

APPROVED  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
General Public Board Meeting  
Tuesday, 9 July 2019  
Northridge Christian Church  
18901 Chatsworth Street, Northridge 91326

1. Meeting Call to Order
  - President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order at 6.23PM.
2. Welcome all stakeholders and Pledge of Allegiance
  - President Peter Lasky welcomed over forty stakeholders, eleven board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call and determination of a quorum
  - A roll call was conducted indicating that there was a quorum. Peter reviewed the meeting process.

Here (11)	Pamela Bolin, Lloyd Dent, Kathleen Edwards, Alma Fernandez, Bill Fox, Jennifer Krowne, Peter Lasky, Rana Sharif, Kelly Sooter, Josh Toscano, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1)	Gail Lapaz

4. Comments by Public Officials
  - Field Representative Nikki Perez from Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel’s office reported that they have a very open door policy. All approved assembly bills are currently moving through the state senate. Nikki will report back to the NWNC once they have a better idea of the bill’s status.
  - Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12/Councilman Greig Smith, 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:
    - Tuesday, August 6, beginning at 6PM, will be the annual National Night Out at the Northridge Recreation Center. The event will be free and open to everyone. There will be multiple food trucks for food purchase. At sundown, the movie “Up” will be shown.
    - The LAPD has initiated a new smart phone app in Hollywood (hoping to expand it citywide) called “Get Help LA”. This provides a map for homeless resources, such as food, available shelters, etc.
  - Jose Galdamez from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported the following:
    - Neighborhood Councils will continue to have access to the Canva graphic design tool (to create flyers, templates, etc.) as well as Cornerstone (used for the city’s mandatory and optional training opportunities). Additional information on these products was emailed to all board members.
    - Wednesday, July 9, DONE will sponsor funding training at the MLK Recreation Center, 3916 South Western Avenue. This training will be repeated at downtown’s city hall, room 351 on Tuesday, July 16.
    - Tuesday, July 30, there will be a meeting of the council’s homeless liaison’s at city hall’s room 351. Please reach out to Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate John Darnell with any concerns or questions.

- Wednesday, July 31, DONE will host in-person Ethics Training at the Braude Center, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard. To register, please contact Neighborhood Council Analyst Betty Wong at DONE.
- Thursday, August 1, DONE and the city clerk will host another Elections Feedback Session at the LAFD's Station 87 at 10124 Balboa Boulevard, Granada Hills. Per a comment from Glenn Bailey from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) and the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), regretfully this is the same night as the West Hills, Lake Balboa, and Granada Hills South Neighborhood Councils. This date was probably set by the city clerk rather than DONE.
- Once the city clerk's office clears all council payments from the previous fiscal year, rolled-over funds will be transferred into the neighborhood council's FY2019-20 budget.
- If the NWNC wants to retain their ballot documents from the May 4<sup>th</sup> election, these may be available on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> (90-days after the election).
- The deadline for bylaws amendments has been extended from March 31 to April 15, 2020.
- DONE's General Manager Gracie Liu is leaving her current position to become the city's Assistant General Manager of Personnel, specializing in Recruitment and Outreach; the next general manager has not yet been chosen.

