

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES California



## ELECTED EXECUTIVE BOARD

Steve S. Patel – President  
Don Dwiggins – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Membership  
Peter J. McCarty – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Outreach  
Barry M. Greenberg – Secretary  
Kelly M. Lord – Treasurer

## ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Yeprem Davoodian Alice N. McCain  
Jay Draiman Lucille Meehan  
Nestor Fantini Steven Ramirez

Stephen Hubbard

## APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Brittany McCarthy – CSUN Faculty/Staff  
Conor P. Lansdale – CSUN Student  
Michael McNulty – Youth



## Northridge East Neighborhood Council

**Making Northridge a Better Place to Live, Work, Play and Learn**

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

July 21, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Patel at 7:06PM.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steven Ramirez.
3. Roll Call: Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins, Lucille Meehan, Alice McCain (tardy), Brittany McCarthy, Steven Ramirez, Peter McCarty (excused), Kelly Lord, Barry Greenberg, Yeprem Davoodian (absent), Conor Lansdale (absent), Nestor Fantini (excused), Jay Draiman, Stephen Hubbard, Michael McNulty. Quorum was present.
  - a. Agenda Setting Meeting Participation: Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins, Barry Greenberg, Stephen Hubbard.
4. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Greenberg made a motion to accept the minutes from June 16, 2010; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Draiman. Motion passes unanimously. Mr. Greenberg made a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 21, 2010 meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Dwiggins. Motion passes unanimously.
5. Comments from Public Officials:
  - a. Council District 12 – Ms. Park, a field deputy from Councilman Smith's office, discussed AB1998, a bill to get rid of plastic bags, which is supported by the Grocer's Association. Ms. Park also announced National Night Out, which will be held Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Northridge Park. Food will be served and the movie *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* will be shown.
  - b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – No appearance.
  - c. CSUN – Ms. McCarthy, Director of Government and Community Relations, announced that the first soccer game under the new field lights will be held Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Stephen Oppenheimer is opening his biology of cancer class to the public; Dr. Oppenheimer's class will be held on Mondays starting August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Performing Arts Center gala will be held January 29, 2011. Ms. McCarthy also announced that CSUN has summer camps and programs for children. Finally, the furlough days officially ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, but it is unclear yet what the new budget year will hold. Information on any of the above can be found at [www.csun.edu](http://www.csun.edu), or you can contact Ms. McCarthy directly at 818-677-2123.
  - d. Rosalba Gonzalez, Field Deputy for Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield – Introduced herself and announced she is available to talk about any state agencies that have come to your attention. She also discussed AB2756, the mobile billboard bill,

sponsored by Assemblyman Blumenfield, which is currently in the Senate and is expected to go to the Senate Appropriations Committee in August and the Governor's desk soon after. You can reach Ms. Gonzalez at 818-904-3840.

- e. City Attorney's Office – Bill Larsen announced that 40-50% of the medical marijuana dispensaries that have received cease and desist orders have closed.

#### 6. Public Comments –

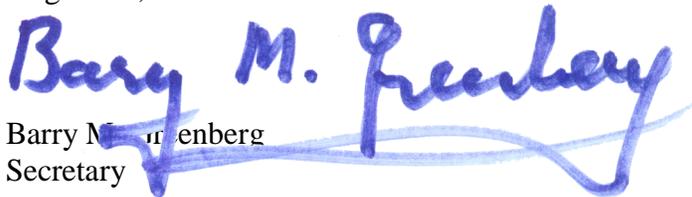
- a. Joel Lipin from Senior Services Business Council is looking for support again for their Senior Fair at October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Lighthouse Church. Mr. Patel asked for a detailed request to be sent to the Council.
- b. Mary Engstrom, from the Northridge Park Theater Program, requested monetary support for theater lights for the summer musical. Mr. Patel asked for a detailed request to be sent to the Council.
- c. Greg Taylor, representing Lambda Chi Alpha, said that the fraternity has two options: 1. Abide by the CUP that can be worked out with the city 2. Abide by the Municipal Code in regards to a single-family dwelling. The process is currently on hold; a hearing would be held approx 60-90 days after a hearing request would be made. Mr. Taylor acknowledged that the single-family stakeholders oppose the fraternity.
- d. Spence Schmerling, president of the Lambda Chi Alpha housing corporation, says the fraternity is trying to follow the rules and do everything the right way this time. He acknowledges that previous fraternities, including their own, have bent or broken the rules but they are now seeking to do everything above board. Mr. Schmerling wants to work with community to come up with rules and regulations that work for everyone.
- e. Giovanni Pernudi, a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha alumni association and a CSUN alumnus, gave some history of Lambda Chi Alpha members and said that they want to be leaders within CSUN and the community.
- f. AJ Jaegle, current president of undergraduates of Lambda Chi Alpha at CSUN, reiterated Mr. Pernudi's comments that the fraternity wants to create leaders within the community. The current Vice President of Associated Students and President of the Inter-Fraternity Council are Lambda Chi Alpha members. The CUP will include regulations regarding landscaping and respect to their neighbor's property.
- g. Stakeholder Richard Silliman read a letter from two other stakeholders that detailed their previous experience with a fraternity, which includes noise pollution, littered yards, police raids, and bright lights. Ninety neighbors have created the Northridge Coalition, which opposes the fraternities application for the CUP.
- h. Stakeholder Pat LoPresti, representing Lindley West Coalition, reminded everyone that Lambda Chi Alpha previously owned two properties on Halsted St. that they leased out to other fraternities. Trash, foot traffic, noise pollution, squad cars, helicopters, and rotating residents and officers are some problems that they had to deal with previously.
- i. Stakeholder Susan Parmelee said that her main concern is that the area is zoned for single-family homes and said that the fraternity's website's final objective is three homes with up to 18 residents each; parking, trash, noise, and landscaping

