

APPROVED

Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC) • General Board Meeting (GBM)

Tuesday, 13 June 2023 • 6.15PM

Northridge Christian Church (NCC) • 18901 Chatsworth Street, Northridge 91326

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Abby Bailes called the meeting to order at 6.27PM and welcomed all eleven board members and at least seven 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

- Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comments

- Glenn reported that the Valley of Alliance of Neighborhood Councils continues to meet at 6.30PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month via Zoom. The June 8<sup>th</sup> guests were Chief Deputy Controller Rick Cole, as well as CD6 candidates Marisa Alcaraz and Imelda Padilla. If you are unable to attend the meetings in real-time, recordings are available at their website at <https://vanc34.org>. Mayor Bass is scheduled to attend an upcoming meeting.
- This year, Glenn is the treasurer of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress of Neighborhood Councils. There will be fewer workshops at this congress due to construction at city hall. The deadline to submit workshop topics has past. However, please contact Glenn if you have an idea, as sometimes they will expand current workshops to include similar topics.
- Two ad hoc meetings discussed enforcement of the neighborhood council's Code of Conduct. They determined that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's (DONE's) proposal was not popular and agreed to tell DONE to go back to the drawing board.
- Glenn added that the May 20<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social brought many people and groups together, including the Friends of Oakridge and the LA Public Library. Friends of the Library recently purchased a collection of the movies and books from Barbara Stanwyck and Jack Oakie. Perhaps the three Northridge neighborhood councils could put out a joint announcement about this?

IV. Announcements

- a. July 11<sup>th</sup> NWNC General Board Meeting Elections for NWNC Executive Officers
- b. Exiting Board Members need to return any keys, equipment, or other NWNC items before July 11<sup>th</sup>
- c. Update on SB411 meeting rules for neighborhood councils
  - Glenn Bailey reported that SB411 recently passed the state senate (with two votes to spare) and will now go to the assembly's Local Governance Committee. Comments must be submitted a week prior to their not-yet-scheduled hearing. Glenn urged everyone to have their statement(s) ready to upload as a PDF (as the hearing may be called with very short-notice). He also recommended that PDFs get sent to all other relevant committees, such as the Judiciary Committee.
  - There were compromises, including acquiring approval from city council and 67% approval by the neighborhood council that wishes to host virtual meetings. In addition, a majority of the board must call into a virtual meeting from the city to make quorum. It is unknown HOW they will prove someone is calling from within city limits.

- V. Presidential Comments – Welcome to NWNC’s new incoming Board Members!
- Abby welcomed new board members Zaven Atashian and Aaminah Babatunde-Bey, and congratulated Janis, Glen, and Greg on their re-election. New board members Brian Morgan and Larry Whitman were not available to attend this evening’s meeting. The new board members will be formally appointed and sworn in at the NWNC’s July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - This will be followed by various committee assignments. The Homelessness and Government Affairs Committees will have vacancies. Brian and Abby suggested having all the committee meetings occur over one evening at the NCC.
  - Zaven is a full-time electrical engineer who learned of the NWNC election via email. He looks forward to serving on the Land Use Committee.
  - Aaminah has lived in Northridge for over sixteen years and just graduated from college where she studied political science. She is now enrolling in law school.
  - Neither Zaven nor Aaminah has heard from the city regarding establishing their NWNC email accounts or enrollment in the three cornerstone-based mandatory training (ethics, funding, and code of conduct). New board members have a month to complete this training. Upon completion, Abby recommended that they photograph the completion certificate as evidence; sometimes it can be frustrating depending on the city to maintain your records.
  - Since Abby, Jennifer, and Sonny are rolling off the NWNC, Abby reminded departing board members to turn in any NWNC supplies, keys, etc.
  - Abby urged all board members to please do their homework, including review the agenda, study the materials, and prepare questions prior to the meeting. If something does not make sense, please ask. Also, familiarize your self with Rosenberg’s Rules of Order; a seven-page summary of this can be found at [https://www.calcities.org/docs/default-source/get-involved/rosenberg's-rules-of-order-simple-parliamentary-procedures-for-the-21st-century.pdf?sfvrsn=d3f73e91\\_3](https://www.calcities.org/docs/default-source/get-involved/rosenberg's-rules-of-order-simple-parliamentary-procedures-for-the-21st-century.pdf?sfvrsn=d3f73e91_3). It is permissible to meet with other board members during the month; however, do not discuss how you will vote on any issue that may come before the NWNC.
  - Everyone joined the NWNC to bring about something. Always keep in mind what you wish to accomplish. Tonight, the NWNC has four Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG) totaling \$15,800. It is impossible to approve all requests.
  - Among the recent NWNC accomplishments these past few years:
    - Hosted three ice cream Socials:
      - The January 2022 event was the first neighborhood council event for the city since the pandemic shut down all in-person events in 2020.
      - The September 2022 social brought together loads of volunteers, including the Friends of Oakridge
      - The recent Salute to Community event featured over eleven booths and distribution of over 400 servings of ice cream
    - Coordinated generous payments from the city, included tree clean-ups along Tampa Avenue, organized by Jorge
    - Co-hosted many public events, including National Nights Out and meetings with Councilman Lee, LADWP, and the Bureau of Street Services.
    - The new challenges include finding new projects that advance the community and push past the barriers. She quoted one of her favorite sayings from Proverbs, as well as a wonderful mantra from UCLA’s Coach Wooden, “when you disagree ... do not be disagreeable”.
    - In particular, Joel, Janis, Jorge, and Kathleen have done a great job steering the NWNC through everything
  - In conclusion, Abby singled out each board member:
 

