

APPROVED  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
General Board Meeting (GBM) via ZOOM  
Tuesday, 12 March 2024

- I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call
  - President Jorge Jiménez called the meeting to order at 6.20PM and welcomed nine board members and two stakeholders.
  - A quorum was declared via the following roll call:  
Here (9) Zaven Atashian, Aaminah Babatunde-Bea, Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Jorge Jiménez, Janis Kraft, Joel Lowell, Brian Morgan, and Angelica Robinson  
Absent (2) Arshia Malekzadeh and Greg Wood
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
  - Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. General Public Comment
  - Pat LoPresti has been with the Oakridge Estate for over fifteen-years. In 2019, they hosted a free public event whereupon people brought their horses to the estate and talked to kids about these horses, what sounds horses make, what do they eat, how do they sleep, etc. This may seem basic for those of us who grew up near ranches and farms, but it was very heartwarming to watch inner-city kids, who did not grow up around horses, learn something new. The park rangers would like to host a similar event again, possibly in late May/early June. To achieve this, they would like the forty parking spaces near the house to be open and available to the public.
  - Pat may return to the NWNC's April meeting requesting Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) funding for this Meet the Horses event. Perhaps \$500 to \$800 for banners, signs, horse treats (carrots), etc.
  - The city's Recreation and Parks Department may also publicize this event. Perhaps CD12 could mention this in their newsletter?
  - Brian Cathcart liked this idea as it highlights the equestrian history of Northridge.
  - Kathleen recommended that Pat get together with Janis, the NWNC's Outreach Coordinator.
  - Janis added that since she has been with the NWNC, they have hosted four events at the Oakridge Park. However, the upper parking lot near the house has not always been available. In addition, perhaps the NWNC could team with another area neighborhood council for this event?
  - Glenn Bailey added that the city's Recreation and Parks Department has scaled back on their activities. Years ago, the annual Salute to Recreation event at the Northridge Recreation Center attracted over 80,000 people; this year's event will attract fewer people as there will not be music nor dance performances.
  - The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), representing the valley's thirty-four neighborhood councils, will meet via Zoom on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. This month's guest speaker will be CD12 Councilman John Lee. Additional information on the VANC meetings can be found at their website at <https://vanc34.org>.
  - Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10AM, Earth Day will be celebrated by an LADWP-sponsored Environmental and Community Resource Fair [including guided nature hikes, story telling, and live animal exhibitions] at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve along Valley Circle Boulevard, just west of Plummer Street in Chatsworth. Additional information can be found at

IV. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for February 2024

- Angelica Robinson made a motion to approve the February minutes; Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (8) Atashian, Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, Morgan, and Robinson  
Abstain (1) Edwards  
Absent (2) Malekzadeh and Wood

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

- Treasurer Joel reported that the \$500 NPG funding allocation for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> “Salute to Recreation” Senior Dance was approved.
- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the February MER; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
February 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	\$153.50
February 6	Apple One	Meeting Minutes	121.60
February 9	Porto’s Bakery	Refreshments	152.00
February 13	Smart and Final	Refreshments	10.70
February 13	Apple One	Meeting Minutes	204.80
			<u>\$642.60</u>

VI. Announcements

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> NWNC Executive Board Meeting
- April 9<sup>th</sup> NWNC General Board Meeting
- Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Training Updates for Board Members
  - Jorge reached out to a board member who had not yet completed their training.
- Non-Agenda Items
  - Kathleen suggested that perhaps the Beautification Committee and city’s Recreation and Parks Department could provide a ramp to the upper parking lot of the Oakridge Estate for Pat’s proposed equestrian festival. Pat agreed that this would be a terrific idea. Otherwise, attendees would have to park nearby and risk walking along busy Devonshire Street.
  - She also mentioned the recently discussed city council file 15-0389-S2. This pertains to community enrichment committees/councils, which would like the same benefits as the city’s 99 neighborhood councils, but without the Brown Act restrictions that neighborhood councils must adhere to. Perhaps the NWNC could establish a Community Impact Statement (CIS) on this issue during the April meeting?

VII. Presidential Comments

- Jorge thanked everyone who participated in the February 27<sup>th</sup> special meeting of congressional candidates.
- He looks forward to hosting additional Zoom meetings, especially the committee meetings.

VIII. Government Reports

- Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division
  - The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.

- Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora reported the following Year-to-Date (YTD) crime statistics for the area:

<b>Basic Car</b>	<b>A23</b>	<b>A35</b>	<b>A67</b>	<b>A81</b>
<b>SLO</b>	<b>Efren Corral</b>	<b>John Parker</b>	<b>Sandra Zamora</b>	<b>Sean Taylor</b>
Approximate Borders	Northwest of Lassen and Limekiln Canyon	Northeast of Lassen and Limekiln Canyon	Southeast of Lassen and Tampa	Southwest of Tampa and Devonshire
Homicide	Down 100%	No Change	No Change	No Change
Rape	Down 50%	No Change	Down 33.3%	Down 100%
Robbery	Down 14.7%	Up 100%	Up 66.7%	Down 17.6%
Aggravated Assault	Up 70%	Down 33.7%	Down 40.9%	Up 26.9%
Total Violent Crimes	Up 20%	Up 12.5%	Down 28.6%	Up 4.4%
Burglary	Down 19.5%	Down 1.8%	Down 25%	Down 46.7%
Grand Theft Auto (GTA)	Up 81%	Up 28.6%	Up 37.5%	Up 60%
Vehicular Burglary	Up 41%	Up 30.6%	Down 22.5%	Up 24.1%
Theft	Up 18.4%	Down 38.7%	Down 53.6%	Up 30.7%
Total Property Crimes	Up 16.8%	Down 4.6%	Down 22.4%	Up 15%
YTD Crimes for 2024	163	184	110	285
YTD Crimes for 2023	139	190	144	252
Change	Up 17.3%	Down 3.2%	Down 23.6%	Up 13.1
YTD Arrests for 2024	93	37	65	142
YTD Arrests for 2023	116	58	54	141
Change	Down 19.8%	Down 36.7%	Up 20.4%	Down .7%

- Northridge is seeing an increase in GTA, especially affecting Kias and Hyundais.
- The biggest day for crimes is Monday with the busiest time being between midnight and 6AM.
- RVs whose tags expired more than six months ago are being impounded.
- Although there are facilities available for the unhoused, the homeless often stay merely a few days, and then leave.
- SLO Zamora’s monthly basic car meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of each month via Zoom.
- The LAPD’s Devonshire meeting will host their monthly Retailers meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11AM. Officer Torres will moderate this meeting where they will discuss:
  - Crime prevention tactics
  - Recent arrests
  - Crime statistics
  - Your area police contact
- Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> SLO Zamora will participate in Coffee with a Cop at the Yonder Coffee at 9028 Balboa Boulevard starting at 12.30PM.
- Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> the Grocery Outlet at 9805 Mason Avenue will do outreach and celebrate their three-year anniversary.
- Glenn Bailey expressed concern about the neighborhood watch signs. SLO Zamara replied that she has discussed this with Officer Parker, and they do not know why this process is so difficult. Years ago, the LAPD’s Devonshire Division had lawn signs available for distribution. Perhaps they can do that again. Officer Zamora will provide the NWNC logo to their vendor so that it may appear on these signs.

- b. CD12 City Council Representative
  - No one from CD12 was available to present.
- c. Other Government Department/Agency
  - No one from other agencies was available.
- d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)
  - Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) Joel Gonzales was unable to attend this evening's meeting and will be away from the office for the remainder of March. In his absence, DONE's Director of Policy and Government Relations Thomas Soong will be the NWNC's temporary NEA.
- e. Budget Advocate
  - Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the advocate's March report went out on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - There was a concern about how the city will fund its homeless budget in the next fiscal year. The budget for the Homeless Services and Housing Program for fiscal year 2023-24 is \$1.3b. This funding includes the following allocations:
 