- are just some issues she had to deal with previously. She respectfully requests NENC not support CUP.
- j. Stakeholder Michael Crawley said that he has dealt with similar issues that Mr. Silliman, Ms. LoPresti, and Ms. Parmalee have all addressed, including that SWAT once blocked his street due to them investigating a shooting at the fraternity house in the middle of the day. Requests NENC not to support CUP.
  - k. Stakeholder Joe Voss also dealt with the previous fraternity houses and had problems with speeding drivers, parking, trash, and dangerous activities. Mr. Voss reminded everyone that the area is an R-1 neighborhood and discussed a drop in property values. Requests NENC not to support CUP.
  - l. Adam Newell – new Northridge resident, lives near a Phi Delta Theta fraternity house on Halsted, needs help with noise pollution and other issues.
  - m. Steve Kaplan, attorney from Luna and Glushon, representing the Northridge Community Coalition and the Northridge Townhouse Estates, announced that the fraternity can file for a fraternity house in a single-family zone, but they have to file a CUP to be approved. CUP requires that the filers be consistent with the community plan, must prove they will not negatively impact the community, and must detail a plan how they are not going to impact the community. There has been no appreciable testimony of how they will do any of this.
7. New Vision Committee Update – Mr. Patel reminded everyone about the survey's that are available at [www.nenc-la.org](http://www.nenc-la.org). Mr. Lord announced that the New Vision Committee will address other organizations to tell them about NEW Vision.
8. Old Business:
- a. Planning and Land Use – 9963 Lindley Proposed Fraternity House Update – (There were about 75 stakeholders present at the meeting, the majority of which were at the meeting for this issue.) In addition to the Public Comments on the issue: Bill Larsen, from the City Attorney's office, announced that his office is not taking an official stance on the issue as of now and that there were previous criminal prosecutions with one of the fraternities on Halsted. The vacant property has been an ongoing nuisance property for years, including with previous owners. A discussion ensued between Mr. Schmerling and members of the board as well as stakeholders. Mr. Schmerling said that Lambda Chi Alpha is a different fraternity than the ones that were on Halsted before; they were absentee landlords to those properties but now they will be very much involved; he says there are no longer any plans to occupy two other houses. Ms. McCain made a motion that the NENC take a position in opposition to the CUP for 9963 Lindley Avenue; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Greenberg. Friendly amendment made by Mr. Dwiggin is that the opposition is based on currently available information regarding the fraternity and its Conditional Use Permit. The friendly amendment was accepted by Ms. McCain and Mr. Greenberg. One abstention, motion passes.
  - b. Board Members Duties and Responsibilities – Council members need to volunteer for duties and responsibilities. Names will be drawn out of a hat for any duties that do not have volunteers.
9. New Business:
- a. City of Los Angeles Ethics Training – Any board members who have not completed their ethics training need to do so as soon as possible.

- b. Neighborhood Council Ambassadors
    - a. Kelly Lord – Northridge West
    - b. Northridge South – needs an ambassador. Ambassador's will attend other Neighborhood Council meetings on the NENC's behalf.
  - c. Cultural Homestay for International Exchange – Cindi Jeters – Ms. Jeters addressed the board and discussed the Cultural Homestay for International Exchange program and what they do. The organization is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that houses exchange students. Anyone interested in housing an exchange student can call Ms. Jeters at 818-356-4337. The information will also be posted on the NENC website.
  - d. SafeKidZone – Sandy Gomberg – SafeKidZone is a Mobile Safety Network that has created a panic button that can be used on any cell phone. The panic button alerts your safety network via a text and email alert that there is a problem. A video conference can be set up within seconds, and the alert is also sent to a dispatch center that works with 911. More information can be found at [www.safekidzone.com](http://www.safekidzone.com).
  - e. Reserve Animal Control Officers Program – Jaren Sorko addressed the council and discussed the Reserve Animal Control Officers program that trains volunteers to have the same responsibilities as an Animal Control Officer. They are coming to neighborhood councils to ask for financial support as a class of 15 costs about \$15,000. Currently have commitments from three other neighborhood councils. Mr. Sorko will send a detailed request to the Council.
  - f. Pat LoPresti announced a meeting of the Oakridge Estate Park Advisory Board every fourth Thursday of the month from 3pm to 5pm at Fire Station #87.
9. Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.
10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Certified True and Correct:

August 18, 2010

  
Barry M. Greenberg  
Secretary