

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 8 May 2018
Calahan Elementary School (CES) 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 6.25PM, welcomed over twenty-three stakeholders, nine board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

| | |
|------------|---|
| Here (9) | Pamela Bolin, Lloyd Dent, Bill Fox, Greg Kromhout, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Colleen Pick, Jacalyn Williams, and Glen Wilson |
| Absent (2) | Jenni Heckscher and Jon Manuel |

2. Comments by Public Officials

- Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12, who advocates for the stakeholder’s behalf while interfacing with the Departments of Building, Safety, Transportation, as well as the LAFD and LAPD, spoke of the following:
 - CD12 is committed to the Neighborhood FIRST Initiative that is designed to ensure quality of life in our communities. CD12 understands all the frustrations of residents seeing homeless encampments popping up along sidewalks and blocking the right of way. As part of the Neighborhood FIRST program, Councilman Englander has directed additional funds to Sanitation crews and the LAPD’s Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) officers so they can more quickly respond to requests for service. If anyone sees a homeless campsite being erected, please contact the CD12, the LAPD, and/or the Sanitation Department. We would prefer that the homeless be in shelters rather than outside.
 - CD12 also supports marijuana amnesty boxes at LAX; if you accidentally packed some weed, and are en route to a location where it is not allowed ... you can drop your stash in the amnesty box prior to your flight.

- Tanaz Golshan, West Valley Representative for Mayor Garcetti, reported the following:
 - Mayor Garcetti is a very strong advocate for crime prevention and homelessness issues. The city council recently requested \$20m from the 2018/19 fiscal year budgets to tackle homelessness; much of this \$20m will go towards women-only shelters.
 - In March 2017, Measure H passed to raise approximately \$355m annually for ten years. A portion of that money pays for the supportive services needed by the chronically homeless that may live in the thousands of units to be built under the previously approved Proposition HHH, the \$1.2-billion bond measure that city voters overwhelmingly approved in November 2016.
 - To accelerate the construction of these shelters approved via Proposition HHH, the mayor’s 2018-19 budget includes \$20m to construct emergency shelters citywide via the “a bridge home” project. These funds will be equally available to each council district. To receive the funds, each councilmember must identify a site or building adjacent to a high-density homeless population and create an emergency shelter.
 - Additional information on Mayor Garcetti’s budget can be found on his website at <https://www.lamayor.org/>
 - Pam Bolin asked about the resiliency meeting at the mayor’s house; there was a great deal of hype, yet little information. Tanaz did not have additional data on that program.

- Jose Galdamez from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported the following:
 - The city clerk’s office has a new process in accordance with the Public Records Act, additional information can be found on their website <http://clerk.lacity.org/contact-us/RecordsRequest>

- The last day to submit funding approval forms for this fiscal year (ending Saturday, June 30) is Sunday, May 20. Friday, June 1 is the last day to process checks (including Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG)), and Wednesday, June 20, is the last day for credit card transactions.
 - Neighborhood Councils are urged to spread the word concerning the city's Civic Youth Leadership Academy, to be held on six Mondays this summer beginning June 18th at city hall. This program is designed to educate, engage, and empower young people to take active roles in their communities and speak up on issues that matter. This is open to students, ages 14 to 24. The deadline to apply is Thursday, May 31. Additional information can be found on their website <http://empowerla.org/civicyouth/cyla/>
- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey addressed the NWNC
 - At the last NWNC meeting, Budget Advocate Deirdre Greenway presented their report to Peter Lasky; this report had already been submitted to Mayor Garcetti (during their meeting of Friday, March 9) as well as the city council. This report can be seen on the advocate's website at <http://ncbala.com/>.
 - There were 165 budget memos generated throughout this process (some city-wide, some specific).
 - The Budget Advocates have been attending the city council's budget committee's meetings. The allowance for rollover funds has been discussed. Rollovers were previous permitted until 2010, when each neighborhood council's budget was \$50k.
 - A second Budget Advocate's meeting may occur in August or September.
 - Pam Bolin asked if the Budget Advocates had any influence on Mayor Garcetti, and if the LADWP had been transparent about their budget; the responses were affirmative.
3. Guest Speaker, the League of Women Voters (LWV) speaking on Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Alexa Rowan, Penny Somers, and Kathy from the LWV addressed the NWNC.
 - The LWV provides non-partisan voter education. They never support candidates, but advocate for issues (such as homelessness). Per their 1987 referendum, they will support anything that takes care of homelessness.
 - In March 2017, County Measure H passed to raise approximately \$355m annually for ten years. In November 2016, the city voters approved Proposition HHH, the \$1.2-billion bond measure. After Proposition HHH passed, the LWV contacted Mayor's Garcetti's office, asking what they could do to make certain that the money is spent efficiently.
 - The LWV supports PSH, which accepts applications for homeless people to reside somewhere indefinitely. Rent is 30% of their income (many receive this via SDI). As long as they obey their lease, pay rent, and stay sober, they can stay forever. All such buildings will have an on-site manager, with access to case management, rehabilitation, youth and medical services, etc. The STAR Apartments on Skid Row include a community medical facility.
 - The city could build 10,000 housing units if they had support from the community; hence they are reaching out to the neighborhood councils. These shelters are meant to appear just like another house or apartment building; people walking or driving by do not realize that it is a shelter. A shelter in Van Nuys won several architectural awards.
 - It is recommended that people keep an eye out for vacant warehouses and storefronts as potential shelters. In 2017, there were 60,000 people living on the street while waiting for housing to become available.
 - Previously, there was no coordination between the city and the county. Via the Coordinated Entry System (CES), there is now a database of everyone who lives on the street, including names, health status, their case manager, etc.
 - Greg Kromhout asked how locating potential facilities transitions to becoming a shelter. Alexa distributed a list of developers and trusts that could transform the property and urged folks to reach out to one of those developers.

