

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 8 October 2019
Northridge Christian Church
18901 Chatsworth Street, Northridge 91326

1. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
 - President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order at 6.26PM.
 - Peter welcomed over twenty-five stakeholders, [eventually] ten board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance,
 - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:

Here (10)	Abigail Bailes, Pamela Bolin, Lloyd Dent, Kathleen Edwards, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Rana Sharif, Kelly Sooter, Josh Toscano, and Glen Wilson
Absent (3)	Alma Fernandez, Bill Fox, and Jennifer Krowne

2. Comments by Public Officials
 - Newly inaugurated Councilman John Lee addressed the NWNC
 - John started working with the area neighborhood councils while supporting Councilman Joel Wachs in the mid-90s.
 - He recently submitted a motion to fund overtime to support extra manpower for the LAPD at the Devonshire and Topanga Divisions. He also started a task force to deal with local street racing in the northwest valley. This effort has resulted in forty racing cars being removed from our streets. He also had cameras installed at major intersections.
 - John, along with Supervisor Barber, made a motion for the Hidden Creeks open space to remain undeveloped, rather than having 100+ homes built on that site.
 - John hopes to schedule a meeting with Governor Newsom to discuss the permanent closure of Aliso Canyon. There may be a major announcement regarding this by the end of October.
 - Lloyd asked about a requirement that new houses capture rainwater; John replied that they are working on that issue.
 - Gail Lapaz asked about a new homelessness supportive housing project that is being built along Topanga Canyon Boulevard. This can be built as three stories; however, the developers would like it to be a four-story structure. John added that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority states that 25% of the area’s homeless are mentally handicapped who need institutional assistance; that statistic may be closer to 70%.
 - A stakeholder asked about a potential bridge across Sesnon Boulevard from Reseda Boulevard to Granada Hills; that bridge could cost \$25m and there is no plan to develop it.
 - Glenn Bailey asked about sidewalk vendors who are blocking sidewalks and hurting small businesses. Many citizens have reached out to Building and Safety as well as Street Services, who have done nothing since 2018. John told the story of Emle’s Restaurant at 9250 Reseda Boulevard. A complaint was issued that someone got food poisoning from eating fried chicken from the sidewalk vendor in front of this restaurant. Emle’s had to undergo an inspection, even though it was not their food.
 - For further issues, John recommended that people reach out to him via email at councilman.lee@lacity.org.
 - Danni Wang, communications director for Assemblywoman Christy Smith addressed the NWNC.

- The state assembly is out of session until January. If you want Ms. Smith to partner with your association, please reach out to their office.
- Ten bills from Ms. Smith were considered by the senate, with seven awaiting Governor Newsom's signature:
 - Assembly Bill (AB) 543 makes school sexual harassment resources accessible
 - AB 629 helps victims of human trafficking get back on their feet
 - ABs 967 and 1507 update the California Charter Schools Act, creating clarity and equity
 - AB 1233 waives AP exam fees for low-income students and foster youth
 - AB 1637 streamlines the unclaimed property request process
 - AB 1729 increases high school enrollment in summer community college courses.
- Governor Newsom already signed the following four bills from Assemblywoman Smith:
 - AB 853 expands college affordability by allowing ScholarShare to pay for expenses associated with college, such as rent and textbooks
 - AB 1051 updates the course load cap for nursing faculty to build the pipeline of nurses
 - AB 1106 extends the Enhanced Homeowner's Notification Program to save homes from foreclosure
 - AB 1336 champions child safety by funding more childhood injury prevention programs.
- Abigail Bailes expressed concern about sex education curriculum and how this class material will be relayed to parents.

