

Minutes of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Wednesday November 16, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Patel at 7:05PM.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steven Ramirez.
3. Roll Call – Determination of Quorum – Present: Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins, Peter McCarty (tardy, excused), Barry Greenberg (left early), Jay Draiman, Lisa Anderson, Nestor Fantini, Stephen Hubbard, Alice McCain, Lucille Meehan, Steven Ramirez, and Kelly Lord; Absent: Brittney McCarthy (excused) and Darren Hause (excused)
4. Agenda Setting Meeting Participation: Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins, Peter McCarty
Point of Order: Ms. Anderson states that Mr. McCarty left early, and Mr. Patel adds that Mr. Greenberg also left early
5. Approval of Minutes: The Board begins to vote on approval of the minutes, but Ms. Anderson flags the Chair that a motion is needed then introduces her motion
Ms. Anderson made a motion for the NENC to approve the Minutes of the October 11th meeting, 2nd by Mr. Hubbard. MOTION PASSES unanimously.
Ms. Anderson made a motion for the NENC to approve the Minutes of the October 19th meeting, 2nd by Mr. Draiman. MOTION PASSES unanimously.
Ms. Anderson made a motion for the NENC to approve the Minutes of the September 21st meeting, 2nd by Mr. Dwiggins. MOTION PASSES unanimously.
Minutes of the Sept 6th meeting pending approval once they are posted
6. Comments from Public Officials:
Point of Order of Business: Mr. Patel requests Mr. Greenberg remove himself from the Board to the audience and explains Mr. Greenberg had officially turned in his resignation of which Mr. Patel had accepted; Ms. Anderson objects, advises Chair that since it is not an Item on the Agenda the Item cannot be considered; Mr. Fantini suggests since the Board has multiple views in terms of this, they should listen to the President, in this case Mr. Patel; Ms. Anderson states LA City Attorney has informed the Board in a memo via email that Mr. Greenberg must be seated at this meeting, but no representative present to advise; Mr. Patel says that is not correct and the meeting with City Attorney will take place next week when it was said they will determine what happens; Mr. Patel, as President officially requests that Mr. Greenberg sit in the audience; Mr. Greenberg replies that he did not submit his resignation and begins to make a statement but Mr. Patel interjects that the Board is not discussing that now, reiterates that he is only requesting Mr. Greenberg sit in the audience; Mr. Greenberg replies that he respectfully declines; Board moves on to public comment
 - a. Council District 12, Councilman Mitch Englander's Office (818) 756-8501
Semee Park, Field Deputy (Semee.Park@lacity.org)
 - Motion introduced for Van Nuys Airport to privatize and create an independent Van Nuys Commission
 - Motion introduced to extend Business Tax Holiday to three years for new or relocating businesses into the City, and looking to extend the Business Tax Holiday for car dealerships
 - Motion introduced to eliminate sodas from public libraries and City recreation centers and parks in an attempt to reduce obesity and help children make better choices

- Councilman Englander’s Office has secured a new lease for their office in the Chatsworth area hopefully opening in January, and will now have enough room to open a Community Service Desk; The Office has already received commitments from Dept. of Transportation, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment, and Building & Safety to enable department representatives to meet with valley constituency locally for their appointments in this office, with access to a conference room, computer, materials and office supplies
 - Motion for Dept. of Transportation to install a traffic light or monitoring system at Chatsworth & Yarmouth, since there is a concern for pedestrian safety near a local food truck
 - Mr. McCarty gives kudos to Erik Richardson and Mr. Englander’s Office on a great job putting together the Business Program; If you are a business that is trying to survive here in the neighborhood there are resources available both directly through the Office as well as through the various economic development agencies here in Northridge; Also makes a note that at the recent summit on transportation which they held they have identified close to \$300 million they will be bringing into the San Fernando Valley through this new Council
 - Mr. Dwiggin inquires about the issue of sidewalk repairs - Councilman Englander is against the enforcement of requiring homeowners to assume liability of repairing sidewalks, while supporting a climate for homeowners to repair their sidewalks if they can, looking into possible solutions if they can’t such as a bond measure to bond out for repairs or assessment paid off in a number of years; More updates to come
- b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – No appearance
 - c. CSUN – No appearance by Ms. McCarthy but Ms. Anderson relays a message thanking the community for their support of CSUN and urges all to check the CSUN website at www.CSUN.edu for a calendar of upcoming events open to the public at CSUN and the new Valley Performing Arts Center
 - d. LAFD – Battalion Chief Jose Cronenbold introduces area crew and answers questions; For Fire Dept. business please use the number for Non Emergency (818) 756-7670; For all emergencies Dial 911

