

Minutes of the
NORTHRIDGE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NENC)
Wednesday, December 19, 2007
Andasol Elementary School Auditorium
10126 Encino Ave.

- A. Don Dwiggins called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Ms. Nutter took the roll call. Board Members present:

Don Dwiggins, 1 st Vice-President	Thomas Baker, 2 nd Vice-President
Steve Patel, Treasurer	Judith Nutter, Secretary
Sara Adelman, Board Member	Ray Calnan, Board Member
Yeprem Davoodian, Board Member	Harold Ellison, CSUN Student
Barry Greenberg, Board Member	Alice McCain, Board Member
Peter McCarty, Board Member	Lucille Meehan, Board Member
Carol Moore, Board Member	

A quorum was noted as being present. Board Members absent: Kelly Lord, President (excused), Travis Daniels (not excused).

Also present were approximately 27 Stakeholders and guests.

- B. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
- C. Approval of the Minutes of the November 21, 2007 meeting was postponed until the January Meeting.
- D. NC President Policies and Procedures for NC Meeting – None mentioned.
- E. Public Comments [The following item was addressed between Sections F1 and F2.]
John Bwarie, Deputy District Director for L.A. City Council District 12 member Greig Smith (818-701-5253; john.bwarie@lacity.org), encouraged the use of reusable or recyclable bags instead of new plastic bags, and noted that Ralph's Grocery stores give a ten cent rebate for every plastic bag of your own that you use. The City is in serious financial circumstances, and next year's City budget will be very tight, with possible layoffs coming. Also, Councilman Smith's Office is collecting toys for the Police Activity League Christmas giveaway on Saturday.

[The following item was addressed between Sections F5 and G.]

Mr. Canas announced that the City has reassigned him and he will be replaced by Manuel Durasso. He also announced that the City Council approved all of the City's NC elections being run by the City Clerk's Office, instead of by DONE, starting in June 2008, and distributed copies of a newspaper article describing the change. Each NC can create a Committee to work with the City Clerk. NCs that have an election scheduled in the time period of January through March 2008 will still manage it themselves; elections scheduled in the time period of April through June 2008 will be held in June and managed by the City Clerk; and NCs that have

elections scheduled in the time period of July through December 2008 will have the option of managing their own election or waiting until 2010, when the City Clerk would manage it. The NENC's next election will be in June 2008. There will be a moratorium on NC elections in 2009. Also, NCs need to submit specific budget allocation plans to the City Clerk; their Office will want to tap into surplus NC funds.

F. Agenda Items

[The following items are presented in the order addressed.]

1) North Valley Community News (NVCN) Advertisement

MOTION (by Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Patel): to have a six-month test of a four-color ad in the North Valley Community News that will cost \$225.00 per month.

DISCUSSION: The NVCN, published by the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, is a monthly newspaper that has approximately 44,000 copies distributed in the Chatsworth, Granada Hills, North Hills, Northridge, and Porter Ranch neighborhoods to approximately 4,000 businesses and other locations, and is available on the Internet [www.northvalleycommunitynews.com]. A Stakeholder noted that this publication is not delivered to apartments or condos. Ms. Meehan declared that other ads didn't do much good.

MOTION APPROVED by unanimous voice vote

2) Northridge United Methodist Church "Memorial Garden" presentation, Candy Wilson

Ms. Wilson distributed a large "United Methodist Church of Northridge Memorial Garden & Columbarium Site Plan" and "Index Map of Photographs." She asked for the NC's support of the project, as the Church needs to clear it with the City; ashes will be interred in the Columbarium wall. Also, the Garden would include fountains, greenery, walking paths, and a meditation garden within the five-acre campus; all of this would be invisible from the street.

MOTION (by Mr. Calnan, seconded by Mr. Davoodian): to support the "United Methodist Church of Northridge Memorial Garden & Columbarium Site Plan" as proposed.

MOTION APPROVED by unanimous voice vote.

3) Our Lady of Lourdes 4,100 square foot Meeting Room

John Dodson explained that Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, located at 18405 Superior Street in Northridge, wants to build a Meeting Room that would include four flexible meeting rooms that can be separated by dividers within one large room. It would be built adjacent to the Parish office, with a courtyard in between. They'd also build additional restrooms and no parking would be affected.

MOTION (by Mr. Calnan, seconded by Mr. Ellison): to accept the Our Lady of Lourdes 4,100 square foot Meeting Room proposal as presented.

