

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Board Meeting (GBM)
Tuesday, 9 February 2021
Via Zoom

1. Meeting Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Determination of a Quorum
 - President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.16PM, welcomed over thirteen attendees, and nine board members.
 - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
 - Here (9) Payman Bahman, Abigail Bailes, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Jennifer Krowne, Peter Lasky, Joel Lowell, Josue Toscano, and Glen Wilson
 - Absent (2) Bill Fox and Lucio Padilla
 - Girl Scout Troop 2036 (most of whom attend the Beckford Avenue Elementary School) led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. If anyone has kids who would like to lead us in future Pledges of Allegiance, please reach out to Abby.

2. Comment by Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora
 - LAPD SLO Zamora patrols the area bordered by the following:
 - East of Desoto Avenue South of Lassen Street
 - West of Tampa Avenue North of Roscoe Boulevard
 - Please contact her directly at 35947@lapd.online.
 - As the LAPD has had several coronavirus cases (including a hospitalization), Sandra has been working from home and responding to emails these past few weeks. Sandra has received a great many emails regarding the homeless. It is not illegal to urinate in public, but the unhoused can be charged with vandalism and/or trespassing.
 - There has been a 50% increase in crime, from 16 crimes in the first six weeks of 2021 versus 24 in first six weeks of 2020. This past week saw 24 crimes committed, including three robberies and five grand theft autos (especially along Parthenia Street between Tampa and DeSoto Avenues). Some people leave their keys in the ignition with the engine running; please never do this.
 - There have been several burglaries at storage facilities. If you use such a facility, please make certain that you use a heavy-duty lock.
 - There have been incidents in retail establishments whereupon thieves will walk past a cash register and enter the back area where employees keep their purses. Please do not take too much cash to work; keep your keys and a few dollars in your pocket.
 - There have also been robberies at construction sites; the thieves break into the key lockers and steal the equipment.
 - If you sell anything online, such as via Craigslist or Ebay, please use the safe zone in front of the Devonshire Station for the exchange.
 - Sandra's next Basic Car Meeting will be Thursday, February 18th; they will discuss vaping and monthly crime statistics.
 - Stakeholder John Hales expressed concern about trucks [covered in graffiti] that have been parked near the intersection of Roscoe and Reseda Boulevards for two years. Sandra replied that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for handling those abandoned vehicles. She had a burned vehicle near Cozycroft Avenue in Chatsworth; this took a few months for the DOT to handle.

3. Comments by Stakeholders on Non-Agenda Items

- John and Michele Hales have attended over eighteen Zoom meetings and discovered that not every group processes their meetings in the same manner. They added that the LAPD has been hit hard by a reduction in funds. The LAPD should review projects prior to approval by the Planning, Land Use, and Zoning (PLUZ) Committee and the NWNC.
 - Someone is building a third floor onto a project near his house. The Hales were able to have the project's management visit their home for further discussion.
 - Glenn Bailey reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils would meet Thursday, February 11th at 6.30PM. They will discuss the LAPD, officer deployment, crime, etc. They will also talk about the closure of the West Valley Animal Shelter (WVAS), including a report that will be submitted to the City Council.
 - Patty Glueck from the Aliso Canyon Health Research Study Community Advisory Group (CAG) reported that they hosted a town hall on Monday, February 8th. She urged folks to visit their website at Alisohealthstudycag.org for information on their upcoming town halls. Thursday, February 25th, Dr. Nordella will host a health study about COVID.
4. Update from the Devonshire Area Community-Police Advisory Board
- Mikkie Loi reported that the Valley Traffic Division Task Force would meet at 6.30PM on Wednesday, February 10th.
 - Tuesday, February 16th, 8AM to 8PM, there will be a "Battle of the Badges" blood drive co-sponsored by CD12.
 - CD12 is also co-sponsoring a chili cook-off and hot dog eating contest to benefit the LAPD Devonshire Police Activity League Supports (PALS)
 - The LAPD's end of the year report is online at http://lapd-assets.lapdonline.org/assets/pdf/2020%20_crime_and_initiatives.pdf
 - The Devonshire Station's front desk remains closed; people are encouraged to file a police report online.
 - There have been reports of people breaking into closed businesses. If you know of such vacant businesses, please alert your SLO so they may monitor that location.
5. Comments by Public Officials
- Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12, liaison to FilmLA, LAPD, LAFD, etc. reported the following:
 - The WVAS no longer takes in lost animals, spay, or neuter. Councilman Lee and Matt would like the WVAS to run as a fully city department; Matt's family has previously used the WVAS as a resource while searching for their lost dog. However, there was recently a motion before the City Council for the WVAS to run as a hybrid.
 - John Lee will continue to fight for public safety and a fully funded LAPD.
 - Abby asked if Councilman Lee took a position regarding re-opening schools (which she supports); Matt was unfamiliar with that issue.
 - For additional concerns, please reach out to Matt at Matthew.hernandez@lacity.org.
 - Andrew Krowne from the Aliso Canyon Health Research Study CAG reported that the meeting of Wednesday, February 3rd was especially difficult. The Department of Public Health (DPH) has reduced CAG's influence, including:
 - Placing junior staff in critical roles
 - Reducing CAG meetings from monthly to quarterly

