

APPROVED
 Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
 General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom
 Tuesday, 13 December 2022

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.15PM and welcomed [eventually] all eleven board members and at least six stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
 Here (11) Abigail Bailes, Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Jorge Jimenez, Janis Kraft, Jennifer Krowne, Sonny Liampetchakul, Joel Lowell, Angelica Robinson, Glen Wilson, and Greg Wood

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Sonny led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comments

- Glenn Bailey from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council mentioned that the February 9th meeting of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) would feature new city attorney, Hydee Feldstein Soto.
- In addition, the librarian at the Northridge branch library told Glenn that she hoped to do a presentation before the three Northridge neighborhood councils sometime in 2023.
- Stakeholder Joy reiterated what Sonny mentioned in the Pledge of Allegiance including “... justice for all” as [earlier today] President Biden signed the “Respect for Marriage” Act to protect interracial and same-sex couples.

IV. Announcements

Agenda Item	Event	Date	Time	Notes
a.	NWNC Executive Committee Meeting	Tuesday, January 3 rd	7PM	Via Zoom
b.	NWNC General Board Meeting	Tuesday, January 10 th	6.15PM	Via Zoom

- Abby hoped that executive committee members would be available for the January 3rd meeting; Sonny, Janis, Joel, and Kathleen answered in the affirmative.
- Kathleen attended the December 8th VANC meeting, and reported the following:
 - The local COVID emergency may be lifted on Tuesday, January 31st. Governor Newsom may lift the statewide emergency on Tuesday, February 28th.
 - Neighborhood councils have until April to submit ideas to the Bureau of Neighborhood Councils (BONC) on the updated digital policy. Although BONC is currently reviewing the censure and removal process, this policy cannot be added to the NWNC by-laws. BONC is also concerned about non-profits disturbing neighborhood council meetings; perhaps the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) could be more proactive regarding this issue?
 - In preparation for the 2023 neighborhood council elections, maybe DONE could support additional street light banners to alert people of their local neighborhood councils? Perhaps

the banners could be paid with city funds, rather than having each council pay for their own? Brian suggested asking about the lead-time on the street light banners.

V. Presidential Comments

- Abby wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas.

VI. Government Reports

a. Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division

- Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora has been feeling under the weather, so LAPD Community Relations volunteer, Mikkie Loi, reported the following:
 - As of last week, there has been an increase in burglaries. If one is going out of town, please alert the LAPD so they can perform a “vacation patrol”.
 - When shopping, please be aware of your surroundings. Do not place freshly purchased items in your vehicle, and then return to the mall.
 - If you purchase items online, please have the items delivered to a nearby Amazon drop-box.
 - The SLOs hold monthly meetings with retailers and business owners; please reach out to your SLO so you can be placed on their email list. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, January 10th.
 - Wednesday, December 14th at 6.30PM will be the monthly Valley Traffic Division (VTD) meeting; their new Zoom link is <https://lapd.zoom.us/j/86806957415>
 - The Devonshire Police Activity League Supporters are collecting toys through Friday, December 16th; these toys will be distributed on Saturday, December 17th.
 - Community Emergency Response Team training will begin in April at a local library. Additional information will be available in early 2023.
 - Janis reported that there has been mail theft in her community and asked that the LAPD look into this.
 - Brian reported that many vehicles run the stop sign at the southbound Shirley Avenue, often traveling in excess of 35mph; this is especially prevalent in the evenings. Mikkie and Brian agreed that this would be a good topic to be discussed at Wednesday’s VTD meeting.

b. CD 12 City Council Representative

- Public Safety Deputy Matt Hernandez from CD12 was unavailable to attend this meeting.

c. Other Government Departments/Agencies

- No other government representatives were available to address the NWNC.

d. DONE

- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) Joel Gonzalez from DONE was unavailable to attend this meeting.

e. Budget Advocate

- The advocate’s parliamentarian Glenn Bailey reported that they have started meeting with the forty city departments in preparation for their annual white paper. Several reports have been drafted, yet none have been finalized. The advocates hope to wrap up this task by the end of December with the white paper recommendations released in January.

