

Minutes of the Meeting of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

June 17, 2009

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:11PM by President Steve Patel.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Peter McCarty.
3. Roll Call: Steve Patel, Thomas Baker, Peter McCarty, Barry Greenberg, Kelly Lord, Pamela Butts (excused), Yeprem Davoodian (excused), Don Dwiggins, Nestor Fantini, Alice McCain, Lucille Meehan (excused), Caroline Moore, Brittny McCarthy, Connor Lansdale (excused), Steven Ramirez. Quorum was present.
4. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from May 20, 2009 made by Mr. Patel, 2nd by Mr. Greenberg. None opposed, motion passed.
5. Comments from Public Officials:
 - a. Council District 12 – John Bwarie announced that City Council has an approved budget but changes will be made. No updates on other issues.
 - b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – No appearance.
 - c. Senior Lead Kathy Bennett – No appearance.
 - d. Deputy City Attorney Bill Larsen – Mr. Larsen informed the public and the council about complaints regarding vacant and/or foreclosed homes. Complaints include illegal filming of pornography, transients moving into properties, and teens and young adults using vacant homes to party. Illegal filming complaints should be reported directly to LAPD's vice division. Other issues should be directed to the Department of Building and Safety so they can contact the banks and lenders of the foreclosed homes and have them padlocked. Mr. Larsen also discussed allowances for food and catering trucks on public streets.
 - e. City Alternative Technologies Project – Rebecca Wood and Miguel Zermeno gave a presentation on the city's sanitation and recycling programs. The Bureau of Sanitation's goal is to phase out urban landfills within the next twenty years and achieve zero waste. Mr. Zermeno went over the criteria the Bureau is using to look for new waste sites and ways to reuse black bin waste. Mr. McCarty briefly discussed the Valley's Green Team proposal to use local companies to reuse black bin waste after it is sorted. There was a brief discussion regarding energy used to dispose of waste in landfills. Further information can be found at the Bureau's website: www.alternativetechnology.lacity.org.
6. Public Comments: There were no public comments.
7. Old Business:
 - a. 18240 Superior Subdivision Update – No new updates.
 - b. Ethics Training – The remaining NENC members that have not completed their Ethics Training are working on doing so now.
 - c. 18259 Halstead St – Bob Joyce addressed the Council and announced that the coalition against the church has been successful in getting 90-98% of neighbors to sign their petition and expect several hundred total. Pastor Lin, the church elders and the neighbors had a meeting June 13, 2009. The church has not sought a new location and is not denying that it may buy the property next to it and expand the church. Another meeting is tentatively scheduled next month. A land use attorney is needed to explain a federal law regarding discrimination of small churches. Mr.

Dwiggins, the new head of the Land Use Committee, also commented on foreclosed homes in the area and believes it to be a land use issue. Mr. McCarty asked in neighborhood watches could look after foreclosed homes; Mr. Larsen noted that houses must have LAMC 41.24 No Trespassing signs in place for police to arrest trespassers.

- d. Budget Update and Fund Balance – Mr. Lord made a motion to approve the NENC budget for fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, 2nd by Ms. McCain. Motion carries unanimously.
 - e. NE/W Vision Update – NE/W Vision wants to bridge the gap between Reseda Blvd. and CSUN, post written updates within the next 30-60 days, and find a way to get community feedback.
 - f. Website Update – Mr. Dwiggins wants anyone with ideas and comments to contact him and hopes to demo the new website at the July meeting. Along with the NENC, the public will also be able to post things on the new website which should be fully functioning in a year.
 - g. Salute to Recreation – Salute to Recreation was a huge success and MR. Patel wants to thank Northridge West, Reseda, and Winnetka Neighborhood Councils for support with the fireworks show.
8. New Business:
- a. General Meeting Venue Change – The Council is considering a possible venue change to CSUN in order to take advantage of technology the current venue does not have. A short discussion of pros and cons regarding the venue change ensued: pros include CSUN catering meetings and being able to have joint meetings with other NC's if needed; cons include moving the venue further south away from constituents and losing the positives of an auditorium.
 - b. Movies in the Park – Mr. Lord made a motion to cosponsor with NWNC and CD12 up to \$500 for the July 11, 2009 movie in the park event; 2nd by Mr. Dwiggins. The money would cover pool costs to keep the pool open later and free to the public during the movie night hours as well as staffed with lifeguards. Motion carries.
 - c. Motion for Approval of Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) – New America gave a brief presentation regarding IRV; pros include saving \$8 to \$9 million per election cycle, lessen voter fatigue, increase voter turnout, and reduce effects of negative campaigning. Several US cities and foreign countries have used IRV with success; San Francisco has used IRV for past 5 election cycles with positive feedback from voters. After Mr. Patel read a statement from New America, Mr. Lord made a motion for NENC to recommend that IRV be adopted for all elections involving the city of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified School District, and the Los Angeles Community College District; 2nd by Mr. Dwiggins. Concerns arose from the motion being written from an outside party and questions were raised regarding how money from election savings is allocated. After discussion, a call for the vote was made; one opposed, motion carries.
 - d. DWP Motion Re: MTh Watering Schedule – Mr. Patel announced his concern with how water is being saved with the new mandatory watering schedule. The Environmental Committee will head up the issue and present a motion to the NENC.

- e. Resolution to Defer CAP Increases for 2009-2010 Budget – Defer to July meeting.
 - f. University Village Zone
 - i. 1250 foot zone surrounding Educational Institutions including Universities, Colleges, and Adult Schools: Mr. Greenberg will head up issue; defer to July meeting.
 - g. CPR/CERT/Safety Training and Certification – Mr. Lord made a motion to approve up to \$1000 to cosponsor CPR/CERT/Safety Training with NWNK on June 20, 2009; 2nd Ms. McCain. Motion carries.
 - h. New Land Use Committee Chair Appointment – Mr. Dwiggins has been appointed as the new Land Use Committee Chair.
 - i. Land Use Consultant – A Land Use Consultant has been budgeted for in the new budget and the Land Use Committee is still looking for a consultant.
 - j. Amendment to Bylaws – Defer to July meeting
 - k. DONE Year End Processing – No action needed.
 - l. CA State Budget – No action needed.
 - m. Mr. Ramirez thanked the NENC for the past year and discussed what he's done and why he wants to run again. Mr. Patel made a motion to ratify his appointment of Mr. Ramirez as the Youth Representative for the 2009-2010 year; 2nd by Mr. McCarty. Motion carries unanimously
9. Committee Reports:
- a. Education – Mr. Fantini is the new chairman for the Education Committee. Mr. McCarty announced that more schools are coming to NENC meetings and it is a good mix of both public and private schools.
 - b. Environmental – Mr. Ramirez encourages everyone to participate in the Aliso Canyon Brush Cleanup June 27th.
 - c. Land Use – Mr. Fantini thanked the community and NENC for helping and supporting him with the Land Use Committee; he learned a lot and was especially helped by Pat LoPresti and Bob Joyce and his wife. Mr. McCarty generously thanked Mr. Fantini for his service on the Land Use Committee and welcomed him to the Education Committee. Mr. Patel thanked Mr. Dwiggins for stepping up to head Land Use Committee.
 - d. Mr. Greenberg reminded everyone to note the LA Tax Penalty Amnesty for 2009 to avoid an LA City audit.
10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Patel at 9:14PM.