

APPROVED  
 Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
 General Public Board Meeting  
 Tuesday, 14 August 2018  
 Northridge Christian Church  
 18901 Chatsworth Street, Northridge 91326

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

- President Pam Bolin called the meeting to order at 6.30PM, welcomed over twelve stakeholders, eight board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Here (8)	Pamela Bolin, Lloyd Dent, Alma Fernandez, Greg Kromhout, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Matt McPherson, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Bill Fox
Resigned (1)	Jacalyn Williams

2. Comments by Public Officials

- Jose Galdamez from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported the following:

- Thanks to the NWNC for sending in the inventory list form.
- Jose distributed a new map from the city clerk’s office, showing the boundaries of the NWNC as:
 

East	Reseda Boulevard	North	118 Freeway
West	Corbin Avenue	South	Nordhoff Way/Street
- DONE is excited to announce IgniteLA, a program for young women [ages 14 to 24] that builds civic knowledge and leadership skills to bolster civic engagement. Applications via [empowerla.org/igniteLA](http://empowerla.org/igniteLA) will be open until Wednesday, September 12. Classes will be held on Monday evenings, 5PM to 7.30PM, September through November, at five locations throughout the city.
- There has been a rash of phishing emails from someone pretending to be the president or treasurer of a neighborhood council. These scams request gift cards. Pam has already received bogus emails concerning Wal-Mart. If you receive these emails, please forward them to [Leticia@empowerla.org](mailto:Leticia@empowerla.org).
- Effective July 1, DONE has new funding procedures; these are shown in red on the city clerk’s website. Financial officers must now take training every two years.

3. Guest Speaker, Gerry Valido from the Office of Community Beautification (Graffiti Abatement Monitor/Court Liaison/Community Coordinator and Program Manager, Adopt-a-Median/Adopt-a-Spot Program

- Years ago, Operation Sparkle became Operation Clean Sweep which became the Office of Community Beautification (OCB). Their main goal is to remove graffiti, which can be done by calling 311.
- They work with the West Valley Alliance in the West San Fernando Valley, who have been tasked with removing graffiti within 72-hours of notification. Exemptions are made for high graffiti (above the 2<sup>nd</sup> story) and graffiti upon a mural (which must be cleaned without damaging the artwork; otherwise, the artist is called to repair or repaint their mural).
- The OCB has a warehouse near downtown containing paint, rollers, trays, etc. The city will deliver this equipment to your house if you choose to paint over the graffiti yourself.

- Illegal street signage (including those teaching someone how to flip houses) can also be removed by the city. Gerry alerts the street signage team, who reach out to the poster via the posted telephone number.
  - Someone asked if there could be more cameras. The costs and maintenance were the key reasons for their removal. Cameras remain in high-crime areas of the city (downtown and south LA), but the technology required to maintain all the equipment exceeded the city's ability to pay.
  - In addition to being a program manager, Gerry is one of the expert witnesses, testifying in criminal court for graffiti removal. Often, it is difficult to arrest the tagger unless they are caught in the act.
  - Gerry's team has the power to waive the permit fees for sculpture and topiary within a median. Although this service is free, it may take a bit longer than processing the application.
  - Stakeholder Mike asked what would happen if a group abandons a median project. In that case, the city will take over and may convert it back to its original state. Alternatively, perhaps a neighborhood watch group could take on the maintenance responsibility.
  - Someone asked about the tree trimming; the trees within parkways are the responsibility of the city's Division of Urban Forestry (DUF). Watering a parkway is the responsibility of the homeowner. Damaged trees should be discussed with Hector at the DUF.
4. Comments from stakeholders on non-agenda items
- No one had anything to say about this.
5. Presidential Comments
- Pam thanked everyone who participated in the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7.
  - Saturday, September 29 is the annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair, 9AM to 1.30PM, at 9400 Shirley Avenue, south of Plummer Street, by the movie theatres. Everyone is urged to register online to receive a complimentary Family Emergency Preparedness Starter Kit; one kit per family while supplies last.
6. Presentation by Jane Fowler on Opposing AB-813, a proposal before the Senate that will remove California's oversight over our electric grid. The City Council did take a position to oppose AB 813. Here's the link to the Council file:  
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=18-0002-S80>
- Jane recently moved to Granada Hills, yet she and her family soon became ill. They attempted a variety of resources, including holistic medicine, herbs, crystals, massage, acupuncture, etc. Upon researching the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak, they determined that was the cause of her family's illness. They relocated to a hotel for several months.
  - This has led to her involvement with Food and Water Watch, Save Porter Ranch, her concern for California's energy future, and opposition to AB813, the Multi-State Regional Transmission System Organization Membership.
  - AB-813 will
    - Cause California to lose control of our energy grid
    - Jeopardize 23,000 solar energy jobs
    - Combine eleven states into a consortium
    - Put California's energy grid at the mercy of the special interests and the Energy Regulatory Commission, which supports coal and nuclear power, and
    - Grant California merely a seat on the advisory board.