- As the city is currently in a housing crisis with few vacancies, Colleen Pick recommended using an apartment or motel that is currently for sale.
- The LWV representatives urged anyone who sees an individual who exhibits dangerous behavior (whether to themselves or others) to please call 911. Please call 211 for county homeless services, including shelter beds.
- Kathy concluded the presentation, stating that homelessness is the visual example of poverty in the world, and she advocates that people be kind.

4. Comments from stakeholders on non-agenda items

- Ryan Robles is a business student studying sustainability at CSUN who expressed concern that there is more that government could do to promote sustainable business practices.
- He is part of a team of CSUN students helping the Follow Your Heart Market and Café become a zero-waste business by applying for True Green Business Certification. This certification complements the LEED green building rating system by helping businesses and facilities define and pursue their zero-waste goals. This certified project must meet a minimum of 90% diversion of waste from landfills. Their success is measured by comparing the landfill from one year to the next. The adoption of such green practices at all levels impacts the release of greenhouse gases, helps businesses become more efficient, and uncovers new streams of revenue.
- Ryan strongly believes that in order to build a sustainable future, government, businesses, and citizens need to enforce changes in the community. Pressuring businesses to implement zero-waste changes would promote a better future for Northridge.
- Principal Michelle Wells from the CES reported that Saturday, May 19 [beginning at 9AM] there would be the annual CES Cleanup to make the school a cleaner and greener place. Volunteers will spend the morning on mural painting, building garden boxes, and bottle cap art. There will also be presentations by CES students.
- Ken Rosenthal, Associate Vice President for Facilities, Development, and Operations for CSUN, discussed the new Hyatt Hotel at the south end of campus. Developer Jupiter Realty was unable to acquire funding and has been removed from consideration; a new developer is being sought. The environmental work has been completed; the full environmental report is posted at the Oviatt and Northridge public libraries. Additional information can be found at CSUN's website at <https://www.csun.edu/facilities>
- Resilience Committee member Peter Wei expressed concern about the pending earthquakes, which occur every twenty to thirty years. At that time, there may be a shortage of food, water, and fuel. When the earthquake of January 1994 occurred, many people were without food and water for several weeks. Rather than spending \$500 on Outreach [per agenda item 14] perhaps NWNC should spend the money to prevent deaths.
- Gary Gymkatcheon is a student at CSUN who has lived in Northridge his entire life. He expressed concern that there is more concrete being built while we live in a drought. Instead, he advocates for LADWP's focus to plant more drought tolerant native plants for less money.
- Glenn Bailey, President of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) mentioned that their monthly meeting would be on Wednesday, May 16 at the Northridge Women's Club, 18401 Lassen Street. This month's guest speaker will be LAUSD board member Scott Schmerelson.
- Glenn also reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) would meet on Thursday, May 10, at the Sherman Oaks Hospital. One of the topics to be discussed will be the expiration (on Saturday, June 30th) of the neighborhood council's webmaster's contracts.

- VANC will probably not have their big autumn meeting in 2018; instead, they may host a candidate’s forum.
- Public Affairs Manager David Messa from So Cal Gas reminds everyone to call Dig-Alert at 811 at least two days prior to construction around your home. That will give So Cal Gas adequate time to visit and advise where (and where not) to dig. There was recently a 450-home power outage in Chatsworth because someone dug without calling, and struck a gas line.