7. Public Comments –

- Bill Maxwell representing Our Community School speaks to specifically thank the NENC for their support of their school in a bid for a state grant a number of years ago of which they’ve recently released the funds and are now looking for local architects; Mr. McCarty encourages all stakeholders to join the NENC Education Committee and Environmental Committee to get involved in great projects for the community such as this
- Richard Fisk, Granada Hills NC Board Member –
 - * Sunday, December 4th - Shirley Jones will be the Grand Marshall of the 20th Annual Granada Hills Parade “Winter Wonderland”
 - * Granada Hills Charter H.S. won the National Academic Decathlon last year, and in that honor Councilman Englander has had part of Zelzah Ave. dedicated in a formal position to be announced formally on Thursday, November 17th at 8:00am at the school

- Mr. Patel announces that Northridge Academy H.S. Girls Varsity Volleyball team are going to the state championships
- Glenn Bailey, Encino NC Board Member (GlennBaileyENC@yahoo.com) – Louise Ave. Bicycle Lane installation’s latest proposal for the City to install bicycle lanes on Devonshire St. east of Reseda Blvd. to Hayvenhurst to fill in a 2.5 mile gap between existing bicycle lanes; Mr. Draiman asks if there is any information or studies as to how many bicycles actually use the bike lanes; Item to be put on next month’s Agenda
- Salvador Pelaez, Northridge South NC, Committee Chair of Transportation and Public Works (salvador.pelaez@yahoo.com) – Invites the community to join their upcoming monthly Neighborhood Bike Ride on December 3rd, meeting on Prairie & Encino heading south on Encino to Rayen over to Cupid’s Hot Dogs or Papa John’s (for Vegetarian options); Upcoming events include a Holiday Light Ride in December from Northridge Village through Sherwood Forest; Contact Mr. Pelaez for more information
- Jason Ackerman, CSUN– Voiced support to ban the use of plastic and paper bags in the community. They are not biodegradable and come back to us in our water and food; Encourage people to use reusable canvas bags; Paper bags have a larger environmental output than plastic; Impact of grocery bags on animals includes starvation of the animals to death

8. Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer not reporting {There is a disagreement among the Board as to what was said by Ms. Anderson at the last meeting. Mr. Dwiggins remembers her saying that she would serve as Interim until January, but Ms. Anderson states that she said she would volunteer to serve until January “IF the Treasurer resigned” and that she was not made aware of his resignation, and therefore did not fill the position; Mr. Dwiggins states that he does not remember any condition being made.}; Budget distributed

9. New Board Appointments and Executive Committee

- Treasurer

Mr. Lord made a motion to nominate Don Dwiggins as Treasurer, 2nd by Ms. McCain. MOTION PASSES and Mr. Dwiggins takes over the position of Treasurer by a voice vote with two abstentions.

- 1st Vice President

Mr. McCarty made a motion to nominate Alice McCain, 2nd by Mr. Lord. MOTION PASSES and Ms. McCain takes over the position of 1st Vice President by a voice vote with two abstentions.

- Youth Representative

Mr. McCarty made a motion to nominate Amir K. as Youth Representative, 2nd by Mr. Lord. MOTION PASSES and Amir takes over the position of Youth Representative by a voice vote with no abstentions. Fire Dept. officially swears him in.

Point of Order: Mr. Lord suggests that Ms. Anderson owe the Chair an apology; Mr. Greenberg leaves the meeting at 7:46 pm

10. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee Update (Mr. Dwiggins) – Next Monday meeting with DONE; Open Finance Meeting info to be emailed
- b. Environmental Committee (Mr. Dwiggins)

1. LA Green Machine, Andy Schraeder – Possible Endorsement of Proposal “Ban on Plastic Bags” – Informational flyers, Green Vets LA flyer distributed

Mr. Dwiggins made a motion to support Councilman Koretz’s motion to Ban All Single Use Plastic Bags, 2nd by Ms. Meehan. MOTION PASSES with one abstention.