- Reducing several subcommittees, including the Cancer Registry Study and the Community Outreach and Opinions Subcommittees
- Although Drs. Sistrunk (from City of Hope) and Nordella (from Porter Ranch) advocated for the most patient-centric study, their services were terminated.
- Beginning Monday, February 15th, the CAG will host weekly Zoom meetings beginning at 5PM. They are also requesting a special meeting to address Aliso Canyon issues.
- For additional information, please visit their website at Alisohealthstudycag.org.
- Due to a staff reshuffling, Gibson Nyambura mentioned that he will no longer be the Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) for the NWNC; Adriana Cabrera will be the new NEA.
 - For the next few weeks, the NEAs are focusing on election outreach.
 - Gibson hoped that the NWNC would take action regarding the Bureau of Neighborhood Commissioner's (BONC) social media policy.
- Adriana Cabrera is the NWNC's new NEA:
 - This is Adriana's third year with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).
 - Adrianna is a graduate of CSUN with a degree in political science/Chicano studies, with a minor in public policy.
 - Voter registration for the Tuesday, April 27th election will open on Friday, February 26th.
 - For any additional concerns, please reach out to Adriana at Adriana.cabrera@lacity.org

6. Presidential Comments

- Abby mentioned that the BONC's social media policy would be discussed at a future NWNC meeting.
- She added that the NWNC is not a political entity; we must be careful to set politics aside.
- Lastly, Abby recognized President's Day, especially Lincoln and Washington who are so famous for their honesty. Honesty is always the best policy.

7. Discussion and possible motion to submit a letter of support to CD12 to approve the request for a waiver of public hearing for Northridge Dialysis Center's proposed Solar Carport structure at 9325 Reseda Boulevard 91324, Case # ZA-2020-6549-CU

- Asif Ansari proposed a simple solar carport behind the medical office building at 9325 Reseda Boulevard. The solar panels will be not visible from the street. Although the building is zoned as Z4, the adjacent parking lot is zoned as P1. Normally, construction would be prohibited in this rear parking area.
- Oftentimes, dialysis patients visit the facility for up to six hours. After their treatment, they return to their unshaded cars, where temperatures can exceed 140°. These shade-creating solar panels would protect the cars, reduce light pollution, and generate solar power (as much as 33,000kw each year).
- Neither the parking lot nor any parking spaces will be altered.
- Garry Fordyce asked if this project would provide EV charging stations for patients. Asif replied that there are currently no plans for charging stations, but this may be considered. In addition, this parking lot has three handicapped spaces, as many patients arrive in vans.
- John Hales asked if these new panels above the carport would have batteries; the reply was affirmative.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Yi Ding seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible motion to approve NWNC partnership with CD12 to conduct a free drive-through shredding event for the community. NWNC would be listed as a co-sponsor and may distribute materials at the event, such as a NWNC flyer, voter registration info for upcoming council elections and/or sanitizing promotional materials. Two or three volunteers from each council, at no cost, will help at the CD12 offices on Oakdale Avenue. Possible dates are April 17 or 24.
 - Abby reported that merely two neighborhood councils would be invited to participate in this activity.
 - There will be no cost to the NWNC. However, the NWNC could use this opportunity to distribute flyers concerning voter registration or street maintenance.
 - Kathleen added that this would be a great benefit to all stakeholders.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and motion to approve nominees Pat LaPresti and Joy Krauthammer for NWNC Certificates of Recognition
 - Kathleen discussed the two nominees, Joy and Pat:
 - Joy is relentless, having served for decades as Neighborhood Watch Captain for her neighborhood of over fifty homes.
 - Pat has been very helpful as the watchdog at the new Oakridge Estate Park. She came up with the idea of adding a historical plaque to that new facility. She also works tirelessly for graffiti abatement, etc.
 - Kathleen and Abby will work on a write-up and photograph of the two ladies.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Yi Ding seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible motion from the NWNC Education Committee to create a public art curriculum geared to elementary and middle school students that highlights the Utility Box Art program and other public art to inspire the creative imagination and appreciation of art.
 - Ding reported that this public art curriculum idea, including creative writing and utility box paintings, came from Kelly Sooter. Later this week, she will meet with folks from the Chatsworth and Porter Ranch Neighborhood Councils to further discuss this program.
 - In response to someone's question, Ding explained that folks can download this lesson plan and the teachers will use it as a tool.
 - Joel asked if the NWNC Education Committee had already reached out to the teachers; Ding explained that she met with the principals, who will pass this information along to their teachers.
 - While walking her dog one day, stakeholder Angelica saw the utility art boxes being painted; this brightened her entire day. She asked if the middle school students would paint additional utility boxes under this program. The utility box art project was done prior to this lesson plan development. This new task will be more for educational purposes.
 - John Hales reported that he previously worked for scholastic book fairs that sponsored the outbuildings/trailers at school campuses. The kids were involved in the painting of these structures. However, the cost of paint and materials could be a concern. Ding replied that these potential costs would be discussed at a later date.
 - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this agenda item; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and update on post cards that were mailed out last month. Candidate filing closed as of February 9th. Voting open February 26th through April 20th. Discussion and possible motion to create

