

APPROVED  
 Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
 General Public Board Meeting  
 Tuesday, 10 December 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 6.23PM, welcomed over sixteen stakeholders, eleven board members, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance,
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:

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

- Peter added that this meeting will include a new meeting recorder, which will allow the NWNC to post an audio file of the meeting online via the NWNC website.

2. Comments by Public Officials

- Danni Wang from Assemblywoman Christy Smith mentioned two items:
  - Ms. Smith invites everyone to a holiday open house, legislative update, and toy drive at their office at 27441 Tournay Road, Santa Clarita on Thursday, December 12, 5PM to 7PM. Please RSVP so that they may get an idea as to how many people to anticipate.
  - Ms. Smith has a survey for the constituent’s opinions regarding:
 

Budget Priorities	Housing
Education	Public Safety and Emergency Response
Environmental Protection	Taxes
  - She is also concerned about what folks would like to see accomplished in the next legislative cycle and their top three priorities. A paper survey, to be mailed, was available. Alternatively, this survey is available online at [asmdc.org/dm-survey](http://asmdc.org/dm-survey).
- Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12/Councilman John Lee, 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:
  - Councilman Lee recently acquired funding for overtime for the LAPD’s Devonshire Patrol. This increased overtime resulted in reduced crime near the Northridge and Topanga malls. However, thieves will sometimes watch you leave the mall with your newly purchased packages, notice as you put them in your car, then observe you return to the mall. At that time, the crooks go to your car and take your recently acquired items.
  - The Valley Traffic Division has also received increased funding for overtime due to a spike in fatal traffic accidents. Parthenia Street saw six fatalities in 2019.
  - Senate Bill (SB) 946 was recently re-introduced to legalize sidewalk vending, with local municipalities handling their own regulations and enforcement; however, the timeline for action is not yet available.
  - Stakeholder Andrew Krowne expressed concern about the corner of Wilbur Avenue and Rinaldi Street. The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) is working for the installation of a left turn arrow at that intersection. Each month, there are several accidents there, include a recent accident involving a bicyclist who was hit.

- Someone mentioned a concern about streetlight's wiring, especially along Wilbur Avenue and Devonshire Street. The copper wires are stolen, yet the recycling centers do not seem to care about the source of the redeemed wires. This frequent theft is due to the design of the streetlight, which allows for easy repair. However, this also makes it easy for the thieves to access the valuable copper wire via a sledgehammer. This street lighting theft must be investigated light-by-light. However, the LAPD's attention could be prioritized to a serious crime (murder, etc.).
- Jason Hector from the PRNC asked about street vending and logistics.
- Glenn Bailey from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) asked about Council File 19-1515 regarding the Reseda Boulevard Great Street Pilot Project/Evaluation. Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Councilman Lee introduced the following motion:
  - The Great Streets Program was created through the Mayor's Executive Directive in October 2013 to focus on streetscape and roadway improvements in fifteen transportation corridors. In 2015, the Reseda Boulevard Great Street project began as a pilot with new street design and parking-protected bike lanes.
  - Since the project was implemented, there have been ongoing complaints about the difficulty in navigating the lane markings and bike lanes. Additionally, exiting and entering a vehicle that is parked on the street can be dangerous, as the driver is immediately adjacent to ongoing traffic.
  - I therefore move that the Council instruct the Department of Transportation to report in 45 days with an evaluation of the Reseda Boulevard Great Street pilot project, including a community opinion survey and a recommendation to improve the project or return it to the original street design.
- Jose Galdamez from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reported the following:
  - DONE's 151-page FY2020-21 Budget Proposal is posted on the home page of the empowerla website and via this link: <https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/20-21-Budget-Proposal-Dept-of-Neighborhood-Empowerment-City-of-LA-side-by-side-pages.pdf>
  - This proposal calls for:
    - Continued development of the Office of Community Engagement,
    - Increased administrative support from DONE, and
    - Increased influence of underserved populations via more outreach.
  - If the NWNC would like to modify their bylaws, this fiscal year's deadline is Wednesday, April 15.
  - DONE's Executive Committee recently received input regarding a demographic survey which allows DONE to tailor outreach strategies to each neighborhood. The full neighborhood council system encourages diversity and this survey granted DONE a better idea of who comprises the NWNC.
  - Jose reminded the NWNC that if they cancel meetings during the holiday season, these cancellation notices should be posted on the website to inform stakeholders.
  - Jose also had a flyer regarding advocacy, town halls, and outreach events. Neighborhood councils must refrain from spending public funds or resources to advocates for or lobby members of the public to adopt a specific point of view. In *League of Women Voters v. Countrywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee*, the court explained that while the government has legitimate rights to inform and educate the public, it can not use its public funds as an advantage over the free speech rights of the public.