City's General Fund	\$250m
City Departments	\$226m
Proposition HHH Funds	\$262m
Measure ULA	\$150m
  - However, it is unknown if these funds will be available in FY2024-25.
  - The city anticipates a budget gap of \$350m to \$400m next fiscal year due to the impact of the new labor agreements with the LAPD, LAFD, and civilian workers.
  - Funding from Measure ULA is questionable because it is tied up in litigation. Approved by the voters in 2022, Measure ULA calls for a 4% tax on property sales of \$5m or more and 5.5% on sales of \$10m or more. While the House LA Fund balance was projected to be \$672m, the cautious city used only \$150m. It is unknown if these funds and any additional tax revenue will be available for next year's homeless budget.
  - The city may place a measure on the ballot to authorize a new series of bonds or a property tax to fund the homeless program. Any such measure would require the approval of two thirds of the voters in November.
  - As April 20<sup>th</sup> is a Saturday, Mayor Bass has until Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to present her proposed budget.
  - This year's city council budget file will be 24-0600; this may open very soon.
  - Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> the advocates will host their annual Virtual Town Hall on DONE's Proposed Budget for FY2024-25. The slide presentation from this meeting is available at [https://www.budgetadvocates.org/\\_files/ugd/f03c84\\_3b8aa356a01641c5914b4df4cff5293e.pdf](https://www.budgetadvocates.org/_files/ugd/f03c84_3b8aa356a01641c5914b4df4cff5293e.pdf)
  - Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> possibly at 1PM, the advocates may host their overall Budget Town Hall via Zoom
  - The advocates are preparing for Budget Day on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 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 become advocates.
- Although this Budget Day is free to the public, it costs \$30k to host this event. In previous years, the advocates received \$10k from DONE. However, those funds are no longer available; the advocates may request funds from the neighborhood councils
- 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 as he has been out of town on business travel. He hopes to have an Executive Committee meeting in April.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen reported a new distraction scam whereby thieves place packages on the backs of cars at the mall. When the driver exits their vehicle to review the package, they are robbed.
- Someone spoke to the sidewalk food vendor along Tampa Avenue who was blocking the sidewalk and cooking with open flames.
- A program to bolt one’s house to its foundation to protect it against earthquakes will be announced in the next few months.
- Kathleen heard a rumor that Neighborhood Watch signs on private property may be reviewed by the city’s Department of Transportation.
- Kathleen remains concerned about the LAPD’s air support/helicopter division. She also provided the following statistics, comparing the three largest cities in the USA

	LA	New York	Chicago
Square Miles	503	303	235
Population	12.6m	8.8m	2.7m
Police Officers	8,959	36,000	12,000
Ratio Police: Citizens	1:1,406	1:245	1:225

- Because of this disparity, LA may need to depend more on air support for our significantly larger city.

c. Government Affairs

- This agenda item was tabled, as there was no report in Greg’s absence.

d. Planning and Land Use

- Brian has made several reports to the MYLA311 app and CD12 regarding graffiti, especially along the county-owned Limekiln Canyon Wash southeast of Lassen Street and Corbin Avenue. CD12 has pledged to help with this graffiti abatement.
- Kathleen and Brian have been emailing regarding issues related to zoning regulations.

e. Elections

- Kathleen recommended that we replace Glen Wilson as chair of the Elections Committee.
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that DONE has drafted a neighborhood council election handbook. Among the items discussed:
  - The candidate’s filing period has been extended from 30-days to 45-days
  - Elections voting time has extended from 5PM to 11.59PM.

- Board members may comment on this document through the beginning of May. Eventually, this will be the bible that neighborhood councils use.
- f. Homelessness
- Angelica did not have an available update; hence this agenda item was tabled.
- g. Beautification
- Jorge hopes to discuss the NWNC’s beautification plans for the remainder of FY2023-24 during the April meeting
- h. Budget
- Joel reported that the NWNC has funds for NPGs, Outreach, and Beautification which should be spent prior to the end of the fiscal year.
- i. Outreach
- Janis mentioned that she looks forward to a conversation regarding the upcoming Grateful Hearts Fundraiser.
- j. Education
- Arshia was not available to present any news.
- X. Old Business
- a. Discussion and motion for NWNC’s participation at the emergency preparedness Grateful Hearts Fundraiser event in support of LAPD and LAFD and approve funding of \$500 for NWNC to have a booth at the event taking place on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 4PM, with a rain date of April 20<sup>th</sup> if re-scheduling is needed.
- This emergency preparedness event will take place at the Warner Center Park, Woodland Hills. The benefiting LAPD station is not within the Northridge area.
  - Janis stated that she would require the keys to the storage locker if the NWNC participated in this event. However, it is unknown if the volunteers can leave early, or must they stay the entire day. She polled the NWNC to learn who might be available.
 

Available April 6 <sup>th</sup> (4)	Atashian, Edwards, Kraft, and Lowell
Not Available April 6 <sup>th</sup> (5)	Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, Jiménez, Morgan, and Robinson
Availability Unknown (2)	Malekzadeh and Wood

  

Available April 20 <sup>th</sup> (5)	Atashian, Cathcart, Jiménez, Morgan, and Robinson
Not Available April 20 <sup>th</sup> (3)	Babatunde-Bea, Kraft, and Lowell
Availability Unknown (3)	Edwards, Malekzadeh, and Wood
  - Is it worth spending the \$500 if the NWNC would not have sufficient volunteers to staff the booth on the originally scheduled April 6<sup>th</sup>? They might have sufficient volunteers to staff the booth on the rain day of April 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Brian wondered if the NWNC could participate without being there in person. Kathleen replied that the NWNC would still need to pay the \$500 if they wanted the branding on the distributed material.
  - Glenn Bailey added that a few south valley neighborhood councils would attend, but the Northridge East Neighborhood Council would not participate as it conflicts with the LA Neighborhood Council Coalition meeting.

