

NORTHRIDGE WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Regular General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

**In-person at The Northridge Christian Church
18901 Chatsworth St., Northridge, CA 91326**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD ROLL CALL:** The meeting of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council was called to order at 6:24 by NWNC president Jorge A Jiménez. Quorum was met with nine attending board members: Jorge Jiménez, Janis Kraft, Angelica Robinson, Kathleen Edwards, Joel Lowel, Greg Wood, Aaminah Babatunde-Bey, Arshia Malek and Zaven Atashian. Absent were: Glen Wilson, Brian Cathcart and Brian Morgan.

Three attendees were also present.

- I. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge of allegiance was recited.
- II. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
- III. **APPROVAL OF NWNC MONTHLY GBM MINUTES FOR October 2023:** Kathleen suggested a few revisions to the October board meeting minutes. Jorge will ask Christina to update the minutes. (Lowel/Edwards) moved that the minutes be approved with the requested revisions. The motion carried unanimously: 6-0-0. (three ineligible: Malek, Babatunde-Bey and Robinson) and 3 absent.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF NWNC MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORT (MER) from October 2023:** Treasurer Joel Lowel stated that expenditures were \$8,602 leaving a balance of \$23,802 in the budget. (Lowel/Edwards) moved that the October MER be approved. The motion carried unanimously: 9-0-0 (3 absent).
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- a) NWNC President Jorge Jiménez read the three announcements. December 5, 2023 NWNC Executive Board Meeting TBD; December 12, 2023 NWNC General Board Meeting; and DONE Training Updates for Board Members.
 - b) V.P. of Administration Kathleen Edwards announced that an LAUSD Town Hall would be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 in Lake Balboa at 6 p.m. for all boards in this district.
 - c) Greg Wood spoke about trees being recently trimmed on Tampa by the sidewalk. Jorge acknowledged that Kathy Katierie from CD12 has helped get this done.
 - d) Kathleen spoke about the efforts to find a meeting space for board and committee meetings. She talked about the need to pay extra when using LAUSD schools and how there is an effort to institute a Civic Center permit instead of having to pay for a license permit. The fee would then be \$38/hour with a one-time filing fee of \$90.00 to arrange with the schools for meeting space. (Security would be extra).
 - e) Kathleen also spoke about putting together certificates of appreciation.
 - f) She noted that at the VANC meeting, there was discussion about the creation of a new Code of Conduct; there is talk about the conflict of interest between 501C3s and neighborhood councils; and NCs are asking for more money in the City budget due to rising expenses for rental spaces and equipment. However, she noted that with the budget shortfall, it is unlikely that NCs will get it next year.
- VI. **Presidential Comments:** Jorge attended Councilmember John Lee's meeting with neighborhood councils and reviewed the high points: He talked about efforts to repair street lighting and make it harder to steal copper wire due to reinforcing the mechanisms. They have been able to repair 72% of the lights in the district.

He reported on the Granada Hills Street Fair which NWNC was not able to have a booth at. But Budget Rep. Glenn Bailey helped with sharing outreach on their behalf, as did Northridge East NC, distributing flyers from their booth for NWNC.

He also attended a Town Hall meeting with a focus on homeless veterans. He said that California leads the nation in homeless veterans but there are a lot of programs now reaching out to the veterans and the number of homeless is going down.

VII. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

a) **Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division** (non-emergency number 1 877-ASK LAPD). Mickie Loi, volunteer with LAPD's Devonshire division invited the board and stakeholders to a turkey giveaway on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. when Devonshire Pals and the 99-Cent store give away turkeys for one cent. A holiday gift drive for kids will take place on Friday, November 17, 2023, the Walmart Super Center and Saturday, Nov. 18th at Dicks Sporting Goods. It's called "Pack a Police Car" to collect toys for kids. Unwrapped toys will be accepted until Dec. 4th at the LAPD Devonshire Division. Spanish language CERT trainings are being planned for January 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. See: CERT-LA.com for the location.

b) **CD 12 City Council Representative:** Jonathan Coto reported on behalf of CD12. He is Councilman Lee's Special Projects Coordinator. Jonathan talked about CD12 leading the pilot project to reinforce electrical boxes (as previously noted) by making it harder to steal copper wire.

