Minutes of the NORTHRIDGE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NENC) GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 16, 2011
at Fire Station 87, 10124 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills

1. Call to Order
President Steve Patel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

3. Roll Call – Determination of Quorum
Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins, Peter McCarty, Barry Greenberg, Kelly Lord, Lisa Anderson, Jay Draiman, Stephen Hubbard, Alice McCain and Steven Ramirez. Brittny McCarthy and Lucille Meehan arrived late.

Ten of the 14 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The NENC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is eight, so the Board could take such votes. One Board seat was vacant. Also attending: 23 Stakeholders and Guests. Board Members absent: (excused) Nestor Fantini, and (unexcused) Michael McNulty.

4. Agenda Setting Meeting Participation
Board Members Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins, Peter McCarty, Lisa Anderson and Robin Kellog.

Approval of Minutes
[Note: the Agenda said the “December 2010, January 2011” General Board Meeting Minutes needed to be approved; they were already approved February 16, 2011.]

MOTION (by Ms. Anderson and seconded): The Northridge East Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 16, 2011 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections by a voice vote.
5. Comments from Public Officials
   a. Council District 12
      Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Semee.Park@LACity.org).
      Ms. Park was not present and there was no report.
   b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
      No representative was present and there was no report.
   c. CSUN
      [See below Item #6.]

6. Public Comments
   Student Yena from Cleveland High School announced the U.N. Global Debate (818-665-9380; ClevelandUN2011@gmail.com) Sunday, April 10, 2011, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. [at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, 15950 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, CA 91344].

   [The following Public Comments were made after Item #7.]
   A Boy Scout explained that they’re seeking funding to expand their meeting space.
   Mr. Lord explained that he and Troop Leader Joel Lipin discussed possible future funding.

   Board Member Brittny McCarthy arrived around this time.

   Stakeholder Stu Colin described the Relay for Life cancer research fundraising event March 26-27 at CSUN; he’s seeking $250 funding to match the Boys & Girls Volleyball Team participation.

   Ms. McCarthy, CSUN Director of Government and Community Relations (818-677-2123; Brittny.McCarthy@csun.edu), encouraged signing up for the CSUN Newsletter and announced Performing Arts Center and Planetarium upcoming events. Summer youth camps are registering and you can attend sports events. A dedicated left-turn lane from Zelzah onto Prairie is being constructed. E-mail TrafficSafety@csun.edu if you have any traffic concerns.

7. Northridge Vision Committee Update
   Mr. Patel reported that the Committee is planning an end-of-April meeting that will “have breakout groups” and discussions. Mr. McCarty volunteered to help and encouraged completing the survey [http://www.NorthridgeVision.org].

8. Old Business -- Bylaws Update (Dwiggins)
   Mr. Patel explained that the Bylaws need to be updated to conform to the DONE [L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment] template. Mr. Dwiggins said “there’ve not been major changes . . . just a number of minor . . . things” and “the Stakeholder definition . . . has been left open-ended . . . [and] will have to be approved by DONE and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.” There hasn’t been any DONE feedback that any of the revisions were “incompatible” with the required revisions.
MOTION (by Mr. Dwiggins, seconded by Mr. Draiman): The Northridge East Neighborhood Council approves the Bylaws revisions except for needed final formatting.

MOTION PASSED without any objections by a voice vote.

9. New Business
   a. Budget Presentation (Lord/Anderson)
      Mr. Lord reported that approximately "$18,000 of outstanding Demand Warrants" need to be processed by DONE. Ms. Anderson offered to help

   b. NENC Meeting Attendance Survey
      Ms. Anderson led a discussion with Stakeholders regarding how they heard of the NENC. She encouraged feedback to and getting NENC information from info@NENC-LA.org.

   c. Notice of change of Meeting Location - Fire Station 87
      Mr. Patel announced that these Meetings will continue here until September.

   d. Introduction of CSUN-Associated Students Board Member - Darren Lee Hause
      Mr. Hause, NENC CSUN Student Representative candidate, introduced himself and described some of his background. He “will be hosting Northridge focus groups, including business owners and students . . . in April and May . . . [and] will send . . . [a] survey . . . to you soon.” He demonstrated and Board Members and Stakeholders joined in in saying “welcome” and “goodbye” in sign language.

      MOTION (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Mr. McCarty): The Northridge East Neighborhood Council appoints Darren Hause as the NENC CSUN Student Representative Board Member.

      MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.


   e. NENC Environmental Committee - Free Energy Audit for Business and Organizations - [Mr. McCarty, Ms. McCarthy]
      Mr. McCarty described that the Committee is charged with “identifying, educating [about] and implementing” energy conservation measures. Stakeholder John Yakub, President of Broadstreet Energy, solar distributors and installers, described their services.

      Carolyn Casavan, Co-Chair, Valley Green Team described that they’re promoting “green jobs and businesses in the Valley” and energy conservation services the Team can provide. Ms. McCarthy noted and Mr. McCarty encouraged getting a free home energy audit through CSUN.

   f. NENC Outreach Program Update [Ms. Anderson]
Ms. Anderson distributed a DONE-approved “Memo to: [NENC] . . . re: [NENC] Automated Telephone Outreach Analysis” and described bids and services for providing automated telephone outreach. StonesPhones would charge $607 for one-time 30-second calls to 3,756 households for which “telephone records are available.” The typical response rate is 2% to 3%. Mr. Patel indicated that this will be considered at the Agenda-setting Meeting.

g. UPDATE on Lindley Avenue Fraternity House [Mr. Dwiggins]
Mr. Dwiggins reviewed some issue history of the house at 9960 N. Lindley, north of Lassen. The new property owner applied for a CUP [Conditional Use Permit] to house 18 students. Stakeholder Richard noted that the NENC voted July 21, 2010 to oppose the CUP application. [Note: from the July 21, 2010 General Board Meeting Minutes: “Ms. McCain made a motion that the NENC take a position in opposition to the CUP for 9963 Lindley Avenue; 2nd by Mr. Greenberg. Friendly amendment made by Mr. Dwiggins 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.”]

A Hearing is tentatively scheduled for May 23, 2011. Mr. Dwiggins described the hearing and feedback process, and relayed that Mitch Englander, L.A. City District 12 Councilman-elect, said that “he would not support the application for a” CUP. Mr. Dwiggins will draft letters to CD12 Councilman Greig Smith and Councilman-elect Englander requesting their opposition to the CUP application. Mr. Larson noted that “Building and Safety is . . . making regular inspections” and described discussions with the owner. There was discussion regarding problems with transients and trash on the property. Mr. Larson described administrative and legal challenges in prosecuting nuisance complaints, saying “things in writing are more valuable [than verbal accounts and] . . . will be part of the record.” There was extensive discussion of opportunities and challenges regarding what can be done.

h. NC 2012 Elections - Special Meeting March 23, 5:00 p.m., City Hall
Mr. Patel described the NC Election Task Force Meeting.

i. Outreach Plan—NENC Outbound Telephone Notification System [Ms. Anderson/Mr. Patel]
[See Item 9. f. above.]

10. Committee Reports
Ms. McCain said there’s “nothing new on sidewalks.” Congressman Sherman will have a Town Hall Meeting May 15th at the CSUN Performing Arts Center. Mr. McCarty announced a March 19th Senior Services Business Council Dance.

11. Adjournment
[The next General Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Fire Station 87, 10124 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills.]

Mr. Patel ADJOURNED the Meeting without objection at 8:56 p.m.
Certified as true and correct.

Dated: May 18, 2011

By: Barry M. Greenberg, Secretary