



Northridge East Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: April 18, 2007
Andasol Elementary School Auditorium, 10126 Encino Ave.

Call to Order: 7:10pm

Attendance: Kelly Lord, Don Dwiggins, Thomas Baker, Steve Patel, Ray Calnan, James Gardner, Alice McCain, Peter McCarty, Ryan McElveen, Lucille Meehan, Caroline Moore, Judith Nutter

Absent: Chuck Bunnel (excused), Barry Greenberg (excused), Harold Ellison (excused)

Minutes: Alice McCain motioned to approve the minutes. Lucille Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Neighborhood Councils and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Board Action Required)

Don Dwiggins: The DWP has worked with the Neighborhood Councils to help with oversight that the Department takes. This happened a few years ago with the rate increases. The relationship has been successful. It started out with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which developed oversight committees to manage. During the last year, there have been amendments to the MOU. We have the opportunity as Neighborhood Council to give our approval of that MOU to strengthen the relationship between the Neighborhood Councils and the DWP.

Don Dwiggins motioned to accept the new Memorandum of Understanding. Thomas Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. NENC Election Review (Board Action Required)

As Tom Soong stated, the election procedures were approved.

Don Dwiggins motioned that NENC approve the election procedures. Thomas Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Dwiggins: the first draft of the election needs to be done by the 25th of this month. We need to approve the expenditure to proceed.

Don motioned to approve up to \$2000 to print the first master distribution of the election. Peter McCarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. New America Foundation on Instant Voting Runoff

Lynn Serpe, Deputy of Political reform from New America Foundation is speaking to different Neighborhood Councils to inform them of Instant Voting Runoff (IVR), which is a type of electoral process. New America Foundation will be at the Congress of Neighborhood Councils.

- 10% of those registered voted in the March election. In more than half of the run-offs, numbers have been dropping. Organizations are trying to find ways to increase the turn out.

Unlike the current system, this process would go to voters' 2nd, and 3rd selection, instead of having a runoff. This process is currently used for voters overseas on military duty, and in San Francisco, Vermont, Minneapolis. Project funding made available through the James Irvine Institute.

- Councils are being approached with different other options. On the white handout, specifics are detailed for Los Angeles. It cost \$14 million to do the runoff in L.A. There will be three elections next year. Consolidation into one election will make it easier for voters. With IVR, voters can rank the candidates from 1 to however many available they want. L.A. has many options for implementation
- New America Foundation's main office is located in Washington, D.C. Also located in Los Angeles and Sacramento. Ted Halsted is the Executive Director. The website is listed on the back of the yellow flyer:
http://www.newamerica.net/programs/new_america_in_california

4. Opportunity for Home Show Booth for NENC

Don Dwiggins: NENC has an opportunity to staff a booth. The Home Show is being held every two months. Neighborhood Councils have been invited to come and present themselves. Sponsored by Jack Varnishaugh. There is no need for a vote unless money is going to be spent.

No interest to participate at this time.

5. Neighborhood Council Right to Appeal (possible action)

Don Dwiggins: Individuals can appeal some land actions (for example, zoning, allocations, etc.). One Neighborhood Council tried to appeal and was told that it could not because a city agency cannot appeal the city.

- There is a movement to get Neighborhood Councils the ability to appeal. Trying to get as many Neighborhood Councils to come together to get this privilege. NENC's task is to decide whether or not to be a part of the coalition.

Don Dwiggins motioned that NENC support the Neighborhood Councils' right to appeal. Alice McCain seconded the motion. Neighborhood Councils would need to have a majority vote among all the Neighborhood Councils in order to appeal. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Matching Street Funds

Lucille Meehan (no updates)

7. Dearborn Elementary School Big Sunday Clean Up Day (possible action not to exceed \$500)

Principal from Dearborn was not present, but had asked NENC for support for trees and plants. The school is in NENC's territory.

Don Dwiggins motioned that NENC support Dearborn Elementary School's Big Sunday Clean Up with up to \$500. Thomas Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kelly will contact the principal. The school will submit an invoice.

8. NENC Administrative Assistant. Cost unknown-tabled last month (Board Action Possible Vote)

Steve Patel mentioned that having an administrative would be more productive if NENC had a facility.

Alice McCain motioned to table the issue until NENC is ready to address it again. Ray Calnan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- Nancy Aiden: On March 26, Ms. Aiden noticed that the public restroom at Northridge Park was closed for the exclusive use of child care, Monday through Friday, 9a.m. to 6p.m. She disagrees with this and has talked to the CD office. Dianne expressed that there was not much that could be done. Ms. Aiden has petitions, and currently 66 signatures. Many mothers who come with small children are concerned. They are told to go to the gym, which can be too far for small children. The CD said that it is a childcare licensing requirement that children cannot share restrooms with the public.
 - John Bwarie from Councilmember Greig Smith's District Office stated that there is no specific number of signatures needed. Suggested that Ms. Aiden work directly with the Parks Department, or Steve Cline first, before trying to obtain signatures. Petitions are arbitrary; one voice is all that matters, if supported by facts. Child care is a social service, not recreation. The building was not built for childcare.
 - Kelly Lord suggests that Nancy Aiden leaves her contact, and for individuals to direct their concerns to the Board.
- Tom Stemnock: Mr. Stemnock is a land-use consultant with Planning Associates, Inc. Distributed handouts. Project on White Oak: four RA-1 lots are currently zoned for single family residential. The proposal is to change to RD2-1 medium residential to allow 36 individual lots (single family homes). The existing four homes are older. Specifics for the 36 possible new homes:
 - 28 feet tall,
 - 3-4 bedroom,
 - 2 covered parking,
 - gated,
 - 6-foot fence
 - have a total of 16 guest parking spaces
 - access from White Oak