Neighborhood councils should be cautious about these advocacy and lobbying rules when sending out letters, flyers, posting comments on its website, or on its official social media platforms. While the neighborhood council may advocate its position to the city decision makers, it may not advocate to the public that a specific point of view be adopted.

- Abby questioned the use of public funds by LAUSD to advocate for Measure EE, the school parcel tax measure that was defeated in the June 4<sup>th</sup> election. Perhaps the LAUSD was using public funds to advocate for this Measure EE? Jose was unable to comment on this, as he is not an expert on the LAUSD.

- Tara Vahdani, School Engagement and Data Specialist for LAUSD Board Director Scott Schmerelson, addressed the NWNC:
  - She and Scott support 110 schools throughout the San Fernando Valley.
  - Northridge’s Beckford Avenue Elementary School recently celebrated kindness day. They applied to be a California Distinguished School; they hope to learn the results of that application by the end of December. This will place them alongside the Calahan Community Charter School, which is already a California Distinguished School.
  - The LAUSD is the LADWP’s largest consumer. As the LAUSD has a great deal of rooftops, Tuesday, December 3, the LAUSD Supervisors unanimously voted to transition to 100% renewable energy in all classrooms by 2030, and to cafeterias, offices, facilities, etc. by 2040.
  - Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Chatsworth Holiday Parade beginning at 1PM. This brings together over 1,500 participants, including marching bands, clowns, equestrian units, dancing, color guards, etc. and over 7,000 spectators.

3. Guest Speaker, Assembly Person Christy Smith

- This agenda item was tabled, as Ms. Smith was not able to attend this evening’s meeting.

4. Presidential comments

- Peter thanked Gail and Kelly for the wonderful dinner (provided by the Macaroni Grill, with a 25% discount) and the most complete inventory report that we have ever had (as follows).

Category	Item	Qty	Item	Qty
Premiums	Stylus Pens	100	Safety Glasses	6-8
	Water Bottles	200	Equipment Supplies (oil and chains)	1
	Sunscreen	100	Gardening Supplies (tree protector wrap and pot holder movers)	1
	Reusable Tote	100	Large Cones	10
	Flashlight	100	Gas Blower	1
Outdoor Equipment	Push Brooms	8	Ham Radio (to be salvaged to city)	1
	Rakes	5	Computer Hard Drive (to be salvaged to city)	1
	Metal Rakes	3	Yellow Stepstool	1
	Large Shovel	2	Binders (to be reviewed)	
	Flat Shovel	3	Files (2011-15)	
	Spade Shovel	2	Empty Binders	20
	Dust Pan	1	Equipment Manuals	
	Tree Trimmer	2		
	Large Clippers	15		
	Small Shears	5		
	Scissors	2		
Protective Masks	3			

Gloves (miscellaneous with safety vests)	1	Box	File Cabinets (4-drawer)	3	Each
			File Cabinet (2-drawer)	1	Each
Cotton Gloves	2	Boxes	Styrofoam Cups	1	Box
Safety Vests	1	Box	"We Are NWNC" Signs	2	Each
			PVC to Hold Signs	1	Box

- He added that the NWNC received a nice thank you letter from the YMCA for the Thanksgiving baskets.
- He thanked Dave Brown for all the audio support as well as his voluntary groundwork for the Disaster Preparedness Foundation.
- In addition, Peter mentioned that neighborhood councils have seasons, similar to winter, spring, summer, and autumn, as well as baseball, basketball, hockey, etc. We are currently in the second season, whereupon committees come together.