Jennifer	First to meet and has always been friendly and helpful
Brian	Asks great questions in a polite and thoughtful way. He is also very reliable.

- Angelica Brings joy to the meetings. She always adds a new prospective with different ideas.
- Greg We are all grateful for his legal expertise.
- Sonny He is the epitome of a service-minded individual. He stood out as the most helpful at the ice cream social, refusing to take a break.
- Joel He is accessible and reliable. Always business-like when they must frustratingly deal with the city.
- Janis She is great at making connections with the community. She brought new ideas for the ice cream social, which was a full-time task for seven months.
- Jorge Brings new ideas, is very reasonable, and adds a depth of quality.
- Glen More experience than anyone.
- Kathleen The best research assistant one could hope for. Very thorough. She will initiate things that others had not considered. You can call upon her if you need any assistance or resources.

- Greg added that he has served on multiple committees and boards; Abby is one of the best leaders he has ever served with, as she is very organized and systematic.

## VI. Government Reports

### a. LAPD Devonshire Division

- The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
- Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora was not available this evening; Devonshire community relations volunteer Mikkie Loi reported in her place.
- There are two interim SLOs in the northwest valley:
  - Area A67, which is south of Lassen Street between Zelzah and Tampa Avenues, is covered by Leo Santizo; his email address is 35776@lapd.online
  - Area A81, which is north of Nordhoff Street (to Limekiln Canyon) between Tampa and Corbin Avenues, is covered by Sean Taylor; he can be reached at 41422@lapd.online
- The LAPD has had a great many task forces; hence our SLOs (including Sandra Zamora and John Parker) have not been available to attend recent meetings.
- SLO Zamora's Basic Car/Neighborhood Watch meetings will continue via Zoom on the last Wednesday of each month at 6PM; the meeting ID is 851 1786 1225, passcode 570527.
- Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 11AM, the LAPD SLOs will host "Coffee with a Cop" at the Starbucks at 10235 Reseda Boulevard.
- The LAPD's Valley Traffic Division's Zoom meetings, usually scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 6.30PM, have been postponed indefinitely.
- Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> will be the annual National Night Out at the Northridge Park; the LAPD hopes that the NWNC will be available to participate.
- The most vulnerable time to be a victim is 7.30PM to 9PM. If you leave your house, please leave a few lights on. When you are away, the burglars most frequently go for guns, cash, and drugs.
- If you own a safe, make certain that it weighs several hundred pounds. Sometimes, burglars will drag the safe from your house and damage your interior.
- Oftentimes, the thieves work out of a four-door compact SUV (with one person behind to keep a look-out); they are usually in and out of your house in just a few minutes.
- The LAPD recommends enhanced cameras with pan-and-tilt features. If the camera can read a license plate, please report it immediately to 911.

### b. CD12 City Council Representative

- Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Field Deputy for CD12 was not available.

