

APPROVED MINUTES  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom  
Tuesday, 9 November 2021

1. Meeting Call to Order
  - President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.18PM, welcomed over fourteen attendees, and twelve board members.
2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum
  - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:  
Here (12) Abigail Bailes, Brian Cathcart, Yi Ding, Kathleen Edwards, Jorge Jimenez, Janis Kraft, Jennifer Krowne, Sonny Liampetchakul, Joel Lowell, Lucio Padilla, Angelica Robinson, and Glen Wilson  
Absent (1) Bill Fox
3. Pledge of Allegiance
  - Two boys from the Beckford Avenue School led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Comments by Stakeholders on Non-Agenda Items
  - Angela McArdle from the Libertarian Party of Los Angeles mentioned that their mission is to restore medical and economic freedom. They have filed a one-sentence petition to overturn ordinance 21-0878, the COVID-19 vaccination and test mandate for individuals entering indoor spaces. For additional information, their website is <https://www.medicalfreedomla.com>.
  - Glenn Bailey reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils would meet on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> (Veteran's Day) at 6.30PM.
5. Announcements
  - Sonny reported that the annual Drumstick Dash is LA's largest Thanksgiving 5k/10k run held on Thanksgiving Day. This event is fun for all the family and serious runners alike, with lots of freebies, a costume contest, awards, and the satisfaction of supporting a worthy cause. All proceeds will help Hope of the Valley provide over 500,000 hot meals to the homeless. To learn more, please visit their website at <https://drumstickdashla.com>.
  - Sonny added that someone is offering free installation of solar panels within California.
  - Abby reminded everyone that last year, the NWNC fulfilled a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) with funds for the Granada Hills Charter High School's Robotics Team, Robo Doxs. Congratulations to the Robo Doxs! They took first place in the "2021 Tidal Tumble" 1st Robotics Competition in Ventura on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Their photo is the on the NWNC's website.
6. Guest Speaker from Hope of the Valley (HOTV) regarding the Trebek Center in Northridge
  - Isabel Batres, volunteer coordinator for HOTV, mentioned that the cement is currently being poured and insulation is being installed at the Trebek Center. They hope to open on Thursday, 10 March 2022.
  - This transitional housing site will provide 107 cubicle bedrooms for men and women (family homes are in Chatsworth). They hope to move the residents to regular housing within 90-days. HOTV is still seeking \$3k sponsorship per cubicle.
  - HOTV has an outreach group from the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), going out to encampments within a three-mile radius of the Trebek Center. The homeless are vetted by

LAHSA before going to the Trebek Center to determine if their needs could be better served at a recovery home instead.

- Michelle Hales expressed concern that this Trebek Center will be close to the railroad tracks. What type of security will be provided? Isabel replied that there would be a fence, video surveillance, and onsite 24-hour security guards.
- Richard Fisk asked about the cost of the Trebek Center. This information will be posted on the HOTV's website at <https://www.hopeofthevalley.org> and shared with the NWNC
- For additional information, please reach out to Isabel at [Isabel.batres@hopeofthevalley.org](mailto:Isabel.batres@hopeofthevalley.org)

## 7. Comments by other Public Officials

- Erin Seinfeld, Mayor Garcetti's representative for the west valley, mentioned that the city will come together for strength and love, November 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, for a COVID-19 memorial to honor those who worked hard and those we lost in order for the city to come back stronger than ever.
  - Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> - HONOR those who held our city together, including first responders, essential workers, small businesses owners, community organizations, caregivers, neighbors, and families. Everyone should step outside at 8PM and clap for the heroes.
  - Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> - REMEMBER those we have lost due to the pandemic. At 8PM, light a candle in your window.
  - Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> - MOBILIZE to give back to our communities and work together to build an even more united, supportive, and resilient city. At 8PM, wave a flashlight or your phone light outside to make LA shine.
- There will also be a memorial exhibit at the Griffith observatory with over 27,000 white flags.
- Landmarks throughout LA will be lit up in blue. Jorge mentioned that he has been working on this lighting project.
- For additional information, please visit their website at <https://lamayor.org/COVIDMemorial> or email Erin at [Erin.seinfeld@lacity.org](mailto:Erin.seinfeld@lacity.org)
- Matt Hernandez from John Lee's Council District (CD) 12, who serves as the liaison to the LAPD, LAFD and other public safety departments, mentioned their redesigned website at <https://cd12.org> includes a link to their full staff.
- A new redistricting map was brought to city council. CD12 may stay as is, supporting nine neighborhood councils (including the NWNC). A small portion of Reseda may move to another council district.
- For additional information, please reach out to Matt at [Matthew.hernandez@lacity.org](mailto:Matthew.hernandez@lacity.org)
- Field Representative Alberto Vargas from Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel's Assembly District (AD) 45 reported that they are getting ready for the next legislative sessions in January.
- Housing is a key issue; please reach out to Alberto at [alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov](mailto:alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov) if anyone has problems with their landlord.
- Abby asked about redistricting; the first rendition of the new maps took Winnetka, Reseda, and a small part of Northridge out of AD45, and merged them with Adrin Nazarian's AD46 (which includes Van Nuys and Sherman Oaks). However, they do not anticipate this change going into effect.
- In response to Abby's question, Jesse voted no on SB9 (which allows for more types of housing to create more equitable and inclusive neighborhoods) and yes on SB10 (which increases housing supply in areas that are already developed). Both bills were passed, signed, and will go into effect in January 2022.

