

Minutes of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

1. **Meeting called to order by President Steve Patel at 7:05 PM**
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Patel**
3. **Roll Call** – Determination of Quorum Present: Steve Patel, Alice McCain, Don Dwiggins, YJ Draiman, Kelly Lord, Nestor Fantini, Glenn Bailey, Spencer Schmeli, Jack Harriman and Ankur Patel; Absent: Lucille Meehan
4. **Agenda Setting Meeting Participation** – Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins and Kelly Lord all participated in agenda setting meeting.
5. **Approval of minutes – Aug 15, 2012 with changes & Sept. 19, 2012 – Item Tabled** – Critical minutes are submitted by the end of the meeting month for review prior to next council meeting.
6. **Open Board Seats: Appointment of Property Owner/Resident** – Steve Patel made a motion to appoint Roland Faucher to become a member of the board, seconded by YJ Draiman.
Glenn Bailey – Reminded the board the seat must be filled by Property owners who are residents.
**MOTION PASSES
(11-0-0)**
Roland Faucher sworn in by Northridge East Neighborhood council.
7. **Public Comments – Speaker Cards**
Tom Johnson – The Valley Preparedness fair was a great success. Would like to thank the board for its participation. Got involved with Steve 3-4 years and have been excited about its expansion. This has been the most successful event out of all 5 years. There were close to 1000 participants this year and I hope the board continues to support this event in the future. Just wanted to say thank you.
Amster – Volunteer for Howard’s campaign. As the past President of the San Fernando Bar association, I have made a commitment to get my bar involved. Need Congressman Sherman to finish the job he started at Northridge Academy. I can no longer tolerate teachers who refuse to teach. Asking for the council’s endorsement.
8. **Comments from Public Officials: CD12, DONE, LAPD, LAFD**
Ben (CD 12) – Requested to read a letter drafted by Congressman Sherman.
9. **New Board Member Training & Development**
~ **Item Tabled**
10. **Treasurer’s Report & Statements**
 - a. Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report from August 15, 2012 meeting:
 - a) Pcard Exp.:
 - b) Total FY Pcard Exp.:
 - c) DW Exp.:
 - d) Total FY Dw Exp.:

Don Dwiggins – Financial Committee Meeting November 1 **Steve Patel** – Asks the board if another category needs to be added to Treasurer’s report. Would like to request approval of detail report and statements.

Tom Johnson – Northridge West Council requires an expense report for every month and every 3 months an audit is performed. Must bring quarterly report to board for approval and post all information on website.

Steve Patel - Requests information be scanned and sent to all board members.

Kelly Lord made a motion to have all Treasurers’ information by November, seconded by Alice McCain.

MOTION PASSES

(11-0-0)

11. Standing Expenditures Approval

)a Rent: \$150/mo Northridge Women’s Club

Don Dwiggins made a motion to approve a demand warrant for the next 8 months (\$1200 – through June 2013), seconded by Alice McCain.

MOTION PASSES

(11-0-0)

)b Web master: \$100/mo Aaron De Vandry

Don Dwiggins made a motion to approve \$100/mo for webmaster, seconded by Alice McCain.

MOTION PASSES

(11-0-0)

)c Minute taker; Apple Services up to \$200/mo

Don Dwiggins made a motion to approve up \$200/mo for webmaster, seconded by Kelly Lord.

MOTION PASSES

)d Ad \$250/mo Decision publications ¼ page (or consider Facebook and other options)

Steve Patel – Is this doing us justice?

Glenn Bailey – Had a meeting with Ankur about outreach. Need to be proactive and not static and don’t know if \$250 is worth it.

Recommendation to invite community to meet new board.

Steve Patel – Suggests board approves ad for one more round until further notice.

Glenn Bailey – Suggests board focuses on free coverage.

Don Dwiggins made a motion to approve ad for one more round, seconded by Jack Harriman.

