

APPROVED  
 Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
 General Board Meeting (GBM)  
 Tuesday, 11 April 2023

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.33PM and welcomed nine board members and at least ten stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:  
 Here (9) Abigail Bailes, Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Jorge Jimenez, Janis Kraft, Sonny Liampetchakul, Joel Lowell, Angelica Robinson, and Glen Wilson  
 Absent (2) Jennifer Krowne and Greg Wood

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comments

- Former NWNC President Peter Lasky return the following:
  - 9x3' scroll
  - Citations
  - Awards
  - Old files
  - Engineering Drawings of the Tampa Avenue Drip System
  - Original Vision of Don Larson's Topiary for Tampa Avenue
  - Certificates of Recognition from the State Assembly and Congressman Sherman
- David Brown from the North Hills West Neighborhood Council congratulated the NWNC on this in-person meeting. He also reminded everyone that the LAPD's Valley Traffic Division will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6.30PM via Zoom.
- Glenn Bailey thanked the NWNC for the Portos's food and their hospitality during the three-years of virtual meetings. He also mentioned the following:
  - The Valley of Alliance of Neighborhood Councils will continue to meet at 6.30PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month via Zoom. This week's guests will be Jeffery Daar, President of the City's Ethics Commission, and City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto.
  - State Senate bill 411, recently introduced by Senator Anthony Portantino of Pasadena, urges Brown Act revisions that would allow neighborhood councils to continue to meet virtually.
  - Wednesday, April 12, will be the monthly meeting of Northridge Vision. Attendees will include the CSUN police. Among the topics to be discussed will be Northridge's lack of welcoming signage.

IV. Announcements

Agenda				
Item	Event	Date	Time	Location
a.	Executive Committee Meeting - cancelled			
b.	General Board Meeting	Tuesday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.15PM	Northridge Christian Church
○	All board members are urged to check their online Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) training status; training for a few board members (including Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, and Jennifer Krowne) is in danger of expiring soon after the May meeting.			

V. Presidential Comments

- Abby was pleased that the set-up for this meeting went smoothly. The May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting should see the NWNC returning to their natural rhythm.

VI. Guest Speakers      Supervisor Stephen Duprey, Tree Surgeon Supervisor Elias Najar, and Project Manager Nikki Ezhari from StreetsLA of the City’s Urban Forestry Department present the findings of the recently completed Northridge West Tree Inventory

- City street trees play a vital role in the NWNC community. These trees mitigate the negative effects of urbanization and development and enhance the quality of life within the community. Considering the NWNC’s 6,365 trees, 348 stumps, and 3,372 vacant sites, the stocking rate is 62.5%. The most abundant type of tree in the inventory is broadleaf (42.1%) which provides the most shade.

Broadleaf	42.1%	Stump	3.4%
Vacant	33.1%	Palm	2.5%
Conifer	17.9%	Other	1.0%

- Northridge’s 33.1% vacancy rate was discovered by reviewing over 10,000 sites. Elias suggested that perhaps the NWNC could reach out to non-profits, such as North East Trees at <https://www.northeasttrees.org> or the Tree People at <https://www.treepeople.org>, to help organize a tree-planting project. Jorge requested a map highlighting these areas.
- Trees must be approved by the city’s Urban Forestry Department, whose budget is 1,500 trees. The city will plant and provide three-years of maintenance for these trees. Elias urged the NWNC to not wait until the last minute for their tree request.
- NWNC also has a great many trees along the parkways. Parkway greater than 10’ can accommodate oak trees.
- The five most common tree species in Northridge are
  - Canary Island Pine (CIP)
  - Crape Myrtle
  - Glossy Privet,
  - Evergreen Pear
  - Modesto Ash.
- Additional information can be found at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sav\\_NNqdn\\_AntiPJFdRHYQZCRWmQuPwK/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sav_NNqdn_AntiPJFdRHYQZCRWmQuPwK/view)
- The NWNC’s street tree summary can be found at <https://streetsla.lacity.org/sites/default/files/Northridge%20West%2020230315.pdf>
- Elias reported that LA currently has over 600,000 trees citywide.
- Stephen reported that the CIP are the biggest challenge. Although they can be planted 8’ from a driveway and 45’ from an intersection, they are very overgrown and their tree wells take up a lot of the sidewalk space.
- The good news is that the CIP provide more shade than multiple young sapling trees.
- StreetsLA’s current budget is \$25m; they should have a budget of \$70m as it costs \$2,500 to annually water each city tree. If Stephen had available discretionary funds, he would consider getting rid of well covers. These covers were originally constructed to prevent people from falling.
- If necessary, truckloads of mulch are available at Sylmar’s Sunshine Canyon Landfill.
- Abby, Brian, and Jorge added that the NWNC is on board and would like to have more trees. Abby wondered if the NWNC could approve new trees in May and have this work done in June.
- Kathleen expressed concern that the contractors must be approved as city vendors. Elias replied that the contractors carry their own liability insurance and are already registered with the city.