8. Updates from Senior Lead Officer (SLO) and LAPD Devonshire Area Community Advisory Board
  - SLO Sandra Zamora reported that Lassen Street, Roscoe Boulevard, Tampa, and Variel Avenues border her territory.
  - Her area has not seen any raps or murders, but there have recently been three aggravated assaults and six thefts. There have been a total of 85 crimes in the Devonshire Territory in October, which is covered by six SLOs. SLO Parker, who covers the area north of Chatsworth Street, saw the most with sixteen crimes. Sundays and Tuesdays, 6AM to 6PM, are the prime time for crimes.
  - The area has seen a significant increase in grand theft auto; sadly, people are leaving their keys or fobs inside their vehicles.
  - The Northridge Fashion Center is starting to get hit very heavily, especially Macy's and JC Penney. A Macy's theft prevention employee was slashed in the face. He will be okay, but the robbers are getting more aggressive
  - A new concern of the LAPD is follow-home robberies, especially from the jewelry district, Melrose Avenue, nightclubs, or high-end restaurants. Please be very cautious of displaying high value items (such as a purse, jewelry, etc.). The criminals have followed people home and attacked them. If you ever feel that you are being followed, do not take the direct route home. Take a few different streets and be aware of your surroundings as you exit your car. If you feel you are being followed, call 911 and/or drive to your nearest police station or hospital. If you are ever robbed, do not resist. Give them what they ask.
  - The LAPD recently hosted a catalytic converter event, where they etched and spray painted [frequently stolen] catalytic converters. They also replaced license plate screws.
  - Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 1PM to 3PM, the LAPD will distribute the club [which makes it more difficult to operate a steering wheel] in front of the Devonshire Station at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue.
  - Stakeholder Michelle Hales has noticed an increase in stolen mail. Regretfully, the LAPD does not investigate mail theft; this should be reported to the post office.
  - Michelle also mentioned that she has had annual stickers removed from her license plates. SLO Zamora recommended that when you install your annual sticker, cut it diagonally with an X-Acto knife to make it more difficult to remove. Also, when installing, place it beneath the frame.
  - Richard Fisk mentioned that Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6PM would be the area's last basic car meeting for 2021.
  - Kathleen expressed concern about increased gang activities; SLO Zamora replied that there is no increase in this area. However, SLO Parker is dealing with a Porter Ranch property whereupon the homeowner died with no next of kin and a gang member moved into the vacant house. The LAPD is working to research distant relatives and evict the squatting gang member.
  - Abby wondered if there are any changes to staffing as a result of the vaccine mandate. Citywide, there are 2,700 LAPD employees who have not yet received the vaccine. Forty employees at the Devonshire Community Station are considering retirement.
  
9. Presidential Comments – Happy Thanksgiving!
  - Hoping everyone has a happy Thanksgiving and reminded everyone that in 1863, President Lincoln declared it a national holiday.
  
10. Motions    Approve Certificates of Acknowledgement for:
  - a. Local AYSO 795 local Commissioner, Frank Gallucci for volunteer service
    - Mr. Gallucci has been running Northridge American Youth Soccer Organization for over thirteen-years as a volunteer.

