



Northridge East Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: March 21, 2007

Andasol Elementary School Auditorium, 10126 Encino Ave.

Call to Order: 7:05pm

Attendance: Kelly Lord, Don Dwiggin, Thomas Baker, Chuck Bunnel, Steve Patel, Ray Calnan, James Gardner, Alice McCain, Lucille Meehan, Judith Nutter, Harold Ellison, Alice McCain, James Gardner, Caroline Moore, Harold Ellison, Peter McCarty

Absent: Ryan McElveen, Barry Greenberg (excused)

Minutes: Chuck Bunnel motioned to approve the minutes. Alice McCain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda

1. Thomas Brown Executive Director Department of Physical Plan Management, California State University Northridge to talk about CSUN's Alternative Energy Generation and more

CSUN is a large institution with large economic impacts on the community. Power generators provided a cheap source of energy. But they can't transmit heat very well; the heat goes into the air and contaminates the environment. Now that we are more socially conscious, we realize we should not be wasting the heat.

- Localized generation can recover the heat. Hopefully it will start happening in individual homes. Examples include: micro turbines, solar panels, fuel cells, wind turbines.
- Photovoltaic Energy was first created in 1950. The technology did not go anywhere until the recent socially-conscious need to do the right thing. Photovoltaic cost is very low. It should be available in 2 to 3 years. When generation III hits, production will go up, creating an opportunity for folks to take advantage.
 - How Photovoltaic works: Crystalline rods are grown in small chambers under special gas, pressure. Grow two crystalline chambers. Photons hit, freeing up the electron in the top chamber. Bottom chamber then "wants" an electron. Work is done with that electron.
 - It is purchased by the watt. \$1-3 per watt.
 - A fuel cell has just been completed at CSUN. Fuel cell and micro turbines are considered "clean energy" but most of our power is supplied by coal-fired plants.
 - Fuel cell could have oxygen and CO₂ emissions if we had hydrogen as a fuel cell. We are not there yet, and will rely on for sometime on hydrocarbon fuels.
 - There is no combustion in a fuel cell – it is almost perfect efficiency.
 - A micro turbine is basically a jet engine. It is small, designed for local use.
 - What CSUN accomplished:

- With centralized generation: there is a loss of energy. Total efficiency is 33%. On campus with micro turbines, total efficiency is 76.6%.
- Fuel cell total efficiency is 80.6%. We use natural gas to supply the fuel cell.
- Newest central plant provides heating and cooling. Plant is 11-12 years old, on Plummer and Etiwanda. Plant has a 40 million BTU/hour capacity. (A home probably has a 60 thousand BTU/hour capacity.) Thermal storage of 39 degrees Fahrenheit is the densest temperature to have for water, the most optimal for storage.
- In the last month, 1 mega watt fuel cell power saves us energy dollars. Allows us to build better academic buildings. Right now, we are at 18% total of the campus' total energy usage.

Questions: What is the cost benefit, and the timeframe? Fuel cell project cost \$5 million. We've already got \$2.5 million back. The approach will save \$2.4 million on 2 projects. It is also more cost effective to maintain. Within 15 years, approximately \$14.7 million will be saved.

2. Joyce Lapinsky of Urban Farming to present their activities and discuss tie-in with Citrus Sunday

This is a non-profit, with headquarters in Detroit, Michigan. It has been around for over three years now, planting edible gardens for the poor hungry. Locations include St. Louis, St. Paul, Jamaica, Florida, Hawaii and L.A.

- In L.A. they work with two schools, and have land in the Veteran's garden. At schools, produce is used for consumption as well as given away. In warm climates, there is no reason for hunger in areas that grow their own food.
- Interested in partnership to explore civic participation, if anyone is interested in citrus and produce collection
 - Urban Farming would like to see connection with youth centers, senior facilities, police, whether once or as an ongoing activity to identify homes, businesses where there is an excess of fruit, produce.
 - This would be an excellent activity that can be held more than once per year. If you can do more than once a year, you can become a member of the Coalition to Eradicate Hunger.
- During WWII, there were Victory Gardens, where the government pushed the war effort. 20 million people grew gardens, produced 40% of U.S.'s food supply. It is easier to collect food off existing trees rather than grow a new garden. We could also make a big impact.
- Distribution depends on how much is collected. Second Harvest can pick up. If it is a good amount, they can come within 24-48 hours. .

Joyce left materials that Urban Farming currently uses for NENC to use as templates.

3. Presentation of DONE's Revisions to NENC Election Procedures (Board Action Required)

Don Dwiggins explained: We review the procedure every year to determine how elections are carried out. First round of reviews came back with revisions. Tom Soon also had more changes. The revisions need to get the board approval and get to DONE.

- This is basically the same procedure as last year. This year, 9 seats are up (in Land Use Committee, Michael will still be eligible), 6 are at large.
- Procedures explain various aspects of campaigning. Next meeting we will talk more about candidates.
- Section 13 contains verbiage on outreach, timelines, same, spelled out more.
- Section 16 discusses recounts and challenges, and how they will be dealt with. A recount occurs when someone believes that the ballots were not counted right. A challenge is any other opposition to the vote.
- Section 16b: Election committee. Don was reluctant to enter the individual Committee members phone numbers and email addresses since the procedures document will be for Public Record. He entered the NENC public phone number and email addresses.