#### 5. Public Comments

- NWNC Stakeholder Mary Yaghnam mentioned that she recently started a small business called "Sugar Fairy Mary" and makes homemade cookies. She provided a free plate of these delicious sample cookies for all meeting attendees.
- Zach Volet from the West Hills Neighborhood Council mentioned that the public comments for the 2020 legislative schedule must be submitted by mid-February. To this end, he is advocating for two letters that he drafted regarding the following topics:
  - AB168 would prohibit an employer from relying on the salary history information of an applicant for employment as a factor in determining what salary to offer. The bill also would prohibit an employer from seeking salary history information about an applicant and would require an employer [upon reasonable request] to provide the pay scale for a position to an applicant. There is currently a great deal of non-compliance [with no enforcement] regarding this issue. Currently, 80% of people applying for jobs online have not idea what the ranges are.
  - Currently, per Just Case Terminations (and "at will employment"), anyone can be fired for any cause. His wife lost her job two weeks after informing her employer that she was pregnant.
- Mikkie Loi from the Devonshire Police Advisory Board mentioned the following:
  - With the upcoming holiday shopping season, the Devonshire Division reminds everyone to be cognizant of their surroundings and harden the target to make it more difficult for thieves. Please remember the LAPD's motto: Lock it, hide it, and keep it.
  - The Neighborhood Watch meeting schedule for 2020 is available and will be posted on the NWNC website.
  - The LAPD Operation's Valley Bureau will provide free Community Police Academy training (for residents aged 18+) in Spanish for eight consecutive weeks, beginning Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at the LAPD's Mission Community Police Station, 11121 North Sepulveda Boulevard, Mission Hills. If interested, please email [ovbcomm@lapd.online](mailto:ovbcomm@lapd.online) for an application. Topics will cover everything from traffic safety to human trafficking and 911 communications. The next English language Community Police Academy will be sometime in April 2020.
  - Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, the LAPD's Devonshire Mobile Command Unit will be parked near the tree at the Vineyards in Porter Ranch. Please feel free to stop by and meet your local police officers.

- Glenn Bailey mentioned that the December Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) meeting has been cancelled. VANC is finalizing the arrangements for their anniversary mixer on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday). The city clerk's office will accept supportive neighborhood council payments in January. Perhaps the NWNC could agendaize this for their January meeting?
  - Jason Hector from the PRNC spoke of the following:
    - Everyone is invited to the PRNC holiday party at the Castlebay Lane Charter School Wednesday evening, December 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6.30PM.
    - Jason recently attended a hearing on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, whereupon a developer spoke of building two office buildings at the corner of Wilbur Avenue and Rinaldi Street. The PRNC's Land Use Committee will host a meeting with the developer to further discuss this new project.
    - The PRNC is hoping to host a CD12 candidate forum prior to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> election.
6. Discussion and motion to create a Standing Rules Ad Hoc Committee, with Kelly Sooter as Chair and Rana Sharif and Abby Bailes as committee members. The purpose of the committee will be to create standing rules to help clarify the bylaws.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to create this Standing Rules Ad Hoc Committee; Bill Fox and Gail Lapaz seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
7. Presentation and possible motion regarding the Utility Box Public Art Program, from the Beautification Committee
- Kelly introduced Addy Renteria, co-founder of the 11:11 A Creative Collective (ACC). This is a non-profit creative collective arts organization that acts as an umbrella for LA-based artists and art groups, providing opportunities for innovation, exhibition, and collaboration. 11:11 ACC has been working tirelessly for the last ten years to bring the arts and arts related programming to LA neighborhoods.
  - Addy received her BA in Art History from UCLA and did her master's thesis on cultural development of the San Fernando Valley.
  - 11:11 ACC's gallery at 9410 Owensmouth Avenue, Chatsworth is open Monday through Friday, 10AM to 6PM; please feel free to stop by and visit.
  - Kelly added that these popular painted utility boxes can be seen throughout LA.
  - The next step is to consider a theme (such as "community" or "neighborhood") and a location. The location could be near the Nobel Middle School and/or a fire station, as long as it is near a high traffic area. It was suggested to avoid a corner near the mall, as the mall may wish to pay for their own utility box painting. Perhaps the NWNC could submit ideas to the Beautification Committee? Jason Hector mentioned that this could be a six-month process.
  - Addy suggested that their artists could work with the students at a local school to help develop the artwork.
  - Jason mentioned that CD12 introduced him to Addy and the 11:11 ACC. Jason has already secured \$8k from the councilman's cultural funds (this may increase to \$10k). Perhaps half of this will go to the NWNC and the other half to the PRNC.
  - Bill Fox asked about the life of the utility box artwork. Addy replied that the artwork is guaranteed for two years. All artwork is covered with an anti-graffiti coating and painted utility boxes from six years ago still look great.