Thomas Baker added that two years ago that very neighborhood mobilized verbally and legally against another Developer who was trying to seek a rezone that was not within the Amended General Plan created in the mid 90's. Thomas suggested to Mr. Stemnock not to refer to their homes as "run-down" and to be careful how he phrases that area, they take great pride in having one of the last rural area's of Northridge surrounding the University. That particular area has a long history of horse property and rural surroundings. Mr. Stemnock was told to revisit the Amended General Plan as Stakeholders in that area were not happy

with it and he is now seeking a zone change that expands even from the Amended General Plan and doesn't appear to fit the neighborhoods lot sizes.

The application was filed in December. Environmental clearance will be done in about a month. The public hearing will not take place for about three more months. Mr. Stennock will come back to talk to the Board at that time. Kelly Lord requested that the Board note questions from stakeholders.

- Devonshire Division Police Department Officer Kathy Bennet: Came to give an update on crime.
 - Scam #1 in Northridge: people are selling coupons to businesses for oil changes and other auto services. One gas station has received over 100 of these coupons. Coupons are being sold for \$20 each. Please call the Devonshire PD if you encounter these individuals.
 - Suggestions made to post flyers on CSUN campus and website of LAPD.
 - Scam #2: A woman reported that a man came to her door, stating he was her neighbor, that his wife had been in an accident, that he needed \$35 for a tow truck right away, and would come back and repay her. The woman gave him the money and the man never came back. The “tow-truck” man is a white male, in his 40s to 50s, with a couple days’ beard.

James Gardner asked if there was an update on gangs. Officer Bennet responded that our numbers are down overall, but gang activity tends to flare up and then calm down. Right now it is calm. About two months ago, there was some activity near Tampa and Parthenia. Graffiti is exploding all over the city.

 - The West Valley Alliance is one out of 11 contractors (based on geography) to paint out graffiti. It used to be able to address requests within 24 – 48 hours. Now it takes about a week. It completes about 70 requests per day. West Valley Alliance gets funding through the Department of Public Works, Office of Beautification, and the CD office. Funding is public and private. They also do weed abatement. Contact West Valley Alliance directly if interested.

Thomas Baker suggested that NENC should consider funding this program. Officer Bennet also brought handouts on identity theft, emergency preparation

- John Bwarie from the Councilmember Greig Smith’s District Office
 - Thanked NENC for supporting Citrus Sunday. The Neighborhood Councils are featured on the flyer. The digital flyer can be viewed at www.CD12.org. Requested that people tell neighbors, friends to participate. For early drop-off, contact the food bank (on flyer).
 - This Wednesday is Earth Day. Sunday, working with Office of Recreation and Parks, Boy Scouts. Going into the mountains to paint out graffiti, with paint that matches the color of the rocks. Info is on the website and last month’s flyer.
 - Mayor gave a statement to the City tonight. The City budget is coming out, and the Councilmember is on the committee—John Bwarie will be downtown more often. Please email him with any issues.
- Tom Soong from DONE

- Election procedures approved
- Announcing new General Manager
Carol Baker Tharp
General Manager
http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com/bio/carol_baker_tharp.htm
- Announcing new Asst. General Manager
BongHwan Kim
Assistant General Manager
http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com/bio/bonghwan_kim.htm
They will do a regional meet-and-greet.
- April 21st 7:30a.m. to 3p.m. is the Congress of Neighborhoods. There will be workshops, opportunities for exchanging info, networking at the Bonaventure Hotel. Passed out flyers.

Board Member Reports and comments from the Board on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction

- Peter McCarty: The Greek Valley Festival will take place during Memorial Weekend, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday (26th, 27th, and 29th). Judith represented us last time. Veterans will also be in the area. A booth has been offered to NENC free of charge. Kelly will put together a Thank You letter.
- Peter McCarty proposed that NENC contact the Greek Valley Festival, letting them know of interest in placing an ad in the program. Costs: \$500 for a full-page ad; \$250 for half page; \$150 for quarter page. Artwork needs to be ready by May 7: "NENC proudly supports the L.A. Greek Festival" with our logo, website, day and time of meetings. All board members were in favor of the idea. This topic is to be included in next month's agenda.
- Kelly Lord: We are still trying to bring together the two school candidates. One candidate has responded, but we're still waiting for the incumbent's response. Looking at May 7th or 9th as possible dates (not May 8th).
- Thomas Baker: The contract for Salute to Recreation has been completed and sent. They need half of the cost for down payment, which is \$2,500. The insurance form and site-specific form has been passed to Steve Cline to get Wendy to sign. Steve Patel inquired if NENC would be able to get them the down payment ahead of time; last year, NENC was billed. Suggests that they send two invoices: one for down payment, and the other for after the event.

Ray Calnan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Alice McCain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 8:48 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Anchulee Raongthum, AppleOne, April 30, 2007