- Tara Vahdani, School Engagement and Data Specialist for LAUSD Board Director Scott Schmerelson, addressed the NWNC:
 - She joined Scott's team three months ago, and supports 510 schools throughout the San Fernando Valley.
 - Scott is chairing the LAUSD Committee on Special Education, including monthly meetings with an advisory committee comprised of forty parents. He wants to ensure that they are happy with the special education that their kids are receiving. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please reach out to Scott and Tara's office.
 - Saturday, October 12, beginning at 9AM, will be a Choices School Fair at the Mulholland Middle School, 17120 Vanowen Street. Attendees will learn about their school choices, including

Admissions Criteria	Magnet Programs
Affiliated Charter Schools	Schools with Advanced Programs
Dual Language Options	Transportation Permits
 - The open enrollment application period is October 1st through November 15th for the 2020-21 school year. Please visit their website at goto.LAUSD.net or call 818-654-3600 for additional information.
 - Monday, October 14, beginning at 9AM, Tara and Scott will host a workshop on Dyslexia at their office at 6621 Balboa Boulevard. This workshop is designed to increase awareness of neurodiversity, the idea that our brains work and learn differently. Participants will explore the identification, strengths, and challenges of such learners.
 - Wednesday, October 23, 3.30PM to 6PM, they will host a Halloween themed Open House at their field office at 6621 Balboa Boulevard.
 - Friday, October 25, beginning at 5.30PM, our local Topeka Drive Elementary School will host their annual Fall Festival, including pumpkin carving, treats, etc.

- Stakeholder Grace asked that Scott become more proactive. Tara replied that he is chairing the Parent Engagement Committee that meets every two months. If anyone is interested in joining this committee, please contact their office.
 - For additional information, committee meetings are posted on the LAUSD website.
 - Stakeholder Victoria Estrada expressed concern that the local school principal was unfamiliar with the sex education curriculum. As a parent, she was told that she did not have the right to opt her child out of the upcoming training. In addition, school administrators are not communicating with the parents. Tara mentioned that they are the advocates for the public. If parents encounter a roadblock and are not getting a good response from the principal, please reach out to Scott and Tara. They will investigate the issue.
 - Abigail Bailes replied that the state mandates that sex education be taught in the public schools. Many schools do not know how to handle a parent's rights to opt out of this training.
 - The father of a first grader remarked that his son's teacher has thirty-students with no aide. Tara replied that we should allocate more money to public schools. Measure EE was brought to voters in June, yet this did not pass. At this point, schools lack nurses and the high schools do not have sufficient guidance counselors to help students prepare for college and/or careers.
- Jose Galdamez from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported the following:
 - DONE's new General Manager, Raquel Beltran, is doing listening tours of the city's 99 neighborhood councils.
 - Saturday, October 12th will be the annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair in the northwest corner of the Northridge Fashion Center (near the Pacific Theatres). Please register in advance at <https://www.valleydisasterfair.com>. This event will include multiple training sessions and a free disaster kit for attendees (while supplies last).
 - The City Planning Department will host information sessions on home-sharing programs. They will cover such topics as registration, eligibility, and enforcement. To participate in the home sharing program, all hosts are required to register online and have their registration number (or pending registration number) listed on short-term rental listings prior to November 2019. A local home sharing information session will be held Wednesday, October 23rd, 6PM to 8PM at the North Hollywood Recreation Center, 11430 Chandler Boulevard.
 - Jose reminded everyone that neighborhood council credit card transactions must include receipts. Otherwise, the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) cannot be generated.
 - 16-year-olds are now eligible to hold seats on all neighborhood councils.
 - DONE recently sent an email to all stakeholders in this community, urging their participation in NWNC committees.
 - Sunday, December 1, is the deadline for the NWNC to conduct, approve, and submit their annual Inventory; the supporting form has been emailed to board members.
 - Although more than a year away, DONE will host 2021 election preparation workshops beginning in January. This training will be held at the Erwin Piper Technical Center, 555 Ramirez Street. They will discuss candidate filings, election day procedures, and other issues to make the 2021 election run as smoothly as possible.

