

Minutes of the  
**NORTHRIDGE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NENC)**  
**General Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

Andasol Elementary School Auditorium, 10126 Encino Ave., Northridge, CA

**Call to Order**

**President Kelly Lord called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carol Moore.

**Roll Call**

**Mr. Lord took the roll call. Board Members present:**

**Kelly Lord, President**

**Don Dwiggins, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

**Sara Adelman, Youth  
Representative**

**Yeprem Davoodian, Board Member**

**Barry Greenberg, Board Member**

**Conner Lansdale, Student  
Representative**

**Alice McCain, Board Member**

**Lucille Meehan, Board Member**

## **Carol Moore, Board Member**

Board Members absent: Thomas Baker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President (excused), Ray Calnan, Board Member (excused), Travis Daniels (not excused), Judith Nutter, Secretary (excused), Peter McCarty, Board Member (excused), and Steve Patel, Treasurer (excused).

Nine of the 15 Board Members were present, which is a quorum, and the business of the Council could be conducted.

Also present were 21 Stakeholders and Guests.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the April 9<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting.**

**MOTION** (by Ms. McCain, seconded by Mr. Dwiggin): to approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2008 General Board Meeting, as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by acclamation.

**NC President Policies and Procedures for NC Meeting** – None mentioned.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.]

### **Comments from City Officials**

Melvin Canas, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Project Coordinator (818-374-9953; [melvin.canas@lacity.org](mailto:melvin.canas@lacity.org)), announced that BongHwan Kim was officially appointed as the DONE General Manager. Mr. Kim will focus on implementing the BONC (L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) recommendations. DONE Neighborhood Council Valley Training Day, an orientation and training for NC Board Members, will be held on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at the Sunland-Tujunga Municipal Building [7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland-Tujunga]. Stakeholders are welcomed (213-485-1360; [lacityneighborhoods.com](http://lacityneighborhoods.com)). The two main topics will be funding, and legal issues. DONE is focusing on NC elections voter turnout, and is distributing flyers and arranging media ads; there'll be a Public Service Announcement on public radio and TV Channel Seven. NCs need to also focus on outreach, distribute flyers and take advantage of participatory events. The City Council is considering reducing the allowed NC budget rollover amount.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after the "Approval of the Minutes."]

## **Public Comments**

Stakeholder Dorit Jacoby announced the “Salute to Recreation” 5K Walk will be June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 a.m. (the Walk starts at 8:00 a.m.). Also, June 6<sup>th</sup> is the BMX Show and Safety Fair. It’s a family fun event that needs volunteers and costs \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door.

This is misclassified. Ms. Grossman-Merritt spoke in place of Tom Rubinson. This should be included under 1 below. -Barry Greenberg 6/14/08 8:37 AM

Judicial candidate Hilleri Grossman-Merritt reminded that the election is 13 days from now. She spoke briefly about herself and six other candidates for judge positions, all of whom are rated “qualified or very qualified” by the L.A. County Bar Association. She’s endorsed by the L.A. County Democratic Party and many other local organizations and has many years of prosecuting experience, including with the District Attorney’s Office for 14 years, including at the Van Nuys Courthouse.

[The following comments were made after “Comments from City Officials.”]

George Truesdell, Dennis DeYoung, and Judie Levin-Sanchez, from the Northridge West NC (NWNC) ([www.northridgewest.org](http://www.northridgewest.org)), introduced themselves.

### **1. Tom Rubinson, candidate for Superior Court Judge**

Mr. Rubinson was not present.

### **2. Available Candidates for the 40<sup>th</sup> District State Assembly**

[The following comments were made after the first “Public Comments.”]

State 40<sup>th</sup> District Assembly **Republican -Barry Greenberg 6/14/08 8:38 AM** candidate Armineh Chelebian spoke. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting from CSUN (California State University at Northridge) and her children are involved in the local school system. She wants to “break up” the LAUSD (L.A. Unified School District) to be more efficient and to have “more control over the budget,” though UTLA (United Teachers Los Angeles) could stay together.

State 40<sup>th</sup> District Assembly **Democratic -Barry Greenberg 6/14/08 8:38 AM** candidate Dan McCrory spoke. His top priorities are education, environment, and health care, and he wants to establish a Civilian Conservation Corps-type organization for youth.

[The following Comment was made after the last “Public Comments.”]

State 40th District Assembly **Democratic -Barry Greenberg 6/14/08 8:39 AM** candidate Bob Blumenfield spoke. He has 20 years of experience, including as Chief of Staff for U.S. 28<sup>th</sup> District of California Congressman Howard Berman, and

helped draft an emergency earthquake spending bill. He's endorsed by many major Democratic officials.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.]

### **3. Report on recommendation for consultant from Land Use Committee (LUC)**

Mr. Lord explained that this is to have an outside voice for the LUC. They're still "vetting candidates"; it's a challenge because candidates often represent developers.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.]