- Glenn Bailey recommended that the NWN have representation at the StreetsLA Tree Summit. He added that there is currently a motion before the city council raising the matching funds from \$5k to \$25k.

## VII. Government Reports

### a. Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division

- The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
- Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora was unavailable; community relations volunteer Mikkie Loi reported the following:
  - Captain Hollis will host the monthly LAPD's Valley Traffic Division meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30PM.
  - SLO Parker hosted his meeting earlier today. The hardest hit vicinity seems to be the area bordered by Tampa Avenue, Rinaldi Street, Balboa, and Sesnon Boulevards. The Devonshire Division seems to have one burglary (residential and retail) each day; these usually occur late at night.
  - Often, the burglars will rip off the security alarm and electrical panels. Perhaps people should lock their electrical panels?
  - If you leave the house, do not leave it dark. That is too much of a tip-off. Please leave a light and/or a radio (on a timer) to make noise.
  - If you purchase a Ring Camera, please get one with improved enhancement to capture license plates and/or faces.
  - Jorge added that sometimes thieves lie in wait and watch you leave. They are also using drones. The thieves usually go for the principal bedroom, seeking cash, jewelry, and guns. Also, if you have a safe, bolt it to the floor or wall.
  - Mikkie recommended that everyone file a police report, no matter how minor the crime may appear. This will increase the patrol in your neighborhood.
  - David mentioned <https://www.wyze.com> as a resource for interesting security information.
  - Officer Dan Russo is the new SLO for the Devonshire Division.
  - Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 5PM to 9PM, the California Pizza Kitchen at 9301 Tampa Avenue will host "Tip a Cop". Officers will take "protect and serve" to a whole new level at this fundraiser for the Special Olympics athletes of LA County.
  - Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7PM, AMC Theatres at the Northridge Fashion Center will host Active Shooter Training, including what signs to be aware of and how to survive an active shooter.
  - Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 11AM, the LAPD SLOs will host "Coffee with a Cop" at the Starbucks at 9420 Reseda Boulevard

### b. CD12 City Council Representative

- Matt Hernandez reported the following
  - Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 8AM will be the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Supports of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) Booster Club All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast for \$10/person. Please visit SOLID's website at <https://www.soliddevonshire.org> for additional information.
  - There is an increased push throughout the city for more community focused policing.
  - Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 2PM, CD12 will co-sponsor the Autism Acceptance Resource Fair at the Chatsworth Park South Recreation Center at 22360 Devonshire

Street. Among the celebrities will be actor, restaurateur, and CD12 resident Danny Trejo.