- c. Other Government Departments/Agencies
  - No other government agencies were represented.
- d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)
  - Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Joel Gonzalez was unavailable.
- e. Budget Advocate
  - Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the Budget Advocates May and June monthly reports to the neighborhood councils could be found at [https://www.budgetadvocates.org/\\_files/ugd/f03c84\\_2ac2b64851004103b9488637d1476dcc.pdf](https://www.budgetadvocates.org/_files/ugd/f03c84_2ac2b64851004103b9488637d1476dcc.pdf) and [https://www.budgetadvocates.org/\\_files/ugd/f03c84\\_1188bc287c484c7ba8103cf1c4976846.pdf](https://www.budgetadvocates.org/_files/ugd/f03c84_1188bc287c484c7ba8103cf1c4976846.pdf)
  - Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> will be the last virtual Budget Day; this event is open to all board members as well as the public. Registration is available at <http://tiny.cc/budgetday23>. Reporter Elizabeth Chou from the LA Daily News will do the keynote. If you can, please listen to the presentations by Council President Paul Krekorian, City Controller Kenneth Mejia, and Mayor Bass. This will be followed by seven breakout sessions [by region] shortly after 11AM. If you cannot attend, please register. We want Mayor Bass to know that hundreds registered for this event.

## VII. NWNC Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee and Government Affairs
  - Abby had nothing further to report.
- b. Public Safety
  - Kathleen reported that neighborhood watch continues to be a hot issue; Matt Hernandez from CD12 has also received a lot of complaints about this issue. Regretfully, we cannot use a local sign-maker for signage in the area. We must use the county's Department of Transportation vendor.
  - She added that she met with a stakeholder at the ice cream social; their neighbor parks his boats and lengthy trailers (containing his rentable portable restrooms) along the residential Tuba Street. This person has been reported to CD12 and the LAPD. When confronted, he simply moves the restrooms to another neighborhood, and dumps the contents into their local sewer.
  - Kathleen urged new board members to know their neighbors. If they belong a church, perhaps they could network with their fellow congregants. She also urged new board members to join Next Door to see what the neighborhood is thinking about.
- c. Planning and Land Use
  - Brian reported that they do not have any current issues. Lloyd Dent will continue to serve on this committee.
- d. Elections
  - Glen reported that the new board members would be formally affirmed in July.
  - Glenn Bailey added that there would be a post-election wrap up session on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 6.30PM via Zoom.
  - Abby wondered what happened to the money that was set aside for the elections. Salaried individuals were paid, even if the neighborhood council's election was cancelled.
- e. Homelessness

- Sonny reported that there would be additional regulations for the approved hotels under Mayor Bass’s “Inside Safe” program.
- While New York has seen an 18% decrease in their homeless population, Los Angeles continues to have 40,000 to 69,000 homeless in the city. The city’s budget for homelessness is \$3.1b for housing, mental health counselors, etc.

Homeless Individuals	City’s Budget for Homelessness	Per Person, for Housing, Mental Health Counselors, etc.
40,000 to 69,000	\$3.1b	\$44,928 to \$77,500

- Meanwhile, the per capita income for the county is \$61k/family.

f. Beautification

- Jorge reported that the NWNC’s city-approved vendor, Your Way Tree Service, has already made progress with tree trimming and clean up along Tampa Avenue. They will now tackle larger projects throughout Northridge, including trimming overgrown trees near the NCC (as the branches are coming through the wall) and street light blockage (as reported by a stakeholder during the ice cream social).
- The city should also reach out to homeowners whose trees become so overgrown that they block sidewalks and streets. Kathleen suggested a mass mailing to violators. Perhaps we could place a notice on the outside of their mailbox? Many homeowners do not realize that they are responsible for their overgrown vegetation.

g. Budget

- Per the most recent Monthly Expenditure Report (MER), the NWNC has \$14,500 available. Treasurer Joel anticipates spending \$2,400, leaving roughly \$12,100 in the budget.
- 2023-24 will be a very busy year and Joel hopes to carry over as much as possible (close to the allowable \$10k).
- The ice cream social was originally budgeted at \$6k; the total cost was close to \$6,400.

h. Outreach

- Janis thanked Sonny for risking his life directing all the traffic along Devonshire Street.
- A foster family with two children, who looked forward to receiving the popular bracelets [from a previous outreach event], really appreciated them.
- Regretfully, the Oakridge Estate Park’s Facility Director Miranda McCord could not allow folks to park near the house. This parking restriction may have resulted in the loss of a few attendees.
- The city would not allow Janis to sign a contract to rent a generator. Thankfully, Mikkie Loi and Pat LoPresti arranged for a generator from Mrs. Lupeann Campos.
- The library brought a few displays; someone suggested acquiring a generator to host an outdoors Barbara Stanwyck movie festival.

