

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Board Meeting (GBM)
Tuesday, 13 February 2024
Northridge Christian Church • 18901 Chatsworth Street, Northridge 91326

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Jorge Jiménez called the meeting to order at 6.22PM and welcomed seven board members and at least six stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
Here (7) Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Jorge Jiménez, Janis Kraft, Joel Lowell, Arshia Malekzadeh, and Greg Wood
Absent (4) Zaven Atashian, Aaminah Babatunde-Bea, Brian Morgan, and Angelica Robinson

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comment

- Emergency Preparedness Facilitator David Brown reported that Saturday, April 6th the Woodland Hills, Tarzana, Reseda, and Warner Center Chambers of Commerce and the LA Rams will co-host a Grateful Hearts Fundraiser for the LAPD and LAFD. This fundraiser will begin at 9AM at the Warner Center Park at 5800 Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Woodland Hills.
- This event will include food, fun, and entertainment for all, including:
 - Bands
 - Book Mobile
 - Car Show
 - Disaster Preparedness Fair
 - Firefighters BBQ
 - Heroes Read to the Kiddos
 - LA Ram’s Rampage and Cheerleaders
 - LAPD and LAFD Vehicles and Demonstrations
 - LAPD Officers Serving Tacos
 - Photo Booth
- In the event of rain, this event will be postponed to Saturday, April 20th.
- A highlight will be Jay Leno presenting a new Cadillac to a well-deserving veteran.
- All valley neighborhood councils are urged to participate with a \$500 contribution.
- For additional information, please visit their website at <https://www.woodlandhillsc.net/gratefulhearts.php>
- This event will take up the entire Warner Center Park, bordered by Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Owensmouth Avenue, Califa, and Marylee Streets. Free parking will be available at the adjacent office building’s garages.

- Dr. Janie Dam is a working single mom who is running for a seat on the school board to ensure that students of all backgrounds and family situations can have the supportive school culture and quality education that they need to thrive in life. She believes in good schools and feels that the public school system is paramount to working parents. She will bring a fresh, new perspective.
- Prior to teaching, Dr. Dam was an attorney in Chicago. She was appointed as an Illinois Assistant Attorney General doing advocacy work protecting vulnerable immigrant small business owners. Janie then acquired her EdD, followed her parent’s career-path, and began teaching in 2000; first at Holmes Middle School and then Granada Hills Charter High School (GHCHS).
- She returned to the classroom full-time after the pandemic to help alleviate the teacher shortage. She believes that parents (who were the first teachers) and teachers need to work together. Janie

continues to be in demand as an effective teacher of real-world high school mathematics. In addition, she wears many hats at GHCHS:

- Learning loss intervention teacher
- General education co-teacher in the special education program
- International studies curriculum coordinator
- STEM advisor and coordinator
- Kiwanis Key Club and Rotary Interact Club advisor
- Testing and data coordinator for both college and vocational advanced placement
- Student assessment and learning management systems administrator
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation focus group leader
- School of Wheels tutor for homeless children in the valley
- Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense
- Elected to House of Representatives of United Teachers of LA
- Like many, she comes from a family of hardworking first-generation immigrants. Her mission is to make a difference in public education to ensure that each student can achieve their American dream.
- Her family has also struggled with near tragedy. A social worker told Janie that her missing daughter, who struggled with mental health challenges, was found by police officers on the roof of a building. Her daughter is now healthy, happy, and dreams of going to medical school.
- Regretfully, Dr. Dam's name is not on the ballot; she is a write-in candidate. To get the word out, Dr. Dam has sent out over 65,000 postcards throughout Northridge, Porter Ranch, and Granada Hills.
- For additional information, please visit her website at <https://janiedam.com>.