### **4. DWP Representative presents rate increases information**

Jeff Peltola, Director, Budget, Rates and Efficiency Division, DWP (the L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) (213-367-1347; [jeffrey.peltola@ladwp.com](mailto:jeffrey.peltola@ladwp.com)), introduced himself and Greg Bartz, DWP Neighborhood Council Liaison (213-367-2800, [greg.bartz@ladwp.com](mailto:greg.bartz@ladwp.com)). Mr. Peltola distributed a "[LADWP]: Electric Rate Restructuring" letter; a "Proposed Rate Restructuring" packet; a "A Perfect Storm without Water" brochure; a "Securing L.A.'s Water Supply" report; and the "[LADWP] 2008/09 Fiscal Year Budget." He explained that the DWP is one of the few utilities to not have a tiered rate structure. No rate increase is planned; they're transitioning from a dual rate to a tiered rate structure based upon a UCLA microclimate study, based upon zip codes. This structure is the first DWP item endorsed by the L.A. Times in at least 25 years. There are three main tiers; third-tier energy users "will subsidize the other users." The effect on small businesses should be minimal. The peak energy use cost will increase for everyone, while the off-peak cost will decrease. An online calculator is available at [www.ladwp.com\nc](http://www.ladwp.com\nc); you can calculate your own bill, including under the new plan. Generous rebates are available, including for lighting equipment. Refrigerators and fans are the biggest energy users. Another water study is planned, and more water conservation efforts. The DWP has given seven percent of its revenue to the City General Fund for nearly 100 years and this is a common practice throughout the U.S.; the money is often used for expenses such as hiring police. DWP's "costs are significantly lower" than those of Southern California Edison.

### **5. NENC Elections status report**

**[CONFIRM: \_\_ DISPOSITION?] I'm not certain what our note-taker means here. Who spoke and to what effect? -Barry Greenberg 6/14/08 8:39 AM**

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.]

### **6. Grand Opening Partnership with Northridge Aquatic Center**

Mr. Lord explained this Item.

Mr. Greenberg informed the board the Councilperson Smith had already announced in a public announcement that Northridge East NC was providing refreshments -Barry Greenberg 6/14/08 8:40 AM

**MOTION** (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Ms. Meehan): to allocate up to \$500 to establish a partnership with the Northridge Aquatic Center.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Lord said that this Item is already Outreach-budgeted. Mr. Greenberg noted that at least five of eight Board Members must vote in favor to pass a budget Motion; the Youth Representative can not vote on budget Items.

**MOTION PASSED** by acclamation, with Ms. Meehan opposed.

**7. New Vision Partnership 2008-2009 from NENC**

and

**8. Bookkeeper to assist Treasurer**

Mr. Lord combined these two Items and noted that Treasurer Steve Patel is not present. He explained that this is about earmarking funds to allocate to the Northridge Community Plan. CSUN is an active partner in this. Mr. Greenberg expressed that this is about “a new vision of what Northridge could look like,” and that we could also have high school groups give ideas. Mr. Lord mentioned the CSUN Performing Arts Center being constructed and that we want Northridge to be a place people drive to, not just through; it’s a four- or five-year long-term project. Mr. Greenberg noted that they’re working with L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; [lacity.org/council/cd12](http://lacity.org/council/cd12)), who agrees, about expanding the NC’s boundaries. Mr. Truesdell declared that the NWNC doesn’t intend to expand their boundaries; the problem area to the south needs to make the effort to help themselves.

**9. Report from Environmental Committee By Whom? -Barry Greenberg 6/14/08 8:42 AM**

**MOTION** (by Ms. McCain, seconded by Mr. Dwiggin): to **TABLE** Items Seven through Nine.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Lord explained that the Partnership is to look at a variety of issues; it’s not just about revising the Community Plan, it’s “to get a cohesive plan for the community.” Mr. Dwiggin commented that a developer who spends enough money can get variances outside of a Community Plan.

**MOTION PASSED** by acclamation.

**Board Member Reports**

Mr. Greenberg announced that he is setting up a new NC e-mail system and creating a master planning calendar for events, etc. Events for the calendar can be e-mailed to [calendar@nencla.org](mailto:calendar@nencla.org).

Mr. Lord reminded that an early notification system is available from the City Council. There'll be a Greek Festival at Balboa Blvd. and Plummer St. He invited the NWNC and Stakeholders to participate in this and the Salute to Recreation; there'll be NC booths at both events. Also, applications are due by May 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 for NC election candidates.

### **Future Agenda Items**

No additional items were mentioned.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Greenberg): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting. **Seconded by whom? - Barry Greenberg 6/14/08 8:42 AM**

**MOTION PASSED** by acclimation.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.