5. Guest Speaker: Dario Alvarez

- Dario, President of Pacific Urbanism, presented an eight-page summary of demographic changes to the area represented by the NWNC. This report may soon be posted on the NWNC website.
- Pacific Urbanism focuses on community planning, design, and construction. They implement the visions, needs, and desires of communities in and around LA. As organizers and planners, they build relationships with community members, businesses, and governmental organizations to identify overlapping goals.
- As designers and analysts, they engage stakeholders, gather data, develop and evaluate alternative scenarios, and arrive at a collective vision of the community itself.
- As builders, they make the vision a reality by managing and executing community driven plans.
- Dario presented a great many statistics, including that in 1990, the median income in the Northridge area was \$113k. By 2010, that median income had declined to \$79k. Northridge's student population has increased substantially, which resulted in a lower average income.
- Since 1975, multi-family housing increased 48%, the NWNC's area increased 175%, and zoning regulations now favor larger housing structures.
- Currently, 9,200 people drive into the NWNC community to work (most frequently at traditionally low-paying jobs such as retail and food service). Most of these commuters travel more than ten-miles to their jobs. Meanwhile, 9,500 people drive away from the NWNC area for work.
- Dario also showed areas in LA County where housing costs increased substantially more than the average, as well as areas where housing costs did not meet the expected increase.
- A stakeholder mentioned that [citywide] 4,000 units of affordable dwelling units would phase away in the next 18-months due to the expiration of funding streams. 1,700 of these may be in the northwest valley.
- A stakeholder asked if large apartment complexes are required to set aside units for low income. If they are looking for a bonus (such as a tax break), then yes, they must set aside a certain quantity of units for low income. The new apartment complex at Winnetka Avenue and Prairie Street has not filed for such a bonus.

6. Public Comments on non agenda items

- Many people completed a speaker’s card to discuss the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along Nordhoff Street. The NWNC reached out to Metro and CD12, and they were unavailable to address this issue.
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Metro’s Community Relations Manager, Karen Swift, would speak at the VANC meeting; however, this meeting is only for board members. That same evening, the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC) will hold their monthly meeting with a Metro representative to discuss this proposed BRT. Stakeholders were encouraged to attend this meeting at Granada Hills Charter High School, 10535 Zelzah Avenue.
- Metro will host three community meetings to further discuss this proposed BRT:
  - Thursday, August 8, 5.30PM    Laurel Hall School Cafeteria  
11919 Oxnard Street, North Hollywood
  - Saturday, August 10, 11AM    Plaza del Valle Community Room  
8160 Van Nuys Boulevard, Panorama City
  - Monday, August 12, 6PM    CSUN Orange Grove Bistro  
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge  
Validated parking will be available

- Joe Kozul received the following information from Metro’s website, comparing the BRT line across Nordhoff Street and Roscoe Boulevard. As Roscoe has twice as many riders; he strongly supports the Roscoe BRT rather than the Nordhoff BRT:

	Nordhoff Street	Roscoe Boulevard
Line	166	152
Weekday Riders	5,825	11,162
Community	Affluent Single Family Residences Larger Lots	Underserved Multi-Family Units Apartment Buildings

- Dale agrees with Joe. He has lived in Sherwood Forest since 1987 and in the valley since 1950. The buses are empty all day, yet there is gridlock every morning and evening along Parthenia Street. This BRT will ruin the neighborhood and their lives. Please dissuade this proposed BRT issue.
- Eve Williams has lived at Prairie Street and Louise Avenue since 2017. There has not been a traffic study along Nordhoff Street. In addition, many Nordhoff Street residents never heard of this BRT. Where will they put their trash bins? What about the streets without sidewalks (such as Prairie Street) when parents walk their children to school?
- Heather resides in the area covered by the NENC and urges everyone to vote against the BRT. This will lower property values and reduce the quality of life. She held up a petition if anyone is interested in signing it.
- Bill moved here fifteen-years ago. He could have moved anywhere, but purposely chose Northridge. He feels things are changing in a negative way and is strongly against the proposed Nordhoff BRT.
- Therese is a twenty-year resident of Northridge East who resides near Prairie Street and Louise Avenue. She attended CSUN and her son currently attends the university. She is concerned about the quality of life if the BRT goes through.
- Maxine serves on the Land Use Committee of the GHSNC. If the Nordhoff BRT is proposed because students take two-hours to get to the university, perhaps there are other

environmental issues. Measure M provides money, yet there are other options. We need as much data as possible.