a NWNC Candidate Voter Guide and registration booklet to be mailed to stakeholders, possibly using \$1,100 in encumbered funds from the outreach budget.

- 8,000 postcards announcing the upcoming election were mailed a few weeks ago. Glen Wilson reported that the NWNC would definitely have an election. There are currently twelve candidates (three of whom are current board members) to fulfill five seats. One community interest seat already has four candidates. Two of the candidates on the NWNC portal are shown as “pending”. They have until 5PM Friday, February 12th to complete their certification paperwork.
- Perhaps when we interview the candidates, we should ask how they found out about the NWNC. Angelica agreed that this strong interest might have been due to one of those distributed postcards.
- Payman reported that he will not seek re-election; he appreciates the entire NWNC, but he has personal business that does not allow for the time constraints that are required to serve on the NWNC.
- Ding discussed a draft of a four-page booklet used by the San Pedro Neighborhood Council. This booklet may be approved at the NWNC’s March 9th meeting. Prior to this meeting, the Election and Outreach Committees may meet to discuss and finalize the brochure, which may cost \$5,100.

Category	Amount
Designwork	\$600
Printing	1,000
Mailing	<u>3,500</u>
Total	<u>\$5,100</u>

- Joel reported that the encumbered funds could only be used for C&M Printing, not Reed Printing (who provided this \$5,100 quote).
- There was also a brief discussion about mailing to businesses and PO Boxes; Joel and Peter did not think this was a good idea.

BREAK

12. Discussion and possible motion to host a NWNC candidate forum for board members and stakeholders to meet 2021 election candidates and ask questions before the election day on April 27th

- Ding mentioned that the Outreach and Elections Committees would coordinate this activity. They will plan this event in March, which may transpire during the NWNC meeting of Tuesday, April 13th.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this proposed candidate forum; Peter Lasky seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and motion to approve the January 2021 Minutes

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the January Minutes, provided that a sentence was removed from the second bullet point of item 8 on page 4; Peter Lasky seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (8)	Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
Abstain (1)	Toscano
Absent (2)	Fox and Padilla

14. Discussion and motion to approve the January 2021 Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
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December 22	North Valley YMCA	Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) – Thanksgiving Baskets	\$1,500.00
December 22	Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID)	NPG – Devonshire Lobby	3,500.00
January 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	124.50
January 19	In LA Flier Distribution	Street Maintenance Flyer	430.68
		Total	<u>\$5,555.18</u>

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the December MER; Peter Lasky seconded this motion, and it passed.
 - Aye (8) Bahman, Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Krowne, Lasky, Lowell, and Wilson
 - Abstain (1) Toscano
 - Absent (2) Fox and Padilla