- Stakeholder Cheri Derohanian is a volunteer with the Museum of the San Fernando Valley at Nordhoff Street and Wilbur Avenue and suggested that their public art speaker series could also be involved in this activity.
  - Kelly Sooter made a motion for the NWNC to work with the 11:11 ACC and the PRNC for the painting of these utility boxes; Rana Sharif seconded this motion, but there was no vote. Instead, this will be kicked back to the Beautification Committee for a re-write of a motion to be presented at the January meeting. Jason will also present a re-written motion to the PRNC.
8. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of up to \$1,000 for an event dedicating the plaque donated by Northridge East and Northridge West NCs. Councilmember John Lee will be the host if available. Funding will go for food, beverages, programs, and other incidentals. Funding will come from the Outreach Budget.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks recently approved this plaque, which is expected to arrive and be installed by the end of December.
  - This dedication event is tentative scheduled for Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 12.30PM to 2PM. The ceremony will include six or seven speakers, including former Councilman Greig Smith and Councilman John Lee. Then, everyone will walk to the plaque for its unveiling.
  - Someone suggested having a drum-line and/or an equestrian unit.
  - Jennifer Krowne asked if this event would allow for house tours. The response was negative as this event will focus on the park, and the house is currently closed to tours for deferred maintenance and repairs (including the roof).
  - Lloyd asked about a contingency plan in the event of rain. This event will proceed rain or shine. If necessary, tents will be available.
  - Glenn Bailey suggested that the NWNC purchase a reusable banner referring people to the “Friends of Oakridge”.
  - Pam Bolin made a motion for the NWNC to spend up to \$1k for such incidentals (such as a banner, as suggested by Glenn Bailey); Gail Lapaz seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
9. Discussion and motion to approve changing the location of our posting location from the Matadors Credit Union to Northridge Park. The posting location will be under the sign that says office at the front of the gym. The posting receptacle would be attached to the wire mesh cage that surrounds a valve.
- A few weeks ago, someone from the Matadors Community Credit Union removed the NWNC’s posting box at 9401 Reseda Boulevard.
  - Rana clarified that the Northridge Park hosts NWNC committee meetings and is within both the NWNC and NENC jurisdictions. Although the NENC also posts their notices at this location, there will be separation so as not to confuse people.
  - Pam Bolin recommended the Smart and Final Extra! at 18555 Devonshire Street as a potential posting location.
  - Peter Lasky made a motion to table this agenda item (pending clarification from DONE, as suggested by Jose Galdamez); Rana Sharif seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
10. Discussion and motion to return to the City an emergency ham radio and an emergency dialer/ computer. Said equipment takes up space and has not been used in at least the last six years. The return process will be to fill out City Paperwork and to wait for instructions on whether to throw it out or to have the city collect it.

- Lloyd expressed concern that, as this emergency equipment has not been used for six years, what other procedures do we have in place for an emergency situation?
- Glen Wilson mentioned that the dialer (inside a computer) was used once many years ago. However, he does not recall how it was used.
- A stakeholder mentioned that one must have a license (or risk prison) to use the ham radio; Dave Brown clarified that one does not require a license to listen to the radio. Dave added that he has ham and technician’s licenses; if we provide him with the ham’s model number, he could determine if it can be repaired. He also recommended that someone from the NWNC could get a license by attending a one-day class.
- Rana Sharif made a motion to table this agenda item (pending Dave Brown’s review of the equipment); Lloyd Dent seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

11. Budget Advocate report

- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the advocates have concluded their meetings with the various city departments, the report has been written, and is currently being edited. By the end of December, they hope to deliver their report to Mayor Garcetti and the City’s Administrative Officer prior to the mayor’s budget presentation to the city. Then, each neighborhood council board member will receive a copy via email, and each council will receive a paper copy.
- The city may have a \$200m deficit for the next few years.
- Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Budget Day at city hall. All 36 budget advocates will be elected to their new term. This event is open to all; budget representatives are strongly encouraged to attend.

12. Discussion and Motion to approve the November Minutes

- There were a few oversights in the presented draft minutes, including:
  - The minutes did not reflect Rana’s 7.45PM departure
  - Glen Wilson was referred to as Glen Bailey in Agenda item 7
  - The Standing Rules Ad Hoc Committee was mis-labeled
  - Someone making a motion regarding the Sex-Ed Ad Hoc Committee Town Hall
  - A concern regarding liability and the traffic direction signage
- Kelly Sooter made a motion to table this agenda item; Pam Bolin seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and motion to approve the November Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Budget Category	Amount
November 2	Host Reseller Group	General Operations	\$ 19.95
November 2	Mailbox World		120.00
November 2	Mailbox World		4.38
November 4	Wendy Moore/Moore Business Results		200.00
November 5	Wendy Moore/Moore Business Results		285.00
November 5	North Valley Family YMCA	Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG)	1,500.00
November 9	Office Depot	General Operations	141.85
November 12	Office Depot		4.05
November 12	Office Depot		35.32
November 12	Maria’s Italian Kitchen		147.78