- Ray mentioned that CSUN pushed on the environmental impact of the BRT and may make it mandatory for people to carpool to campus. He feels that it is okay if CSUN wants to make such a strong environmental impact, but it is not fair to force it upon their neighbors.
- Joanne Dougherty asked how many are opposing this bus line; a majority raised their hands.
- Linda Allison is a native of the San Fernando Valley, having lived here for over seventy years. She lives on Nordhoff Street, near the Dearborn Park. In accordance with Measure M documentation, if the BRT goes through, single family homes may lose their zoning regulations. Per a video shown during a Metro meeting, the vultures may come to take away single-family homes to replace them with multi-family dwellings.
- Judy Johnson-Diamond attended a Metro meeting; she was accused of accumulating wealth by remaining in her single family home. She thanked John Lee for standing with them. She is also concerned about what would happen when emergency vehicles travel along Nordhoff Street. If they remove two lanes, this will take away the two access lanes for the emergency vehicles that could endanger people's lives.
- Dolores has lived in Northridge since 1965. She appreciates CSUN, where her husband and three sons went to school. She also loves the Orange Line. However, this Nordhoff BRT will become a traffic nightmare with additional apartment buildings.
- Loretta mentioned that many of her friends are considering leaving Sherwood Forest due to the homeless issues and the Nordhoff BRT.
  
- Casey McCormick is seeking input, guidance, and a zoning variance for the installation of a new fitness facility on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level (above Monkey Sports) at 19500 Plummer Street. He is currently going through all the city channels. This space has been vacant for nearly eleven years. They did a traffic study, whereupon no one had any input. It was strongly urged that their clientele would use the [severely underused] 2<sup>nd</sup> level of the parking facility.
  
- Doris Dent reminded everyone that we would elect a new county supervisor in 2020. She strongly supports Darryl Park who recently filed his candidacy. Mr. and Mrs. Dent will host a campaign kick-off for Darryl at their home on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 3PM. Please contact her for the address.
  
- Carl mentioned that several years ago, during the Aliso Canyon blowout, SoCal Gas and politicians said that there was nothing going on. Thanks to Loraine Lundquist's outreach, the citizens of the northwest valley got politicians and SoCal Gas involved. Carl feels that we need people like Loraine who are willing to fight for us, rather than those who are a part of the establishment.
  
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that a DJ has posted advertising signage on the Tampa median. This is not okay. Glenn alerted 311, and the DJ may be fined.
- Glenn added that an election wrap-up debriefing meeting was held at the end of June; however, they only processed half of the agenda. The follow-on meeting of Thursday, August 1 will discuss voting.
- Glenn was also concerned that Nordhoff Street is the principle boundary for all three Northridge neighborhood councils. It is truly Metro's responsibility to do Outreach regarding this proposed BRT from North Hollywood to Chatsworth. In the meantime, it is imperative that the neighborhood councils do everything that they can.

- Mikkie Loi, from the LAPD's Devonshire Community Relations team mentioned that there is now linkage between the NWNC's online calendar and the LAPD's Devonshire Community Relations calendar, featuring Neighborhood Watch meetings, etc.
- Although we are past the Independence Day Holiday, illegal fireworks remain; please report fireworks at 877-ASK-LAPD or online at <https://lacityita.dynamics365portals.us/Complaint/>.
- Online registration for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training classes is now available. Class will begin Thursday evening, September 5, at 10045 Jumilla Avenue, Chatsworth.
- Mikkie added that she looks forward to seeing everyone at the Northridge Recreation Center, 18300 Lemarsh Street on Tuesday, August 6, at 6PM for the annual National Night Out. This is a great opportunity for attendees to meet their local LAPD officers.
  
- David from the Southern California Emergency Preparedness Foundation reported that they recently signed a contract and paid a deposit for Dr. Lucy Jones to give a presentation on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7PM at the Knollwood County Club, 12024 Balboa Boulevard, Granada Hills. As we recently had the very hottest June ever on planet Earth, Dr. Jones will talk about preparing for increased risks from natural disasters. Attendees should RSVP at [bit.ly/NaturalDisasterSeminar](http://bit.ly/NaturalDisasterSeminar).

