

APPROVED  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom  
Tuesday, 8 March 2022 – 6.15PM

I. Meeting Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.19PM, welcomed over fourteen attendees, and twelve board members.
- 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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Abby led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comment

- Stakeholder John Verna stopped in to say hello
  
- Patty Glueck from the Aliso Canyon Health Research Study Community Advisory Group (CAG) reported that NWNC's State Senator Henry Stern introduced SB1486, which would require that the Aliso Canyon withdrawal protocol remain in effect until the Public Utilities Commission closes all natural gas operations at the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility by 2027.
- She hoped that the NWNC would send Senator Stern a letter supporting this. There is not yet an LA city council file regarding this issue; Patty will discuss this offline with CD12's Matt Hernandez.
- Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 4.30PM, there will be a demonstration near the Aliso Canyon entrance at Tampa Avenue and Sesnon Boulevard and/or Tampa Avenue and Rinaldi Street. The CAG hopes this event attracts plenty of people and media.
  
- Glenn Bailey reported that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, which represents 34-neighborhood councils from throughout the valley, would meet Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6.30PM. This month's guest speaker will be Chief Moore from the LAPD. The agenda is posted on the neighborhood council alliance's website at <http://www.lancc.org/resources/VANC%20agenda%202022.03.10.pdf>
  
- Stakeholder Deborah Tucker wondered by everyone was not on the video feed and expressed concern about safety and neighborhood watch signs. She requested that the NWNC do more to promote neighborhood watch north of Devonshire Street. Apparently, fifteen streets have been targeted for neighborhood watch, but Vanalden Avenue is not one of them. The school buses and traffic travel very quickly up this hilly street. Kathleen replied that the LAPD and their Senior Lead Officers (SLO) coordinate neighborhood watch activities (not neighborhood councils).

IV. Announcements

- Abby has heard from multiple community members asking about cash bail. The NWNC voted to approve this issue, but county district attorney George Garcon rescinded this action. This issue has since been returned to the city council via council file 21-0002-s196. For additional information, please visit <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=21-0002-S196>

V. Certificate of Acknowledgement in Memory of LAPD Officer Fernando Arroyos

- Abby reported that 27-year-old LAPD Officer Fernando Arroyos served on the LAPD for three years. On Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, he was house shopping with his girlfriend Angela when someone tried to rob them. Officer Arroyos directed Angela to safety and returned fire, but was mortally wounded.
- The original NWNC Certificate of Acknowledgement will be mailed to Officer Arroyo's mother.
- Angela and Officer Arroyos's mom joined the call and stated that they were very grateful to the NWNC for this honor.

VI. Government Reports

a. Public Safety

- LAPD SLO Zamora was not available for this meeting.

b. CD12 City Council Representative

- Public Safety Deputy Matt Hernandez, who also serves as the liaison for the LAPD, LAFD, and other city agencies on behalf of CD12, reported the following:
  - The council recently voted to extend the city's COVID emergency order for another month. Councilman Lee voted against this extension, as now is an appropriate time to end [or roll-back] the current restrictions. This extension includes eviction moratoriums, parking tickets, etc.
  - Street racing is a big issue for CD12. The LAPD has been arresting speeders along Wilbur Avenue from Porter Ranch down to Plummer Street. Councilman Lee will continue to fund this issue.
  - A 2<sup>nd</sup> "Project Home Key" site has been approved. The new one will be at the Extended Stay America Suites at 19325 Londelius Street. This facility, with 115 rooms and 24-hour security, will be fully operational by autumn 2022. If needed, there will be onsite assistance for the homeless. This facility will not be temporary housing; instead, it will provide the unhoused with a twelve-month lease. The upcoming residents have already been vetted. Jennifer requested that families and couples get priority for these units.
  - Stakeholder John Hales added that he recently spoke with the security guard at this Extended Stay America Suites; he was told that this facility has accepted Section Eight housing vouchers for two years.
  - Stakeholder Michelle Hales wondered when nearby residents would be notified. 350-high income apartments are nearby, and they have not yet been informed. In addition, the Napa Street Elementary School is nearby. Matt replied that the Napa Street Elementary School is more than half-mile away; exempt from any notification requirement(s).
  - The Raising Cane Chicken restaurant is in negotiations to occupy 19310 Business Center Drive, previously occupied by Marie Callendar's.
  - Patty Glueck asked that Councilman Lee endorse SB1486, State Senator Henry Stern's resolution to shut down Aliso Canyon. This bill will include transitioning the workers to clean energy jobs.
  - Jennifer asked Matt if the land demographics of the apartments along Parthenia Street, west of Tampa Avenue, have been re-categorized. That area used to be commercial. Matt was unaware.

c. Other Government Departments/Agencies

- Diana Oganessian from Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares office reported on the following two assembly bills (AB):
  - AB2450 would result in lower insurance premiums, with a higher deductible, for wildfire insurance.

