

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
Regular General Board Meeting via ZOOM
Tuesday, 11 June 2024 at 6.15PM

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Jorge Jiménez called the meeting to order at 6.21PM and welcomed ten board members and ten stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
 - Here (10) Zaven Atashian, Aaminah Babatunde-Bea, Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Jorge Jiménez, Janis Kraft, Joel Lowell, Brian Morgan, Angelica Robinson, and Greg Wood
 - Absent (1) Arshia Malekzadeh

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comment

- Katie Ong representing the September 28th Congress of Neighborhood Councils mentioned that they continue to seek donations. Jorge offered that the NWNC already donated \$1k during their May 14th meeting.

- Glenn Bailey mentioned that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), representing the valley's thirty-four neighborhood councils, would meet via Zoom on Thursday, June 13th. This month's guest speaker will be Senior Elections Administrator Michael Lektorich from the city clerk's office to discuss the 2025 neighborhood council elections. As a major cost savings, it has been determined that these elections will be 100% vote-by-mail with no in-person voting. Additional information on the VANC meetings can be found at their website at <https://vanc34.org>.

IV. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for May 2024

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the May minutes; Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9) Atashian, Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, Edwards, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, Morgan, and Wood
Abstain (1) Robinson
Absent (1) Malekzadeh

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

- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to approve the May MER; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9) Atashian, Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, Edwards, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, Morgan, and Wood
Abstain (1) Robinson
Absent (1) Malekzadeh

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
April 12	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Web Services	\$ 250.00
April 12	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Web Services	250.00
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April 29	Enrich LA	NPG	3,000.00
May 2	Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	153.50
May 3	Apple One	Meeting Minutes	166.40
May 9	Valley Permits	Meet the Horses	300.00
May 10	In Peacock Print LLC	Meet the Horses	42.71
May 15	In Peacock Print LLC	Meet the Horses	43.80
May 18	Wal-Mart Supercenter	Meet the Horses	11.86
May 22	Neighborhood Council Budget Day	Outreach	1,000.00
May 31	Super King Market	Meet the Horses	12.32
May 31	Smart and Final	Meet the Horses	55.95
			\$5,536.54

- Treasurer Joel reported that the following recent expenses have not yet been paid:

Vendor	Description	Amount
Police Activity League Supporters	Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG)	\$4,500
Congress of Neighborhood Councils	Outreach	1,000
Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Web Services	750
Total		\$6,250

- Joel reviewed the current NWNC financial summary as follows:

Annual Budget		\$32,000.00
Adjustment		6,609.75
Budgeted Amount		38,609.75
Expense to Date	Funding Request	\$21,575.21
	Credit Card	5,647.07
Total Outstanding	Commitments	0.00
	Pending Payments	4,500.00
Net Available		\$6,887.47

- He added that the Zoom license expense of \$350 would be paid in July from FY2024-25 funds, as it was not included in the FY2023-24 budget.
- Janis reported that the \$300 approved for the tri-fold sidewalk and parkway maintenance guides has not yet been spent. There is sufficient time to handle this as the deadline for that purchase from FY2023-24 funds is Friday, June 21st.

VI. Announcements

- July 2nd NWNC Executive Board Meeting
- July 9th NWNC General Board Meeting
- Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Training Updates for Board Members
 - There has been an extension of the newly required Code of Conduct training, originally due on Monday, June 3rd to Monday, July 1st. Jorge emailed the board members, requesting the status of their training.
 - A few board members (including Jorge, Joel, and Kathleen) received an email stating that they needed to complete their mandatory training in Spanish. Some board members replied; Jorge figured that it would work itself out.
- Non-Agenda Items

- Kathleen attended a recent get-together at the Nobel Charter Middle School. She met Principal Derek Horowitz, LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson, PTA volunteers, etc. It was a great opportunity to see how the NWN's NPGs contribute to the community.

VII. Presidential Comments

- Jorge thanked everyone who participated in the June 1st Meet the Horses event at the Oakridge Park. Kathleen also thanked Mark Hovater for his videos of that experience.

VIII. Government Reports

a. Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division

- The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
- Devonshire Community Relations Volunteer Mikkie Loi reported that current crime statistics are not available at this time as the Devonshire Division is in a transition period with their new records management system.
- She added that burglaries remain a key concern. There has also been an increase in automotive related crimes, including grand theft auto, catalytic converter theft, and burglaries from vehicles.
- Wednesday, June 12th beginning at 6PM, the following four Senior Lead Officers (SLOs) will host their monthly basic car meeting.