MOTION APPROVED by unanimous voice vote.

- 4) Neighborhood Council Review Commission's (NCRC's) Final Report
There was considerable discussion regarding the Report's Item #57 regarding term limits; Mr. Calnan believes that they are good for rotating energy and leadership, and, contrary to the Report's Item #67 conclusion, that unspent NC funds should go to the City's General Fund or Council District Offices. Mr. Dwiggins said that more time is needed to consider the Report. Mr. Baker noted that the Report is available to read on the NENC website. Mr. Patel and Mr. Dwiggins indicated that the issue is still being discussed in the NCRC and will later be brought to the City Council.

- 7) 9750-9810 White Oak Re-zone City Planner Staff Report
Mr. Greenberg said that the City Planning Commission (CPC) generated the need to amend the Northridge Community Plan, not the developer. Mr. Dwiggins expressed that there are wrong premises in the Report. Mr. Greenberg reviewed CPC Speaker rules and stated that the Community Plan is on the Agenda for tomorrow's CPC Hearing. Mr. Patel voiced that the developer is well-connected and factual evidence is needed to stop him. Mr. Calnan said that we need to discuss traffic and other development impacts. Mr. Greenberg reminded that the CPC decision will be made tomorrow and that, after that, our only option is to appeal to the City Council. Mr. Davoodian said that we need a strategy. Mr. Baker commented that he is disappointed by L.A. City Councilman Greig Smith's comments regarding this issue; he had the power to stop this project and we need to change his mind. He continued that there'd be too many (36) homes on a 2,800 square foot lot. Stakeholder Joel Lipin declared that 75-80 people signed a petition opposing the project, yet Councilman Smith still supported it. Mr. Baker remarked that we may need a legal remedy if the City Council approves the project and that the City likes the tax revenue that the 36 homes would generate compared to the four homes currently on the property. Many Stakeholders agreed to appear at the Planning Commission Hearing tomorrow morning at 8:30 to support each other. Ms. McCain reported that the developer's project money is already in escrow and that we need to take action before, not at the Hearing. Mr. Baker thinks that Councilman Smith wants to maintain the neighborhood, but needs to hear our views more. Mr. Patel noted that everyone here is against this project. A Stakeholder related that everyone was also against another project that was approved anyway and with a flawed traffic study

6) NE/W Vision Committee

Mr. Patel reported that the Northridge East and Northridge West NCs, City Council District 12, CSUN and the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce combined to form the NE/W New Vision Committee to replace the old BID (Business Improvement District) Committee, and the Committee approved a Vision Plan at its last Meeting. There is no more funding available to maintain the plants, benches and irrigation on the Reseda Boulevard Corridor median strip between Roscoe Boulevard and Lassen Street, and Councilman Smith has spent Council District funds to maintain it through March 2008. The Committee estimates a Corridor annual maintenance cost of \$15,000-\$16,000, and Corridor businesses will be contacted regarding contributing to this cost. Mr. McCarty pointed out that demographic changes will need to be addressed in the Plan. Mr. Patel said that the Committee will consider density, traffic and other issues, and revealed that the Committee will request to freeze all Northridge rezoning-related development until the Vision Plan is developed. Mr. McCarty acknowledged the Committee's work, saying that it will bring some sunshine to the development process.

Mr. Patel distributed and read a "NE/W VISION COMMITTEE: Northridge East & West Vision" statement.

MOTION (by Mr. Patel, seconded by Mr. Calnan): to support the Northridge East & West Vision Committee with its goals to develop a vision for the Northridge Area.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Baker declared that we need to let Councilman Smith know that if he wants the community to support him, he needs to support the community. Stakeholder Wayne Adelstein cautioned that we need to not play politics with Councilman Smith. Mr. Calnan and Mr. Baker agreed, with Mr. Calnan saying that we need to propose a Vision Plan to Councilman Smith because it's the right thing to do.

MOTION APPROVED by unanimous voice vote.

5) NENC Retreat

Mr. Patel suggested and it was agreed to have a revised NENC Retreat date of Sunday, January 27th, 2008. Melvin Canas, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Project Coordinator, asked for more Retreat information so that DONE can help arrange the Retreat.

G. Board Member Reports and Comments

Mr. Baker proposed and it was agreed to hold the next NENC Executive Board Meeting on January 8th.

H. Future Agenda Items – No additional items were mentioned.

I. Adjournment -- The Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.