2. Sierra Club – Possible endorsement of Proposal “Beyond Coal Initiative,” requiring DWP to completely end the purchase of power from coal-fired plants by 2020, and to set efficiency and renewable energy targets

Mr. Hubbard made a motion to TABLE Item 10,b,2 re: “Beyond Coal Initiative” until further information and research into alternate solutions is presented, 2nd by Mr. McCarty. MOTION PASSES. ~ ITEM TABLED

c. Land Use Committee

1. Appointment of New Chair - **Mr. Dwiggins officially resigns as Land Use Committee Chair; Mr. Patel appoints Mr. Lord as the new Land Use Committee Chair and Mr. Lord accepts.**
2. 18342 Halsted - Update: Project is currently in the development phase and will come in front of the Land Use Committee in December
3. Sidewalks Update - Glenn Bailey reports on October 19 joint meeting with B&F, Public Works Dept., and Bureau of Street Services, who showed up with a report unseen by the public; Ordinance drafted by City Attorney still alive; No representatives from any neighborhood councils attended to discuss refusal of service for rentals not repairing sidewalks; Contact City Councilman & Homeowners Associations regarding this issue; Trying to come up with more ideas and solutions

d. Outreach Committee - Mr. McCarty thanks community for participation; Always looking for volunteers; Mr. Dwiggins suggests Committee check with outreach committees of other neighborhood councils for new strategies on increasing community outreach, participation

11. Ratification of Items from October Meeting

- a. Jewish Women's Group - \$100
- b. Web Master - Aaron DeVandry - \$1,900
- c. Robin Kellogg - \$2,100
- d. Theatre @ Northridge Park - \$1,000

Mr. McCarty made a motion to approve Items 11a - 11d, 2nd by Ms. McCain. MOTION PASSES unanimously.

12. Other Committee Reports

- a. Northridge Vision Committee Update – CD12’s comments will be incorporated; Upcoming launch event in February after breakout sessions with focus groups discuss community wellness & health and parking issues for Northridge’s future in three, five, and ten years from today; Committee currently in action phase starting with the university, which brings the valley’s largest revenue; December walk with CSUN
- b. Education Committee Update – Invent for Life Paul MacNeal, Executive Director (paul@invent4life.org) (818) 618-7824; Need 15 teachers for a workshop event of pilot program; 1st Annual Non-Profit Summit with 85 Non-Profits providing info;

LA Shares, redistributes office equipment, supplies, and other items such as paper products business donate to Public Schools & Non-Profits for free

13. Revision to NENC Bylaws by DONE – Revised NENC Bylaws have been sent to DONE and are awaiting approval

14. Status of 2012 Elections – November 30th at City Hall; If motion passes, proposed ordinance will cancel Clerk-run 2012 elections, resuming in 2012; Terms will be extended as a result; Close reading of the law reveals they can run their own “selection” process in 2012 (a “selection is different than an election in that it can’t involve secret ballots; Town Hall-style voting, signed ballots, etc. are OK); Each neighborhood council should be able to determine their own elections

Mr. Dwiggin made a motion for the NENC to support retaining the ability of Neighborhood Councils to conduct elections just as they have in the past in the upcoming Elections of 2012, 2nd by Ms. McCain. MOTION PASSES unanimously.

15. Holiday Toy Drive for 2011 – Mr. Ramirez announces this year’s Holiday Toy Drive and encourages the community to bring an unwrapped \$10 toy to the next NENC Meeting on December 21st to be gathered and sent to the Toy Drive at Devonshire Division

Point of Order: Ms. McCain leaves at this point

16. Unfinished Business/Adjournment

Mr. Dwiggin made a motion to approve the Reconciliation Package, subject to any adjustments or corrections, 2nd by Mr. Draiman. MOTION PASSES unanimously.

Mr. Lord confirms that all emails, passwords, and codes have been returned to the new Treasurer; Copies of the Purchase Card Reconciliation Package distributed

Mr. Patel states that DONE had cancelled Purchase Card and Credit Card until now.

a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47PM.