A23	Efren Corral	A81	Sean Taylor
A49	Alan Sellers	A95	Jerome Knopp
- Tuesday, June 25th beginning at 11.30AM, SLOs will be at Coffee with a Cop at the Petit Park, 10640 Petit Avenue.
- Wednesday, June 26th beginning at 6PM, SLO Zamora will host her monthly basic car/ neighborhood watch meeting in-person at the Northridge United Methodist Christian Church, 9650 Reseda Boulevard.

b. CD12 City Council Representative

- Field Deputy Sharon Bronson reported that the widening project along Balboa Boulevard and Devonshire Street is underway.
- Saturday, June 22nd beginning at 9AM, the West Valley Animal Shelter at 20655 Plummer Street [as well as other shelters throughout the city] will sponsor a clean-up and dog walk. Regretfully, all shelters are very full, and they hope to get as many dogs adopted.
- Low interest loans, available through the Small Business Administration, are currently available. Please visit <https://www.sba.gov/> for additional information.
- Sunday, June 23rd the Oakridge Estate will be open for 75-minute tours, for a \$15 donation, beginning at 10AM. Additional information is at their website at <https://www.theoakridgeestate.org/>. Advance registration is strongly recommended.
- Starting in August, CD12 will sponsor a leadership and mentorship program for high school students, including a day at City Hall. Please reach out to Senior Advisor Ron Rubine at ron.rubine@lacity.org for additional information.
- For additional information about the city and CD12, please review their newsletter, which comes out every Friday. This can be accessed at <https://cd12.lacity.gov/news-media/newsletters/newsletter-2024>.
- Janis expressed concern about the many sleeping homeless and increased RVs parked along Prairie Street, Melvin and Shirley Avenues. She has already discussed this with Public Safety Deputy Ben Pak.

c. Other Government Department/Agency

- Mayor Bass’s West Valley representative, David Bright covers CD3 (represented by Councilman Bob Blumenfield) and CD12 (represented by Councilman John Lee) and reported that the city’s FY2024-25 budget was recently passed. Public safety and homelessness remain Mayor Bass’s key issues.
- Intern Jessica Padilla from David’s office reported that there has been a \$138m increase in the LAPD’s budget to recruit new officers to meet critical staffing needs. It is unknown how many new officers will be hired, but this money will also go towards increased signing bonuses, pay, and background checks [which take a great deal of time]. The LAFD is also receiving increased funding for recruiting. There is also increased funding for the city’s Inside Safe and Welcome Home programs for the unhoused.
- Kathleen wondered that while the city is increasing the budget for the LAPD and LAFD, perhaps they could also hire more dispatchers. David realizes that they are understaffed; please reach out to him if anyone is interested in applying for a dispatch position. David and Jessica did not know about any upcoming recruitment events, but there may be a youth job fair during the weekend of July 13th and 14th.
- Saturday, June 29th will be the annual San Fernando Valley Pride Festival. The Rally begins at 11AM at Van Nuys City Hall at 14420 Sylvan Street, followed by a march at Van Nuys Boulevard and Gault Street, and then a block party at the Van Nuys Civic Center at 14410 Sylvan Street. There will be a resource fair as well as the following:

Art	Food Market	Performances
Constituent Services	Music	Vendors
- For additional information, please visit their website at <https://www.sfvpride.org/>
- David and Jessica urge everyone to call 311, go to the city’s <https://lacity.gov/myla311> website, or click on the myla311 app on your smart phone to report graffiti, illegal dumping, potholes, fallen palm fronds, downed trees, etc.
- Kathleen expressed concern that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment’s (DONE) recently appointed General Manager Carmen Chang lacks experience with neighborhood councils, and has not held a job for more than 3.5 years. Even so, Kathleen wished her all the success in the world. Jorge reported that he received an email from Carmen, and she will soon do a tour of neighborhood councils.
- For additional information, please reach out to David at david.bright@lacity.org and Jessica at jessica.padilla@lacity.org.
- Uzoamaka Aniezue from Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo’s office reported that two weeks ago, the assembly finalized voting on all active bills, and passed them onto the senate. Eighteen of these bills were co-written by Pilar, including:
 - AB2343 Childcare access for parents and children experiencing homeless and domestic violence
 - AB2863 Enhances consumer protections with regard to automatic subscription renewals
 - AB2943 Combats retail theft by
 - Targeting the organized crime rings behind the growing wave of “smash and grab” robberies
 - Create stringent penalties for "professional" retail thieves
 - Introduce measures to combat the online sale of stolen goods
 - Reduce the theft value for grand theft to enhance the ability of law enforcement to respond effectively to these crimes.

