



## Northridge East Neighborhood Council

**Meeting Minutes: June 20, 2007**  
**Andasol Elementary School Auditorium, 10126 Encino Ave.**

**Call to Order:** 7:07pm

**Attendance:** Kelly Lord, Don Dwiggins, Thomas Baker, Chuck Bunnell, Steve Patel, Ray Calnan, Barry Greenberg, Peter McCarty, Lucille Meehan, Harold Ellison, Alice McCain, James Gardner, Caroline Moore, Ryan McElveen

**Absent:** Judith Nutter (excused)

**Minutes:** Chuck Bunnell motioned to approve the minutes. Thomas Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Agenda

#### **1. June 24<sup>th</sup> Election: Status Report, Candidate Speeches, Election Volunteers. Jerry Kvasnicka**

The election is Sunday, here, 1-5p.m. A portion of the board is up for election.

*Candidates present were allowed 3 minutes to speak:*

Sarah Adelman (Youth)

Lucille Meehan (Property Owner)

Alice McCain (At-large)

Thomas Baker (At-large)

Don Dwiggins (At-large)

Kelly Lord (At-large)

*Ryan McElveen introduced himself after all candidates had spoken, expressed gratitude to the board. Left meeting early.*

#### **2. 2007-2008 Northridge East Neighborhood Council Budget Approval, Steve Patel**

We tried to utilize all funds, and we're only allowed to roll-over funds twice.

*Steve Patel distributed a handout of NENC Proposed Budget for Year 2007-2008.*

I [Steve Patel], Ray Calnan, and Peter McCarty are on the Budget Finance Committee.

\$50,000 came this year. At the end of this month, we'll have approximately \$119,000.

Expense item categories include:

1) Outreach

2) Meetings

3) Special Projects

4) Administrative – our costs are among the lowest in the city council

*Ray Calnan distributed an addendum to the Budget on the Sidewalk Repair Program*

Last year the 50/50 program didn't work.

This Program would pay overtime to city contractors to fix the sidewalks. The Program outlines how to do this, and lists priorities. This addendum is to be part of the budget.

Peter McCarty motioned to approve the budget as posted. Harold Ellison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Granada Village Shopping Center (Board Action to support GHSNC motion), Maria Fisk**

The landlord of Granada Village Shopping Center, *Regency Centers*, and Kohl's wants to expand the shopping center. *Distributed handouts, including Old Granada Hills Residents' Group July meeting agenda (www.oldgranadahills.org).*

Currently the shopping center is less than 240,000 square feet. The plan is to have "community centers" to over 270,000 square feet, so that big stores like Kohl's can exist. We are a small center, now they want 90,000 square feet Kohl's at the Ralph's site. All of the other Kohl's are located around freeways and boulevards. There is concern about widening San Fernando Mission Blvd. and Zelzah.

*Showed a diagram of proposed Kohl's plan.* We also proposed a "mini-Kohl's" to them, but they said that they don't build these, but we did find them on the website. Also, according to our community plan, commercial businesses should remain small in scale. This project requires an environmental impact review, parking, traffic study. *Regency Centers* are Florida based. They are trying to branch out with grocery stores. We want support from NENC to oppose this project as it stands. We suggested other options and locations to them, but they are stubborn. They want to re-designate our shopping center as a "community center". There will be a hearing August 2<sup>nd</sup> at City Planning. Old Granada Hills Residents' Group also formally opposed, Granada Hills South is formally opposed. Councilmember Smith's office has refused to take a position.

Barry Greenberg motioned that NENC support Granada Hills South and other groups in opposing the proposed expansion. Alice McCain seconded the motion. 11 were in favor, two abstentions. The motion passed.

### **4. Motion to support the NC/LADWP MOU Oversight Committee's May 5<sup>th</sup> motion, requesting the Los Angeles City Attorney to examine and offer its opinion on the legality of the procedures used by LADWP Board of Commissioners to pass Agenda Item #10 on April 17, 2007. Don Dwiggins.**

Since the meeting took place, DWP voted to hire a third crew rather than outsource to get truck line. The vote was taken without enough public comment. The Committee was in charge of clearing up issues, determining if this was a Brown Act Violation. It found no violations, but did admit that it needed better outreach.