- Angelica and Joel stated that the NWNC would like to participate but lacks the volunteers to staff the booth. In that case, it is not worth spending the \$500.
- Angelica Robinson made a motion to participate in and contribute \$500 to the Grateful Hearts Fundraiser; Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it failed.

Aye (3)	Atashian, Cathcart, and Edwards,
No (5)	Babatunde-Bea, Kraft, Lowell, Morgan, and Robinson
Abstain (1)	Jiménez
Absent (2)	Malekzadeh and Wood

- Joel added that the NWNC still has \$2,000 remaining in the outreach budget for the remainder of FY2023-24.
- b. Discussion and motion to present recommendations for amending NWNC bylaws for submission to DONE before the deadline of Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

- Three sections of the current NWNC by-laws were revised to fix grammatical errors and clarify the number of seats on the board.
  - Article II, Section B.5 To bring the section into compliance with the California Constitution  
 “To prohibit discrimination against or give preference to [added] any individual or group in our operations on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, income, homeowner/renter status, or political affiliation ...”
  - Article V, Section B Grammatical correction; no substantive change.  
 “Two (2) Stakeholders ~~who is~~ each at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the election and who ~~lives, works, owns~~ live, work, own property or claims a substantial and ongoing stake within boundaries of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council ...”
  - Article V, Section 4 Grammatical correction; no substantive change.  
~~Six (6) At Large seats, and one (1) Community Interest Stakeholder seat to be up for election in 2023 and Four (4) At Large seats and one (1) Community Interest Stakeholder seat in 2025; and alternating each election period.~~ Replaced with: Five (5) At-Large Seats and one (1) Community Interest Stakeholder seat in 2025 and Six (6) At-Large seats, and one (1) Community Interest Stakeholder seat to be up for election in 2027; and alternating each election period thereafter.
- Joel added that this correction clarified the referenced twelve (6 + 1 + 4 + 1) seats, whereas the NWNC has thirteen (5 + 1 + 6 + 1) seats.
- Jorge and Kathleen discussed data that appeared on the EmpowerLA website, including:
  - The number of board seats available in 2025 and 2027, and
  - The number of “at large” board member seats
- Jorge mentioned that he would confirm the number of official NWNC board members with webmaster Christina Smith.
- Glenn added that the NWNC could approve these revisions this evening. If DONE sees an error, they will reject it, and kick it back to the NWNC.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to approve the by-laws revisions; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (8) Atashian, Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, Edwards, Kraft, Lowell, Morgan, and Robinson  
 Abstain (1) Jiménez  
 Absent (2) Malekzadeh and Wood

## XI. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible motion to appoint a homelessness liaison(s) on behalf of the NWNC to serve as a bridge between NWNC and the broader community efforts to combat homelessness. Homelessness liaisons will attend EmpowerLA meetings, share neighborhood insights, and collaborate with others to develop and implement effective strategies.
  - At the NWNC's February meeting, NEA Joel announced that DONE is looking to re-assemble 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. Joel recommended that the NWNC nominate more than one representative.
  - Glenn Bailey reviewed the description for this liaison position and urged the NWNC to designate one or more individuals who are passionate about addressing homelessness and willing to actively engage in our community efforts.
  - No one volunteered to be a liaison.
  - Joel Lowell made a motion to table this agenda item; Angelica Robinson seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
  
- b. Discussion and possible motion to hold an in-person general board meeting in April to award Glen Wilson his NWNC certificate of acknowledgement in conjunction with a certificate awarded to Glen Wilson on behalf of CD12.
  - This in-person meeting could be held Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Northridge Christian Church.
  - Kathleen mentioned that Glen's friend who handles his affairs told her that Glen would be unable to attend in person. Perhaps a few board members can visit Glen, present him with the certificate, and take photographs.
  - Mikkie Loi spoke to Glen's friend a few days ago and he suggested bringing Glen to the in-person meeting. However, Glen is on a strict diet and will be unable to eat at the meeting. Everyone agreed that Glen would not have to stay for the duration of the meeting.
  - In addition to NWNC presenting him with a certificate, Jorge reported that CD12 might also like to present a certificate to Glen.
  - Joel Lowell made a motion to table this proposed in-person April meeting to award Glen Wilson with this certificate until we know more about Glen's mobility; Kathleen Edwards seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

## XII. Adjournment

- o Angelica Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.57PM; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.