MOTION PASSES

(11-0-0)

12. Reimbursement for Steve Patel for food & water purchase for elections volunteers \$27.79

Kelly Lord made a motion to approve \$27.79 reimbursement for election volunteers, seconded by Glenn Bailey.

MOTION PASSES

(11-0-0)

Steve Patel - hat funds come from DONE if not from the council.

- 13. VANC Planning Forum sponsorship up to \$200 (G Bailey)** – Requesting event planning forum sponsorship. VANC will be putting on a planning forum for land use in the valley. Workshops are being held on November 8th at CBS studios at 5:30pm. Requesting sponsorship for up to \$200 and council would be able to place banner as a sponsor.

Steve Patel – Can we limit sponsorship to \$100?

Glenn Bailey made a motion to approve \$100 for VANC forum, seconded by Alice McCain.

MOTION PASSES

(11-0-0)

- 14. NENC Outreach Plan Update (G Bailey/ A Patel)**

Bailey – Had a preliminary meeting with Ankur. Discussed ideas for outreach community business at CSUN. Sent e-mails and received several back from community member's interested serving on committee. Request council drafts an outreach plan and make public for the community. Expect things to be done on a monthly basis.

- 15. Reseda Bl. Bench Agreement (A Patel)** – Did submit a demand warrant under last year's budget. Steve Patel suggests Roland Faucher take lead on project.

Steve Patel motions to re-authorize to sign agreement, seconded by Kelly Lord.

MOTION PASSES

(11-0-0)

- 16. Business Cards up to \$30 x 15 = \$450**

\$30 approximately per board member = \$450

Kelly Lord made a motion to approve \$450 for business cards, seconded by Alice McCain.

MOTION PASSES

(11-0-0)

- 17. Name plate holder up to \$10 x 15 = \$150**

Found nameplates at Staples. \$10 approximately for 15 board members.

Kelly Lord made a motion to approve \$150 for nameplates, seconded by Alice McCain.

MOTION PASSES

(10-0-1)

- 18. PALS NP Grants request to CD12 for \$5k from previous years (K Lord)**
Contacted CD12 requesting their guidance and help to form a strategy to try and recover these funds. ~ **Item Tabled**
- 19. Community Impact Statement -**
Glenn Bailey - Weigh in to city council and commissions. File position on motion or report if a vote is taken at neighborhood council. Board's position on specific issues is then indicated online in approximately 100 words or less. Filed in city clerk's records. Anytime item appears on agenda, records list all council's stances on all items.
Ankur Patel – This is one of the most effective ways to get on the agenda of city council. Would suggest that the 5 members on CIS have the ability to make a decision for the board quickly due to time constraints.
Glenn Bailey – Members selected will have to start participating in the process from the beginning stages. Neighborhood council needs to be well aware of issues with enough lead time to vote.
Request 5 board members form a CIS committee: Kelly Lord, Roland Faucher, Glenn Bailey, YJ Draiman and Steve Patel.
Kelly Lord made a motion to approve 5 members of board for CIS committee, seconded by Alice McCain.
MOTION PASSES
(12-0-0)
- 20. Measure J (transportation tax extensions) update**
Measure J would extend Measure R until 2069. ~ **Item Tabled**
- 21. Prop. 37 (Mandatory Labeling on Genetically engineered Food) update**
Andy Schrader, Prop 37 supporter – Prop mandates all processed food be Labeled. Not regulated by the FDA. 61 countries across the world label these foods. Prop will be heard in council October 24 and would like support of Northridge East Neighborhood Council.
Kelly Lord – Where can we find some of the studies that show this can cause problems? I'm having a hard time believing these people are "experts" just because they are associated.
Andy Schrader – People who voted for the initiative were food policy experts, farmers and scientists. There's a lot of research devoted to this proposition.
Kelly Lord – Some of us are small business owners and I recognize that anything that requires extra labeling will have a cost.
Jack Harriman (reads opposition) – Exempts beer, wine and liquor. Also food sold at restaurants is exempt.
Ankur Patel – Just because stuff is exempt doesn't mean you can't regulate it in the future.
Jack Harriman – Government sets no limit to how much money will be spent on food labeling. Will create more lawsuits from farmers, food companies and grocers. Prop will cost millions of dollars to execute.