3. Guest Speaker: Laura Herrera, LA Registrar's Office, New Voting Machines and Procedures

- The LA Registrar’s office recently hosted 67-meetings whereupon people requested more voting sites, including farmer’s markets; future hearings will be held on the following dates:
 - October 23 and 29
 - November 7, 13, and 19
- September 28-29, the registrar hosted mock elections at fifty vote simulation centers throughout LA County, including the nearby Petit Park in Granada Hills. Future demonstration centers will be open throughout the county October 2019 through January 2020.
- The 2020 presidential primary is Tuesday, March 3; vote by mail ballots will be sent on Monday, February 3rd, with voting centers open on Saturday, February 22nd.
- Laura reviewed why the voting experience is changing:
 - Accessibility Our current voting equipment is outdated and provides limited access and language features for many voters. The new voting experience is designed to be intuitive and accessible. The Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) model gives all voters, regardless of age, disability, or language, a private and independent voting experience that is accessible and convenient.
 - Certification The California Secretary of State (SOS) has decertified the current voting system. The SOS has implemented new state security standards, which require counties to implement new voting systems that meet the state’s newest certification standards before the March 2020 Presidential Primary Election.
 - Manufacturing Due to the age of our current voting system, there are no longer manufacturers who produce replacement parts, making the system obsolete.
 - Technology Our current voting experience is more than fifty years old and provides limited accessibility and lacks ballot capacity to accommodate the number of contests and candidates required. The new Ballot Marking Device (BMD) was designed to be modular and scalable, allowing components of the BMD to be replaced or enhanced as technology evolves.
 - Voting Period Currently, LA County voters are given a day to vote in person and must vote at a designated polling location. In 2020, under the Voter’s Choice Act, voters will have the option to vote over an eleven-day period at any vote center located throughout LA County.
- Additional information can be found on the registrar’s websites: Lavote.net and vsap.lavote.net
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that the vote simulation location at the Petit Park [near the basketball courts] was not sufficiently clear (although he has been to that park and library many times). Also, Glenn’s signature via the stylus did not resemble his regular signature. Laura mentioned that people would be trained to move the tablet, which enables a clearer, better signature.
- Someone asked about voter IDs, which California does not require.

4. Presidential Comments

- Peter was very pleased that a majority of the NWNC showed up at the annual Congress of Neighborhood Councils on Saturday, September 18.
- Peter was also pleased that a majority of the NWNC board is female. In addition, the word “disruptor” is now a very positive word as many board members ask a great many questions.
- The NWNC calendar is now posted on a quarterly basis.
- The Outreach Committee has come up with a list of potential guest speakers for the next nine months. If anyone has suggestions, please reach out to the Outreach Committee.
- Peter also urged stakeholders to join a committee. These committee members grant stakeholders a better chance to speak and vote on things that will come before the NWNC.

- The NWNC's 2019-20 Operational Plan [as decided at the August retreat] will be voted upon at the November NWNC meeting. This plan includes key priorities, budget highlights, observations, committee statements, process improvements, budget questions, next steps, and the following four goals:
 - Provide value to our stakeholders by being an informed resource and advocate for the community
 - Build a cohesive team of strong and active board members
 - Increase committee activity and engagement with the community
 - Drive stakeholder awareness and involvement with the NWNC

5. Public Comments

- Glenn Bailey mentioned that the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (where he serves as president) received a variance request from Norm's Restaurant (which will open at 9400 Reseda Boulevard). The city restricts hours to 7AM to 11PM, yet Norms hopes to be open 24/7.
- As one of the organizers of the Congress of Neighborhood Councils, Glenn thanked everyone for participating. The NWNC's contribution was listed on the inside cover. A survey was emailed to registrants. The organizers are aware and disappointed in the caterer's inability to meet the 11.30AM lunchtime goal.
- DONE's new General Manager, Raquel Beltran will be the featured speaker at the October 10th meeting of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC).
- VANC's November planning forum will be held at the CBS Studios, Studio City whereupon they will discuss land use issues. This year's meeting has a sponsor, so they are not requesting neighborhood council's contributions.
- Victoria Estrada spoke earlier with Tara regarding the upcoming sex education curriculum coming to the LAUSD in 2020. She does not believe that the LAUSD wants parents to know what they will teach the children. Children as young as kindergarten will learn about masturbation, children in 4th grade will receive birth control information (including condom usage), and 7th graders will learn about sex with all genders. She would like the NWNC to agendize this issue.
- Grace, the mother of three boys, agrees with Victoria and is alarmed by what is taught in the LAUSD. She feels this material is not appropriate for 9-and 11-year-olds and yet she was told that she could not opt out. The school told her that she is one of a very few people who are concerned about this. She agrees with Victoria that this should be agendized at an NWNC meeting.