Recognition was given to Don on his work with the revisions to the NENC election procedures.

Chuck Bunnel motioned to accept the revisions. Peter McCarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 17038 Devonshire Wall Sign Application Jenny Hodges Board Action Possible Vote

Not present. Application has already been approved as of February 28.

5. Board discussion of hosting a Neighborhood Block Party (possible action).

Steve Patel elaborated about a possible community event, barbecue, etc. to bring the neighborhood together.

- Can even piggy-back on Councilman's movie night. It can be an opportunity for just the NENC neighbors. Could have a booth, promote what NENC does. Outreach and promotion of what NENC does can also be done by sending out a mailer, but that could be expensive. It might be better just to hold an event. Possible locations: Northridge Recreation Center, schools.
- August 9th is National Night Out at Pierce College this year.
- Thomas Baker would like to see NENC partner with the Police Department during their pancake breakfast, not this year, but in the future. The Police Department would benefit from the partnership as well.

Alice McCain leaves the meeting at 8:35p.m.

Steve Patel motioned to form a committee to hold one or more community events. Chuck Bunnel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. NENC Administrative Assistant. Cost at this time unknown. Board Action. Possible Vote

- This issue was brought up last month. The administrative assistant would help organize items such as the Wall Sign Application, working with Joyce on Citrus Sunday, keep lists of all committees and their duties, keep attendance forms.
- The administrative assistant would be contracted through an agency
- West Hills Neighborhood Council had an administrative assistant. It will be important to make a clear job description.

Chuck Bunnel motioned to table the issue until next month's meeting. Alice McCain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Joint Neighborhood Council Candidate Forum May 8, 2007 7:00pm Granada Pavillion for LAUSD School Board District 3 Run-off Election. (action required, cost up to but not to exceed \$100).

NENC may possibly team up with three other Neighborhood Councils to pay for rent for Granada Pavillion. An official request went out to the two candidates; if the request is accepted, we will have an event on May 8 where each candidate will be able to speak, and where the audience can ask questions.

- Thomas Baker added that the Old Granada Hills residence group had a similar Forum at Granada Hills High School before the preliminary Election. The Community wrote down questions and each Candidate had to respond to each question. Thomas then mentioned the upcoming Forum will be held on May 8th at the large hall on Balboa Blvd. and San Fernando Mission near Trader Joe's.

Thomas motioned to partner with the other Neighborhood Councils to support the event financially if candidates can be secured, not to exceed the amount of \$50—75 on NENC's part. Lucille Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- Devonshire Division Police Department Officer Kathy Bennett
 - The West Valley Alliance paints out graffiti. The program is funded by the Councilman's office. The brochure indicates that it can be done within 24 – 48 hours. However, with the increase in graffiti recently, it can take from six to seven days. The phone number to call is (818) 227-9722.
 - Victims of Burglary Crimes flyer
 - Discusses the role of DNA. Arrests have been made using DNA as evidence.
 - The Devonshire division has a tip-off line for those who are afraid to report a crime. Information is forwarded to the appropriate people; no call backs.
 - Office creepers – Orange County currently has one. They go into small businesses, dressed like repair man. Takes purses, wallets.
 - E – Policing: If you have access to the internet, this is a fabulous tool. You can receive updates on crime suspects, vehicles, etc.
 - Officer Kathy Bennett invited everyone to visit LAPD website

- John Bwarie from the Councilmember Greig Smith's District Office
 - Announced some community events coming up: a Hike in Granada Hills; April 22nd, at Chatsworth Park there will be a free tree giveaway; May 6th is Citrus Sunday; the Valley Relay for Life is taking place in June.
 - Civic participation activity – things you can do to participate. Sign up soon because spaces may fill up.
 - 311 is the number for City Hall
 - Minimum staffing for policing: Councilman Smith talked about requiring staff in every basic car. In the early 1970s, Davis came up with the plan. Devonshire has five cars, but only two to three run everyday, not using the maximum number. This policy would require LAPD to have minimum staffing, which would use the budgeted money for overtime. This will bring us back to community policing and patrol.
 - Earthquake and disaster preparedness – Every neighborhood council should setup a team of 25 sometime within 2007. An international conference is being organized to discuss preparedness. Within the next 30 years, we are due for another earthquake with the intensity close to the one that occurred in El Cajon.

Board Member Reports

- Harold Ellison spoke about CSUN's Community Clean-up Day. He will try to determine what the activities will entail, and where it will be located. It is less than one month away. He is thinking about setting up on a day that the Councilman already has planned.
 - Thomas Baker suggested concentrating on all surrounding streets: Zelzah, Superior, Halsted
 - John Bwarie says that he will talk to Harold in the next couple days. Last clean-up day they got everyone to wear the T-Shirt.
- Peter McCarty
 - March 19 Daily News did not list our meeting.
 - Kelly Lord will email Alice McCain. They need two weeks advance notice

Ray Calnan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steve Patel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Anchulee Raongthum, AppleOne, April 11, 2007