He talked about Mayor Karen Bass's executive directive to improve the "311" app to make it easier to use. As chairperson of the Public Works Committee, Councilmember Lee is going to work closely with her to improve the 311 system.

Last week, they held the 10th annual Educators Roundtable which shares programs with teachers on how the City can help them. Each school gets a bus to use and tables and chairs are provided for educators' events. He talked about the annual film festival in which all the schools are invited to participate. The City pays for film equipment to help students create short films which are judged. A Red Carpet event is held at CSUN in May and all the students' films are screened and awards are distributed.

Jonathan also works with Urban Forestry to improve the trees in the district. He noted that there are more trees in CD12 than in many other districts in the City. Kathleen asked about the new substance used for street paving. Jonathan referred her to another staff member who handles that. Greg asked is there is a way to prevent trees from growing too large. Jonathan said they are planting specific trees that work well with this climate. Angelica asked about funding for repairs to the freeways and how that could help our area. Jonathan said he could look into it but didn't think it would affect their district.

c) **Other Government Departments/Agencies:** Uzoamaka Aniezue, field representative for Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo, spoke about state funding for district. She gave a short report on the bills to deal with elder abuse and to create more affordable housing. They will be holding an open house at their office in Santa Clarita but no date has been set yet. Jorge asked about events that would help veterans or the homeless. She said there would be a program coming up in early 2024. She will email him with more details.

d) **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** No report.

e) **Budget Advocate, budgetadvocates.org:** Garry Fordyce spoke on behalf of Glenn Bailey: The budget advocates are forming their committees now and meeting with City department heads. Here is an excerpt of Garry's report: The impact of the new and prospective labor agreements with the City's public sector unions will result in deficits of \$170 million this year (2023-24) and \$440 million next year (2024-25), a total of more than \$600 million. The good news is that a Superior Court judge dismissed the challenge to the voter

approved (57%) Measure ULA tax that will levy a 4% tax on property sales of \$5 million or more and 5.5% on sales of \$10 million or more. The plaintiffs plan to appeal.

Budget Advocates Activity: City Controller Mejia held a Zoom meeting October 26 to discuss the City Budget in a talk titled “How The Budget Process REALLY Works!” You can watch the recording at this [link](#).

The Budget Advocates are creating appointments with the City Departments for the next White Paper. This is an exciting opportunity to build contacts with people who are in City Department leadership. You don’t need to be a Budget Representative or a Board member. All Los Angeles stakeholders are eligible to work with us on this and no accounting experience is necessary. If you or someone you know has a passion for the work of one or more City Departments, please let us know at LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com.

IX. NWNC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- f) Executive Committee, Jorge A Jiménez talked about efforts to secure a physical location for meetings but noted that with the passage of Senator Portantino’s SB411 by the state legislature and the L.A. City Council, it might eliminate the need for meeting in person.
- g) Public Safety, Kathleen Edwards noted street lights still in need of repair (at Chatsworth and Tampa); she talked about requests for DONE to hold meetings with the NCs more frequently instead of quarterly or every other month and referred to the Valley NCs as a kind of stepchild of the City.
- h) Government Affairs, Greg Wood reviewed different legislative reports that he said might be relevant to NWNC.

- L.A. Homeless Services Workforce has issued an investigative report that was requested. (CF231245).
- Pedestrian intervals, Vision Zero Study, DOT (CF231210)
- Appointments for City Commissions: (CF231200-S157) includes Cultural Affairs, Board of Library Commissioners, Cannabis Regulation Commission, Climate Energy Commission, and Board of Taxing Commissioners.
- Los Angeles Homeless Services Inside Safe Operations: (CF231194)
- Motion for LADOT to report back on a draft for speeding safety systems (CF231168).
- Motion request for LAPD to report to the City Council with details on how they will implement the Feather Alert System (Disappearance of indigenous women): (CF231165)
- Littering in mass as a way of disseminating hate speech: (CF231164)

Kathleen noted that individuals can comment on any of these things or bring them to the Govt. Affairs Committee so the board can comment on them as a whole.

