction will not be required.
 - Lloyd Dent asked if there were any hotels/motels within the boundaries of NWNC. There are none, yet Bill Fox mentioned that there are several vacant hotels in other areas of the city. Peter Lasky added that the property acquisition would not involve eminent domain.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the filing of this CIS; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed.

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aye (11) | Bolin, Fox, Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Pick, Williams, and Wilson |
| Abstain (1) | Dent |

9. Discussion and motion to approve filing a CIS regarding CF 17-1422 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) ordinance to allow administrative clearance in the application process for PSH units to be built. This ordinance would help with community development and reduce project costs while allowing projects to be completed on time. Furthermore, this ordinance would create administrative clearance procedure for qualifying PSH projects in public benefit section of zoning code, establish requirements regarding population served and notify public and provide supportive services, provide density bonus/other incentives, provide option for additional relief from development standards (consistent with state law), establish performance of PSH projects, and amend site plan review thresholds for qualifying PSH projects.
 - Gisella mentioned that this CIS ties into the 40-page transitional housing pamphlet as distributed at the last NWNC meeting.

- Colleen Pick added that the city would not be able to build housing for every homeless individual; each single unit could cost \$400k. Instead of single-homes, why not put three or four people into each unit?
- Gail Lapaz replied that these are usually set-up for families. It is less expensive to house them rather than have them go to an emergency room twice a year.
- Gisella added that this concerns zoning, rather than throwing money at organizations.
- Jenni Heckscher made a motion to approve the filing of this CIS; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aye (10) | Bolin, Fox, Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Lasky, Loi, Manuel, Williams, and Wilson |
| No (1) | Pick |
| Abstain (1) | Dent |

10. Discussion and motion to approve a change to our bylaws by making the Wilkinson Center a shared facility. Northridge South has voted that they have no objections to sharing the facility with us and DONE has agreed based upon Northridge South Approval. This motion [if approved] would then need to be approved by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

- In the event that the NWNC requires another meeting place (for example, school closed for summer vacation) this change to the bylaws would give the NWNC another location to hold meetings.
- Glen Bailey mentioned that Northridge South might need to vote to permit this back-up location. Jose Galdamez mentioned that DONE is double-checking this action.
- Peter recommends voting on this. If there is a problem with this item, it can be followed up with the Northridge South [during their monthly meeting] next week.
- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this change to the bylaws; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and motion to approve the recommendation of the Education Committee of an NPG of \$1,000 to the Southern California Preparedness Foundation in support of the Disaster Preparedness Fair to be held on September 29, 2018. The funding will be used to procure supplies, services and rental in support of the fair. The fair is open to the public and will be held at the Northridge Mall.

- Mikkie Loi recused herself.
- This Disaster Preparedness Fair educates people to take care of themselves and each other in the event of a disaster. There will be four or five speakers, multiple vendors, food, kits, booths, a bloodmobile, etc. at this annual event. The NWNC plans to have a booth at this event.
- Bill Hopkins originally requested \$850. However, since they will distribute more emergency preparedness bags, and since the people of Northridge will be most likely to benefit from this, they are requesting \$1k from each of the three Northridge Neighborhood Councils.
- Pam saw Gracie Liu at the VANC mixer in Studio City, and suggested that Mayor Garcetti attend this fair.
- Jenni Heckscher made a motion to approve this NPG; Colleen Pick seconded the motion, and it passed.

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aye (11) | Bolin, Dent, Fox, Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Lasky, Manuel, Pick, Williams, and Wilson |
| Recused (1) | Loi |

- **Following the voting, Mikkie Loi returned to the meeting.**

12. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Jenni Heckscher asked Jose Galdamez if DONE tracked checks that were not cashed (such as those to LAUSD and JCS Catering); Jose replied that they usually track checks after six-months of inactivity. Thursday, March 8, Jenni hand-carried a check to the vendor attending the VANC mixer.
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve the February Treasurer’s Report and MER; Jon Manuel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and motion to approve the minutes from the February Meeting

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the February minutes; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aye (9) | Fox, Heckscher, Kromhout, Lapaz, Lasky, Manuel, Pick, Williams, and Wilson |
| Abstain (2) | Dent and Loi |
| Absent (1) | Bolin |

14. Reports by Liaisons, Budget Representatives

- Homeless Liaison Gail Lapaz mentioned that she was disappointed that she did not receive more feedback from Councilman Englander’s office regarding the April 4 Homeless Connect event. However, they will continue to seek additional volunteers.
- Glen Wilson mentioned that Urban Studies students from CSUN reached out to Northridge Vision. In addition, Northridge Vision continues to be concerned about Lime Bikes.

15. Reports by Committee Chairs

- Glen Wilson mentioned that there was a clean up along Tampa Avenue and Superior Street on Thursday, March 8; the three volunteers extracted a lot of weeds.
- Lloyd Dent mentioned that the March Land Use Meeting was cancelled. However, the April Land Use Meeting will discuss a proposed exercise studio at 19500 Plummer Street.
- Jon Manuel mentioned that the Outreach Committee would coordinate a clean up of the Limekiln Canyon Park, alongside the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, on Saturday morning, April 14. They already recruited volunteers from the YMCA and a youth group from Granada Hills.
- Bill Fox mentioned that the Devonshire Area Basic Car 17A81 Neighborhood Watch meeting would be Thursday, March 15, beginning at 7PM at the Garden Christian Fellowship, 20745 Nordhoff Street (just east of DeSoto Avenue), Chatsworth. Alynn Gausvik, LA Family Housing Senior Director of Engagement will talk about the services they provide as well as the changes that come from Proposition HHH (Supportive Housing Loan Program) and Measure H.
- Gail Lapaz mentioned that the March Homeless Committee meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, March 15, has been cancelled.

16. Comments by Board Members on non-related issues to this meeting.

- Glen Wilson mentioned that the Executive Committee Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, would need to find a new location, as the Calahan School will be closed for spring break.

17. Adjournment

- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.31PM; Jenni Heckscher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.