- AB2384 would authorize a school [with grades seven on up] to adopt an anonymous reporting and threat assessment program offered by a nonprofit organization. This reporting program supports 24/7 anonymous reporting, promptly forwarding information to the appropriate team, and implements student violence prevention training for students and school personnel.
  - Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, representatives of Ms. Valladares office and the LAPD's highly trained car seat installation experts were at Wal-Mart's of Porter Ranch to help new parents safely install their child's vehicular car seat. Please reach out to Diana at 661-286-1565 if you were unable to attend this event, or require any additional help with your child's car seat.
  - Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9AM, Assemblywoman Valladares and State Senator Scott Wilk, in partnership with the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, will co-host a Cyber Fraud and Other Scams Webinar. Please RSVP at [AD38.asmac.org/cyberfraud](https://AD38.asmac.org/cyberfraud).
- Field Representative Alberto Vargas from Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel's office reported that Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 9AM, Assemblyman Gabriel will host the West Valley Day of Service out of Pierce College. Over 200 volunteers will support eight community projects in the west valley, including at the Haven Hills Domestic Violence Shelter, painting a mural at the Garden Grove Elementary School, etc. Please reach out to Alberto at [alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov](mailto:alberto.vargas@asm.ca.gov) if you have any questions and/or concerns.
- d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) Joel Gonzalez
- NEA Joel (pronounced Joe-El) Gonzalez has been with DONE for two months.
  - Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> they hosted a political and advocacy workshop. The slides from this presentation are available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ohnSt72m4L29-zEoYDetN3iwXwo7vxwn/view>
  - Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> will be neighborhood council funding training reviewing Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG). Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> DONE will sponsor neighborhood council program and system portal training. These are both mandatory training for board members who serve as financial officers (treasurers, 2<sup>nd</sup> signers, alternate signers, bank cardholders, etc.). Both these training opportunities will be repeated in April.
  - Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6PM, DONE will host a town hall to discuss Community Impact Statements (CIS).
  - Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for neighborhood councils to amend their by-laws.
- e. Victoria Dochoghlian, Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations at CSUN
- Victoria thanked the NWNC for honoring Officer Fernando Arroyos.
  - She reported that CSUN students are back on campus and athletic events have resumed. Although over 90% of the students have received their booster shots, they are asked to continue to wear their masks in class.
  - The Soroyo Theatre has re-opened; please visit their website at <https://www.thesoraya.org> for concert and performance schedules and information.
- f. Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate
- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that most of the advocate's reports have been completed, following various meetings with city department leadership. Approximately twenty city department reports are being edited. The advocates hope to have all reports (which help prepare the annual budgetary white paper) by the end of March.
  - The advocates may meet with Mayor Garcetti prior to the Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> release of his budget.

- The advocate's next town hall will be Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3PM. This will include a meeting with the seven city controller candidates who will track the money (Ron Galperin has termed out). All candidates agree that transparency is a priority.
- Another town hall, on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10AM will focus on Mayor Garcetti's budget. This will be presented as a Point/Counterpoint, featuring city representatives, including someone from Mayor Garcetti's office, along with financial professionals who do not work for the city.
- The 2022 virtual Budget Day will be Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9.30AM. At 11.30AM, the advocates will meet with their respective regions to discuss city services, etc.
- The following weekend, the advocates will meet to discuss elections for their two-year terms.

#### VII. NWNC Committee Reports

- Jorge reported that the Beautification Committee has teamed with the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council and the Volunteers Cleaning Communities (VCC). The VCC has numerous clean-ups scheduled.
- Kathleen mentioned that the Public Safety Committee would meet on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. An SLO will attend to discuss how neighbors can form a neighborhood watch group. The committee will also discuss 41.18 enforcement, which prohibits unhoused campsites near schools, within 5' of a driveway, blocking a doorway, etc.

#### VIII. New Business

- a. Discussion about the Tampa Median topiaries. Possible motion related to planting, replanting, and possible lights on the median for up to \$2,000
  - Kathleen has discussed this with landscaper Danny, including a one-year maintenance agreement.
  - Landscaper Danny sees these horses every day while driving to work. He spoke of the plants and mulch near the horse's bases to make them appear nicely groomed. Danny already submitted a \$2k bid to the NWNC for the topiary horses to grow evenly. He suggests creeping fig plants (which can be easily attached to the horses), peat moss, irrigation, trimming, and a year of maintenance. This recommended creeping fig will be 3' to 5' when installed, and then grow [mostly in the summer] for two or three years until it is the full-size of the horses. This creeping fig will grow significantly faster than the current Japanese boxwood. He included maintenance in his bid, as this creeping fig should be trimmed on a regular basis.
  - He is concerned that he will be unable to put the wires and lights around the horse's legs. The NWNC may need to recruit an electrical lighting expert for that task.
  - Joel thought the lighting idea is premature until we get the topiary in place. Abby and Jorge liked the idea of having lights as the plants are growing. They also appreciate all that Sonny has done to maintain this topiary.
  - Stakeholder Randy Sanchez asked if the current Japanese boxwood plants should remain. Danny thought of leaving the Japanese boxwood in place until the creeping fig grows. As they will never grow, Randy suggested pulling the boxwoods at this time.
  - Stakeholder Joy asked Danny about his other topiary projects. Danny has several topiaries at his home, as well as at his other client sites in Bel Air.
- b. Motion: Nominate Mark Hovater for a Certificates of Acknowledgement in appreciation for his documentation and promotion of local event, including the NWNC Ice Cream Social
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to present Mark Hovater with a Certificate of Acknowledgement; Yi Ding seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- c. Discussion and possible motion to approve Draft NWNC Bylaws, DONE template and possible revisions
  - There was a brief discussion if the minimum age for board members to run for office and/or vote is sixteen or eighteen. This confusion was quickly clarified.

