

Northridge East Neighborhood Council
Wednesday, July 19, 2006
Andasol Elementary School, 10126 Encino Ave., Northridge, CA

In attendance: 6 stakeholders, 13 Board Members and 3 officials: Michael Tou, Policy Deputy for the Honorable Brad Sherman; Tom Soong from DONE, and John Bwarie from Councilmember Greig Smith's office. Also Sunland-Tujunga NC President Cindy Cleghorn and STNC Bylaws Chair Mark Seigel.

Call to Order by Recording Secretary: Chuck Bunnell, **Pledge of Allegiance**
Roll Call: Peter McCarty, Ray Calnan, Barry Greenberg, Steve Patel, Lucille Meehan, Kelly Lord, Don Duggins, Alice Natalie McCain, Judith Nutter, Thomas Baker, Harold Ellison, Caroline Moore, Charles Bunnell

Approval of June Minutes: Motion made by Harold Ellison (seconded by Chuck Bunnell). Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda:

Election Results Verification: Chairperson Kelly Lord reported that the NENC's election results have been verified. Michael Tou, Policy Deputy for Representative Brad Sherman did the swearing in of three new board members: Barry M. Greenberg, Peter McCarty, and Ray Calnan, for NENC.

27th District Update: Michael Tou reported on upcoming Town Hall Meeting to be held on Thursday, August 24 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Reseda High School. Michael also mentioned the Parkland Shuttle mass transit program, a cost effective, year-round shuttle for Valley residents that operates on the weekend. It's now in its second year of a three-year demonstration period and only costs \$1.00 per ride (free on holidays and free with Metro Pass) to travel to many scenic locations.

Motion/Vote: Oak Tree Properties Development: 9933 White Oak Ave. The Board voted on a zoning change request by developer Giovanni for a variance to build three homes on this lot.

Discussion on the zoning change included comments by Thomas Baker that the developer had originally proposed four homes to Councilmember Smith's office but that he (Thomas) felt it was more appropriate for no more than two. He said that the developer would probably try to get three homes, anyway. However, three would not fit the neighborhood and would not allow safe access to the property.

Since the developer was not present at the meeting during discussion, the Board decided to table the vote until later in the meeting, just in case the developer should show up late. However, the developer did not show up, so this item was

brought up again at the end of the meeting for further discussion and stakeholder comments.

Ray Calnan pointed out that the area where the developer is proposing the three houses is primarily multifamily housing and apartments. If the Board were to approve a zoning change to allow for three homes on one lot, he said it would set a precedent that may prevent further apartment complexes from coming in.

Thomas stated that the property is only 110' wide and he didn't feel drivers would be able to get in and out of the property safely, plus, it would mean the removal of six parking spaces on the street.

Barry Greenberg stated that higher density residences are required to have more parking. By not providing for that on this property, there could be a potential traffic hazard.

Thomas Baker moved, "That the NENC recommend approving a zoning change based on recommendation for two homes on this property, 9933 White Oak Avenue, Northridge." (Barry Greenberg seconded). Barry then added the amendment that additional explanation be added indicating, "That this is due to a lack of street parking, traffic safety issues, and a school being located across the street." The motion did not carry. The Board opposed this motion unanimously.

Stakeholder Sandra Springer stated that she opposed recommending a zoning change for this property as the area is already congested enough and there are not enough sidewalks. Sandra pointed out that many people in that area walk on Saturdays and there are also many people well into their '80s and '90s who walk as their recommended daily exercise. Since there is a lack of sidewalks, she has witnessed many near accidents and is concerned about the seniors, children, and many people who live in the surrounding neighborhoods due to the increasing traffic congestion caused by higher density development. She asked the Board to send a message that represents what the community wants and needs and not allow for the rezoning.

Barry moved, "That the NENC oppose a zoning change to RD3 for 9933 White Oak Ave., Northridge but approve a change to allow no more than two homes on this property, believed to be "RA1." (Chuck Bunnell seconded). The motion carried unanimously.

Update on Zoning and Nuisance of Frat Houses on Halsted at Etiwanda. Thomas and Steve Patel have met with the City Attorney on this issue and reported that it is now under investigation but, at this point, there are no action dates. The latest action was that the homeowner was cited and asked to appear at a hearing. Since he did not appear, the City Attorney is now going to file

charges. In regards to having the NENC hire their own attorney, DONE has said they cannot use City funds for this.

NENC Financial Year End Report and DONE audit review: Steve Patel reported to the Board they the fiscal year has ended and as a normal procedure, the City audits each Neighborhood Council. Steve has turned in the NENC's paperwork on time but the City is behind schedule on giving their audit reports so they are waiting to hear the results.

The balance at the end of June 2006 was \$40,139.15 in the NENC account, left over from the previous fiscal year's budget. In July or August, the NENC gets a new allocation of funding for \$50,000 for 2006/2007. Expenses for last year included \$4,661 on debit card expenditures and \$5,200 on City check expenses. Steve said that he has been told that the \$40,000 left in the budget will be carried over so their budget should be about \$90,000 when they receive the new funding. Steve said that a committee would be formed to help plan usage of the funds.