- The advocates may co-host a town hall, along with DONE, to discuss their proposed budget requests.
- Usually, the city's mayor is inaugurated July 1st; this week was the first time the new mayor came into office during the budget process.
- The advocate's 2023 Budget Day will be Saturday, June 17th. It is not yet known if this will be in-person at city hall, hybrid, or via Zoom.

VII. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, January 3rd.
- The January 10th NWNC meeting will include a presentation by the city's Neighborhood Council Elections Administrator, Ms. Paola Posada. Perhaps the Northridge branch library librarian could address a later meeting?
- Joy added that 911 operators often make very good presentations to neighborhood council meetings.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen reported that children and their parents often cross the dangerous intersection of Wilbur Avenue and Superior Street enroute to the Topeka Drive Elementary School. She met with the school's principal, Ms. Katherine Chavez, who was unaware of this hazard. Principal Chavez has since submitted a request for an improved crosswalk and/or crossing guard(s) at that intersection.
- Kathleen has not yet heard back from anyone regarding the requested neighborhood watch signage.

c. Planning, Land Use, and Zoning (PLUZ)

- Chairwoman Jennifer had no news to report.

d. Elections

- Glen Wilson has not yet heard any news. However, information concerning the 2023 neighborhood council elections can be found at <https://empowerla.org/elections>

e. Homelessness

- Sonny reported that Mayor Bass has initiated a state of emergency for homelessness. She hopes to house 15,000 by the end of 2023.
- Greg wondered if there was any news regarding the cause of homelessness. Sonny replied that many states provide their homeless with a one-way bus ticket to California, thereby increasing our homeless population, as evidenced by the LA Homeless Service Authority's (LAHSA's) annual homeless count. Sadly, when the unhoused are given a housing referral, many refuse, as they are imposed curfews and restrictions. They are not forced to take the housing option.
- Joy added that of the hundreds of nearby available room opportunities, merely fifty individuals accepted the room ticket.
- Greg referenced the book San Fransicko by Michael Shellengberger, which discusses homelessness in San Francisco. This book mentions that oftentimes homelessness is caused by drug addiction and mental illness rather than the absence of housing.
- Kathleen mentioned council file 22-1101, which unanimously passed the city council on Tuesday, November 22nd. A week prior, the NWNC submitted a Community Impact

- Statement (CIS) in support of this file, which requests point-in-time methodology, accuracy, financial accountability, and transparency from LAHSA.
- Brian recommended Northridge's Robert Cagle, an expert on the resolution of homeless issues, as a potential NWNC monthly meeting speaker.
- f. Government Affairs
- No update was available.
- g. Beautification
- Jorge hopes to have a committee meeting in January.
 - He recently connected with Kathleen Bellaterra from CD12 to discuss the city's Urban Forestry Department working in Northridge. It is hoped this could be done without NWNC funds. Many homeowners do not want new trees planted in their area, as they could become responsible for the tree's maintenance.
 - CD12's Legislative Deputy Jonathan Coto may replace Kathleen as the new contact for all Urban Forestry issues.
- h. Budget
- Treasurer Joel reported that the NWNC has received the \$10k rollover from the previous fiscal year. Board members should start thinking about how these funds should be spent.
 - Kathleen wondered if the NWNC should host a special meeting to revise the budget to allocate these funds. Joel replied that once the NWNC decides what to do with this money, it could be discussed at a monthly NWNC meeting.
- i. Outreach
- Janis reported that the Outreach Committee recently participated in several activities, including assembling gift baskets with the YMCA. Their entire gymnasium was filled with baskets, and it appeared that the NWNC's money was well spent.
 - Tuesday, December 6th, Janis and Sonny represented the NWNC at CSUN's farmer's market to attract younger stakeholders, especially those who are interested in outreach and/or politics.
 - Sunday, November 13th, Angelica, Sonny, and other committee members staffed the NWNC booth at the Greater LA Safety and Preparedness Fair at Exposition Park. Although 200+ people attended the fair, the organizers anticipated a larger crowd. They wrongfully assumed that their vendors would handle the publicity. There were a few visitors from Northridge; but overall, this event did not appear worthy of the NWNC's financial support. Rather than spending the \$500, maybe in the future the NWNC could reduce this to merely \$250? Perhaps the NWNC should focus on supporting similar events in the west valley?
 - Kathleen and Glenn Bailey mentioned that CD3's Councilman Bob Blumenfield would host a Disaster Preparedness Fair at the Westfield Topanga Mall's Community Center on Saturday, February 25th. CD3 invited several neighborhood councils from within their district. Kathleen may reach out to Dave Brown, founder and director of the Southern California Preparedness Foundation, for additional information.