15. Update on the Tampa Topiary NPG response from the LA City inquiry requested by the NWNC

- The Tampa Avenue Topiary did not come out as intended. In addition [after the fact] it was determined that the NWNC lacked the authority to develop this median, which is city property.
- Based on a review by the city, the NPG’s recipient did all their mandatory work in support of their NPG.
- Someone suggested replacing the topiary with a bronze statue (which the city has previously had at that site). However, that statue was stolen. It would be terrible for the NWNC to spend all that money and then have the statue stolen. In addition, the NWNC lacks the authority to secure statues on city property.
- Abby felt that it would be a mistake to spend more money on this project. Joel added that the NWNC should not propose future expenditures when they do not know the final cost.
- Stakeholders Randy Sanchez and Angelica reported that certified arborists and landscapers felt that the current Japanese boxwood plants would never grow to fill the topiary frames. After two years, the plants have barely grown and it will take a few more years for the plants to reach the horse’s belly. Perhaps the Japanese boxwood could be replanted and used as a border somewhere? If replaced, the topiary should use fifteen-gallon plants [rather than five-gallon plants] of myrtle or eugenia, which can grow four-times faster to 6’ or 10’, with vines to fill in the wire mesh. Randy added that the soil would require nutrients to support these new plants.
- Stakeholder Karlotta suggested artificial hedgewood plants could be used instead of living plants. Alternatively, perhaps they could have a contest in the community? Perhaps college students or a scout troop would like to participate in this? Angelica suggested the California Conservation Corps take on this assignment.
- Payman added that his arborist informed him that it could cost another \$400 or \$500 for additional plants, plus \$150/month to trim the plants. Perhaps the NWNC could set aside a few hundred dollars each month to maintain these plants? As a further cost savings, perhaps the NWNC could do merely one topiary per year.
- Abby suggested covering the topiary with solar holiday lights.
- Kathleen suggested getting bids to replace the plants. Jennifer added that whatever plant went into that topiary would be very thirsty, as it requires watering three or four times a week. Perhaps these horses could be reduced to a smaller animal? Kathleen knows a sculptor who could reframe the topiary into another beautiful piece of artwork.
- Joel asked how this topiary are currently irrigated; Peter and Kathleen replied that [following the repair of the 50-year-old drip irrigation system] the city turned the water back on to pay the median’s water bill. Randy feared that the city could turn the water back off again, as they have previously done.

16. Update on Maintenance Flyer distribution

- Peter reported that these flyers were distributed. There is an extra 94-copies, which may be distributed at the April shredding event.

17. Update on Emergency Prep Kit available for local stakeholders

- Abby reported that the NWNC supply of these Emergency Prep Kits is depleted. She recently met with David Brown, who has other kits to distribute to neighborhood councils throughout the west valley.

18. Reports by NWNC Committees

- Ding hopes to get more parental engagement in her quest to create the “Parent Engagement and Special Education Committee”. This will be further discussed at the next NWNC Executive Committee meeting. Kathleen added that this “Parental Engagement and Special Education Committee” is seeking a new chairperson.
- Kathleen reported that the Public Safety Committee is getting together with other area neighborhood councils to resolve public safety issues.
- Payman mentioned that a business’s representative was unable to attend their recent PLUZ Committee meeting (due to illness); she will be invited to a future PLUZ meeting.

19. Report by Budget Advocate

- Glenn Bailey reported that the city may see a \$675m budget challenge this fiscal year, including the necessity to take \$259m from the reserve and budget stabilization funds.
- Tuesday, April 20th, Mayor Garcetti will propose his new budget for FY2021-22 which may see a \$1b shortfall.
- Council File 21-0127, currently pending with the Budget and Finance Committee, is the city’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from Controller Ron Galperin for FY2020-21. This document can be found at https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0127_rpt_CTRL_01-28-2021.pdf
- The Budget Advocates are now brainstorming and asking all neighborhood councils to submit their ideas. Please reach out to Liz Amsden at Liz.Amsden@budgetadvocates.org or Jack Humphreville at Jack.Humphreville@budgetadvocates.org.
- For additional information, the advocates website is Budgetadvocates.org

20. Announcements by Board Members

- Abby mentioned that the monthly NWNC agenda is posted at the Matador’s Community Credit Union at 9401 Reseda Boulevard. However, there is an intimidating RV frequently parked nearby. Adriana replied that DONE could handle the agenda posting on behalf of the NWNC.
- Peter thanked Angelica for the distributed election postcard.

21. Adjournment

- Abigail adjourned the meeting at 9.03PM.