6. Discussion and Motion to approve the following committee changes, add Bill Fox to the Government Affairs Committee, add Abigail Bailes to the Public Safety Committee, per Article VII, Sections 3:B and 3:C of our bylaws.

- Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Abigail Bailes seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Motion from the Government Affairs Committee to approve Abigail Bailes as a Community Impact Statement (CIS) signer and filer.

- Josh asked what this task would entail. Peter explained that if and when NWNC issues a CIS, Abigail could sign and file this document.
- Rana Sharif made a motion to approve this agenda item; Abigail Bailes seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Motion from the Beautification Committee requesting a funding line of up to \$5,000 to be used for Public Art. The funds will be used to paint electrical boxes at traffic lights or other Public Art projects yet to be identified. The Beautification Committee will present locations, cost per box, and samples of the art, or ideas for other projects at a future meeting, funding to come from the Community Improvement Budget.

- Kelly mentioned that the following communities have several painted electrical boxes:

Glendale	100
North Hollywood	50
Chatsworth	10

- Nearly every intersection has one of these utility boxes, including a beautifully painted one at the corner of Mason Avenue and Devonshire Street.
- Gail asked how they came up with the \$5k; this seemed like a nice round number.
- If awarded the contract, 11:11 A Creative Collective of Chatsworth will coordinate permits, artists, graffiti-repellant paint covering, etc. They have experience in this sort of thing as they recently completed several utility boxes in North Hollywood and Chatsworth. 11:11's cost is \$1,200 per utility box.
- Rana Sharif made a motion to approve this agenda item; Gail Lapaz seconded this motion and it passed.

Aye (7)	Bailes, Bolin, Dent, Lapaz, Lasky, Sharif, and Sooter
Abstain (2)	Edwards and Toscano
Ineligible (1)	Wilson
Absent (3)	Fernandez, Fox, and Krowne

9. Discussion and Motion from the Beautification Committee of a work request for cleaning major streets in Northridge West by the Northridge Beautification Foundation (NBF) to satisfy the NPG received by the NBF in May 2019. The following streets are selected:

Chatsworth Street	Lassen Street	Reseda Boulevard
Corbin Avenue	Nordhoff Street	Tampa Avenue
Devonshire Street	Plummer Street	Wilbur Avenue

Cleaning would consist of removing debris, leaves, trimming trees, and shrubs and weeding.

- Someone mentioned that water would not be included.
- Rana Sharif made a motion to approve this agenda item; Kelly Sooter seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

10. Motion to Approve the September 10, 2019 Minutes

- Kelly Sooter made a motion to approve this agenda item; Rana Sharif seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and Motion from the Outreach Committee for a funding line of up to \$2,000 for the purchase of water bottles, reusable totes, reusable straws, hand sanitizer, flashlights, pens to be used as premiums at NWNC Outreach events, funding to come from the Outreach Budget.

- Kelly shopped for these products at Amazon Promotional Items, WalMart Promo Shop, Innovation Promotions, as well as seven other vendors. These items will be delivered within six weeks, with free shipping and no set-up fee.
- Items selected should build NWNC awareness, reinforce priorities, provide a real stakeholder value, renewable [if possible], and be easy to store. All promotional items will include the NWNC logo and tagline "your community voice in the mayor's office" wherever possible.

- Kathleen was concerned about the NWNC’s name on the earbuds; the name will be retained on the case rather than the buds themselves.
- Pamela asked to remove the reusable straws, as it cannot advertise the NWNC; Kelly mentioned that the straws would be kept in a sanitary carrier with the NWNC logo. Lloyd had previously purchased these straws and found them to be flimsy and difficult to re-use.
- Rana Sharif made a motion to amend this agenda item; Pam Bolin seconded this motion and it passed.