- b. Local volunteer organizer, Jill Mather from Volunteers Cleaning Communities
    - o Ms. Mather has provided an invaluable service by organizing clean-up activities throughout the northwest valley.
    - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve these acknowledgement certificates; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
11. Motion: Participation in Environmental Awareness Day on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 4PM at Chatsworth Train Station with NWNC booth, volunteers, and distribution of NWNC brochures and other items
- The NWNC already has tables, chairs, and an Easy-Up Canopy with the NWNC branding. Jorge and Janis volunteered to serve this event.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve NWNC's participation in this event; Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
12. Motion: Spend up to \$300 on Ice Cream Social event at the Oakridge Estate Park for NWNC Neighbors, date TBD
- This Ice Cream Social may have a potential December date, but that may require a special NWNC meeting or discussion at the December meeting.
  - Kathleen received quotes from two vendors for this ice cream social. Joel mentioned that they do not have an estimate of how many people may show up. Abby estimated thirty to fifty attendees. Kathleen would like to estimate at least a hundred people, as this will certainly attract more people than the usual NWNC meetings. It also needs to be determined if this social will be for one, two, or three hours. Jorge estimated 100 to 150 people, as merely 50% of the people who RSVP actually show up.
  - Glenn Bailey reminded everyone that they would require a permit from the city's Recreation and Parks Department. Kathleen emailed this permit application to Ding. Someone mentioned that there could be a fee for using the park; however, Kathleen replied that neighborhood councils are exempt from paying such a fee.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to table this agenda item to the Outreach Committee for further discussion on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>; Yi Ding seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
13. Discussion and possible motion to create a Community Impact Statement (CIS)/feedback to respond to concerns raised in the community regarding the impact of state and local COVID vaccine mandates on our community schools, Granada Hills Charter High School teachers, fire/police staffing, businesses, and individuals
- Abby reported that Granada Hills schools are concerned that they do not have enough opportunities for online learning. She recently attended a meeting where a few teachers were terminated; they offered to teach remotely, but that was not allowed. Now the schools are complaining they do not have enough teachers.
  - Kathleen reported that three or four LAPD officers could be terminated for their refusal to get vaccinated.
  - Jennifer reported that the Recreation and Parks reintroduced volleyball at the Mason Park where everyone wears a mask and no one developed COVID. The city seems to have lost the choice of vaccination or online learning.
  - Sonny added that restaurants in NYC have lost 67% of their customers.
  - John Hales remembered polio. If a disease only affects you, fine. However, if you visit an emergency room, nearly 95% of those with COVID are unvaccinated. It is very risky if vaccines are not mandatory.

- Kathleen would like to see more outreach to the community before further pursuing this topic. She reported that merely .5% of the people were affected by polio, whereas significantly less develop COVID. In addition, vaccinated teen-agers are developing heart issues that could affect them forever.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to table this agenda item to the Government Affairs Committee for further discussion; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

14. Motion: 18505 West Devonshire Street (?) adding a new 2,655sf coffee shop with drive- thru and outdoor dining. Case # APCNV2021-6010-2C-CU-SPR

- A representative from Starbucks did not appear at a recent meeting of the Planning, Land Use, and Zoning (PLUZ) Committee; therefore, the committee took a motion of no support. Chairwoman Jennifer emailed the applicant, but did not receive a response. The NWNC must make a motion by Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to pause this topic.
- This is the Starbucks at the southwest corner of the Devonshire Street and Reseda Boulevard. Tenants at this shopping center are currently struggling with parking. There was concern about how this expansion will impact current tenants, including the Galleria Market, Pizza Hut, Jamba Juice, Clay Play and Arts, etc. In addition, this is one of the worst intersections in the area.
- Abby Bailes made a motion of non-support [at this time] due to Starbuck’s non-response to requested attendance at meetings to discuss concerns about traffic and safety; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

15. Motion: Five-story, 350-unit multifamily residential and associated six-level 466-stall automobile parking at 9450 Shirley Avenue, Northridge Fashion Center, Case # DIR2021- 7970-SPR-UHCA. (PLUZ)

- The PLUZ Committee tabled this agenda item as the developers have paused this project.

16. Discussion and possible motion regarding redistricting – Redistricting of California senate/assembly, LA city council districts, LA county supervisors districts, and LAUSD districts

- The LA City Charter requires that the city be redistricted at least once every ten years. It calls for the creation of a twenty-one member Redistricting Commission, which has the authority to make recommendations on a redistricting plan to the city council that sets boundaries for council districts. Additional information can be found on the NWNC’s website at <https://northridgewest.org/redistricting/>
- Glenn Bailey added that many neighborhood councils do not want to split their locations amongst multiple city council members.

17. Discussion and possible motion regarding Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) and the plan to replace furniture and trash receptacles in our area and include digital advertising. Provide feedback before Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> deadline.

- They may also add hand-washing and sanitizing stations. However, Lance Oishi from the Contracts Administration Department of StreetsLA was unable to attend the meeting to further discuss this agenda item.