- Glenn Bailey mentioned that Northridge Vision would have their monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 14th at 2PM via Zoom.
- This afternoon, Tuesday, February 13th, Mayor Bass held her quarterly infrastructure meeting. They discussed organic material collection.
- The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), representing the valley's thirty-four neighborhood councils, met on Thursday, February 8th. The key topic of discussion was the housing element update by Maria Kalban of United Neighbors. R1 zones, for single-family homes, are now exempt from any overlays, rezoning, and the construction of eight-story buildings. New maps will be released this month. Congratulations to all who participated in voicing concerns on this issue to our elected officials.
- The March 14th VANC meeting will include a presentation by Yusef Robb, chief strategist for tk/communications, who will discuss the Sepulveda Boulevard transportation corridor. Additional information can be found at their website at <https://www.metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor/>
- Additional information on the VANC meetings can be found at their website at <https://vanc34.org>.

IV. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for January 2024

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the November minutes; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed.
 - Here (6) Cathcart, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, Malekzadeh, and Wood
 - Abstain (1) Edwards
 - Absent (4) Atashian, Babatunde-Bea, Morgan, and Robinson

V. Approve of NWNC Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) from January 2024

- Treasurer Joel reported that the NWNC no longer has a negative balance in the Neighborhood Purpose Grand (NPG) account. The budget now reflects the rolled-over \$6,609.75 from FY2022-23, with \$3,626.97 remaining in the NPG account and \$7,890.57 for outreach and office expenses.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to approve the January MER; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
December 18	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Web Services	\$ 250.00
January 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	153.50
January 5	Porto’s Bakery	Refreshments	139.61
January 9	Smart and Final	Refreshments	21.20
January 11	Apple One	Meeting Minutes	192.00
January 17	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Web Services	250.00
			\$1,006.31

VI. Announcements

- a. March 5th NWNC Executive Board Meeting
- b. March 12th NWNC General Board Meeting
- c. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Training Updates for Board Members
 - Jorge reached out to a board member who had not yet completed their training.
- d. Non-Agenda Items
 - Kathleen discussed two recent city council files which discuss amending the city charter:
 - 23-1027 This unanimously passed the city council on Tuesday, December 12th. DONE supported this recommendation for charter amendments, to be reviewed by the Chief Legislative Analyst, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Ethics Commission, Planning Department, City Attorney, and City Clerk. This may appear on our ballots in 2024 or 2026.
 - 22-1232 This requests that the City Attorney develop a ballot measure to amend the charter to make the Ethics Commission more independent and streamlined. It also expands enforcement processes to increase integrity and effectiveness.
 - Someone mentioned that the February NWNC meeting agenda included congressional candidate Chris Ahuja without inviting other candidates. Perhaps the NWNC should host another special meeting to invite other candidates prior to the next NWNC meeting on Tuesday, March 12th. The NWNC may work with Pastor Ric to reserve the Northridge Christian Church on another Tuesday for this special meeting. Brian recommended hosting this special meeting on Tuesday, February 20th.

VII. Presidential Comments

- The current Zoom account may still be valid. The NWNC is awaiting the latest Zoom licensing information from DONE’s Director of Innovation, Gibson Nyambura.

VIII. Government Reports

- a. Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division
 - The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
 - Senior Lead Officer Sandra Zamora and Devonshire community relations volunteer Mikkie Loi were unavailable to present a report.

b. CD12 City Council Representative

- Councilman Lee’s Field Deputy Kathy Lettieri reported that license plate theft is a concern for the LAPD in the Chatsworth/Porter Ranch community. Thieves are removing valid plates and installing them onto stolen cars. Special screws, which deter such theft, are available. Frequently stolen cars, such as a Honda CRV, are especially concerning.
- Red light cameras may soon return to freeway entrances and exits.
- Due to the recent rainstorms, there are several new potholes. Please call 311, go to the city’s <https://lacity.gov/myla311> website, or click on the myla311 app on your smart phone to report these potholes. As an added suggestion, please alert Kathy of your service request number so that she may also track it. Someone reported that a damaged wall at Corbin Avenue and Lassen Street has been reported to the city.
- Kathy is also working with the Bureau of Street Services to improve the dim streetlights at Germain and Harnett Streets.
- She added that street cracks narrower than 2” are fixed with a slurry; the street repaves the street when the cracks are greater than 2”.
- Kathleen reported that there has been graffiti tagging along the west wall (by the wash) near the Oakridge Park. Even if we do not know whose jurisdiction it is, Kathy tries to get involved.
- Kathleen reported on a sidewalk food vendor who is cooking with open flames within a fire zone along Tampa Avenue. This could be a recipe for disaster. The county’s health department may have the most teeth for enforcement against street food vendors. Even though there are open flames, the LAFD is virtually powerless.
- There was a food vendor at the corner of Mason Avenue and Devonshire Street operating until 1AM. Kathy was able to convince them to move farther from nearby residences.

