Minutes of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Wednesday April 18, 2012

1. Meeting called to order by President Steve Patel at 7:10 PM
2. The Pledge of Allegiance led by Steven Ramirez
3. New appointed NENC Board Member – Danielle Parga joins the Board
4. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum – Present: Steve Patel, Alice McCain, Don Dwiggins, YJay Draiman, Lucille Meehan, Steven Ramirez, and Danielle Parga; Absent: Brittny McCarthy, Ahmer Qureshi; Absent (Excused): Peter McCarty, Nestor Fantini, and Kelly Lord
5. Agenda Setting Meeting Participation – Don Dwiggins, Steve Patel, Kelly Lord, and YJay Draiman
6. Approval of Minutes – Minutes of February 15th, 2012 meeting APPROVED with corrections (unanimously)
7. Treasurer’s Report (Mr. Dwiggins) –
   a. Prior Month Exp $0
   b. Current Balance $29,034.32
   c. Committed Funds $3,000 (balance)
   d. Un-committed Funds $3,768.90 (balance)
8. Standing Expenditures Approval (Mr. Dwiggins) –
   *a) Rent $150/Mo Northridge Woman’s Club
   b) Email service from Gmail $827/Yr
   c) Telephone One Box $50/Mo – Google Voice
   *d) Web Master $100/Mo Aaron Devandry
   e) Food $150/Mo for meeting/reception
   *f) Minute Taker, Gabriella/AppleOne up to $200/Mo
   *g) Ad $250/Mo Decisions Publications ¼ page
   *h) 1and1 web hosting service: $35.97/Mo
   *i) PR/Writing services (Robin Kellogg): not to exceed $100/Mo

Mr. Dwiggins made a motion to approve only the funds listed in Items 8a,d,f,g,h,&I (*starred items listed above), seconded by Ms. McCain. MOTION PASSES (by unanimous vote).
9. DONE – (YJay Draiman/Kelly Lord) – DONE retreat cancelled; Mr. Draiman spoke with B.H. (head of DONE) several times in the last few weeks to find out the status of funding, an email was received stating that all missing material was submitted & received by DONE, now awaiting response from messages left with B.H.; Mr. Patel spoke with B.H. several times as well, he was told all material was not turned in. Mr. Patel replied that all information had been submitted and requested to know what paperwork was specifically missing but he could not answer, and has received no response since; In regards to the retreat Mr. Patel informed him that NENC has kept the 3rd Wed. of every month open since December, and when told that April would work, DONE cancelled at the last minute; With several pending projects, NENC funding must be reinstated; An email will be sent, on behalf of the Board, stating that the DONE retreat needs to be held asap, suggestions include holding a special meeting, conference call, or video conference, and that regardless of the retreat, NENC’s funding must be reinstated to address pending projects.
10. Reseda Blvd. Street Furniture Maintenance Funding up to $2,500 (Steve Patel/Tom Baker) – Mr. Dwiggins made a motion to earmark funds not to exceed $3,000 for the Reseda Blvd. Street Furniture Project, with maintenance contract not to exceed $500 per year for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th years (maintenance for the 1st year is included in initial fee), seconded by Ms. McCain. MOTION PASSES (6-0-0).
11. Status of 2012 NC Elections (Mr. Dwiggins) – Next month’s General Board Meeting will be moved from the usual
date of the 3rd Wednesday to a Special Meeting to be held on the 1st Tuesday of the month (May 1st) at 7:00 pm (this is for May’s meeting only), leaving the 3rd Wednesday of the month (May 16th) open for DONE in case they cannot commit to holding their retreat on May 1st.

12. Comments from Public Officials –
   a. Michael Tou, Field Deputy for Congressman Brad Sherman – Many taxpayers have yet to receive undeliverable 2010 IRS refunds due to change of name or address, etc., visit www.bradsherman.house.gov for list; Legislation in the works to increase limits that credit unions can lend out to small businesses; Ongoing project at CSUN to develop transit center between Etiwanda & Darby to be completed in May.
   b. Rosalba Gonzalez, Field Representative for 40th District/Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield’s Office – In the works: AB 2133, Combat to College, to give priority enrollment to returning Veterans; AB 2138, Insurance Fraud cracking down on fraud, especially through Medi-Cal; For more information, contact (818) 904-3840
   c. Semee Park, Field Deputy for CD12/Councilmember Mitch Englander’s Office – State of the City’s 7 Billion dollar budget, 4.65 billion of which makes up the General Fund, 20% (1 billion) of which are Non-discretionary funds dedicated to pensions, leaving a remainder of about 3.5 billion divided as follows: 70% Police/Fire, remaining 30% to 52 Depts. including DONE, Neighborhood Councils, Bureau of Street Services, etc.; Pushing for performance based budgeting hoping to hold all depts. accountable, with mission statements; Valley Family Festival on June 2 from 3-10pm, with art activities, culminating with “Movies Under the Stars,” booth applications for organizations available at www.CD12.org; Art Walk on April 20 meeting in front of Valley Performing Arts Center between 5:30 & 6pm for self-guided art tours, and juried student work gallery opening at 7:00pm; For more information, contact (818) 756-8501

13. Public Comments –
   a. Glenn Bailey – Thanks to NENC for their actions several months ago supporting the installation of the bicycle lanes on Devonshire east of Reseda Blvd. to Hayvenhurst; Bicycle racks are available from DOT provided and installed free of charge for use by employees and customers on sidewalks in front of businesses; Bike Share program possibly in the works at CSUN center; Update on Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, visit website to review “White Paper on Budget Solutions” at www.budgetadvocatesla.com
   b. Brian Reff – Halstead project has made some progress with a fence put up around the frat house; Volunteer Los Angeles to work on cleaning up median at Superior and Reseda Blvd.

14. Education Committee Update, Karen Green – Darby Elementary School and Balboa Gifted/High Ability Magnet Elementary School were given the CA Distinguished School Award for excellence; San Fernando Academy Preschool to sing Pledge of Allegiance at upcoming NENC Board Meeting (possibly June); Dearborne Elementary Fundraising Drive Sunday 4/22 (details posted on NENC website) accepting electronic equipment whether working or not; Mayor is having a poster competition for the 2012 Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, May 4th;

15. Adjournment – MEETING ADJOURNED (by unanimous vote) at 8:39 pm.