VIII. New Business

- a. Possible motions to participate in LAPD National Night Out, 1 August 2023
  - This outreach event does not require any funds, just volunteers to show up and participate in this event while they represent the NWNC. The promoters will provide chairs and an easy-up.
  - Sonny, Greg, Jorge, Janis, and Kathleen offered to volunteer for this event.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion for the NWNC to participate in the annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>; Jorge Jimenez and Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Possible motion to move up to \$20,000 in available funds into NPG and/or beautification categories to cover possible spending
  - This agenda item was tabled.
  
- c. Possible motion to approve spending up to \$5,000 for beautification and tree maintenance
  - The state requires that trees along streets be trimmed above 14', including branches hanging over from the backyard of nearby residents.
  - Jorge presented a \$5k invoice from Your Way Tree Service for tree trimming along Tampa Avenue. Although this \$5k can be paid via the credit card, it will reduce the anticipated rollover amount to approximately \$7k.
  - Janis reported that her HOA, where she serves as treasurer, is required to pay for their own tree trimming.
  - Joel expressed concern about how soon the work could be done. Jorge replied that they might be able to schedule the very next day.
  - Brian wondered what other services Your Way Tree Service may be able to provide; someone replied that they could break-up the cracked concrete around tree wells.
  - Jorge Jimenez made a motion to pay a \$5,000 invoice from Your Way Tree Service for beautification and tree maintenance; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed.

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

- d. Possible motion to approve spending up to \$5,000 for an NPG for Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) for furniture at the LAPD Devonshire Division
  - Richard Farra from SOLID mentioned that this year is SOLID's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - SOLID has an estimated budget of \$30k for new furniture for their community room, used by over 300 volunteers at the LAPD Devonshire Station at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue. In addition to SOLID, this room is used for the
 

California Emergency Mobile Patrol	Volunteer Bike Patrol
Community Police Advisory Board	Volunteer Community Patrol
Police Activities League Supports	Volunteer Surveillance Team
  - By renovating this room, they can have the meetings onsite rather than coordinating off-site meetings at churches, schools, etc.
  - The NWNC is unable to vote on this \$5k NPG tonight (as the check-processing deadline has passed). However, they can approve a \$500 credit card purchase for their name to be added to a plaque in the lobby of the LAPD's Devonshire site.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion to approve adding this \$5,000 SOLID NPG to the July agenda; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
  - Greg Wood made a motion to approve a \$500 credit card purchase for the NWNC's name to appear on a silver-level plaque in the lobby of the LAPD's Devonshire station; Jennifer Krowne seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (8) Edwards, Jimenez, Kraft, Krowne, Liampetchakul, Lowell, Wilson, and Wood  
 Abstain (3) Bailes, Cathcart, and Robinson

- e. Possible motion to approve spending up to \$5,000 for NPG for CATS "Safe Dates" training to prevent dating violence
  - This agenda item was tabled.
  
- f. Possible motion to approve spending up to \$2,500 for Friends of Vintage Magnet Elementary School (VMES) STEM program

- Samantha Trainor addressed the NWNC as a volunteer coach and parent for the Vex Robotics teams at VMES, North Hills.
- Every year, a new game is assigned to the teams to create a robot to play the game. This year, the game entailed collecting and shooting disks. The robots are designed, built, coded, and driven by the students in grades four through six (nine to eleven year olds).
- A few months ago, four robotics teams from VMES joined 774 other teams for the world championships in Dallas. While there, they partnered with kids from Taiwan, China, Australia, and other countries. The VMES team came in 9<sup>th</sup> place of the 77-teams in their division. In addition, one of their videos [from the 91343B Vex team] won a top award given to merely ten of the world teams.
- Additional information can be seen on their Duff-Bots YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b83zNHq-rAw>
- Currently, there are over seventy kids in the VMES after school program. It is unknown how many VMES students reside within the NWNC boundaries. As this is a magnet school, students are bussed in from all over the valley to attend. Upon graduation, many will move on to the Noble Middle School, which is within the NWNC boundaries. After their graduation from Noble, many former students, who are now in high school, return to VMES to help and coach the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- As this is a STEM magnet school, the robots are brought around to every classroom for display.
- Although VMES is located within the territory of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, they are requesting contributions from multiple neighborhood councils in the north valley. Prior to the 2022-23 funding cut-off on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, the North Hills Neighborhood Council pledged \$2,500 to this effort. As we are now past this funding deadline, this agenda item will be tabled until FY2023-24. Other fund-raising efforts include selling ice cream at school.