- Following the aforementioned June 29th San Fernando Valley Pride Festival, Pilar will also attend the following events:

Popsicles with Pilar	Saturday June 29 th	Popsicles and conversation about legislative updates, district issues, accomplishments, and future plans for our community.
Veterans Expo	Saturday July 27 th	A celebration and showcase dedicated to honoring our veterans and connecting them with essential resources
Back to School Backpack Giveaway	Sunday August 4 th	Receive free backpacks and school supplies, discuss legislative issues of interest to the community, and hear about the many services provided by the District Office!
- If anyone needs assistance with home or auto insurance, please reach out to the California Department of Insurance’s office of the Ombudsman at 916.492.3545 or email ombudsman@insurance.ca.gov. Or you may reach them online at <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/101-help/>
- Please reach out to their office via <https://a40.asmdc.org/contact> or call their Sacramento office at 916.319.2040 or their Santa Clarita office at 661.286.1565.

d. DONE

- Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Joel Gonzales reviewed the FY2023-24 deadlines:

	Last Day	
Monday, May 20 th		Funding request
Saturday, June 1 st		Check request, including NPGs
Thursday, June 20 th		Make a purchase with the bank card
- There has been an extension of the newly required Code of Conduct training, originally due on Monday, June 3rd, to Monday, July 1st.
- Saturday June 15th will be the annual Budget Day. This will be the first time since 2019 that the Budget Day will be held in person at City Hall.
- DONE’s freshly appointed General Manager Carmen Chang will soon be going on a tour of the neighborhood councils.
- Kathleen mentioned the new email format for neighborhood council board members might go via “.org” as well as via “.gov”. However, Joel was unfamiliar with that issue.
- Joel clarified that any expenses approved in June cannot yet be paid from 2024-25 funds. Glenn Bailey added that everyone is awaiting confirmation from the city clerk’s office that neighborhood councils can roll over any unused funds. In prior years, neighborhood councils were restricted to merely a \$10k rollover.
- Joel Gonzales and Joel Lowell also discussed mail addressed to the treasurer. Mail should merely be mailed to the “treasurer” rather than referencing a specific person. The NWNC’s current treasurer Joel has frequently received mail addressed to “Treasurer Glen Wilson”.

e. Budget Advocate

- Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that board members have received multiple emails regarding the June 15th Budget Day, which will be in-person at City Hall for the first time in five years. Although open to the public, one must register in advance to receive free parking access.
- Registration, breakfast, and networking opportunities will start at 7AM, with meetings beginning at 9AM and panel discussions beginning at 10.15AM or 10.30AM. This will be

followed the 11.30 regional group meetings, and then the elections for the advocate's next two-year terms. It is unknown if District 8's three current advocates for the northwest valley (Brian Allen, Glenn Bailey, and Garry Fordyce) will continue to serve

- Much of these Budget Day activities will be shown on the city's channel 35 as well as recorded for broadcast on YouTube.
- Glenn added that the advocates have not had the opportunity to email their May or June monthly reports to the neighborhood councils as the links were disabled at the end of April. However, the white paper was released a few weeks ago; this can be viewed at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yXUcaZOKB0fk4Myrls34HLRjf1ZdxJAf/view>
- For additional information about the advocates, please visit their website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>

IX. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- Jorge mentioned that the Executive Committee did not meet in June.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen reported the CD12's Public Safety Deputy Ben Pak has taken over many of the responsibilities previously held by Legislative Director Josh Yeager, who now works at the City Hall offices.
- A few people have mentioned that the city does not seem to be moving the RVs as quickly as they would like; the LAPD is awaiting a new policy. Even if an RV is parked in a "no parking" zone, the vehicle is not moved if it serves as a residence.
- There is also a concern about developers building houses along hillsides, so it is difficult to park and/or operate a bicycle.
- Fire hydrants are being stolen. If you see anyone stealing a hydrant, please call 911 as this is considered an emergency.
- Density fog is the newest LAPD recommended advanced security system whereupon it creates a dense fog with near zero visibility conditions. This disorients the intruder and prevents him/her from following through on their intentions. The result is that the intruder cannot steal what they cannot see and valuables are protected. Yet it is not harmful to people, animals, nor property. For additional information, please visit their website at <https://densityusa.com/>

c. Government Affairs

- Greg had no issues to report; hence this agenda item was tabled.