- Today, a motion was approved in city council that would require those carrying multiple catalytic converters to show proof of ownership. This misdemeanor will not result in an arrest, but it will incur a fine. In 2017, merely 97 converters were stolen. This number ballooned to 8,300 in 2022. The LAPD hosts catalytic converter events whereupon they will etch or weld a number to your catalytic converter. Screwing them on is pointless, as the screws can easily be removed.
- Someone asked how these multiple catalytic converters would be detected (it is rare for a thief to have merely one). This would be a follow-up to a driver being pulled over for speeding or running a red light.
- Many who protested today's motion felt that this victimizes the black and brown community. Matt mentioned his immigrant father has had his catalytic converters stolen four times.
- Jorge asked if the city goes after vendors who purchase the used catalytic converters; Matt answered in the affirmative.
- CD12 and the LAPD have developed a street racing task force. They follow car clubs on social media, and the drivers will post meet-up spots in the NWNC community, usually between 10PM and 2AM.
- Jorge also asked about increased funding for the LAPD to prevent burglaries. Matt reported that CD12 has provided increased overtime funding for overnight patrols.
- The City Council is currently on recess until April 25<sup>th</sup>.

c. Other Government Departments/Agencies

- No other government agencies were represented.

d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Joel Gonzalez from DONE reported that the NWNC will not have an election; the seven candidates will be chosen by board affirmation.
- Joel asked about shirt sizes for all board members.
- He added that the training portal has been updated and the board's mandatory training has been shortened.
- In response to Kathleen's query, Joel has not met Mayor Bass.
- Brian asked about the possibility of holding NWNC meetings at the Northridge Library at 9051 Darby Avenue. Brian would like to bring the community into the public library, as many do not visit the library often enough. The library will need to complete the city's ADA checklist. However, this library is outside of the NWNC boundaries.
- The board also discussed a possible meeting space at the Northridge Park Recreation Center, which is also outside of the NWNC boundaries.

e. Budget Advocates

- A report was recently shared with the neighborhood councils; these reports can be found at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/reports>
- The city's budget and finance information can be found at <https://cao.lacity.org/budget/>
- The city council file on the 2023 budget will be 23-0600; the NWNC should reference this number when filing any budget related community impact statements, etc. This file can now

be viewed at <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-0600>.

- Effective immediately, the city council and their committees have stopped taking public comment via telephone. If one wants to comment on an issue before the council, they must go downtown.
- This year's annual virtual Budget Day will be Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Invitations have been extended to Mayor Bass, City Council President Paul Krekorian, and others. The 2024 Budget Day will be in-person at City Hall.
- In response to Joel's question, it is unknown if the 2023-24 budget will remain \$32k/year (with <\$10k rollover) or will increase. Mayor Bass will release her budget on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Lastly, the Budget Advocates sent a survey to all neighborhood council board members. However, they have received merely a hundred replies; they hoped to receive a thousand. Please respond. This survey can also be found at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfi0Ju7REcue7BT40uNNbMqqNCrHfNzrWfC3kFDr0wbl\\_J-\\_Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfi0Ju7REcue7BT40uNNbMqqNCrHfNzrWfC3kFDr0wbl_J-_Q/viewform)

#### VIII. NWNC Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee and Government Affairs
  - The May 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee meeting will be waived.
- b. Public Safety
  - Kathleen reported that SLOs should help establish Neighborhood Watch groups. Perhaps they can train residents to go door-to-door to recruit more members. It is imperative that people know their neighbors.
- c. Planning and Land Use (PLU) Committee
  - The committee had a great meeting and was joined by representatives of the Copacabana International Grocery Market at 9643 Reseda Boulevard. This will be further discussed in agenda item IX.d.
- d. Elections
  - Glen reported that there were seven candidates and seven opportunities. Hence, the election has been cancelled and will be handled via affirmation.
  - The NWNC will rebrand the previously scheduled ice cream social/election outreach event as a "Salute to the Community" Ice Cream Social.
- e. Homelessness
  - Sonny reported that LA is #1 in homelessness in the USA (NYC is #2).
  - As written in the LA Times, the non-profit that coordinates housing along skid row is facing financial collapse. Although they take in \$28m/year, they spend \$41m/year.
  - Jorge heard that Governor Newsom increased funding to cities, with a three-year window to solve their homeless crisis. If they meet their goal, the cities will receive an extra 16%.
- f. Beautification
  - Jorge has received proposals from the Tree People, who are licensed to do work in Northridge.
- g. Budget