Funding for Street Repairs: The Board discussed efforts to reach the Department of Transportation about adopting a street. The street proposed is Lassen between Reseda and Etiwanda (not Zelzah as previously noted). The cost would be \$1,100 a quarter. Thomas said he would work with Councilmember Greig Smith's office on this.

Alice McCain asked funding for a speaker system (on hold), while Lucille Meehan asked about the idea she proposed for a lottery for sidewalk repairs. (DONE is still looking into it).

CD 12 Update: John Bwarie from CD 12 handed out new directories of City services. He reported on:

- Free Outdoor Movie Series, tentatively set for August 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Northridge Recreation Center, 18300 La Marsh Street. Information will be forthcoming on this but the event, when finalized, will be a family movie series with free popcorn and water. Bring your blankets and picnic baskets.
- Frat House Disturbances: John reported that he has been working with the Dept. Bldg. and Safety on this high priority issue. The owner of the frat house causing the disturbances was asked to meet with the City Attorney. The process is slowly moving forward but could take anywhere from 2 to 6 months. He suggested that neighbors and Board Members continue reporting any new violations and document whatever they can with photos.
- Community Clean - Up: Councilmember Smith is interested in hosting a community clean up event for Northridge East. The date has not yet been

set but it will probably be in September or early October. Any community partnership that is offered will be appreciated. The goal is to get around 100 people out to do a clean up.

- City's Birthday: Labor Day: Monday, Sept. 4th is Los Angeles' 225th anniversary. A huge event is planned at Olivera Street. More info to come.
- Emergency Preparedness Fair takes place September 16th at Northridge Fashion Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Councilman Smith is in China right now looking at transportation systems. In late August, the City Council recesses for two weeks.
- Youth Soccer Award: In September, the NENC hopes to have the Councilman visit a Board Member to coincide with an award to Team Extreme: Granada Hills Region 8 Soccer Team who played in the American Youth Soccer Organization National Games and won the entire Tournament with a 1-0 win in the Finals over a Team from Hawaii. They were awarded the Medals of Champions.
- Tree Trimming: The City is trying to catch up on a long cycle of approximately 1,000 locations where tree limbs have come down. The Councilman has allocated emergency overtime funds for this project, which also involved stump removals. If you see construction cones, which is probably what the crew is doing.
- Speed Trailers: CD 12 is contributing half of the funds needed for speed trailers to help control speeding in the district. In order to take advantage of this, each NC needs to allocate funds for the other half. The speed trailers are permanently installed, solar – powered trailers that capture and post motorists' speeds as they are passing it. It is meant to be used for major city thoroughfares. The approximate cost for the speed trailers is \$5,000. John stated that NENC should agendaize this item and approve funding to receive the funding. The Councilmember is also allocating \$10,000 toward mobile speed trailers, a higher technology device that records motorists' data.

DONE Update: Tom Soong: DONE Project Coordinator reported that there are now over 86 Neighborhood Councils certified for the City of L.A.

City Attorney's Roundtable: DONE is asking each NC to send 2 liaisons to this meeting to ask any questions and to receive information from the City's attorneys on running their NCs. The Roundtable will be held Thursday, July 20, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Marvin Braudy Center in Van Nuys.

Sidewalk Repair Program: The City will split the costs for sidewalk repairs for property owners. Regarding the NENC's lottery for stakeholders who want this

service, Tom said it would be covered by DONE. Those chosen in the NENC lottery will get their repairs for free: NENC will pay half and the City wills the other half.

Executive Board Election: The Board elected the following members to the executive board:

- President: Kelly Lord. (Baker/McCarty made motion).
- 1st Vice President: Don Dwigins. (Lord/McCain made motion).
- 2nd Vice President: Thomas Baker. (Lord: McCain made motion).
- Secretary: Charles Bunnell. (Baker/Dwigins made motion).
- Treasurer: Steve Patel (McCarty/Baker made motion).
- Student Rep: This position remains vacant for an 18-year old student rep to the NENC.

Public Comments:

Pat Lopresti reported on a Neighborhood Committee meeting she attended with the DOT concerning pending traffic mitigations. Her report included the status of stop signs at major intersections, street studies, and the possible installation of speed humps to slow down traffic.

As a result of traffic study done at Superior Street and Reseda Blvd., the DOT will adjust the timing of a stop signal to allow easier access during peak traffic. At the intersections of Lassen and Reseda and Reseda and Plummer, the DOT will examine the need for left turn signals and will report back to them. At Etiwanda and Halsted and two other areas of Etiwanda, speed humps are being considered.

Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland -Tujunga Neighborhood Council Chairperson:

Requested a letter of support from NENC on the STNC's opposition to having a Home Depot open in their area. The public has been unanimously opposed to having Home Depot locate a store on Foothill Boulevard at the former K Mart Shopping Center but despite the community's protests, Home Depot is moving forward with their plans. She referred the Board to read more about it at: www.STNC.org

Mark Seigel, Sunland – Tujunga NC Board Member reported that he an Independent Election Administrator for DONE. He spoke about the need to pre-plan elections 140 days before an election.

Board Member Comments: None.

Meeting Adjournment: 9:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Apple One