7. Public Land Use and Zoning (PLUZ) Committee Report

- Lloyd reported that the application for the Crush gym (above Monkey Sports) was received in February 2018. However, it was submitted too late for the PLUZ's February meeting. The PLUZ has made many attempts to reschedule this meeting. Lloyd will be happy to reschedule the PLUZ Committee meeting in mid-July; these meetings must be given 72-hour notice. This issue must come before the PLUZ prior to coming before the entire NWNC.

8. Possible CD 12 Candidates talk and questions. Invitations have been issued to both John Lee and Lorraine Lundquist.

- Lorraine ceded her time to those who wished to address the BRT issue.
- John reported that this upcoming election is about the quality of life in Northridge. He has lived here since 1978, having grown up near Lassen Street and Lindley Avenue, near the former Devonshire Downs. He has also worked to save the Oakridge Estate, Devonshire Pool, etc.
- The LAPD and firefighters endorse John, as he will address the homelessness issue at city hall.
- He opposes the Nordhoff BRT. It is critical to save these single-family home communities, rather than excessive apartment buildings. He then ceded the remainder of his time to the BRT opponents.
- Peter Lasky thanked Lorraine and John for ceding their time.

9. Discussion and Motion to approve NWNC's participation in CD12 forum in collaboration with other local neighborhood councils

- Tonya McRae from Spectrum One will moderate the CD12 Candidate Town Hall on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at Granada Hills Charter High School, 10535 Zelzah Avenue. Approximately five neighborhood councils will participate, including NWNC, NENC, GHSNC, Granada Hills North, and Porter Ranch. As hosts, the councils will distribute and collect question cards before the meeting for presentation to the candidates.
- Kelly Sooter made a motion to approve this agenda item; Pam Bolin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and Motion to approve a funding line of up to \$700 for the CD12 candidate forum to be held on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 1PM at Highland Hall, Granada Hills Charter High School
- This \$700 will go towards refreshments; Ms. McRae will not charge a fee to moderate this town hall. It is expected that this expenditure will be significantly less than \$700.
  - Kelly Sooter made a motion to approve this agenda item; Alma Fernandez seconded this motion and it passed.

Aye (10)	Dent, Edwards, Fernandez, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Sharif, Sooter, Toscano, and Wilson
No (1)	Bolin
Absent (1)	Lapaz

11. Comments from Stakeholders on non-agenda items

- Please see agenda item 6.

12. Presidential comments

- Peter thanked Rana for all that she has done to establish the July 20<sup>th</sup> candidate forum.
- There is currently an opening on the Board of Police Commissioners; this group is comprised of five civilians who meet on Tuesday mornings and serve as the citizen’s voice in police affairs and as a means of ensuring more responsive and effective City government. They are paid \$900/day for their efforts.
- Although the NNWC has homelessness liaison and budget representatives, there are seven other categories of liaison commissioners.

Animal Services	Public Works
LADWP Representatives	Purposeful Aging
Film	Resilience
Grievance Panel	

- These committees are inactive from LA City on a regular basis. They may, at some point in the future, choose to reactivate one or more of the committees. Net, NWNC does not need to assign liaisons to the committees outside of Homelessness and Budget.

13. Discussion and motion to approve submitting a list of locations for the small asphalt repair truck to repair within NWNC boundaries.