- Joel expressed concern about the financial training status of his fellow NWNC members.
- He may prepare a budget, after Mayor Bass's April 20<sup>th</sup> budget release, anticipating a \$42k budget (regular \$32k, with a \$10k rollover).

h. Outreach

- Janis reported that nearly all board members are onboard for the May 20<sup>th</sup> "Salute to the Community" Ice Cream Social on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4PM at the Oakridge Estate Park. Set-up will begin at 10AM.
- Kristina may create a new 8x6½" postcard introducing the new 2023-24 NWNC board and advocating attendance at this "Salute to the Community" Ice Cream Social.
- Janis suggested perhaps there could be a tie-in with mulch (from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill) as suggested by Stephen during their presentation during agenda item VI covering the Northridge West Tree Inventory.
- As it is near the end of the fiscal year, the Outreach budget may have over \$9k leftover. In addition, the Neighborhood Purpose Grant budget may have over \$7k remaining. Jorge suggested that the NWNC could use any leftover funds for trees and plantings throughout Northridge.

IX. New Business

a. Update on the NWNC Elections and candidates

- As there were merely seven candidates for seven seats, the NWNC's 2023 elections have been cancelled and all candidates have been chosen via affirmation. Currently, more than 33 of the city's 99 neighborhood councils are in this exact same situation and will have their new board chosen by affirmation. The city has never had so many neighborhood council boards chosen this way. Historically, whenever there was a board affirmation, the new and re-elected board could be sworn in at the next meeting after the votes were certified by the city. Region 2, for the northwest valley, was certified earlier today by the city clerk's office. Hence, the new board could be seated in May. Alternatively, the NWNC could call a special meeting prior to the monthly May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Joel mentioned that there could be a conflict, as several current board members may be board members through June 2023. Could they be kicked off prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>? This could be decided by what is stated within the NWNC by-laws.

b. Possible motion to invite candidates to May GBM

- This agenda item was skipped as the election was cancelled and the seven registered candidates have been chosen to serve on the NWNC via affirmation.

c. Discussion about parent pick of students at Nobel Middle School and flow of traffic

- This agenda item was postponed.

d. Discussion and possible motion to approve the permit request for ZA-2022-8217- CUB at 9643 Reseda Boulevard

- The owners of the Copacabana International Grocery Market at 9643 Reseda Boulevard seek to expand their liquor license. Brazilian food and alcohol will be available for purchase for offsite (at-home) dining; alcohol will not be consumed onsite.
- Regretfully, the owners who presented at the PLU meeting were unavailable to attend this evening's NWNC meeting.

- Kathleen expressed concern that many neighbors are unfamiliar with this proposed permit, and this market’s proximity to schools. Someone replied that approval from the NWNC would trigger an announcement from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to residents and schools within a 500’ radius.
- Mikkie Loi added that the LAPD’s Vice Unit has not yet received a report of this permit request.
- Joel mentioned that there are already several nearby restaurants in this center that serve alcohol, including Hanoo Kalbi, Chi’s Chinese Cuisine, and Michelada’s Mexican Grill.
- Brian Cathcart made a motion to approve this permit; Joel Lowell and Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed.  
 Aye (7) Cathcart, Jimenez, Kraft, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Robinson, and Wilson  
 Abstain (2) Bailes and Edwards  
 Absent (2) Krowne and Wood

e. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Reports (MER) from March 2023

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
March 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	\$135.50
March 3	Apple One	Meeting Minutes	128.00
March 10	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Monthly Web Service, January	250.00
		Total	<u>\$513.50</u>

- The January MER included a \$385.64 payment that erroneously went to C&M Printing instead of 4Imprint; this was corrected in the February MER.
- Golden State Storage’s monthly rate recently increased from \$128.50 to \$135.50.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the March MER; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

f. Approval of Monthly GBM Minutes for March 2023 NWNC Meetings.

- The March minutes were corrected in real-time to reflect Brian Cathcart’s attendance.
- Abby Bailes made a motion to approve the March minutes; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

- Abby adjourned the meeting at 9.25PM.