Aye (9)	Bailes, Bolin, Dent, Edwards, Lapaz, Lasky, Sharif, Sooter, and Toscano
Ineligible (1)	Wilson
Absent (3)	Fernandez, Fox, and Krowne

- Kelly Sooter made a motion to approve the amended agenda item, to add “such as water bottles, etc. purchased via Amazon, WalMart, and/or Innovation Promotions”; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion and it passed.

Aye (9)	Bailes, Bolin, Dent, Edwards, Lapaz, Lasky, Sharif, Sooter, and Toscano
Ineligible (1)	Wilson
Absent (3)	Fernandez, Fox, and Krowne

12. Budget Advocate report

- Glenn Bailey reported that the advocates recently met with Mayor Garcetti. The 36-advocates have since split up so that individual advocates handle specific city departments. Glenn is doing four of the forty departments, including the LAPD, Parks/Recreation, Transportation, and Street Services. He has specifically spoken to Street Services regarding parkways, paving, and street vendors.
- Collectively, these meetings with the forty city departments will be used to create the white paper that will be delivered to the mayor and city council on Friday, November 22nd.
- Glenn requested that the NWNC agendize support for Streets LA to clean parkways and sidewalks when a property does not front those areas.

Exit to special agenda

13. Discussion and motion to approve the September MER

Date	Vendor	Category	Amount
September 5	Wendy Moore/Moore Business Results	General Operations	\$ 200.00
September 10	Dave Brown	General Operations	1,550.00
September 10	Vista Print	General Operations	73.37
September 11	Corner Bakery	General Operations	142.00
September 16	City of LA Congress of Neighborhood Councils	General Operations	750.00
September 17	Golden State Storage	General Operations	655.00
September 23	Pizza Hut	General Operations	9.19
September 23	Office Depot	General Operations	7.83
September 28	Badge Busters	General Operations	23.27
	Total		<u>\$3,410.66</u>

- Abigail asked about the outstanding expenditure of \$370 for American Heritage Landscape. Glen explained that this is a correction to the May 2019 check that was sent to the wrong address.
- Kelly asked about the Golden State Storage facility. This location, at 18832 Rayen Street, contains cleaning tools, files, etc. In addition, Glen Wilson has some NWNC items at his house. It

would be great to consolidate all this, yet Peter reported that the current storage locker is near capacity.

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

Aye (9)	Bailes, Bolin, Dent, Edwards, Lapaz, Lasky, Sharif, Sooter, and Toscano
Ineligible (1)	Wilson
Absent (3)	Fernandez, Fox, and Krowne

14. Reports by Liaisons

- Gail showed the book “Resilient Los Angeles”, which includes four chapters, fifteen goals, and 96 actions. The four chapters are:
 - Safe and Thriving Angelenos calls attention to the role that individuals, families, businesses, and property owners can take to both prevent and prepare for future shocks and stresses
 - Strong and Connected Neighborhoods focuses on actions that support and strengthen community connectedness and collaboration
 - Prepared and Responsive City emphasizes strategies the City and its partners will take to ensure that Los Angeles is equipped to address current and future challenges
 - Pioneering and Collaborative Partner features the multidisciplinary innovations and partnerships that will continue to propel Los Angeles forward as a leader among our global peers
- A PDF of this book is available at <https://www.lamayor.org/sites/g/files/wph446/f/page/file/Resilient%20Los%20Angeles.pdf>
- As homelessness liaison, Gail attended a meeting at the One Generation Day Care and Enrichment Center, Reseda, along with Mayor Garcetti and Councilman Lee. Although everyone wants to end homelessness, this appeared to be more of a thank you than an informational event.
- Gail recently met with Field Organizer Corinne Ho from the United Way sponsored Everyone In regarding “Beds Rather than Sidewalks”. Corinne would like to address the November [or another upcoming] NWNC meeting.