c. Other Government Department/Agency

- Captain Arturo Tarango from the LAFD’s Battalion 15 (which covers Northridge, Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, and Chatsworth) reported that the following local LAFD stations have sandbags available:

Station	Street Address	Town
18	12050 Balboa Boulevard	Granada Hills
28	11641 Corbin Avenue	Porter Ranch
70	9861 Reseda Boulevard	Northridge

- Please bring your own shovel.
- While you prepare for the upcoming rainstorms, please also take a moment to confirm that the batteries in your smoke detectors are fully functional.
- In the event of a debris flow or mudslide, please call 911 and adhere to the direction of the LAFD respondent. For merely a street flooding (if you and your vehicle are not in the middle of it), he urged everyone to take advantage of the city’s services by calling 311, visit the city’s <https://lacity.gov/myla311> website, or via the myla311 app on your smart phone.

d. DONE

- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Joel Gonzales reported that all the neighborhood council’s Zoom licenses are valid through April. An order for everyone’s Zoom license will be placed in March for distribution in April.
- It was recently reported that Thursday, March 28th, the city will host a Women’s Leadership Event to celebrate Women’s History Month at the Tom Bradley Center at City Hall. This event will highlight the ladies of the neighborhood councils who are volunteering for their community. All female board members should register for this event.

- DONE is re-assembling a group of Homelessness Alliance Representatives to connect with the city and other neighborhood councils to discuss homelessness strategies. They may also coordinate and co-host town halls to give stakeholders an opportunity to speak up on local issues and potential solutions. Not all the details have yet come out, but the meetings will probably be via Zoom. Joel recommended that the NWNC nominate more than one representative.

e. Budget Advocate

- Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the advocate's February report went out on Monday, February 5th.
- There are currently over 4,800 employment vacancies within the city representing 19% of the workforce. The following key departments have vacancies of more than 20%

Engineering	Recreation and Parks	Street Services
Libraries	Sanitation	Transportation
- As a result, the city will
 - Limit all hiring to non-critical positions,
 - Review the hiring process for critical positions (police, fire, personnel sanitation, etc.),
 - Eliminate all non-critical vacant positions, and
 - Restructure selected services and programs impacted by the elimination of vacant positions.
- Proprietary departments, such as the LADWP, are not impacted because they rely on business related revenues and fees.
- Council File 23-0600-S115 was unanimously approved on Friday, December 8th. This contains the CAO's report and the amendments from both the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee and the city council. This file can be found at <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-0600-S113>.
- Any budget gaps will require the City to rely on the reserve fund. The city will also consider increasing fees (for trash collection and planning) and could place measures on the ballot to increase taxes. There is also a concern about how to fund housing programs.
- The advocates are preparing for Budget Day on Saturday, June 15th in-person at City Hall. They hope to have the following in attendance:
 - Mayor Karen Bass
 - President of City Council Paul Krekorian
 - Chair of the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee Bob Blumenfield
 - CAO Matthew Szabo
- After the main conference, the advocates will break into their regional districts to discuss city services and elect advocates for their next two-year term.
- Only Budget Representatives (two per neighborhood council) are eligible to run for a position with the advocates.
- These past two years, the advocates hosted a virtual town hall in February with CAO Matthew Szabo and Director of Administrative Services Armando Ruiz. Everyone has agreed to do this, but a date has not yet been set.
- They hope to conduct a town hall sometime in March to discuss controller Kenneth Mejia's audit regarding LAPD helicopters.
- Mayor Bass is scheduled to release her budget on Saturday, April 20th. The city council will begin discussing this proposed budget in late April.