18. Motion: Approve the September and October 2021 GBM Minutes

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the September and October minutes; Lucio Padilla seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

19. Motion: Approve the October 2021 Monthly Expenditure/Expense Reports (MER)

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
September 10	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Monthly Website Services	\$ 250.00

September 23	Granada Hills Community Foundation	NPG	1,000.00
October 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	128.50
October 5	Host Reseller Group	Annual Website Domain Renewal	19.95
October 13	Apple One	Minutes	262.40
October 13	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Monthly Website Services	250.00
October 22	North Valley Family YMCA	NPG	2,000.00
		Total	<u>\$3,910.85</u>

- Treasurer Joel reported the following budget numbers, and added that the \$10k roll-over adjustment funds have not yet been budgeted; they may be directed towards Beautification:

Annual Budget		\$32,000.00	
Adjustment		10,000.00	
Budgeted Amount		<u>42,000.00</u>	
Expense to Date	Funding Request	\$4,854.41	
	Credit Card	1,043.27	5,897.68
Total Outstanding	Commitments	0.00	0.00
	Pending Payments	0.00	
Net Available			<u>\$36,102.32</u>

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the October MER; Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

20. Congress of Neighborhood Councils response from the city regarding NWNC's CIS/Questions - CN21 Post event Report

- Abby reported that she received statistics on attendees but no response to the specific questions put forward by the NWNC.

21. Reports by NWNC Committees

a. Beautification

- Jorge reported that their last meeting included a discussion of a staircase near Chatsworth Street, east of Tampa Avenue. Perhaps a mural or mosaic could be installed in that area? Jorge shared photographs of stairwells in other areas of the city.
- The Beautification Committee is working on a cleanup in December, perhaps near the mall.

b. Elections

- Glen has not yet picked up the election material from the city.

c. Homelessness

- The committee met on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the city council's vote on trash bins at homeless campsites. On Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> Councilman John Lee voted no for the trash bins, as it appears to be a pilot program with no source of funding. The Encino neighborhood council voted for their Councilman Paul Koretz to take the lead on providing these trash bins. This motion was originally for the homeless, but a final resolution was labeled for environmental impact and climate change.

d. Outreach

- Their next meeting will be Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 4.30PM to further discuss the Ice Cream Social.

22. Update on SB9 and SB10 signed by Governor Newsom goes into effect in January 2022
- Kathleen reported that Governor Newsom waited until after the recall election to sign SB9 (which allows for more types of housing to create more equitable and inclusive neighborhoods) and SB10 (increasing housing supply in areas that are already developed).
  - Kathleen does not like SB9 as it takes power away local jurisdictions. There is a ballot initiative to return this to the local districts. Perhaps this can be further discussed at a meeting of the government affairs committee? It appears that the developers and builders will be the ones who benefit the most from this.
  - Sonny added that under SB9, a lot could be divided from one property to four. He added that SB10 would allow for up to ten units to be constructed, but the project must have at least one parking space per residence.
23. Update on the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's proposed Amendment to Code of Conduct policy. ABLE training is available now on Cornerstone with new login, due by Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> for Board Members.
- Jorge mentioned that this implicit bias training was one of the best training opportunities that he has every attended.
  - Abby added that everyone has a new login to acquire this training.
24. Update on the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC)'s Social Media Policy
- At their July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the BONC accepted two of the NWNC's recommendations for their new social media policy. The NWNC has since voted to re-submit their original letter and CIS to the BONC, reiterating the additional recommendations.
  - The BONC will meet again on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.
25. Report by Budget Advocate
- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that, fiscally, the city is doing well with a healthy reserve. The city's economic outlook is doing well due to continued revenue funds. However, expenditures are over budget by \$100m; most of this is from the LAFD and LAPD. The controller's report for 2020-21 showed that expenditures were way down due to the city's aggressive budget cuts.
  - The Advocates would like the city to look at bigger picture issues. They have already started their meetings with the general managers, assistant managers and chief financial officers from over forty city departments, who must submit their budget requests to Mayor Garcetti by Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Budget submittals from each document will be used to prepare the budget in April. These meetings are also collecting data for the Advocate's 2022 white paper.
  - The 2022 Budget Day will be the morning of Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. This Budget Day was delayed in 2021 due to the neighborhood council elections. It is unknown if this meeting will be in-person or via Zoom.
  - The Advocates Region One (northeast valley) and Two (northwest valley) may start having quarterly meeting in 2022. They will invite all neighborhood councils (not merely the budget representatives).
  - For additional information, please visit the Advocate's website at <http://www.budgetadvocates.org> or email Glenn at [glenn.bailey@budgetadvocates.com](mailto:glenn.bailey@budgetadvocates.com).
26. Adjournment
- Joel Lowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.30PM; Lucio Padilla seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.