15. Committee Reports

- Gail reported that Sunday, October 13th, there would be a Homelessness Committee meeting, along with the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness, at Councilman Lee’s office, 9207 Oakdale Avenue.
- Kelly reported that the Beautification Committee recently chatted about street vending. Their November meeting will focus on homelessness.
- On behalf of the Elections Committee, Kelly was concerned about the low voter turnout for the May 4th election.
- Public Safety Committee Chair Kathleen Edwards mentioned that they would meet on Saturday, October 19th. She added that city representatives were supposed to visit a homeless campsite, but they were unable to attend because they had to the wrong address.
- Outreach chair Rana mentioned that the NWNC recently purchased a 6’ tablecloth and was well represented at the Granada Hills Street Faire on Saturday, October 5th. They will meet again Wednesday, October 30th.

- In addition, Rana mentioned that NWNC has gone live on social media with the following accounts:

Facebook	NorthridgeWest
Instagram	NorthridgeWestNC

- Glen Wilson mentioned that the Beautification Committee did not complete their agenda during their last meeting on Monday, September 23rd.
- He added that as far as Land Use is concerned, Porto's Bakery would occupy the Sears Auto Center facility near the northeast corner of Nordhoff Street and Shirley Avenue.
- Glen mentioned that the bylaws and budget might be modified in the next few months.
- Government Affairs chair Abigail mentioned that their committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Their next meeting will be October 16th, at which time they will review the legislative report.
- She added that the NWNC is not prepared to make a CIS regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along Nordhoff Street. However, as a concerned citizen, anyone can write a letter to the entire city council, or write directly to John Lee at councilman.lee@lacity.org.

16. Comments by board members items

- Kelly wondered if there was any way we could learn how much revenue was generated at the October 5th Granada Hills Street Faire.
- Rana has reached out to Metro to host an event along with other area neighborhood councils, but she received no reply. Apparently, Metro is "regrouping" in response to a great deal of negative feedback regarding the Nordhoff BRT.
- Peter reminded everyone that the annual Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) pasta dinner will be held Friday evening, October 11th (this has since been postponed until November 1st) at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 17037 Plummer Street. Proceeds go towards the things that the city does not provide our police, such as holsters, etc.
- Peter requested that all committee chairs reach out to Kelly by the first of each month so she can post committee meeting dates, times, and locations.
- Peter also added that as Kelly has taken on additional duties, she cannot handle ordering and picking up the food for meetings. Currently, Kelly orders the food and Glen calls the vendor back with the credit card. Gail volunteered to handle the food responsibilities.

17. Adjournment

- Peter Lasky adjourned the meeting at 9.02PM.

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, 8 October 2019
Northridge Christian Church
18901 Chatsworth Street, Northridge 91326

1. Meeting Call to Order, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
 - President Peter Lasky called the meeting to order at 8.15PM, welcomed over thirty stakeholders, eleven board members, and determined that a quorum was present via the following roll call:

Here (10)	Abigail Bailes, Pamela Bolin, Lloyd Dent, Kathleen Edwards, Gail Lapaz, Peter Lasky, Rana Sharif, Kelly Sooter, Josh Toscano, and Glen Wilson
Absent (3)	Alma Fernandez, Bill Fox, and Jennifer Krowne

2. Discussion and Motion to purchase an additional printer for the board secretary to do the printing for the board; funding will come from the Operations/Office budget with a limit of \$300.
 - Currently, the NWNC has two printers: The NWNC’s black and white printer, as well as Glen’s personal color printer.
 - Peter recently saw a printer at Costco for \$150, which will also do automatic double-sided printing.
 - Kathleen urged the NWNC to consider the additional cost of the printer’s ink.
 - As a new printer is necessary, Peter Lasky made a motion to approve this agenda item; Pam Bolin seconded this motion and it passed.

Aye (8)	Bailes, Bolin, Dent, Edwards, Lapaz, Lasky, Sharif, and Toscano
Ineligible (1)	Wilson
Abstain (1)	Sooter
Absent (3)	Fernandez, Fox, and Krowne

3. Adjournment
 - Peter adjourned this special meeting at 8.25PM.