- Utah has already decided to sue California over clean energy policies. Montana and Wyoming plan to sue Washington State for their clean energy policies.
- There is a bit of urgency on this, as Sacramento may vote on this at the end of August.

7. Discussion and NWNC motion and letter to opposing AB 813, a proposal before the Senate that will remove California’s oversight over our electric grid and do CIS using the City Council CF 18-0002-S80
- Alexandra Nagy from Food and Water Watch stated that AB813 would remove California’s oversight of our power grid, and pass it along to eleven other states.
  - State Senator Hertzberg is nervous; this is reminiscent of the deregulation of energy and the subsequent Enron disaster of 18-years ago.
  - Governor Brown stated that this would allow Californians to export clean energy to other states; yet many feel that we should keep our solar energy local.
  - The LA Times and the San Diego Union Tribute join Food and Water Watch in opposition to this AB813.
  - Currently, this bill is in the Appropriations Committee; it must leave the committee by Friday, August 17, and the full assembly must vote on this by August 31.
  - Peter Lasky made a motion to table this drafted letter, as the NWNC has not yet heard from the opposing side, and the NWNC lacks enough information to pass a resolution regarding this issue; Pam Bolin seconded the motion, and it passed:

Aye (5)	Bolin, Kromhout, Lasky, McPherson, and Wilson
No (2)	Dent and Lapaz
Abstain (1)	Fernandez
Absent (1)	Fox

8. Discussion and motion to approve the July minutes
- Glen Wilson was able to correct the submitted minutes (written by a substitute note-taker); however, a slight correction was necessary at the bottom of page three concerning Alma Fernandez and the Panorama High School.
  - Lloyd Dent made a motion to approve these corrected July minutes; Matt McPherson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and motion to approve the July 2018 Monthly Expense Report (MER)

- The following General Operations Expenditures were incurred on August 6:

Vendor	Description	Amount
Moore Business Results	Communications Services	200.00
AppleOne	Minute Taker	247.94
Decision Publications	Advertising	315.00
Decision Publications	Discussion and Motion to Pass a Budget	315.00
Moore Business Results	Discussion and Motion to Pass a Budget	200.00
	Total	1,277.94

- Gail Lapaz made a motion to approve this MER; Matt McPherson seconded the motion, and it passed:

Aye (7)	Bolin, Dent, Fernandez, Kromhout, Lapaz, McPherson, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Lasky
Absent (1)	Fox

10. Discussion and motion to modify and approve updated NWNC committee's and chairs list, including who wants to be on NWNC Election Committee and other Committees. Note: may only have up to three NWNC Board Members per NWNC Committee and no limits on stakeholders on each NWNC committee

- The committee assignments were as follows (\* indicates chair):