d. Planning and Land Use

- Brian had no issues to report; hence this agenda item was tabled.

e. Elections

- Jorge and Glenn discussed agendaizing the election of a new chair for the NWNC's Election Committee at the NWNC's July 9th meeting. Glenn added that the city clerk has not yet convened their annual election workshop. Once this is established, the new NWNC's Elections Committee chair should plan on attending this workshop to learn more about the proposed 2025 vote-by-mail neighborhood council elections.

f. Homelessness

- Angelica had no issues to report; hence this agenda item was tabled.

g. Beautification

- Jorge had no issues to report; hence this agenda item was tabled.

h. Budget

- Treasurer Joel mentioned that the reallocation of funds and the FY2024-25 budget would be discussed in agenda items X.a and X.b

i. Outreach

- Janis postponed her report to be discussed in agenda item X.f.

j. Education

- Arshia was absent; hence this agenda item was tabled.

X. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible motion for NWNC to approve reallocating \$9,000 from the community improvement budget. Of the \$9,000 reallocation, \$4,500 will be allocated to the NPG budget, and \$4,500 will be reallocated to the outreach budget.

- Joel reported that the NWNC has spent \$4,200 more in NPGs than was originally budgeted.
- Greg Wood made a motion to reallocate \$9,000 from Community Improvement, with \$4,500 to NPGs and \$4,500 to Outreach; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9) Atashian, Babatunde-Bea, Cathcart, Edwards, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, Morgan, and Wood
 Abstain (1) Robinson
 Absent (1) Malekzadeh

- b. Discussion and possible motion to approve NWNC 2024-25 Administrative Packet and Budget

- Joel presented the following proposed budget for FY2024-25:

	Golden State Storage	\$ 2,000
	Host Seller	20
	ICD Soft	100
	Foreign Transaction Fee	20
Office	Apple One	2,700
	USPS Post Office Box Rental	325
	Mail Room	3,000
	Meals at Board Meetings	600
	Office Supplies	435
	Zoom Licenses	800
Outreach		5,000
Election		4,500
NPG		10,000
Community Improvement Projects		2,500
Total		<u>\$32,000</u>

- The \$20 foreign transaction fee is for the website.
- The NWNC must host at least one in-person in meeting in FY2024-25; the proposed budget provides enough food for two meetings.
- The \$800 Zoom license fee is for the NWNC's two licenses for two years (as this was not budgeted in FY2023-24).

- Joel Lowell made a motion to amend the agenda’s words to exclude reference to the Administrative Packet as this is merely the budget [at this time]; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed.

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

- Greg Wood made a motion to approve this presented FY2024-25 budget; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed.

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

- c. Discussion and possible motion to approve funding of up to \$5,000 to support Devonshire’s SOLID NPG application for the repurposing of the former Force Option Simulator (FOS) into a new meeting room for community volunteers who serve the Devonshire Police Station. NPG funds will be used to renovate and furnish the new meeting room

- Dale Penn from SOLID mentioned that the Devonshire Station is the oldest LAPD station. The trailer used for FOS was developed in 1993. However, it is no longer needed for its original purpose as such training for life/death situations is now conducted offsite. This former FOS is now used for officer training and as a community meeting room.
- The budget for the office half of the former FOS trailer [including furniture] is \$20,550. A good portion of this budget was raised on Saturday, April 20th during SOLID’s annual pancake breakfast.
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that the NPG application appeared okay. However, the signatures were missing and SOLID should include all sources of funding, including funding from other neighborhood councils, broken out by Phase A and Phase B of this project.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to request that this NPG be resubmitted with signatures and elaboration on their funding sources; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (9) Atashian, Cathcart, Edwards, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, Morgan, Robinson, and Wood
 Abstain (1) Babatunde-Bea
 Absent (1) Malekzadeh

- Joel Lowell made a motion to table this agenda item until FY2024-25; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

- d. Discussion and possible motion to approve funding of up to \$5,000 to support World Harvest (WH) Charities and Family Services NPG application for purchase of a commercial Sprinter delivery vehicle to support and expand food delivery services to families in Los Angeles

- Neighborhood Councils have very clear requirements for their NPGs, and funding vehicles is definitely not permitted. Kathleen already spoke to the city clerk’s office and this expense would be considered operational. It has since been learned that WH charges the stakeholders for the food that they provide.
- Sharon Brewer from the Reseda Neighborhood Council mentioned that WH also sent an NPG to their neighborhood council. Jorge added that WH reached out to all 99-neighborhood councils.
- The Secretary of State and Franchise Tax Board have suspended WH’s charity status. Their IRS-determined 503c3 status could have been from several years ago.

