

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom
Tuesday, 11 October 2022

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.20PM and welcomed eleven board members and at least six stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
Here (10) Abigail Bailes, Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Jorge Jimenez, Janis Kraft, Jennifer Krowne, Sonny Liampetchakul, Joel Lowell, Angelica Robinson, and Glen Wilson
Absent (1) Greg Wood

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Abby led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comments

- Glenn Bailey from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) mentioned that the city council introduced a motion earlier today concerning the recent news of the three city councilmembers who inappropriately discussed re-districting. This motion will probably be assigned a new council file number on Wednesday, October 12th. This will certainly be discussed at Thursday's evening's Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting.
- The Northridge Business Improvement District has been disbanded. However, their community improvement actions have been taken over by the three Northridge neighborhood councils; they are working together to improve plantings and seating along Reseda Boulevard north of Parthenia Street.
- Northridge Vision will meet at 2PM Wednesday, October 12 to discuss potential improvements to Reseda Boulevard and Plummer Street.

- Stakeholder John Hales recently attended two other neighborhood council meetings. These councils asked their local city councilperson to improve traffic near elementary schools, including the increased use of crossing guards. At least one of these communities will acquire a crossing guard.

- Stakeholder Joy thanked Kathleen for advocating for neighborhood watch signage.

- Stakeholder Tracy wondered if Councilman Lee was familiar with a proposed 50' cell phone tower at Devonshire Street and Reseda Boulevard. Jennifer mentioned that this proposed cell tower would be on the east side of that intersection, within the area of the NENC.

- Assembly candidate Pilar Schiavo mentioned that voters could vote by mail (with no postage required) and/or use the county's official ballot drop boxes for the November 8th election. However, these drop boxes will be disabled for the neighborhood council's 2023 election.

IV. Announcements

| Agenda | | | |
|--------|--------------------|------|------|
| Item | Meeting (via Zoom) | Date | Time |

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| a. | NWNC Executive Committee | Tuesday, November 1 | 7PM |
| b. | NWNC General Board | Tuesday, November 8 (Election Day) | 6.15PM |
- Abby mentioned that the city’s Public Safety Department has already responded to the NWNC’s concern regarding community cleanups and traffic safety near the Topeka Drive Elementary School (near Wilbur Avenue and Topeka Drive). Kathleen suggested a flashing light near the Topeka School to alert drivers.
 - Abby added that beginning in June, the county will seek folks to serve on civil grand juries. Additional information can be found at <https://www.lacourt.org/division/jury/JR0223.aspx>
 - Kathleen added that the LA Neighborhood Coalition of Councils is concerned about inappropriate language spoken by the three infamous city council members.

V. Presidential Comments

- This agenda item was tabled.

VI. Government Reports

a. Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division

- Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora reported that their office renovation (partially funded by the NWNC) is underway. New floors were installed, walls were painted, furniture was delivered, and new lights are being mounted this week. They are awaiting brackets to assemble the new furniture. As they are working remotely with their laptops and cellular telephones, the best way to reach Officer Zamora is via email at 35947@lapd.online.
- The LAPD continues to receive many calls regarding homeless campsites. Please reach out to CD12 District Director Colin Crews if you need assistance with sanitation.
- Friday, October 7th, the Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) hosted a very successful all-you-can-eat pasta dinner at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. This dinner also served as a retirement celebration for reserve officer David Bush who has served the LAPD for over 28-years.
- Earlier today, Officer Zamora had a great turnout for her Coffee with a Cop at the Starbucks at 19759 Rinaldi Street.
- Wednesday, October 19th, California Pizza Kitchen at the mall will host a fundraiser; with the proceeds supporting SOLID.
- Saturday, November 5th, Officer Zamora would co-host Fro-Yo with a SLO at Yogurtland at 20790 Nordhoff Street.
- Jorge asked if there were any available photographs of the progress at the SLO’s offices that the NWNC could share on their website. Sandra already shared photos with SOLID, who have been instructed to pass them along to area neighborhood councils.

b. CD 12 City Council Representative – Public Safety Deputy Matt Hernandez reported the following:

- As has been recently reported on the national news, three councilmembers were recorded using inappropriate language to discuss re-districting, including a comment on another councilmember’s child. Councilman Lee has called for two of the councilmembers to resign.
- A councilmember has already submitted a motion calling for the election of a new council president. Someone else requested censor of the three councilmembers; this could result in the three losing their voice before the city’s council.

