Minutes of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

March 17, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Patel at 7:10PM.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steven Ramirez.
3. Roll Call: Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins, Lucile Meehan, Alice McCain, Brittny McCarthy, Steven Ramirez, Peter McCarty (tardy), Kelly Lord (excused), Barry Greenberg (excused), Yeprem Davoodian (excused), Conor Lansdale (excused), Nestor Fantini (excused), Tom Baker (excused), Pamela Butts (excused), Caroline Moore (excused).
   a. Agenda Setting Meeting Participation: Steve Patel, Kelly Lord, Don Dwiggins, Barry Greenberg, Thomas Baker, Peter McCarty.
4. Approval of Minutes: Defer to April meeting.
5. Comments from Public Officials:
   a. Council District 12 – John Bwarie announced that the city has laid off its three calligraphers and will not be issuing any proclamations for the time being; he also discussed the historical tour that was held earlier this month for the Centennial Celebration; the website, Northridge100.org has information about the K-12 scholarship opportunity (deadline May 10th) and also the calendar of Centennial events; the city has to close a $700 million budget gap in the next three months, unfortunately to do that a few thousand city employees may be laid off and so far four city departments have been eliminated and their services and personnel have been redistributed.
   b. Congressman Brad Sherman’s Office – Jessica Yas reminded everyone that a census should be coming to your homes soon, the Congressman held a town hall meeting was held on February 21st at Reseda High School.
   c. LAPD – Senior Lead Officer Kathy Bennett announced that the city is seeing more burglary from cars and also grand theft auto crimes, a District Meeting will be held April 15th at 7PM at Shepherd of the Hills Church, the topic is “It’s 10:00, Do You Know Where Your Car Is?” Mr. Patel announced that at the Senior Lead Officer Summit he was invited to attend they discussed that the crimes in the area at the moment are “crimes of opportunity,” and we should all keep our valuables safe and not visible to passers-by.
   d. NAHS – Ms. Mortensen thanked Mr. Patel for his participation in the school’s “Principal for the Day” program earlier this month and gave him a picture from that day as well as a picture of the CERT trainee graduates.
e. CSUN – Ms. McCarthy informed the Council that a Public Comment Form is available to the public regarding the Athletic and Instructional Field Lighting Project; Ms. McCarthy also briefly addressed the budget crisis Mr. Bwarie discussed and how it has affected the University’s enrollments and tuition and fee increases.

6. Public Comments:
   a. Kathy Arnos announced an Earth Day event April 24th at Highland Hall that will include workshops and exhibitors. NENC and its Environmental Committee are sponsors for the event.

7. Old Business:
   a. NENC Election 2010 Results – Mr. Dwiggins announced those elected March 2nd, 2010 for the NENC Board of Directors: Steve Patel, Lucile Meehan, Don Dwiggins, Peter McCarty, Kelly Lord, Nestor Fantini, Barry Greenberg, Yeprem Davoodian, Alice McCain, Yehuda Draiman. The new NENC board will be seated during the first regular meeting after the certified final results are announced; the board will most likely be seated at the April meeting.
   b. Treasurer’s Report – Defer to April meeting
   c. Planning and Land use:
      i. Athletic Field Lighting Plan – The field is away from residential areas although some are concerned that there could be traffic or littering problems if the University leases or rents the field to another entity.
      ii. 18259 Halstead – Mr. Dwiggins read a thank-you letter from the Lindley West Coalition regarding the Council’s help fighting the CUP for the property.
      iii. 9963 Lindley Proposed Fraternity House – Lambda Chai (sp?) has purchased a house on Lindley near Lassen and a CUP has been filed for the property. Residents are concerned about having a fraternity house nearby. Mr. Patel reminded everyone that the landlord for this property is the same that owned a previous Fraternity House that was shut down
   d. Northridge Festival/Salute to Recreation:
      i. Mr. McCarty made a motion for the NENC to support the Senior Dance in the amount of $500. Motion passes.
      ii. Mr. Dwiggins made a motion for the NENC to support the Firework Display at the Northridge Festival in the amount of $4,000, 2nd by Ms. McCain. One opposed, motion passes.
   e. Lindley Tram Update: Mr. Baker sent an email to the Council stating that a security gate and tram route change are being constructed on Lindley at Kinzie St. He will keep the Council updated regarding completion dates for these projects.
   f. Chamber Installation Luncheon – Ms. McCain made a motion for the Council to pay for Mr. Lord’s and Mr. McCarty’s attendance at the Chamber’s Installation Luncheon in the amount of $100; 2nd by Mr. Dwiggins. Motion passes.
   g. Websperation final settlement – Mr. Dwiggins made a motion to settle the Websperation Final payment in the amount of $500; in return, Websperation will provide a printed training manual, 2nd by Ms. McCain. Motion passes.

8. New Business:
   a. Paul Moeller gave a brief presentation on mass notification systems for emergencies including fires, earthquakes, dirty bombs, biohazard materials, HAZMAT, crowd control, criminal activity, and others. The system is wireless and thus would not be affected if the
power were to go out in an emergency or if cell phones were not usable. He also read some testimonials from other cities and hospitals that have successfully used such a system. Mr. Bwarie briefly discussed the city’s emergency response strategies; Mr. Patel wants to educate the public about what services are available in their local areas and what to do in emergencies. Mr. Patel would like to invite Mr. Moeller back to a future meeting.

b. Boy Scout Troop 911 – Joel Lipin from Troop 911 provided the Council with a list of equipment the troop needs and asked for their support. Mr. McCarty made a motion that the NENC support Troop 911 in the amount of $1484.47 for their needed equipment, 2nd by Mr. Ramirez. Motion passes.

c. Proposal to Have MTA Install a Rapid Stop – Ms. McCain made a motion for the NENC to support a bus stop added to the Metro Rapid Red Line 740 at the intersection of Lassen and Lindley, 2nd by Mr. Dwiggins. Motion passes.

9. Committee Reports:
   a. Mr. Patel discussed his experience as “Principal for a Day” and said it was an eye-opener to the amount of work the faculty and staff does each day and realizes that tax dollars go a long way.
   b. Mr. McCarty discussed the Educational Committee’s upcoming events and plans and their next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 25th at NAHS. Mr. McCarty also reminded everyone about the April 24th Earth Day Event Ms. Arnos discussed; it is the largest Earth Day Event in the San Fernando Valley.
   c. The Council and the stakeholders present had a brief discussion regarding the current budget crisis and what some future options are depending on what the Neighborhood Council budgets will be in the new fiscal year starting July 1st, 2010.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Certified as true and correct by:

Barry M. Greenberg, Secretary