Minutes of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Wednesday March 21, 2012

1. Meeting called to order by President Steve Patel at 7:10 PM
2. The Pledge of Allegiance led by Steven Ramirez
3. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum – Present: Steve Patel, Alice McCain, Don Dwiggin, YJay Draiman, Nestor Fantini, Lucille Meehan, and Steven Ramirez; Absent (Excused): Peter McCarty, Brittny McCarthy, Ahmer Qureshi, and Kelly Lord
4. Agenda Setting Meeting Participation – Don Dwiggin and Steve Patel
5. Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the February 15th, 2012 meeting APPROVED. MOTION PASSES (7-0).
6. Comments from Public Officials –
   a. Semee Park, Field Deputy for CD12/Councilmember Mitch Englander’s Office – In the works: Performance based Budget; “Fire Stat” (like ComStat) for Fire Deps.; Emergency Preparedness Tax Holiday; LAPD to implement technology to encrypt police airwaves; For more information on any events, contact (818) 756-8501
   b. Michael Tow, Field Deputy for Congressman Brad Sherman – Town Hall Meeting Sunday 4/1 at Birmingham H.S.
   c. Bill Larsen, City Attorney’s Office – Frat House Complaints; Community Care Ordinance
   d. Rosalba Gonzalez, Field Representative for 40th District/Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield’s Office – Thanks to Mitch Englander for pushing forward with the mobile billboard issue; Flyer distributed with info on Scholarship Act; Vets Priority Enrollment Bill; “Donuts for Bob” events on March 31 at Winnetka & Mason and Reseda & Northridge; For more information on any events, contact (818) 904-3840
7. Public Comments – No comments
8. Treasurer’s/Finance Report (Mr. Dwiggin) –
   a. Prior Month Exp $11,078 (Since January)
   b. Current Balance $25,028.33
   c. Encumbered Funds $3,000
9. Standing Expenditures Approval (Mr. Dwiggin) –
   One Box suspended for non-payment, switching to GoogleVoice. Mr. Dwiggin made a motion to approve funds as follows: Rent ($150/month), Web Master/Aaron Devandry ($100/month), and Minute Taker/Gabriella, AppleOne Services (Up to $200/month), seconded by Ms. McCain. MOTION PASSES (by unanimous vote).
10. Open Board Positions and New Board Member Appointment(s) – Steve Patel appointed Danielle Smith as new Board Member.
11. Update on DONE’s Retreat (Mr. Patel/Mr. Dwiggin) – Currently under negotiations; Meeting Tentatively 4/18
12. Update on Wesley Kramer Billing & Missing Receipts & Check to DONE (Mr. Draiman) – Mr. Draiman to speak with DONE to have funds reinstated on a provisional basis; all receipts, the recording of Board approval at Meeting, with Minutes of the Board’s approval at that Meeting, and check to DONE have been submitted
13. Redistricting Update by NC’s (Mr. Draiman) – Northridge redistricting results seem satisfactory at this point
14. Sidewalk Repair (Ms. McCain) – Bureau of Street Maintenance has been asked to contact Neighborhood Councils to get feedback on this issue; American Disabilities may be looking to file a lawsuit, and if they do there is a possibility that the Board of Realtors may join them
15. Reseda Blvd. Street Furniture Maintenance Funding up to $2,500 (Steve Patel/Tom Baker) – Joint meeting with (3) Neighborhood Councils (NENC, NWNC, & NSNC) and Bureau of Street Services regarding planning for Reseda Blvd. to be hosted by Semee Park (CD12) to address the options of refurbishing of yellow benches (including removal, powder-coating, reinstallation and maintenance) to keep a uniform look or acquiring new green benches with
advertising on Wed. 3/28; NWNC to hold its Beautification Meeting right before; NENC has (10) benches, refurbishing to total $232.83 per bench ($2,328.30), although that quote may only include (1) year of maintenance and the Board prefers a (5) year contract; Mr. Draiman suggests asking merchants located near benches as well as the Chamber of Commerce for a commitment of support for maintaining their benches; Mr. Patel suggests that the benches include “Adopted by NENC” plaques, enabling funding to come from Outreach; Mr. Draiman made a motion to approve a Letter of Support in which the NENC would support the approval of up to $2,500 for the Street Furniture Project, subject to concurrence by NWNC and NSNC and with the condition of the addition of NENC plaques and the condition that a maintenance contract be included for up to $500 per year for 5 years, seconded by Ms. McCain. MOTION PASSES (6-0-1).

16. Committee Reports –
   a. Environmental Committee (Mr. Dwiggins) – The Los Angeles Neighborhood Coalition of Green Committees had their first meeting at the Tree People campus to see how they can collaborate and work together in the future; Plans to set up a Valley Coalition to meet more often
   b. Outreach Committee (Mr. McCarty) – No update
   c. Northridge Vision Committee Update (Mr. Patel) – Final version of a 370+pg document, revised to 100pgs available for review at: www.northridgevision.org/Library/NV2012NG.pdf; Plans to possibly create a trolley to connect existing bus/train transportation stops and CSUN; Plans to work with CSUN students to come up with a plan to revise the look of a segment of Reseda Blvd. as one of their upcoming projects; Tax breaks for new businesses seem to be reducing much needed funds, plans to create a standard that the area become the low-cost leader in energy and leader in renewable energy to attract new businesses instead; Ideas to install public transportation along the LA River; Committee always looking for new ideas to improve the future of the community
   d. Education Committee (Mr. Fantini) – Congratulates Jay Draiman for making Education one of his priorities; Next Meeting Wed. 3/28, 4pm at Darby Elementary; Education Forum postponed to a later date to be determined;
   e. Land Use Committee (Mr. Lord) – 18342 Halsted: Update on Zone Change from RA-1 to R3-1 for 43u condo, 4 story – Awaiting presentation and new Land Use Committee Meeting – Item Tabled, not present

17. Status of 2012 NC Elections (Mr. Dwiggins) – Board to check with other Neighborhood Councils to possibly join funds and hold elections together; How to proceed to be discussed at next Agenda Setting Meeting

18. Adjournment – Ms. McCain made a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Mr. Dwiggins. MOTION PASSES (by unanimous vote). Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.