- Kelly posted three different announcements on Next Door, soliciting requests for small asphalt repair tasks in the community. Several potholes received multiple requests, including the following (which will be submitted to the LA Bureau of Street Services):
  - Tampa Avenue south, between the 118 and Chatsworth Street (#2 and #3 lanes)
  - Tampa Avenue south between Devonshire Street and Romar Street (#3 lane)
  - Tampa Avenue south at Mayall Street
  - Tampa Avenue south between Lassen Street and Plummer Street
  - The northwest corner of Tampa Avenue and Superior Street
  - Tampa Avenue north between Nashville Street and the 118.
  - Wilbur Avenue south of Rinaldi north of the 118.
  - Corbin Avenue north between Tampa Avenue and Chatsworth Street
  - Chatsworth Street between Corbin Avenue and Tampa Avenue
  - Chase Street between Tampa Avenue and Vanalden Avenue
  - 19156 Liggett Street to Vanalden Avenue
  - Lemarsh Street west of Tunney Avenue (west of the lending library)
  - 10101 Wystone Avenue

- Rana Sharif made a motion to approve this agenda item; Alma Fernandez seconded this motion and it passed.

Aye (9)	Dent, Edwards, Fernandez, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Sharif, Sooter, and Wilson
Abstain (2)	Bolin and Toscano
Absent (1)	Lapaz

14. Discussion and Motion to approve a Board Retreat for the weekend of Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

- Alma, Rana, and Kelly are working to plan this meeting.
- The proposed agenda includes:
  - Goals and priorities      Outreach and Communications Plan Review
  - Budget review              Review Process and Improvement Opportunities
  - Committee Objectives      Next Steps
- In response to Mikkie Loi’s question, stakeholders are welcome to attend this meeting.
- Pam Bolin made a motion to approve this agenda item (with a location TBD); Bill Fox seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and Motion to approve Abigail Bailes to fill the vacant Community Interest Stakeholder

- Abigail has lived in this community for fourteen years and holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She specializes in public policy analysis (not politics) for California.
- She feels that a Community Impact Statement (CIS) from the NWNC regarding the Nordhoff BRT could be very useful. Perhaps Karen Swift of Metro should be the first person the NWNC reaches out towards. Pam Bolin compared Karen Swift to someone who advocated for the narrowing of Wilbur Avenue; this person eventually resigned their position due to stress, unpopularity, and negative feedback.
- Abigail has already completed all the mandatory training, including ethics, funding, etc. Without a formal motion, Abigail was unanimously approved to join the NWNC. Jose Galdamez administered the oath of office and Abigail took her seat at the head table.

16. Discussion and motion to create a task force to distribute a public service announcement regarding local ordinance 56.08

- In accordance with the recently passed LA Municipal Code 56.08, residents cannot permit trees or vegetation to grow or obstruct passage [of pedestrians or vehicles] within a 9’ height of sidewalks and streets.
- Kathleen and Lloyd wondered how this would affect trash left behind by transients; if it is left on someone’s property, the resident is responsible. This will not be popular.
- This agenda item may be further discussed at the August meeting, when Gail will be in attendance.

17. Update on Sound System by Sound Event Professional (and North Hills West Neighborhood Council Secretary) Dave Brown

- This evening’s meeting was a test run of the new microphones; everyone agreed that they sounded great. Dave urged the NWNC to have merely three microphones; any additional microphones may require a mixer.
- This new sound system may take ten to fifteen minutes to set-up prior to a meeting.
- For tonight’s meeting, the board attendees requested that the stakeholder’s/speaker’s microphone be placed on the south side of the room; if the speaker was on the north side [near the window] the outdoor light could be blinding.

- Dave agreed that the current desktop microphone stands are bulky; he ordered smaller, lighter desktop microphone stands.
- In response to someone’s question, it is possible to connect a laptop computer’s microphone to synchronize a guest speaker’s presentation.
- The warranty on all new equipment is always greater than a year; some pieces will have a three-year warranty. As Dave is local, it may be more efficient for him to simply swap out a piece of faulty equipment.
- The August NWNC meeting may include a vote to approve the expenditure for this sound system.

18. Committee Reports

- Beautification      Glen mentioned that they might meet on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- PLUZ                    Lloyd mentioned that they might meet on Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, provided that they can acquire a venue.
- Outreach              Rana mentioned that they would meet on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Northridge Park; the agenda will be posted very soon.
- Homelessness        Alma mentioned that they would meet on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at the Craft Room at the Northridge Recreation Center. This venue is also available if other committees (PLUZ, etc.) would like to use it.