- For additional information about the Advocates, please visit their website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>

IX. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- Jorge reported that the Executive Committee has not been able to meet.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen reported that effective January 1st, one cannot park within 15' to 20' of a crosswalk. The city is supposed to paint the curbs red, so parkers know not to park so close. Regretfully, this may take away parking spaces.
- Jorge reported that there is a traffic related pedestrian death in LA every two days. Hence, the city is looking for ways to improve pedestrian safety.

c. Government Affairs

- Greg had no report.

d. Planning and Land Use

- Brian will schedule the next meeting via Zoom.

e. Elections

- This agenda item was tabled, as there was no report.

f. Homelessness

- This agenda item was tabled, as there was no report.

g. Beautification

- Saturday, January 20th, Jorge attended the standing room only Tree People event at the Northridge Public Library. He is now on the email list for the Tree People, who do shrub clearance, plantings, and provide guidance on a tree's maintenance on behalf of schools, median, and public spaces.
- Others may sign up for the Tree People's emailed newsletter via their website at <https://www.treepeople.org/get-involved/>

h. Budget

- Joel had no news to report; hence this agenda item was tabled.

i. Outreach

- Janis had no news to report; hence this agenda item was tabled.

j. Education

- Arshia had no news to report; hence this agenda item was tabled.

X. New Business

- ### a. Discussion and possible motion to assemble an Ad Hoc Committee to review and present recommendations for amending NWNC bylaws, if needed, before the deadline of April 1st
- Brian Cathcart, Joel Lowell, and Greg Wood volunteered to serve on this committee. As this is an ad hoc committee, they can meet at any time, and no agenda is necessary.

- It was hoped that all board members would share their ideas with Brian, Greg, and Joel prior to the next NWNC meeting on March 12th.
 - Kathleen Edwards made a motion to form this ad hoc committee to change the bylaws; Arshia Malekzadeh seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Kathleen Edwards made a motion for Brian Cathcart, Joel Lowell, and Greg Wood to serve on this ad hoc committee; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- b. Discussion and possible motion to approve NPG funding of up to \$500 for Canoga Park Senior Citizens Club’s hosting of the Parks and Recreation “Salute to Recreation” Senior Dance being held at the Northridge Recreation Center on May 3rd.
- CD12’s Deputy District Director Myrka Martinez spoke on behalf of the non-profit Canoga Park Senior Citizen’s Club and read a letter regarding this agenda item. This \$500 will go towards food and refreshments for this event. They anticipate 100 to 200 attendees listening and dancing to the live Motown band. One does not have to be a senior citizen to participate in this event.
 - Kathleen added that several neighborhood councils in the area already contributed \$500 to this event.
 - Myrka will request that the NWNC receives an acknowledgement within the program.
 - Prior to COVID, these Salute to Recreation and Senior Dance festivities were an annual event. At that time, neighborhood councils were invited to nominate an outstanding senior who served their community.
 - Glenn Bailey added that CD12 might also engage a physical sponsor, such as the North Valley YMCA or the Valley Relics Museum, who have previously supported this event. He also mentioned that area 10a on the NPG application was blank; this may need to be corrected to reflect a start date.
 - Brian Cathcart made a motion to support this \$500 NPG; Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- c. Discussion and possible motion to amend paragraph B.5 on page 3 of NWNC’s bylaws to add the words “...or give preference to...” after the word “against”.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion that this agenda item be tabled and deferred to the newly formed bylaws ad hoc committee; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- d. Discussion and possible motion to award former NWNC board member Glen Wilson a certificate of acknowledgement for his many years of service to NWNC
- Jorge recently chatted with the former NWNC board member as Glen transitions to his new assisted care residence in Granada Hills. Glen appreciates staying connected with folks, but he has difficulty answering his new telephone. He is frequently away, exercising or participating in social activities. If you do not get an immediate answer from Glen, please keep trying.
 - Glenn Bailey mentioned that Glen still has items that belong to the NWNC. Glen’s friend Jeff is sorting through Glen’s items and will return NWNC products to the board in a few months.
 - Janis Kraft made a motion to present a certificate of acknowledgement to Glen Wilson; Arshia Malekzadeh seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

- Joel Lowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.07PM; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.