

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
Regular General Board Meeting (GBM) via Zoom
Tuesday, 10 December 2024 at 6.15PM

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Jorge Jiménez called the meeting to order at 6.20PM and welcomed eight board members and six stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
 - Here (8) Zaven Atashian, Brian Cathcart, Kathleen Edwards, Nicolas Haddad,
 Kevin Herzberg, Jorge Jiménez, Janis Kraft, and Greg Wood
 - Absent (2) Joel Lowell and Angelica Robinson
 - Resigned (1) Aaminah Babatunde-Bea

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comment

- Jeff Diamond has been with the Volunteers Cleaning Communities (VCC) for over four years. He reported that much of the illegal dumping is from folks who live in multi-family apartment buildings who are unfamiliar with the city's MyLA311 system to access services. The VCC's ambassador program visits these apartment buildings and instructs folks on the city's ability to pick-up wayward furniture, appliances, etc. Jeff may provide an informative tutorial on this MyLA311 program at the NWNC's January meeting.
- Greg Wood has known his friend and neighbor, Diana Delgado, for many years and encouraged her to apply for one of the three vacancies to join the NWNC. She has resided in the Northridge West neighborhood for over 29-years, and is a strong advocate for using the MyLA311 app to request the removal of wayward furniture.
- Diana grew up in the Pasadena/San Marino area, which lacks pine trees. She is not keen on all the pine needles seen along Tampa Avenue.
- Diana already works closely with the city via her advertising agency, selling time on radio, television, and social media.
- Kathleen asked Diana which committees would she like to join. She is a multi-tasker, and expressed interest in all committees. Perhaps Public Safety could be her priority, as she lives near Devonshire Street and Tampa Avenue, which has had several accidents these past few weeks, including one earlier today.
- Glenn Bailey added that the agendaized Public Comment area is for public presentations and brief clarification; this portion of the meeting should not be used for back-and-forth discussions.
- Glenn mentioned that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), representing the valley's thirty-four neighborhood councils, would meet via Zoom on Thursday, December 12th beginning at 6.30PM. This month's guest speaker will be political consultant Christopher LeGras from Our Neighborhood Voices (ONV). ONV is working on a 2026 statewide ballot initiative that will amend California's constitution to enshrine local authority over housing, development, and zoning and undo twenty-years of profit-motivated, pro-developer, anti-neighborhood legislation.

- Additional information can be found at VANC's website at <https://vanc34.org/>
- Mikkie Loi mentioned that an NWNC-sponsored painted utility box at the corner of Tampa Avenue and Lassen Street, across from the Nobel Middle School, had been tagged. This artwork may have an anti-graffiti coating. She wondered if it would be best to contact MyLA311 or CD12 for the box's clean up. Kathleen and Jeff volunteered to take that action item.

IV. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for November 2024

- Greg Wood made a motion to approve the November minutes; Brian Cathcart and Janis Kraft seconded this motion, and it passed.
 - Aye (6) Atashian, Cathcart, Haddad, Herzberg, Jiménez, and Kraft
 - Abstain (2) Edwards and Wood
 - Absent (2) Lowell and Robinson

V. Approval of NWNC Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for November 2024

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

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
November 2	PY Golden State Storage	Storage Facility	165.50
		Total	<u>\$165.50</u>

- Kathleen mentioned that, although the city wrote the check, the Happy House has not yet received their \$2,500. If they do not receive that check in the next week, Kathleen will request a stop payment on the wayward check, and get them a new check.
- Greg expressed concern about how we are doing with meeting our financial goals through June (end of the fiscal year). Treasurer Joel is probably the best person to answer this query.

VI. Announcements

- January 7th NWNC Executive Board meeting
- January 14th NWNC General Board Meeting
- Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Training Updates for Board Members
 - Jorge reported that all NWNC board members are current with their training.
- Janis reported that her community has had break-ins; she immediately reported this to Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sandra Zamora. The criminals broke windows and turned off Ring doorbells and Spectrum security systems. Nothing was stolen, but Ring immediately alerted the homeowners that their systems were compromised.

VII. Presidential Comments

- Jorge thanked everyone for their voluntary efforts this past year and he looks forward to 2025, which will be an exciting time with new board members. He also wished everyone the warmest and safest of happy holidays.