19. Approval of the June 11<sup>th</sup> Minutes

- Rana Sharif made a motion to approve the June minutes; Alma Fernandez seconded this motion and it passed.

Aye (11)	Bolin, Dent, Edwards, Fernandez, Fox, Krowne, Lasky, Sharif, Sooter, Toscano, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Bailes
Absent (1)	Lapaz

20. Discussion and motion to approve the June Monthly Expenses

Date	Vendor	Category	Amount
May 13	Decision Publications	General Operations	\$ 315.00
May 30	Wendy Moore/Moore Business Results	General Operations	200.00
May 30	Apple One	General Operations	63.53
May 31	Northridge Beautification Foundation	Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG)	2,500.00
May 31	Northridge Beautification Foundation	NPG	4,000.00
May 31	Northridge Beautification Foundation	NPG	5,000.00
May 31	North Valley Family YMCA	NPG	500.00
June 3	LA Parks Foundation	NPG	2,000.00
June 7	Stonefire Grill	General Operations	116.05
June 7	Office Depot	General Operations	25.03
June 9	Smart & Final	General Operations	7.99
June 19	Office Depot	General Operations	52.55
June 21	Apple One	General Operations	69.30
	Total		<u>\$14,849.45</u>

- Rana requested clarification on the bottom line total of \$14,895.49; Glen reported that these confirmed numbers were provided by the city clerk’s office.

- Bill Fox made a motion to approve the June monthly expenses; Pam Bolin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

#### 21. Reports by Liaisons and NC Budget Advocate Reports

- Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, NWNC budget representatives Josue and Rana attended the annual Budget Day at city hall. Josue outlined the budget advocates mission as:
  - Engage with neighborhood councils and stakeholders on the city's financial condition
  - Encourage the city to allocate its resources to improve services and quality of life for all angeleños
  - Advocate for LA's true potential as one of the world's leading cities
  - Bring transparency to the city's budget process
- LA is already one of the most financially transparent cities in the county with a very clear revenue stream; the advocates look forward to increasing this transparency.
- The advocates also look forward to increasing the city's reserves to survive an economic crisis, similar to that of 2008. The city's watchdogs may increase monitoring the city employee's pension fund, as there is a great deal of money in those accounts.
- Advocate Glenn Bailey added that the presentations are available online at their website <http://www.ncbala.com>. There are currently three advocates representing the northwest valley. The advocates will meet with Mayor Garcetti in late August/early September.
- Kelly reported that the head of CSUN's security team addressed a recent meeting of the Northridge Vision. Perhaps he could attend an upcoming NWNC meeting; however, as CSUN is within the NENC, it is unknown if this would be appropriate.

#### 22. Comments by board members

- At a future NNWC meeting, Glen Wilson will discuss the annual Congress of Neighborhood Councils, scheduled for Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Josue mentioned that rent control recently increased from 3% to 4%.
- Rana reminded everyone to remember the NWNC's Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, as well as the CD12 Candidate Forum on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Alma reminded everyone of the Homelessness Solutions Committee meeting at Northridge Recreation Center at 2PM on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Kathleen suggested that someone from Metro could attend a future NWNC meeting to discuss the Nordhoff BRT. Peter replied that he reached out to Community Relations Manager Karen Swift, but was turned down.
- Kelly mentioned that the NWNC approved \$600 for business cards, badges, and other supplies; however, this came in as merely \$400, reflecting a 33% savings. In addition, she has posted NWNC meeting notices at local Starbucks and Coffee Bean and Tea Leaves.
- Although the NWNC does not require a formal VANC attendee, Glen Wilson and Kathleen Edwards may attend the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Sherman Oaks Hospital.

#### 23. Adjournment

- Peter adjourned the meeting at 8.48PM.