Budget and Finance	Bolin, Lasky, and Wilson*
Outreach	Fox, Lasky, and McPherson* (and stakeholder Colleen Pick)
Beautification	Bolin, Lasky, and Wilson* (and stakeholders Chris Williams, Brian Reff, Don Larson, Andrea Alvarado, Debbie Penman, and Freddie Rymond)
Public Land Use	Dent*, Kromhout, and Wilson (and stakeholder Brian Reff)
Election	Lasky and Wilson*
Education	Fernandez* and Lasky
Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Grievances	Lasky and Wilson*
Public Safety and Resilient	Fox* and Kromhout
Homelessness	Fernandez and Lapaz* (and stakeholders Earl and Eileen Fagin)

- Peter was added to the Outreach and Education Committees
- Gail would have liked to be on Beautification, yet the committees are limited to three board members, and Pam (who is very concerned about tree trimming along Tampa Avenue), Peter, and Glen are already in place.
- Although the Election Committee has merely two board members, Peter and Glen will get an early start prior to the May election.
- Glen Wilson made a motion to approve this committee assignment list; Peter Lasky seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and motion to approve the NWNC Annual Self-Assessment which was due to DONE on August 1, 2018

- Alma was concerned about the vagueness of this self-assessment; Peter reported that Mayor Garcetti likes metrics, so it is okay if this document lacks specifics.
- As the May election will take a piece of the budget, there is less money during this fiscal year for Neighborhood Purpose Grants.
- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this self-assessment; Alma Fernandez seconded the motion, and it passed:

Aye (6)	Bolin, Dent, Fernandez, Kromhout, Lapaz, and Wilson
Abstain (2)	Lasky and McPherson
Absent (1)	Fox

12. Reports by Liaisons and NC Budget Advocate Reports

- Homelessness Liaison Gail requested that these committee reports be agendized earlier in the meeting, and requested that people use the correct vocabulary when discussing homelessness.
  - Bridge Housing is temporary housing structures on city property.
  - Supportive Housing is semi-permanent housing whereupon the homeless person would be responsible for their residence. Mayor Garcetti's resolution requires that 222 beds be provided in each council district by 2020. CD12 currently has zero, as Councilman Englander's policy appears to push people aside.
  - Many of the homeless of the west valley are better off than other areas as they reside in their vehicles. This area should focus on a safe parking area (with on-site electricity,

plumbing, and supervision (to ensure that the area is kept clean)) in an area where they can park by 7PM and depart by 7AM. The LA Housing Department will bring in showers, toilets, and other such necessities.

- Sadly, a 38-year-old woman died of heat exhaustion because the sidewalk (upon which she resided) was so very hot in July.
- Gail urged that folks not give money to the homeless. Instead, refer them to public assistance, whether a shelter or the Veterans Administration.
- She presented a poster explaining the various housing options; this poster was photographed and will be posted on the NWNC website.
- Chatsworth Neighborhood Council board member and business owner Nick Montano from Los Toros Restaurant generously donated food to Don Larson's Clean Streets/Clean Starts participants. He is considering hiring a few of these homeless individuals for bussing, dishwashing, and cooking tasks.
- Budget advocates Peter and Glen had nothing to add.

#### 13. Reports by committee chairs

- Lloyd reported that no Land Use Meetings are currently scheduled. Someone mentioned that there is new signage near the Corner Bakery Café, 19500 Plummer Street (near Shirley Avenue).
- Matt reported that the Outreach Committee was pleased with the National Night Out on Tuesday evening, August 7, and everyone seemed to have a very good time. Next year he will be more pro-active to increase attendance.
- Glen reported that the Beautification Committee would meet later in August.
- Alma, Greg, and Peter had nothing to add.

#### 14. Comments by board members on non-related issues to this meeting

- Someone mentioned that the Devonshire Area Basic Car Neighborhood Watch Meeting would be held Thursday, August 16, beginning at 7PM at the Garden Christian Fellowship, 20745 Nordhoff Street (just east of DeSoto Avenue), Chatsworth. The guest speaker will be Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12. Officer Parker will also review crime statistics and quality of life issues within the community.
- Peter thanked Gail for her efforts, and added that if anyone who would like to serve on her Homelessness Solutions Committee, please reach out to Gail.

#### 15. Adjournment

- Pam Bolin adjourned the meeting at 8.03PM.