Minutes of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

May 19, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Patel at 7:09PM.
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 (excused), Kelly Lord (tardy), Barry Greenberg, Yeprem Davoodian (absent), Conor Lansdale (absent), Nestor Fantini (excused), Jay Draiman, Stephen Hubbard, Michael McNulty (absent).
   a. Agenda Setting Meeting Participation: Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins, Barry Greenberg, Jay Draiman, Peter McCarty.
4. Approval of Minutes: Ms. McCain made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2010; 2nd by Mr. Greenberg. Motion passes unanimously. Approval of March 2010 minutes deferred to June meeting.
5. Comments from Public Officials:
   b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – No appearance.
   c. Senator Alex Padilla – Field Deputy Nick Zigler from Senator Padilla’s office introduced himself to the Council and discussed SB 1440 which addresses school transfers for student’s with Associate’s degrees.
   d. CSUN – Ms. McCarthy announced that 10,000 students are graduating at CSUN’s commencement’s ceremonies taking place this week and CSUN Men’s Volleyball finished in 2nd place in the country. All University events can be seen on the website www.csun.edu.
6. Public Comments:
   a. Carmen Campeas thanked the Council for its support for a zoning violation near her house.
7. Old business:
   a. Treasurer’s Report and Update – Mr. Lord discussed that we have outstanding invoices in about $7,000 that have not been paid; invoices are pending response from City Council regarding use of rollover funds. Mr. Lord announced that there will be a budget meeting next week (time and place to be announced).
   b. 9963 Lindley Proposed Fraternity House Update – Greg Tailor, a consultant representing Lambda Chi Alpha, and Spencer Schmerling, president of Lambda Chi Alpha’s housing corporation, made a presentation regarding a proposed
fraternity in an six-bedroom existing building (up to 18 residents). There is a proposal for a 40-spot parking area behind the building; the fraternity is responsible for the professional upkeep and maintenance of property. There is no access to Vintage St. from the proposed parking lot; access would only be onto Lindley Avenue. Part of the proposal includes a 20 foot gate across the driveway and a 6 foot tall wall around the perimeter. The case is currently in the Zoning Administrator office; a hearing regarding the matter will take place at a later date. Mr. Tailor is willing to meet with concerned neighbors to help ease any fears about having a fraternity near their homes. Spencer Schmerling discussed some of the fraternity’s history and described the types of students that are members. Mr. Schmerling admitted that they did own a property on Halstead that was rented out to another fraternity that did have problems with their neighbors; several Council members and members of the community had many questions and comments for Mr. Tailor and Mr. Sperling regarding the project. A lengthy discussion ensued. Stakeholders that spoke against the proposed fraternity: Edward Burgos, Susan Paruble, Mike Crawley, Jemie Keshishian, Thomas Baker, Pam Abicahaus, Joe Voss, Barbara Ultan, Lori Fass, Andrew Sapin, and Richard Silliman. Several spoke of living near the Halstead property and experienced many disturbances including broken bottles, beer cans and trash around their neighborhood, armed party crashers, late parties with loud music, the police needed to be called on a regular basis, people running through their yards and parking in reserved spaces and guests unsafely driving to and from the house. Mr. Dwiggins asked that each stakeholder that spoke contact him via the NENC website (www.nenc-la.org) so he can prepare a file for the upcoming hearing. Mr. Greenberg made a motion proposing that the Council take an official position against the fraternity’s particular proposal and additionally against any future fraternity or sorority seeking housing in residentially zoned areas; 2nd by Ms. McCain. Mr. Lord proposed a motion that the Council defer voting on Mr. Greenberg’s motion until next month; 2nd by Mr. Hubbard. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Draiman, yea; Mr. Lord, yea; Mr. Greenberg, nay; Mr. Patel, yea; Mr. Ramirez, yea; Ms. Meehan, nay; Ms. McCain, yea; Mr. Hubbard, yea; Ms. McCarthy, abstention. Motion passes.

c. Northridge 100 Festival/Salute to Recreation/Hawaiian Festival Update – Diane Brooks from the United States Tennis Association addressed the Council and asked for $1,400 to support tennis activities at the Northridge 100 Festival. After a brief discussion between Ms. Brooks and the Council, Mr. Lord made a motion that the Council support the sponsoring of the USTA for $1,400 at the Northridge 100 Festival; 2nd by Ms. McCain. None opposed, two abstentions; motion passes.

8. New Business:
   a. Emergency Budget Committee Meeting – Will be held at June agenda setting meeting.
   b. Board Member Duties/Responsibilities – Defer to June meeting.
   c. Board Retreat – Defer to June meeting.
   d. Opposition to Proposed Sidewalk Maintenance – Ms. McCain made a motion that the Council oppose the transfer of responsibility for damaged sidewalks from
the City to the property owners; 2nd by Mr. Greenberg. Stakeholder Glen Bailey spoke in opposition to the transfer of sidewalk liability. Motion passes unanimously.

e. Formal Motion to extend NENC boundaries – Mr. Lord made a motion to include Fire Station 87 in the NENC boundaries; 2nd by Mr. Draiman. Motion passes unanimously.

f. Mr. Ramirez made a motion to allocate up to $700 for Northridge Academy High School; 2nd by Mr. Hubbard. Motion passes unanimously.

g. Mr. Patel requested that the board approve Mr. Draiman as the DWP Oversight Committee Chair; 2nd by Ms. McCain. Motion passes unanimously.

h. Position Regarding “Unhitched Trailer Billboards” – AB 2756 – Mr. Greenberg proposes that the Council take a position in favor of AB 2756, regarding unhitched trailers; 2nd by Mr. Hubbard. Motion passes unanimously.

9. Committee Reports: Mr. Ramirez announced the Northridge Academy High School Rocks (NAHS Rocks) to be held at the school Friday, June 11th from 5-10PM. The event, which will feature games, food, music, Latino Sabor Dancers, CSUN rappers, and a raffle, is $4 for anyone with a Puma pass, $5 for the general public, and children under 5 are free.

10. Mr. Lord made a motion to adjourn the meeting; meeting adjourned at 9:01PM.

Certified as true and correct by:

Barry M. Greenberg, Secretary