5. Presidential Comments

- Peter Lasky reported that all revocable, class A, and other mandatory permits for the Tampa Avenue medians have been approved.
- He reported that he also reviewed the 90-page budget white paper.
- Peter reviewed the protocol of the meetings, including the Brown Act, laws, no interruptions, side-conversations, etc. Regretfully, the CES will not renew NWNC’s lease, and we will have to find another meeting location. One evening, Mr. Peter Wei, a candidate for the NWNC Education, Outreach, and Executive Committees, broke into a closed meeting and insulted parents. As Mr. Wei can be exhausting and disruptive, Principal Wells feels that safety of the campus is number one. In addition, Vice President Jon Manuel and Treasurer Jenni Heckscher do not feel comfortable doing business around Mr. Wei.

6. Discussion and vote to confirm Matt McPherson to fill the vacant At-Large-2 seat pursuant to Article 5, Section 6A

- Matt resides near San Fernando Mission and Reseda Boulevards (having previously lived in Winnetka and Burbank). As a realtor and appraiser, Matt drives throughout LA every day.
- Pam Bolin asked if Matt was willing to take on different rolls, including being on the executive board. Peter Wei asked if Matt would vote to support earthquake preparedness. Both responses were affirmative.
- Gail Lapaz made a motion to appoint Matt McPherson to the NWNC; Bill Fox seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Matthew Hernandez administered the oath of office to Matt McPherson, and he took his seat at the board table.

7. Discussion and motion to approve the recommendation of the Education Committee of \$500 NPG for the North Valley YMCA to support the Senior Dance on June 1, 2018 at Northridge Recreation Center.

- Glenn Bailey reported that the YMCA is merely the financial resource for this event.
- Jasmine from the Parks and Recreation Department mentioned that this would be held at the gymnasium of the Northridge Park, 18300 LeMarsh Street. This year’s theme will be “toys”.
- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this \$500 NPG expenditure; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

8. Discussion and motion to name a Senior of the Year to be honored at the Senior Dance

- Pam Bolin nominated Peter Lasky; Peter tabled this agenda item.

9. Discussion and motion to approve a recommendation of the Education Committee of a \$2,000 NPG to the CSUN Foundation for the Veterans Assistance Fund to help veterans in need while attending CSUN

- Director Jay of CSUN’s Veteran’s Resource Center (VRC) reported that they serve over 700-veterans (of the 40,000 students). They host activities for the veterans and their families, and have increased morale and the veteran’s graduation rates.

- Jacalyn asked if they provide tutoring and/or labs for extensive studies; the reply was affirmative. Jay mentioned that the veterans bring a wealth of real-life knowledge to their studies, whether in engineering, psychology, or another field. The veteran's are usually a bit older than the average CSUN student, as they were deployed in the military during ages 19 to 22, the ages of most college students.
- Matt McPherson asked about the \$2k; this would supplement their current funds as more and more veterans are coming to CSUN. It would also go towards family funds so the vets can bring their spouses and children to campus.
- Additional information can be found on their website at <https://www.csun.edu/vrc>
- Greg Kromhout made a motion to approve this \$2,000 NPG expenditure; Lloyd Dent seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and motion to approve a recommendation of the Education Committee of a \$2,500 NPG for Parents, Teachers, Educators and Students in Action (PESA) for a week long training program at the Museum of Tolerance for the Stop Hate and Delinquency by Empowering Students (SHADES) portion of the Teen Court program and implementation of SHADES related presentations
- PESA partners with the LAPD and visits schools to meet with bullies, hate crime victims, and students who have had infractions; three of the kids in this program attend the Northridge Academy, 9601 Zelzah Avenue.
 - This \$2,500 will go towards one-week of training at the Museum of Tolerance, 9786 Pico Boulevard. This museum has a SHADES program to help get these juveniles on the right path.
 - In exchange for supporting this NPG, the NWNC will have their logo placed upon PESA's literature.
 - Jacalyn Williams made a motion to approve this \$2,500 NPG expenditure; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and motion to approve a recommendation of the Education Committee of a \$2,000 NPG to the LA Parks Foundation for "the Salute to Recreation Family Festival" to be held at Northridge Recreation Center on June 1-3
- Director Jasmine from the Parks and Recreation Department (who heads the Chatsworth Park) mentioned that this year's family festival may attract over 80,000 attendees, and will include cheer and sports tournaments, carnival activities, a Hawaiian village, health fair, yet no fireworks.
 - In exchange for this \$2,000 NPG, the NWNC will have their name and logo appear throughout the fair, including on one of the stages. The NENC already committed \$500 to the senior dance and \$2k to the weekend fair.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this \$2,000 NPG expenditure; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