VIII. Government Reports

- Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division
 - The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
 - SLO Sandra Zamora was unavailable for this evening's meeting.
 - Devonshire Community Relations Volunteer Mikkie Loi reported that thieves are using Wi-Fi jammers to kill Wi-Fi; home security systems are best when they are hard-wired.

- At the end of November, CD12 had 46 automatic license plate readers (ALPR) installed at 23 locations throughout the northwest valley. Additional ALPRs will be installed beginning on Tuesday, December 17th.
 - The LAPD continues with a heavy presence at the Northridge Fashion Center. Mikkie reminded everyone to always be aware of one's surroundings in shopping areas, parking lots, and along the streets. She also asked that if anyone has handymen or gardeners working at their homes, please ask them to roll up their windows and lock their trucks.
 - In 2024, the LAPD's Devonshire Division saw a 48% decrease in automotive fatalities from twenty in 2023 to merely eleven in 2024. The intersection is Winnetka Avenue and Parthenia Street had six accidents this year.
 - The LAPD's Devonshire Station is sponsoring their annual Police Activity League Supporters (PALS) toy collection at the PALS Center at 8721 Wilbur Avenue on Thursday, December 12th. Please contact an SLO if anyone needs assistance transporting their donated toys.
 - Jorge asked about concerns regarding drones; neighbors are encouraged to continue to share drone photos with their SLOs.
- b. CD12 City Council Representative
- No one from CD12 was available.
- c. Other Government Departments/Agencies
- No other government representatives were available to provide a report.
- d. DONE
- The NWNC has a new Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) from DONE, John Darnell. Our former NEA Joel Gonzalez resigned to pursue his master's degree.
 - John reported that on Saturday, November 16th, DONE hosted their quarterly Zoom meeting of the Homelessness Liaisons. Their next meeting will be in mid-February. Jorge added that Mayor Bass reported that permanent housing availability has recently doubled.
 - Saturday, February 22nd beginning at 8AM, EmpowerLA will host a hundred young people between the ages of 14 to 17 from across LA at City Hall to participate in a one-day event focused on civic engagement, leadership development, and local government. Conference attendees will dive into the role the neighborhood council system plays in grassroots local democracy, attend learning sessions on ways to be civically engaged in the community, network with like-minded young leaders, and engage with city leaders. Although 85-teenagers have already registered, applications close on Friday, December 20th. Additional information can be found at their website at <https://empowerla.org/civicyouth/>.
 - Jorge expressed concern about the Canva online graphic design tool. Neighborhood councils use this to create election marketing material, postcards, posters, etc. He wondered with whom we should discuss this software access.
- e. Budget Advocates
- Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the NWNC's Budget Advocate district two, for the northwest valley, is represented by the following three advocates:
 - Brian Allen from Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
 - Garry Fordyce from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council
 - Scott Wright from the Northridge South Neighborhood Council
 - The advocates are wrapping up their annual meetings with the city departments and Chief Financial Officer Noel Williams. They have a self-imposed deadline of the end of December.

- Last May, the advocates were urged to develop a “City Budget 101” training opportunity. They hope to schedule this seminar at the end of January; all board members and stakeholders will be welcomed.
- The 2025 Budget Day will be Saturday, June 21st beginning at 8.30AM at City Hall.
- For additional information, the advocates website is <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>

IX. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- Jorge reported that the committee did not meet last week. They hope to meet on Tuesday, January 7th.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen reported that the northwest valley has been affected by
 - Pickpockets (especially in Porter Ranch),
 - Wi-Fi jammers
 - Drug houses (two were raided this past week), and
 - Drones.
- A young man recently came to her door requesting her signature on a petition for the Declaration of Independence; she thought it was odd that he did not have a clipboard.
- Stakeholders have complained that the LAPD does not follow-up; however, they are not aware that the LAPD does follow-up.
- Kathleen asked everyone to please remind their gardeners and handymen to never leave things in their truck.
- There have been concerns about drones; they cannot be shot down, as they are considered aircraft. The Federal Aviation Administration recommends that homeowners:
 - Contact their local LAPD
 - If one resides in an HOA, they may have prohibitions or restrictions on their air space
 - Drones cannot fly above 400’
- One has a certain expectation of privacy; there is a concern if a drone flies over a solid fence or near a window of a high-rise residential or commercial property.
- Brian recommended that Kathleen’s drone report be posted on the NWNC’s website.

