

Minutes of the
NORTHRIDGE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NENC)
Wednesday, November 21, 2007
Andasol Elementary School Auditorium
10126 Encino Ave.

Kelly Lord, President, introduced himself and called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Mr. Lord took the roll call. Board Members present:

Kelly Lord, President	Don Dwiggins, 1 st Vice-President
Thomas Baker, 2 nd Vice-President	Steve Patel, Treasurer
Sara Adelman, Board Member	Ray Calnan, Board Member
Travis Daniels, Board Member	Yeprem Davoodian, Board Member
Barry Greenberg, Board Member	Alice McCain, Board Member
Peter McCarty, Board Member	Harold Ellison, CSUN Student

A quorum was noted as being present.

Board Members absent were: Lucille Meehan, Board Member (excused); Carol Moore, Board Member (excused); and Judith Nutter, Secretary (excused). Mr. Ellison arrived late and before Mr. Baker, who arrived between Agenda items #3 and #4.

Also present were seven Stakeholders and guests.

MOTION (by Ms. McCain, seconded by Mr. Dwiggins): to approve the Minutes of the October 17, 2007 meeting.

MOTION APPROVED by unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Items

- 1) Jon Perica regarding continuing to sell beer and wine at the Arco Station at 18473 Devonshire Street.

Stakeholder Jon Perica, who is now the Senior Zoning Administrator of Pacific Crest Consultants, is also a retired L.A. Planning Department Zoning Administrator of 20 years. He spoke on behalf of his friend, the owner of the Arco Station at 18473 Devonshire Street, at the corner with Reseda Boulevard, who is applying to indefinitely extend his ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control Department) CUP (Conditional Use Permit) to continue selling beer and wine there. Mr. Perica distributed a copy of the e-mail he sent to Mr. Baker on October 23rd for distribution to the other NC Board Members regarding Mr. Perica's appearance at this Meeting. He reviewed the conditions under which the City grants a CUP. It costs approximately \$6,000 to apply for a CUP, and it is non-refundable. This is the typical CUP process.

The previous owner had been granted a CUP in 1996. As a Planning Department Zoning Administrator, Mr. Perica had approved a three-year ABC CUP for this Station that included a provision that 'if the Station sells to persons 20 years of age or less, they will lose their City grant' (the CUP). Employees attended a Police Department Store Training Program regarding estimating age, checking ID cards, and more. There is no overconcentration of such sales outlets or high crime in the applicant's census tract. Mr. Perica has lived in the neighborhood for 28 years. The station has been operating since at least 1979 and the owner has proved himself for three years.

When Mr. Perica was a Zoning Administrator and in the seven years he ran the CUP program, approximately 60 businesses were closed down due to violating their CUP conditions. The City can still add conditions or revoke a CUP at any time if a condition is violated. He said that Devonshire Division Vice Officer Mike Duarte and Phyllis Winger, Chief Planning Deputy of L.A. City Councilman Greig Smith's District 12, approve of this Permit extension because underage police undercover decoys were refused twice in trying to buy alcohol from the Station.

MOTION (by Mr. Calnan, seconded by Mr. Patel): to approve the applicant's request to extend his CUP to sell beer and wine at his Arco Station at 18473 Devonshire Street, assuming that the ABC and the Planning Department also approve the request, subject to the applicant continuing to adhere to all of the conditions of his CUP.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Greenberg expressed that alcohol and gasoline shouldn't mix.

MOTION APPROVED, with nine voting in favor, and Mr. Greenberg and Mr. McCarty opposing.

2) Introduction by the new Neighborhood Prosecutor of the L.A. City Attorney's Office.

Ms. Martha Gutierrez, Assistant Supervising Deputy City Attorney, Valley Bureau, Safe Neighborhoods Division, Neighborhood Prosecutor Program (818-374-6837; MarthaGutierrez@lacity.org), introduced herself. Her predecessor Mark Pizzuti is now working in another area. She asked that Stakeholders be the eyes and ears of the City Attorney's Office regarding any problems of which they should know.

The case against the CSUN fraternity house at 18249 and 18259 Halsted Street was reduced to an infraction and they were fined \$100. Both properties are zoned RA-1. Mr. Davoodian pointed out that the property includes a multi-family and a single-family home, there's been a mosquito problem reported due to an unmaintained full swimming pool, and that the gate has been unlocked. Mr. Greenberg noted that the property has been vandalized; he will ensure that the Neighborhood Prosecutor is aware of any problems on the property.