12. Discussion and motion to approve a recommendation of the Education Committee of a \$2,078.13 NPG for Calahan Community Charter for the purchase of a Timbucktoo 15 gallon Rhino Extractor for carpet cleaning
- Principal Michelle Wells submitted this NPG for a new carpet shampooer as their current shampooer leaks dirty water. This appliance is necessary as the kids eat breakfast and spill milk in their classrooms.
 - Lloyd Dent recommended that the school board pay for a carpet cleaner. Michelle replied that their annual budget is merely \$6k, which is not enough money. Many of the teachers here at CES bring in their own cleaning supplies.
 - Someone asked about the carpeting. A few of the classrooms have area rugs, and the library has full carpet. CES's custodian borrows a carpet cleaner from area schools; however, this cleaner is very popular, especially during the shutdown weeks. When/if CES acquires this new carpet cleaner; it will be shared with the other area schools.

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this \$2,078.13 NPG expenditure; Greg Kromhout seconded the motion, and it passed.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Aye (8) | Bolin, Dent, Fox, Kromhout, Lasky, Pick, Williams, and Wilson |
| Abstain (1) | Lapaz |
| Not Yet on the Board (1) | McPherson |
| Absent (2) | Heckscher and Manuel |

13. Discussion and motion to approve a recommendation of the Education Committee of a \$1,000 NPG for the San Fernando Valley Chinese Cultural Association (SFVCCA) May Asian American Heritage Month celebration at Granada Hills Charter High School (GHCHS)

- Greg Kromhout recused himself from this discussion.
- Po Ho, President of the SFVCCA, mentioned that they have run the Chinese Program at the GHCHS (where several Northridge teenagers attend) since 1987, and this is the first time they have done an Asian American Heritage Month celebration. The entire event, to be held on Saturday, May 12th beginning at 12.30PM, will cost approximately \$4k, with \$2k going towards facility rental. Most of this \$1k from the NWNC will go towards supplies.
- This event will help the community better understand the different Asian cultures of the San Fernando Valley (where 20% of the population is of Asian heritage). The attendees will be from kindergarten through 12th grade.
- Among the activities will be a Chinese Lion Dance, Japanese Taiko, Korean Folk Dance, Chinese Shaolin Kung Fu, Asian Arts and Crafts, food, boba, and more
- The SFVCCA has already received commitments of \$1,350 from the Reseda, Porter Ranch, and Northridge South Neighborhood Councils. The Granada Hills Neighborhood Council was unable to contribute.
- Jacalyn Williams asked how this is publicized. Po replied that they ran advertisements in the Porter Ranch newspaper and spread the word at the Chinese Magnet of Granada Hills, and other area schools.
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this \$1k NPG expenditure; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

- Greg Kromhout returned to the meeting following this vote.

14. Discussion and motion to approve the purchase of Outreach Booth items.

- NWNC may allocate \$500 for Outreach Booth items and activities at the Northridge Park during the June 1-3 weekend; however, there was no vote on this agenda item.

15. Discussion and motion to approve a budget for the changes approved in items 7-13

- If everything during tonight's meeting is approved, NWNC will end up with \$1.98
- Glen Wilson requested an amendment to the Proposed 2017-18 Budget. The Neighborhood Council Awards Mixer (not dinner) and the Empower LA Awards were shown as \$500/each (totaling \$1k). However, as they are both the same thing, this amount should be shown as merely \$500, with the other \$500 added to the \$500 to the Congress of Neighborhood Councils (which will then total \$1k).
- This amended budget includes the \$1k award for the Tampa Median, which has not yet been received.
- There was slight confusion regarding the outstanding amount of \$358.23 for business cards.
- Peter Wei asked about the definition of topiary, which is the art of clipping shrubs into ornamental shapes. The topiary along Tampa Avenue will show three horses as part of the Spanish Land Grant theme.