VIII. New Business

- a. Motion to reimburse Kathleen Edwards for \$13.13 for purchases related to approved items for the Ice Cream Social of September 17th

- Abby Bailes made a motion to reimburse Kathleen for this \$13.13; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- b. Discussion and possible motion to fund \$1,000 to fund EnrichLA’s local program at Topeka Elementary School (TES) in NWNC. For the purchase of materials for both lessons and activities as well as supplies for edible garden care, like seeds and seedlings.
- Senior Garden Ranger Alex Aleshire from EnrichLA explained that their program offers weekly, interdisciplinary garden-based lessons to thousands of students throughout LA, kindergarten through grade 12, corresponding to both California Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. The lessons are fun, engaging, and provide participants with hands-on opportunities to learn about nutrition, science, and environmental stewardship. In addition to teaching new garden-based curriculum, they provide maintenance of the existing edible gardens throughout the school year to ensure the gardens thrive.
 - This \$1,000 Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) will help support the current program at TES through the purchase of materials for both lessons and activities, as well as supplies for edible garden care, including warm bins, seeds and seedlings.
 - Abby asked how long this program has been in place at TES; Alex did not have that information at hand, but promised to reply at a later date.
 - Alex added that there is an extensive photo-gallery on their Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/enrichlagardens> as well as their website at <https://www.enrichla.org>
 - Sonny asked if this was an after-school program; this four-hour program is usually from 8AM to noon. A few schools have requested a full-day program, which is not always feasible.
 - Brian thought this was a wonderful program, and added that the number of children who have direct contact with agriculture has significantly decreased these past few years.
 - Alex added that earlier this week, she and her students made a kale salad. The kids grew the kale, cleaned, chopped, made a delicious dressing, and then gobbled it up.
 - Someone asked about EnrichLA’s budget:

Expenses		Income	
Garden Ranger and Administration	\$7,930	School Donation	\$6,500
Irrigation, seedlings, mulch, maintenance (raised beds and sanding), etc.	1,150	Foundations and Other Grants	1,580
		Neighborhood Council NPG	1,000
Totals	<u>\$9,080</u>		<u>\$9,080</u>

- Angelica’s nieces participate in this program at their school, and they have developed a love of vegetables. She asked if EnrichLA reaches out to other neighborhood councils. As the TES is within the NWNC’s boundaries, they are only requesting funds from the NWNC. Other schools within the NWNC (Callahan Street Elementary, Beckford Avenue Elementary, and Nobel) to not have an onsite EnrichLA program.
- Brian added that Nobel has a dedicated farming program, with an extensive garden and a dedicated teacher.
- Joy mentioned that she previously did a workshop with EnrichLA and fully supports them. She suggested that they also reach out to CD12, who also grow kale and provide free mulch to the community. Alex replied that they receive their mulch from area tree trimmers.
- Abby asked that EnrichLA do a completion report with photographs and mention the NWNC during any publicity of this TES project; Alex wholeheartedly agreed to do that.

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve this \$1,000 NPG; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

c. Discussion about Neighborhood Council Election Outreach

- Janis reported that she recently attended the city clerk’s “Candidate Info Session covering How to Apply, Create a Winning Campaign, and Get Elected”. It is strongly recommended that any stakeholder, who is interested in serving on the NWNC, attend one of these informational meetings. Registration information can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/empowerla-11891498859>.