- Tuesday, January 31st, the city's declaration of emergency and eviction moratorium will end. The city will aid renters (to help them pay their back-rent) and property owners (to acquire their overdue rent). Earlier this year, Councilman Lee submitted a motion requesting that this moratorium end immediately, but that was struck down.

c. Other Government Departments/Agencies

- Diana Oganessian from Assemblywoman Valladares's office reported that CalTran's permits were approved to initiate work on the sinkholes at the Reseda Boulevard exit from the westbound 118 freeway. They hope to complete this work by the end of 2022.
- Direct deposits of the California Franchise Tax Board's Middle Class Tax Refund of \$200 to \$1,050, for those making less than \$500k/year, have already started. If you do not receive your eligible refund by the end of November, please reach out to their office at 661.286.1565.

d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Joel Gonzalez from DONE was not available. However, the NWNC is welcome to reach out to him with any issues.

e. Budget Advocate

- The advocate's parliamentarian Glenn Bailey reported that the advocates for region 2 (northwest valley) are Brian Allen, Garry Fordyce, and newest member Scott Wright from the Northridge South Neighborhood Council.
- The advocates have been participating in two-hour training, including reviews of how to meet with the various city departments, sources of revenue (taxes, etc.), budget requests, expenditures, overviews of the 2022-23 budget, and the 2023-24 budget process. Videos of this training are available at their website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/trainings>
- If anyone has expertise in budget or finance issues, please reach out to the advocates for potential voluntary opportunities.

VII. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- Abby mentioned that the new NWNC by-laws were recently approved.
- The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, November 1st. If you have any items to be agendaized, please send them to Abby before Wednesday, October 26th.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen hopes to get parents involved with petitions for a new crosswalk near Wilbur Avenue by the Topeka Drive Elementary School
- Sunday, October 23rd, the STARS Academy School at 7353 Valley Circle Boulevard, West Hills will host an emergency meeting and screening of a Fentanyl documentary. Earlier this month, the west valley tragically lost a young student to a Fentanyl poisoning.
- Kathleen continues to work on getting neighborhood watch signs for the community; this is an especially important issue, and she will not give up on it.
- She is also working to re-open all lanes of Wilbur Avenue, between Nordhoff and Devonshire Streets, to vehicular traffic. Currently, drivers are dangerously using the bike lanes.

c. Planning and Land Use

- Jennifer mentioned that the Claim Jumper at 9429 Tampa Avenue recently closed.
- She received mail from the Longhorn Steakhouse, who may occupy the former Romano’s Macaroni Grill at 9301 Tampa Avenue. This will be reviewed and discussed at another meeting.

d. Elections

- Potential NWNC board members can register their candidacy in the 45-day window between Friday, February 10th and Sunday, March 26th.
- Abby would like to know which current NWNC board members are eligible [and interested in running] for re-election in 2023.
- Vote by mail requests should be submitted in the 30-day window between Thursday, April 13th and Friday, May 12th. Ballots must be postmarked by Saturday, June 10th, which is the NWNC’s Election Day.
- Glen Wilson reported that the in-person voting site for the NWNC has not yet been announced (possibly Nobel Middle School). This site may be eligible for a \$150 reimbursement. In-person voters MAY need to show their COVID vaccination card. The county’s current “official ballot drop boxes” will not be available.
- Additional information regarding the 2023 neighborhood council elections can be found at <https://empowerla.org/elections-3/>

e. Homelessness

- Sonny presented a comparison of the LA County homeless population these past five years:

| | Homeless Population | |
|------|---------------------|---------|
| | LA County | LA City |
| 2018 | 52,800 | 31,300 |
| 2019 | 59,000 | 35,600 |
| 2020 | 66,500 | 61,300 |
| 2021 | No Count | |
| 2022 | 69,200 | 42,000 |

- Recent petitions collected over 98,000 signatures and were presented to the city council [where they were unanimously approved] to qualify for a 2023 election. Under this proposition, homes [in excess of \$4m] may incur an additional .5% sales tax. This additional sales tax may help raise over \$800m for low-income housing.

f. Government Affairs

- Letter to West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness (WVNAH) and DONE
 - Abby mentioned that the NWNC sent a letter to WVNAH (with a cc: to DONE) concerning WVNAH’s politicization. There are not yet been a reply from WVNAH. However, DONE’s General Manager Rachel Beltrán replied that DONE has nothing to do with WVNAH.
- Letter to LA City Clerk Funding Division
 - Abby heard back from someone at the city clerk’s office regarding the neighborhood watch signage. It was a very respectful conversation and Abby reminded them that the NWNC serves as an advocate for the community.