- g. Possible motion to approve NPG for SOLID for repair of monument sign for \$3,300
- This agenda item was tabled.

- h. Possible motion to approve LA Neighborhood Congress event sponsorship up to \$2,000, <https://www.neighborhoodcongress.la/sponsor>
- Congress treasurer Glenn Bailey reported that this year's event has an estimated budget of \$73k. As a cost-savings, they may do a box lunch rather than full catering. The city hall facilities are rent-free, however, the budget must allow for security.
  - Any sponsorship from neighborhood councils can be considered an Outreach expenses.
  - A \$1k contribution gets the neighborhood council a ½-page (possibly a full-page) advertisement in the program. The Tarzana Neighborhood Council already pledged \$4k.
  - As the deadline for any check requests for FY2022-23 has already passed, this must come from a council's 2023-24 budget.
  - If unable to attend in person, many of the keynote addresses will be filmed for appearance on the LA's City View channel 35.
  - Joel Lowell made a motion to approve a Congress of Neighborhood Councils contribution of \$1,000 from the NWNC's 2023-24 budget; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed.

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

- i. Possible motion to approve a Certificate of Acknowledgement for Mrs. Lupeann Campos, community volunteer
- Along with her husband, Mrs. Campos helped acquire the generator [at no cost to the NWNC] for the ice cream social.

- Abby Bailes made a motion for a certificate of acknowledgement to Lupeann Campos; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- j. Possible motion to approve a Certificate of Acknowledgement for Mr. Joseph Cooper and the Granada Hills Charter High School (GHCHS) Students, who performed at NWNC’s Salute to Community event
- As director of instrumental music (including the marching band, concert band, and orchestra) for GHCHS, Mr. Cooper brought all his students out to the community and led the bands in their outstanding performances.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion for a certificate of acknowledgement to Joseph Cooper; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- k. Possible motion to approve a Certificate of Acknowledgement for Andrea Alvarado for community graffiti removal
- As a member of the Northridge Beautiful Foundation, Andrea has led several efforts to clean-up Reseda Boulevard. However, she is the silent type, who does not like to toot her horn.
  - Oftentimes, the city will not clean graffiti or other such eyesores above the 1<sup>st</sup> floor level. Andrea leads her team upstairs to clean these higher levels that the city will not take care of.
  - Abby Bailes made a motion for a certificate of acknowledgement to Andrea Alvarado; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

l. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Reports (MER) from May 2023 NWNC

Date	Vendor	Category	Description	Amount
May 2	Golden State Storage	Office	Storage Facility	\$ 153.50
May 9	Porto’s Bakery	Office	Refreshments	126.10
May 9	Smart and Final	Office	Refreshments	12.25
May 9	Smart and Final	Office	Refreshments	104.33
May 9	Vons	Outreach	Ice Cream Social	339.94
May 17	Amazon Marketplace	Outreach	Ice Cream Social	25.69
May 18	Amazon Marketplace	Outreach	Ice Cream Social	78.44
May 20	Smart and Final	Outreach	Ice Cream Social	92.55
May 20	Vons	Outreach	Ice Cream Social	22.13
May 4	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Office	Monthly Web Service	250.00
May 4	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Office	Monthly Web Service	250.00
May 9	C&M Printing	Outreach	Election Materials	87.60
May 5	Apple One	Office	Meeting Minutes	275.20
May 9	C&M Printing	Outreach	Election Materials	3,817.79
			Total	<u>\$5,635.52</u>

- The check for the \$53.89 Zoom payment for renewal of the Zoom account has not yet cleared the bank. Abby suggested cancelling the check or requesting a refund, as we are not allowed to have Zoom meetings.
- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the May MER; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed.

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

- m. Approval of Monthly GBM Minutes for May 2023 NWNC Meeting
- This agenda item was tabled until July.



IX. Adjournment

- Abby adjourned the meeting at 9.26PM.