November 13	Amazon Marketplace	59.12
November 18	Amazon Prime	14.22
November 20	Lowe's	11.87
November 20	Senior Association of Realtors	6.95
November 22	Amazon Marketplace	301.13
November 24	Amazon Prime	-14.22
November 26	Maria's Italian Kitchen	38.98
November 26	Office Depot	42.31
November 30	Amazon Marketplace	363.52
	Total	<u>\$3,282.21</u>

- Anything purchased via Amazon is from Kelly. However, beyond "credit card transaction" it is difficult to explain what each charge entails.
- Bill Fox made a motion to approve this MER; Rana Sharif seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

#### 14. Reports by Liaisons

- Kelly mentioned that Northridge Vision has been discussing the following:
  - They will update their newsletter, including coverage of Don Larson and Laura Rathbone's Clean Streets/Clean Starts program.
  - Street vending
  - Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, they conducted a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) meeting; Metro may move forward with an environment study and consider multiple routes (besides Nordhoff Street).
- As Homelessness Liaison, Gail mentioned:
  - Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a "Season for Love" Interfaith Forum at the Congregational Church of Chatsworth, 20440 Lassen Street.
  - Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness will meet at the CD12 offices at 9207 Oakdale Avenue.
  - Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, the NWNC Homelessness Committee will meet at 6.30PM at the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, 18705 Devonshire Street.
  - Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Freedom Church at 9200 Owensmouth Avenue will host a Job Fair for the Homeless.
  - Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> will be the annual 2020 Greater LA Homeless Count organized by the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)
- Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6.45PM, the Safety and Public Affairs Committees will meet at the Devonshire House, 18300 Lemarsh Street.
- Jennifer Krowne reported that the Education Committee anticipates an NPG from the Nobel Middle School [for tee-shirts] to support their annual Tovey Run, scheduled for Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Outreach Committee is working on the January 26<sup>th</sup> Oakridge Estate Park plaque dedication ceremony.



- The Ad Hoc Committee on Sex-Ed met and anticipates hosting a town hall meeting in February. This will be further discussed [and agendized] during the January meeting. The Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council already unanimously approved this upcoming town hall.
- Lloyd Dent reported that the Land Use Committee might meet in January, pending a venue. The Northridge Park restricts meetings to 90-minutes, and there is a concern regarding background noise. The outdoor patios at the Wood Ranch or Red Robin Restaurants may also be possibilities (their indoor venues are not an option). Lloyd added that he has gotten used to the online posting of committee agendas.
- Kathleen mentioned that the Public Safety and Homelessness Committee would meet on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Their key concerns are:
  - Several Neighborhood Watch signs [purchased three years ago] were recently discovered. Kathleen will meet with Senior Lead Officer Patti Peteque and Mikkie Loi to learn the most optimum locations for these signs.
  - There is a concern regarding parked RVs and homeless campsites [with hibachis] near Nordhoff Place and Corbin Avenue.

15. Committee Reports

- Glen Wilson reported that the Beautification Committee has not yet scheduled their meetings.

16. Board members comments

- Rana showed the recently purchased pens, water bottles, and hand sanitizer.
- Glen Wilson felt that these committee reports should be earlier in the meeting, as it was 8.39PM, and few of the public were present to hear them. Peter replied that everyone wants their agenda item at the beginning of the meeting but not everyone can be first. When a committee has a major announcement, please inform Peter so that he may elevate this agenda item to earlier in the meeting.
- Gail requested an update of the committee reports and roster.
- Lloyd thanked Gail and Kelly for the inventory.
- Kelly asked everyone to review the 2020 speaker’s list as follows.

January	Peter Lynn and Carlos Amador from LAHSA to discuss hunger and homeless awareness Also, LAUSD Supervisor Scott Schmerelson
February	LAUSD Candidates
March	Anthony Aguinaga, Emergency Management Coordinator
April	Diane Gutierrez of the County’s Vector Control Program
May	TBD
June	Wildfire and Urban Fire Prevention
July	Albert Melena of the San Fernando Valley Partnership that promotes healthy and drug-free communities
August	TBD
September	Someone to address National Preparedness Month

- Pam asked if the Raquel Beltran, the new General Manager of DONE, would attend an NWNC meeting. Kelly and Jose may coordinate Raquel’s attendance.
- Pam added that CSUN President Dr. Dianne Harrison recently announced her June 30<sup>th</sup> retirement. Perhaps the new CSUN president could attend an NWNC meeting later in 2020?

17. Adjournment

- Peter adjourned the meeting at 8.45.