- Janis will also forward this linkage to NWNC’s webmaster Kristina Smith for posting.

Upcoming sessions via Zoom will be held on:

Monday, January 9 th	6PM	Saturday, February 18 th	10AM
Saturday, January 21 st	10AM	Saturday, March 4 th	10AM
Saturday, February 4 th	10AM	Saturday, March 18 th	10AM
Wednesday, February 8 th	6PM		

- Glenn Bailey added that these meetings are recorded and can be viewed online.
- The following NWNC board members are up for renewal in 2023 (along with two [currently] vacant seats:

Abigail Bailes	Jennifer Krowne
Janis Kraft	Sonny Liampetchakul

- Glen Wilson and Greg Wood MAY be up for renewal. Abby will reach out to NEA Joel for confirmation.
- As the NWNC is in region 2, the following are the important 2023 dates concerning the election.

Candidate Filing Opens	February 10 th
Candidate Filing Closes	March 28 th
Vote-By-Mail Ballot Request Opens	April 11 th
Vote-By-Mail Ballot Request Closes	May 22 nd
Election Day	June 10 th

- Abby reported that the double mailing, used during the last election cycle, had the best effort. Glen added that one mailing could be \$4k; a second mailing could cost an additional \$8k.
- Joel mentioned that the NWNC’s annual elections budget is currently at merely \$4k. Glen Wilson added that this will not be enough, and postage will be considerably higher than the last mailer.
- Brian urged the NWNC to spend the money to publicize and expand the board. He recommended that any group that presents an NPG to the NWNC should use their mailing list to publicize the upcoming NWNC election.
- Jorge suggested using CD12’s mailing list for the election notification. Janis previously linked up with Kathy Lettieri and Myrka Martinez at CD12 to help publicize the January and September ice cream socials.
- Abby suggested tying the 2nd mailing to an ice cream social.
- Glenn Bailey added that that region 2 (covering the northwest valley) would host a meeting on Monday, January 30th. They will discuss pooling resources, such as a combined advertisement in a local newspaper (perhaps the Daily News) or a repeat of the “Rally in the Valley”. Attendance is restricted to three members per neighborhood council.
- Abby recommends further discussing this prior to the January meeting. Janis and Jorge (who has the previously mailed flyer) will draft a flyer for further discussion.

- Janis expressed concern about the Brown Act with three (or more) NWNC board members attending this brainstorming ad hoc meeting. As they will merely brainstorm [rather than vote on any issues] the Brown Act may not be involved.

d. Discussion re: Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) role

- Kathleen mentioned that this LANCC was referenced in the following three council files:

	Unanimously Approved	Action
18-0467	25 August 2020	Modifies section 22.801.1 of the LA Administrative Code to include neighborhood council stakeholders, age requirements, and the [optional] youth board seat.
11-1020-S3	23 September 2022	Amends Section 5.517 of the LA Administrative Code in regards to the terms of the neighborhood council funding program, budget advocates, and term substitution
22-0600-S99	7 December 2022	Concerns the second financial status report, which allocates millions of dollars between city departments, as requested by the City Administrative Officer

- All these files concern the excessive overreach of DONE; it appears that no one wants DONE to have too much power.
- The NWNC may consider a future CIS regarding similar city council files.

e. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) from November 2022

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
October 20	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Monthly Web Service, August	\$250.00
October 20	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Monthly Web Service, September	250.00
November 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	135.50
November 4	Apple One	Minute Taking	89.60
		Total	<u>\$725.10</u>

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the November MER; Jorge Jimenez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

f. Approval of Monthly GBM Minutes for November 2022 NWNC Meeting Minutes

- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the November minutes; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9) Bailes, Cathcart, Edwards, Jimenez, Kraft, Liampetchakul, Robinson, Wilson, and Wood
 Abstain (2) Krowne and Lowell

IX. Adjournment

- Abby adjourned the meeting at 8.14PM.