c. Government Affairs

- Greg had no updates to report.

d. Planning and Land Use

- Janis mentioned that a cannabis store hopes to open at Nordhoff Street and Corbin Avenue. This may be discussed at a future committee meeting.

e. Elections

- Jorge reported that the NWNC currently has three vacancies and will have six seats up for the election on Tuesday, May 20th.
- In the interim, information can be found at <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections/neighborhood-council-elections>.
- Glenn added that the city clerk’s office might host a neighborhood council’s election session for region 2 (northwest valley) on Monday, January 13th beginning 6PM via Zoom.

- f. Homelessness
 - Angelica was not available to provide a report.
 - Jorge added that permanent housing has recently doubled in LA.
 - g. Beautification
 - Jorge mentioned that Jeff Diamond from the VCC would present a tutorial for using the MyLA311 app, telephone service, and website at the January meeting.
 - h. Budget
 - Treasurer Joel was unavailable to provide a report.
 - i. Outreach
 - Janis recently attended the DONE workshop on “Event Hosting”; she was the only person on the call.
 - If one has an idea to participate or host an event, please first alert Janis.
 - j. Education
 - There was no report.
- X. New Business
- a. Discussion and possible motion to approve funding of up to \$5,000 in outreach funds to circulate neighborhood council elections recruitment informational postcards in January 2025 for the upcoming NWNC elections
 - Jorge hopes to have login access to the online graphic design tool, Canva, to create postcards for the May 20th election. Kathleen confirmed that this election would be 100% vote by mail.
 - Greg Wood made a motion to change the motion’s wording to “authorizes \$5,000” rather than “up to \$5,000”; Jorge Jiménez seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - The NWNC uses a service that designates their relevant areas, streets, and zip codes. This \$5,000 will include funds for postcards, as well as postage and mailing.
 - Nick asked if there was a city-mandate to send out these mailers. NEA John replied that it is not a mandate.
 - Greg Wood made a motion to authorize \$5,000 in Outreach funds for the election’s postcards; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - b. Discussion and possible motion to approve writing an NWNC letter of support encouraging the City of LA’s continuation of a fully funded Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in order to prevent the reduction or elimination of the program
 - Mikkie Loi reported that she has volunteered with the CERT program for many years. With the LAFD’s proposed budget cuts, the CERT program may be reformatted and reduced with fewer available instructors.
 - Someone presented a sample letter, as used by the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council:
 - The NWNC strongly supports the successful LAFD CERT program. The CERT program trains community volunteers in best practices and how to respond in the event of earthquakes and other disasters. CERT-trained volunteers are prepared to help themselves, their neighbors, and their communities when an emergency happens, thus allowing the LAFD to concentrate their efforts in highest-need areas. CERT volunteers also routinely support the LAFD’s responses to their routine duties. The NWNC requests

that CERT training courses scheduled for January through March 2025, as well as all future CERT training classes, be fully supported.

- Although there is not yet a council file addressing this issue, Kathleen felt that this letter should be addressed to Councilman Lee and Mayor Bass.
- Kathleen added that folks were previously advised to have three-days of food, water, etc. It is now important to have three-weeks of supplies.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion to approve this agenda item; Brian Cathcart seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

c. Discussion and review of the 2025 Ballot Voting Model (BVM) for NWNC'S All Vote by Mail Election to ensure that the information contained in the BVM for NWNC is accurate before the election cycle begins

- Currently, the NWNC has three vacancies with ten board members for the thirteen seats.
- Any stakeholder who is at least sixteen years of age at the time of the May 20th election living, working, or owning property within the NWNC boundaries may vote.
- This May 20th election will be for six seats for staggered four-year terms. One position is for a Community Interest Stakeholder, which is someone who participates in a non-profit organization that has continuously maintained a physical street address within the boundaries of the NWNC for not less than a year, and that performs ongoing and verifiable activities and operations that benefit the neighborhood. The other five opportunities are for "At Large" opportunities.
- A candidate cannot run for both seats.
- No board action or motion was required as all agree on this long-standing BVM process.

XI. Adjournment

- Greg Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.18PM; Zaven Atashian seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.