- g. Beautification
 - Jorge was able to connect with Kathleen from CD12 at the September 17th Ice Cream Social. They look forward to further conversations with the city's Urban Forestry Department (who may perform additional work in Northridge) as well as discussing the Tampa Avenue topiaries.
- h. Budget
 - Joel reported that the NWNC continues to await the \$10k rollover from the previous fiscal year.
 - The FY2022-23 budget allocated \$4k for election materials (along with Outreach).
 - The NWNC must create and agendaize a Board Action Certification to reimburse Kathleen for an approved \$13 expenditure in support of the September 17th Ice Cream social.
- i. Outreach
 - Janis reported that the September 17th Ice Cream social was great fun.
 - She looks forward to hosting an Outreach Committee meeting in a few weeks.

VIII. New Business

- a. Follow up from NWNC Ice Cream Social and Oakridge Historical Monument Dedication on Saturday, September 17th
 - The January Ice Cream social served 100 portions of ice cream, whereas the September 17th Ice Cream social served 233 portions.
 - The NWNC may host their next ice cream social at another location and do more outreach. Perhaps this could be publicized via a mailer, alongside the June 10th NWNC's elections announcements?
- b. Discussion about participation in the Emergency Preparedness Fair
 - At their last (September 13th) meeting, the NWNC voted unanimously to financially support a \$500 Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for the Friends of West LA's November 13th Greater LA Safety and Preparedness Fair at Exposition Park.
 - The organizers have since offered a free booth at this event to the neighborhood councils to use for outreach.
 - William Keith, one of the fair's coordinators, explained that they would have over twenty neighborhood councils represented at "neighborhood council row" near the kid's zone, rodeo, and food stations. Each booth will include a canopy, 6' table, and two chairs. Set-up will begin at 9AM; the fair will open at 10AM and close at 4PM. This will be followed by a breakdown.
 - William asked that the NWNC inform him by Tuesday, October 18th if they want the booth.
- c. Discussion and possible motion to spend up to \$1,000 for NWNC Board retreat
 - The Bureau of Neighborhood Commissioners has not yet permitted in-person council meetings. Although restaurants are open, the NWNC must host this retreat via Zoom.
- d. Discussion and possible motion for NWNC Election Outreach and NWNC Outreach mailing
 - This agenda item was tabled as the NWNC has until February or March to deal with this issue.

- e. Discussion and possible motion to participate in CSUN and/or Northridge Mall Farmers Markets for outreach
 - Coastal Pacific coordinates the Farmer’s Market and Family Festival at the Northridge Mall. Booths rent for \$65/per Wednesday evening. This issue may be further discussed at the November 1st Executive Committee Meeting.
- f. Update on Neighborhood Council Board Member NWNC elections
 - Please see this discussion under agenda item VII.d NWNC Committee Reports, Elections”.

g. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Reports (MERs) from September 2022 NWNC

| Date | Vendor | Description | Amount |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| September 2 | Golden State Storage | Storage Facility | \$ 135.50 |
| September 6 | Apple One | Minute Taking | 64.00 |
| September 17 | Smart and Final | Water and Ice | 44.94 |
| September 21 | North Valley Family YMCA | NPG | 2,500.00 |
| September 28 | Host Reseller Group | Web Hosting | 19.95 |
| | | Total | <u>\$2,764.39</u> |

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the September MER; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

h. Approval of Monthly GBM Minutes for September 2022 NWNC Meeting Minutes

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the September minutes; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed.
 - Aye (8) Bailes, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Robinson, and Wilson
 - Abstain (2) Cathcart and Edwards
 - Absent (1) Wood

IX. Adjournment

- o Abby adjourned the meeting at 7.41PM.