- i) Planning and Land Use (Brian Cathcart) – No report.
- j) Elections (Glen Wilson) – No report.
- f) Homelessness, Angelica Robinson hopes to have one more meetings before the end of the year.
- g) Beautification, Jorge asked Greg to thank Kathy of CD12 for their support with the West Vally Alliance.
- h) Budget, Joel Lowell said he had nothing further to discuss.
- i) Outreach, Janis Kraft referred her info to “New Business.”
- j) Education (Arshia Malek) – No report.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Ad Hoc Committee update on finding new location considerations for committee and general board meetings:** Jorge has reached out to Joel about getting this process started. He noted that it is always good to have a physical meeting place while also having the flexibility of a virtual meeting. They are getting closer to locking in a new location. The City Council is asking NC boards if they want

to go to virtual. Greg noted that it would take a 2/3's vote of the board to pass this. This motion will come up on the December board meeting agenda. Jorge also noted that Glen Wilson is no longer serving on the board.

- b. **Discussion and possible motion to submit a CIS on LA City Council File 23-0530 Ethics and Conflict of Interest Laws / Disclosure Requirement / Registered Lobbyist / Relative / Councilmember or Staff / Lobbying Prohibition (McOsker – Yaroslavsky - Krekorian):** Jorge explained that this motion, LA City CF23-0530, was introduced on May 16, 2023 and referred to the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform. The motion requests the Chief Legislative Analyst, in consultation with the Ethics Department and the City Attorney, to report to the Council within 30 days on whether and how the City could adopt revisions to the ethics and conflict of interest laws. The board previously tabled discussion on this motion.

There was discussion about whether board members wanted to submit comments on this Council File which requires disclosures of relationships with lobbyists, councilmembers, and close relatives on lobbying any project in that CM district. It also prohibits these people from receiving communication on tentative land use projects. This motion was put forth to ensure that that process is protected. **(Edwards/Lowell) moved to approve developing a CIS in favor of supporting this CF.** There was discussion about adding "brother, sister or direct family member" to the language of those this CF would apply to as well as senior planning staff. Jorge will draft it. **The motion carried: 8-1-0 (Robinson) with 3 absences.**

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Appoint a second BAC signer and cardholder for NWNC, to replace Glen Wilson as second signer and cardholder. Jorge noted that Glen is no longer on the board. Janis Kraft volunteered to be the second signer; Joel is the first signer. **(Jimenez/Robinson) moved to appoint Janis as second signer. The motion carried unanimously: 9-0-0 (with 3 absences).**
- b) Discussion and possible motion to approve funding of up to \$600 for purchase of food and beverages for December holiday celebration to be held at the conclusion of the December General Board Meeting. Janis requested up to \$600.00 to end the year on a positive note. The December meeting will be a short one. (Wood/Malek) moved to approve this amount of funding. There was discussion about what type of food to purchase.

(Wood/Robinson) moved to amend the timing of the holiday food allocation from 'after the meeting' to the 'start of the meeting.' The motion to amend the wording of the motion carried unanimously: 9-0-0 (with 3 absences).

(Robinson/Babatunde-Bey) moved to approve up to \$600.00 for NWNC's December holiday celebration. The motion carried unanimously: 9-0-0 (with 3 absences).

- c) **Discussion to request for a Northridge West Neighborhood Council board member to volunteer to attend the Northridge Vision meetings held the second Wednesday's of each month from 2pm-4pm via Zoom.** Jorge noted that this is a great way for the different area NCs to collaborate, having attended a previous one. Jorge said that he would try to attend. Chris Sales is the contact person at CSUN.

XI: ADJOURNMENT: (Wood/Robinson) moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. The motion carried unanimously: 9-0-0 (with 3 absences).