Kelly Lord – I am very concerned about a prop that does not have a lot of legs to it. It's something that people feel good about but there is no real concern about what the result of this is. We do not want to go down this road of passing propositions that are unfunded, that's what has gotten LA where we are today. People with good intentions are not doing critical thinking about propositions like this. I don't know enough to make a decision about this. Why are we supposed to believe something that we've never heard of?

Glenn Bailey made a motion to support prop. 37, seconded by Ankur Patel.
(5-5-2)

22. Don't Waste LA presentation by Laura Flagg –

Too many people pay unfair rates for trash handling. The new system proposed will provide fair rates and recycling for all. Suggests the city of LA adopt a franchise system. Would be up to the cities' discretion to decide who hauls trash in specific area. Customers that use this system have seen a decrease in rates or rates have stayed the same.

Ankur Patel – Isn't that creating a monopoly?

Spencer Schmeli – I don't think it should be up to the government to say that you don't have a choice in who hauls your trash.

Laura Flagg – People who support this see it as being better for the environment and rates.

Steve Patel – Our city is broke and they don't have enough time or money to take care of the business they already have. Then were going to add another tax to that? I don't feel comfortable with this. The city already can't take care of the problems we have like fixing sidewalks or trimming trees.

Glenn Bailey – Suggests the board does not vote on this item because it is not presented correctly on the agenda.

~ **Item Tabled**

23. Weed Removal from DWP property south of Lemarsh St. –

Glenn Bailey - Contacted the DWP and got a response regarding Russian Thistle growing on property behind police station. DWP owns the land and weeds can be a fire hazard. Put a call in to the Northridge office and left a message. Didn't know if this is an ongoing issue the council has dealt with in the past but I would like the council to take a formal position to remove the weeds from the property.
Spencer Schmeli - Suggestion to call the fire department and they will take care of the problem.

Glenn Bailey made a motion to have weeds removed from DWP property, seconded by **Don Dwiggin**.

MOTION PASSES

(12-0-0)

24. **NENC Delegates to: budget Representatives (2); LADWP; VANC; LANCC; VANC; LANC Planning Forum Nov. 8, 2012**
Steve Patel – Nominates Don Dwiggins and Jack Harriman. YJ will be DWP advocate. Will monitor memorandum of understanding between council and DWP. Ankur Patel named alternative rep.
25. **NENC Board Retreat – Oct. / Nov. –**
Steve Patel – May have to push back until January. December is ok however, may not have much participation from the board because of the holidays.
26. **Committee Assignments for each Board Members (S Patel) –
Community Assignments:**
Ankur Patel – Reseda Blvd. beautification
Steve Patel – Disaster Preparedness
Education – Nestor Fantini
Land Use – Kelly Lord
Public Safety – Roland Faucher
Northridge Vision – Steve Patel
Bylaws – Glenn Bailey
Sidewalk Clean up – Roland Faucher
Street Repairs – Lucille Meehan
Environmental – Don Dwiggins
Funding and Finance – Don Dwiggins
Membership – Alice McCain
Community events – Spencer Schmeli
Outreach – Glenn Bailey
CSUN Student Relations – Jack Harriman
27. **Agenda posting by each board member (S Patel) –**
Requesting each board member post the agenda somewhere that's convenient.
Glenn Bailey – We have to make sure we post the agenda at places we are legally mandated to. Would like to request a confirmation of posting sites.
28. **Wish quick and healthy recovery to Karen Green –**
Alice McCain donating blood. Needs to know what provider she's has.
29. **Board Member Workshop – city Planning Great Streets (K Lord) up to 30 minutes ~ *Item Tabled***
30. **Adjournment – MEETING ADJOURNED (by unanimous vote) at 9:33 pm.**