- Glenn added that neighborhood councils are receiving an increasing number of these submittals. It is up to the NWNC to do their due diligence. They are under no obligation to agendaize every NPG request.
 - Brian Cathcart made a motion to remove this NPG application from the agenda as WH does not meet the specifications; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- e. Meet stakeholders Kevin Herzberg and Nicolas Haddad, who are interested in fulfilling vacant board member seats with NWNC
- Jorge briefly reviewed the requirements of board members, such as meeting attendance, etc. One cannot miss three consecutive meetings or four meetings in a year.
 - Glenn Bailey clarified that these two opportunities are “at large” positions, valid until 2027.
 - Someone asked about the reason for the two current vacancies on the NWNC. One was a new board member, educator, and new parent who could not commit to the monthly meetings. The other was a long-time board member who left due to health concerns.
- Kevin Herzberg has lived in Northridge for over thirty years and has experience working for the city as well as CD12, including dealing with landscape maintenance, homelessness, parking restrictions, etc. He is now working on the installation of speed bumps. His previous career was in the mortgage banking industry where he now serves as an expert witness.
 - These past six years, he has served as vice president of the Pasadena Angels, where their 100+ members mentor start-up companies.
 - In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis at the Porter Valley Country Club, where he also serves on the tennis board. This is where he met Zaven, who told him that he enjoys serving on the NWNC and encouraged Kevin to run for a vacant seat. If elected Kevin may be interested in serving on the Planning and Land Use Committee.
- Nicolas Haddad has lived in Northridge since 2012, along with his 8-year-old son and 6-year old daughter. He is instilling the value of community service to his children. He previously attended NWNC meetings in 2018 and 2019
 - Professionally, Nick is an engineering construction manager with Northrop Grumman in Redondo Beach. He is open to serving on any committee where he would be most needed.
- Janis asked Kevin and Nick that if they were elected this evening, would they feel comfortable immediately taking a role with the NWNC, or would they prefer to wait until the July meeting. Kevin and Nick stated that they are all set and ready to join the NWNC.
 - Joel Lowell made a motion for Kevin and Nicolas to join the NWNC as at large board members, with terms until 2027; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- f. Meet the Horses and Park Rangers Event after action review, discussion, and takeaways for future NWNC participation events
- This event was a great success, with over a hundred attendees and plenty of publicity.
 - However, it appeared that stakeholder Pat LoPresti, who had already received approvals from the rangers and the Department of Recreation and Parks, organized this event. Although the NWNC was going to be merely a supporter, the NWNC paid for the permits, as well as treats for the horses (carrots, apples, etc.). In the future, it must be very clear that the NWNC are merely supporters, and that this is not an NWNC event.

- Kathleen added that having the NWNC pay for the permits and treats caused a bit of confusion as to whose event this was. Perhaps the NWNC should not have publicized this event as a sponsor or co-sponsor of this event.
 - Janis added that the city clerk's office mentioned that the NWNC merely had to sit at a table; they did not have to pay for the permits, horse treats, etc. The city clerk's office also said that the permits should have been submitted for their approval prior to signing the actual contract.
 - Glenn Bailey chalked this up to be a lesson learned. He did not realize that the NWNC had already signed the permits and contracts for this event. His Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) also publicized this event via their website and twitter account.
- g. Discussion on planning of the Community Art Faire in the fall of 2024
- Jorge wondered if the NWNC should put together an ad hoc and/or planning committee for this event.
 - Glenn and Kathleen recommended getting CD12 to sponsor this; it is never too early to reach out to the Department of Recreation and Parks to save a great deal of steps. The NENC could also partner with the NWNC to help in various capacities.
 - Janis recommends that this be tabled until July or August, as we have not yet received all the information. Currently, the Outreach Committee is merely herself and Angelica. Joel volunteered to serve on this ad hoc committee. He also recommends that the NWNC and/or CD12 contact "Arts for LA" at <https://www.artsforla.org/> who advocate for access to arts across all communities, to partner alongside this event.

XI. Adjournment

- Joel Lowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9.14PM; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.