- Abby, Kathleen, and Jennifer wondered if the president could assign a temporary substitute member of the Executive Committee to vote on an absentee's behalf.
  - Glenn Bailey reported that the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC), where he serves as president, proposed this idea; the suggestion was kicked up to the city attorney's office. A difference is that the NENC has five officers, whereas the NWNC has four. In their case, the NENC's 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president can be appointed to vote on behalf of an absent executive board member.
  - Joel Lowell proposed a bylaws amendment to permit another executive committee member to vote on behalf of an absent officer; Abby Bailes seconded this motion, yet it did not pass:
 

Aye (3)	Liampetchakul, Lowell, and Wilson
No (7)	Bailes, Ding, Edwards, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, and Robinson
Absent (3)	Cathcart, Fox, and Padilla
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve and submit the amended bylaws; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- d. NWNC Budget review of remaining funds and possible spending in 2021-22 Fiscal Year
1. Discussion of possible Springtime Ice Cream Social in early June 2022
    - This will be further discussed at another meeting.
  2. Tree Trimming with Urban Forestry
    - Jorge intends to drive around the Northridge West territory to see what specific areas should have their trees trimmed.
  3. Signs on the Tampa Median (Bureau of Engineering, Valley Division)
    - Kathleen does not believe this signage will be a problem.
  4. Neighborhood Watch Signs
    - Stakeholder Deborah Tucker was concerned that crime is not prioritized by the NWNC. She would like additional speed limit signs. Kathleen reported that the NWNC is not authorized to purchase these speed limit signs.
    - Stakeholder Joy requested an explanation of NPGs, which is how neighborhood councils distribute a portion of their annual budgets to non-profit organizations.
    - Joy also asked about when signage rules changed; apparently, that was four or five years ago.
  5. Purchases of outreach materials, including Dry Erase Board markers for Spinner and Sand Bags for tent
    - The current dry erase markers have expired and must be replaced prior to the next outreach event.
- e. Update on NWNC Board vacancies and possible nominations for seats on Public Safety, Government Affairs and Education Committee Chair
- Bill Fox has not been able to serve on the NWNC due to personal reasons; his seat has been vacated.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion for Janis Kraft to serve on the Public Safety Committee (in lieu of Bill Fox); Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
  - Abby added that Ding's position on the Education Committee may become vacated when she moves away from the NWNC area in a few months.

- f. Discussion and possible motion re: CF 21-0112 “Project Home Key” in Northridge at Extended Stay America Suites at 19325 Londelius Street, Northridge 91324
  - Stakeholder John Hales stated that Project Home Key is nothing new. There are currently five of these facilities in the valley:
 

Airtel Plaza Hotel	Lake Balboa
Extended Stay America	Woodland Hills
Howard Johnson	Reseda
Super 8	Canoga Park
Travelodge Inn and Suites	Chatsworth
  - Perhaps someone could reach out to the neighboring businesses, including the nearby Ralphs of Chatsworth. Oftentimes, thieves visit their produce section and use their rest rooms to bathe.
  - There is currently Section Eight housing [and an armed guard] at the Extended Stay America Suites across the street from Costco at 19325 Londelius Street; John wondered if the new chicken restaurant, Raising Cane (moving into the former Marie Callendars) is aware of what they are getting themselves into.
  - Glenn Bailey added that this Extended Stay America Suites is located in Northridge South Neighborhood Council’s territory; this council has not yet taken a position on this Project Room Key housing. However, the city council’s Homelessness and Poverty Subcommittee discussed this on Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Jennifer reported that the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council fought the transition of the Travelodge at 21603 Devonshire Street to becoming a project room key facility. There has always been homeless living near their train station. Kathleen added that homelessness and crime seemed to increase when the orange line extended from Woodland Hills to Chatsworth.

g. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for February 2022 NWNC

- Joel reviewed these expenditures:

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
January 24	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	December Web Hosting	\$ 250.00
January 25	All American Softy Inc.	Ice Cream Social	569.28
February 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	128.50
February 8	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	January Web Hosting	250.00
February 9	All American Softy Inc.	Ice Cream Social	77.82
		Total	\$1,275.60

- A few checks have been issued, including payments to Abby Bailes, Kathleen Edwards, Nobel Middle School PTSA, and the VCC; however, the recipient’s banks have not yet processed these checks.
- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the February MER; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

h. Approval of Monthly GBM Minutes for February 2022 NWNC and Special Board Meeting Minutes.

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the February minutes (GBM and Special meeting); Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (10) Bailes, Cathcart, Ding, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Robinson, and Wilson  
 Abstain (1) Edwards  
 Absent (1) Padilla

IX. Adjournment

- o Abby Bailes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.30PM; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.