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve the amended budget; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

16. Discussion and motion to approve the appointment of Peter Wei to be on the Education Committee

- Peter Lasky combined agenda items 16, 17, and 18.
- Peter Wei defended himself by stating that \$1k for an oak tree and \$4k for topiary seemed exorbitant; he thinks there are better ways for the NWNC to spend their money. In addition, he is not happy that Northridge is divided into three neighborhood councils.
- Before attending Harvard University, Peter achieved a very high score on his SAT; therefore, he is uniquely qualified to discuss education.
- Peter also believes that we could attract more people to the NWNC meetings by having live music. There are several aspiring musicians in the area, including a rock band at Plummer Street and Yolanda Avenue.
- Peter Lasky wondered how one could get into a shouting match at a meeting to which the person was not invited. Being on the NWNC is a privilege, not a right. He wondered if Peter was respectful and knowledgeable about the topics and rules.
- Lloyd Dent felt that Mr. Wei is not available to go by all the rules that Matt McPherson swore by during agenda item 6.
- Peter Lasky recommended that Peter reach out to another neighborhood council or the Southern California Disaster Relief Foundation to pursue his volunteer ambitions.
- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the appointment of Peter Wei to the Education Committee; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it did not pass as it was unanimously opposed.

17. Discussion and motion to approve the appointment of Peter Wei to be on the Outreach Committee

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the appointment of Peter Wei to the Outreach Committee; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it did not pass as it was unanimously opposed.

18. Discussion and motion to approve the appointment of Peter Wei to be on the Executive Committee

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the appointment of Peter Wei to the Executive Committee; Jacalyn Williams seconded the motion, and it did not pass as it was unanimously opposed.

19. Discussion and motion to approve the Monthly Expense Reports (MER) for March and April

- As there were no concerns, Peter Lasky made a motion to approve the MER for March and April; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

20. Committee re-assignments and additions of people to committees

- This agenda item will be further discussed during the June NWNC meeting.

21. Discussion and motion to approve the minutes from the March Special 1 and 2 and April Meetings

- Glen Wilson mentioned that in the April minutes, agenda item 16 should reflect March, rather than February.
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve the minutes from March (special meetings one and two) as well as the April meeting; Glen Wilson seconded the motion, and it passed.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Aye (8) | Bolin, Dent, Fox, Kromhout, Lapaz, Lasky, Pick, and Wilson |
| Abstain (2) | McPherson and Williams |

22. Discussion and motion to approve two NWNC Budget Representatives for Budget Day on Saturday June 23, 2018
- Glen Bailey explained that the budget representative's one-year term begins on Saturday, 23 June 2018 (Budget Day) through the Budget Day of 2019 (usually held in June). The volunteers will also serve as the points of contact for the Budget Advocates (such as himself and Deirdre Greenway). The advocates meet twice a month; the representatives are not required to attend, but are welcome at these bi-monthly meetings.
 - Peter Lasky made a motion for himself and Glen Wilson to serve as the NWNC Budget Representatives; Greg Kromhout seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
23. Reports by Liaisons and Budget Representatives
- Homeless Liaison Gail Lapaz mentioned that during Mayor Garcetti's April 16th State of the City address, he spoke of the city's struggle with homelessness. With 25,000 people living on the streets each evening, LA must reconcile moving encampments off sidewalks and into shelters while dealing with neighborhood opposition.
 - Mayor Garcetti, with the support of Councilman Englander and County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, urges an aggressive \$20m program to build temporary shelters on city-owned land in all districts. To expedite this plan, there is an emergency declaration that could override existing zoning, building and fire code provisions. One of the proposed solutions is to allow van parking at the Vons parking lot at the northwest corner of Reseda Boulevard and Nordhoff Street.
 - The NWNC Homeless Committee will meet on Thursday, June 14.
 - NWNC's Homeless Liaison Gisela Tarifa, currently a student at Pierce College, has been accepted into several colleges; she is deciding whether to continue her education at UCLA or UC Davis.
24. Reports by Committee Chairs
- Wednesday, May 9, Northridge Vision will meet to discuss CSUN and other issues relevant to the community.
 - Saturday, May 12, at 6.30PM will be the unveiling of Roger Dolin's Stampede Mural, highlighting the history of Northridge, at the Catalina Paint Store, 8814 Reseda Boulevard.
 - Thursday morning, May 17, the Beautification Committee MAY have a street clean up.
 - Thursday, May 17, the Land Use Committee may meet (per Lloyd Dent).
 - Sunday, May 20 is Citrus Sunday; Glen Wilson will be at the Northridge Park along Reseda Boulevard (opposite Mayall Street), beginning at 8AM or 9AM to collect excessive backyard fruits for distribution to food banks.
25. Comments by Board Members on non-related issues to this meeting
- Bill Fox wished everyone a happy Mother's Day on Sunday, May 13.
 - Gail Lapaz expressed concern about the acoustics and amplification here at the CES; perhaps NWNC may discuss procuring a microphone system.
26. Adjournment
- Peter Lasky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9PM; Greg Kromhout seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.