Stakeholder Pat LoPresti asked regarding the infraction that the owner pled guilty to, and also noted that the gate was unsecured. Stakeholder Bob Bhindi, who has lived next to the above properties for 20 years, will notify the City Building and Safety Department if he knows of any problems on the property. He said that the

neighborhood is quiet now, and thanked the City Attorney's Office and the NC for their efforts. Mr. Davoodian remarked that residents may not be fraternity members. Mr. Bhindi declared that people have claimed for a long time that they're not a fraternity, thereby avoiding certain procedures and penalties, even though they're operating as a fraternity, including regular noisy parties. Mr. Patel wants to ensure that the building isn't rented to the fraternity under another name.

3) One Laptop per Child – Give One / Get One Program not to exceed \$900.

Mr. Dwiggins explained the One Laptop per Child Program. Six computers would be purchased, with three going to a third-world country in which there is a great shortage and need for such things. Mr. Patel indicated that DONE (the L.A. City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment) doesn't allow charity donations. Mr. Greenberg voiced that this isn't a proper project for the NC to participate in, though it's a laudable program. Mr. Calnan is concerned that this may turn into a lottery because the NC can't supply a computer to anyone who asks, and that the NC could spend money locally for greater local impact. Mr. Lord commented that this could be approved subject to DONE's approval. Mr. Dwiggins explained that computer orders need to be submitted by November 23rd. Ms. McCain said that the Program's computers are very basic and useless to local children, who already know how to operate much more complicated computers. Mr. Lord suggested that the computers could be offered to seniors. No action was taken.

4) Neighborhood Council Review Commission Final Report.

Mr. Dwiggins explained that the L.A. City Council is considering taking over running the NC elections from the Independent Election Administrators who've been doing it. The City estimates this would cost \$1.5 million dollars. NCs can comment regarding the Final Report. Mr. McCarty declared that the NC needs to review the Report because the cost could be an egregious expansion of government. Mr. Greenberg noted that an Executive Summary of the Report is available on the DONE website (www.lacityneighborhoods.com), and that the City might have the City Clerk's Office run the NC elections by the end of this year. No action was taken.

5) NENC Retreat cost unknown at this time.

Mr. Davoodian reviewed the NENC Retreat Committee's Retreat Agenda, which includes reviewing NENC By-Laws, outreach policies, and events and activities. CSUN (California State University at Northridge) may host the Retreat. The estimated cost of a moderator is \$50-100 per hour. Mr. Calnan recommended holding the Retreat in July 2008. Mr. Patel stated that it should be done as soon as possible; the next Retreat will be even better, and the purpose of the Retreat is for the Board to work out issues, for example, regarding the website. Mr. Greenberg agreed. It was agreed to hold the Retreat on Sunday, January 13, 2008, starting at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Calnan encouraged having elections just before the annual budget approval.

MOTION (by Mr. Patel, seconded by Mr. Greenberg): to adopt the Retreat Agenda as written.

MOTION APPROVED by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Reports.

There was discussion regarding whether to hold the next NC Board Meeting on December 12th instead of December 19th. Mr. Greenberg is in favor of December 12th; Mr. Baker believes that we need to be consistent and keep the Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. It was agreed to hold the Meeting on December 19th.

Future Agenda Items

Mr. Greenberg announced that on December 8th there'll be a hazardous waste disposal event at CSUN at Lassen Street and Lindley Avenue from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., which will be suspended if there is rain. Also, the Meeting Agenda needs to be revised to show the NENC-LA.org website address, not the old NorthridgeEast.org address. Mr. Baker will have the website revised.

Mr. McCarty said that the NC's Fall-Free Zone may become an L.A. County-wide effort.

Mr. Patel announced that a Northridge East & West New Vision Committee has been created with former BID (Business Improvement District) members regarding the Reseda Boulevard business corridor from Lassen Street to Parthenia Street. The Committee consists of business owners, CSUN representatives and residents who will define the Vision and manage growth. Mr. McCarty indicated that it would be good for the Committee to apply the kind of thinking to the Reseda Boulevard corridor that has revitalized L.A.'s downtown and Santa Monica Place. The City estimates that it will cost approximately \$15,000 per year to maintain and refurbish that area as an official corridor.

Adjournment

MOTION (by Mr. Calnan, seconded by Mr. Patel): to adjourn the Meeting.

MOTION APPROVED by unanimous voice vote.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.