Second issue is regarding the relationship with the Union and the DWP. The relationship had been behind the scenes for awhile. The Committee is trying to bring it into the open. Don recommended that NENC table the motion, and bring it up in the future. The head of the Committee, Soledad Garcia, is looking for accounting help from the Neighborhood Council system to understand the information they're getting.

Peter knows of potential CPAs.

Don motioned to table the motion. Steve Patel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Tessa Charnofsky from Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Office**

Not present.

## **6. Begin discussion of damaged Devonshire House from the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, Steve Patel.**

Granada Hills North and South Neighborhood Councils are looking for office space. At the Northridge Recreation Center, there is an empty house, large enough for four to five Neighborhood Councils. Why not pay Parks & Recreation to rent?

The main house is occupied.

John Bwarie suggests that the Neighborhood Councils work with Parks & Recreation. Need to assess what it's going to cost, if it's feasible. John requested the NENC emails him.

### **Public Comment**

- Mike Pizutti from the District Attorney's Office:
  - Update on frat house issue: the frats are causing some problems for homeowners in the area on Halsted by CSUN. Lots of parties. Two frats are located in residential areas. Neighbors are upset that this has been going on for years. The Department of Building & Safety was refused entrance at one frat house, and could not get much info at another frat house. As a criminal prosecutor, didn't get much help from the Campus or anything else that is needed to be able to file the case. LAPD got involved, at least to set up a hearing. This is considered a criminal complaint, misdemeanor. At least there will be a criminal filing and criminal hearing.
  - Steve Patel: There is an illegal repair shop being run out of a home in a residential area. Some board members already went down to take a look. Thomas Baker added that they had already been cited once. One of the major complaints was the racing of vehicles to test them out. Mike stated that any information on this problem should be brought to the office, and they can tell whether or not it can be cited. Concentrate more on home occupation
- Bill Larson, from District Attorney's Office with City-wide news on abatement program, which deals handles property issues (Mike handles individuals):
  - Plummer and Zelzah, across from CSUN, police have informed us that students are illegally subletting units, letting individuals who may be involved with gangs sublet
  - 9633 Lindley: There is an abandoned building, two houses north of the University. Homeless camp in the back. The man who owns the property cannot afford repairs.

### **Board Member Reports**

- John Bwarie from Councilmember Smith's office:
  - The City Council passed the budget last month. They were able to restore the CERT Program
  - One source of funds for street repair is Proposition C major street TCRP funding. With limited funds the City is moving towards Micro-pave process, in which a truck measures bumps on the street and analytically tells what needs to be fixed. This process allows information to be taken from the computer system so that money can be stretched farther. For details on exactly how it works, talk to John Bwarie or Sandy Clydesdale.
  - City is putting together a heat plant: With the eminent heat, where do people go? Hopefully the Committee will form soon. Once formed, Recreation & Parks, the

Department of Aging, and the Department of Water and Power will try to find areas that are most susceptible.

Barry Greenberg suggested bringing something to Councilmember Smith's office to request that public hearings be held in neighborhoods. Would like to bring as a motion.

- Peter McCarty was approached by Tom Soong from DONE: The Department of Aging is to look into the needs of elders. The information is startling. The Department has no funds. For our consideration, seniors are not a priority in the City budget, \$2.4 million for the Department of Aging. The problem is that in the San Fernando Valley, there are 300,000 people over age 60. 83% of them have no pension or savings for retirement. But improvements in the treatment of chronic disease are allowing people to live longer, but their impairments will increase the need for facilities, services, sidewalks, etc. that our community is not yet ready for. 300,000 Americans each year fall down: 40% end up in a nursing home permanently, 20% never walk again. What's our response? This is happening quietly. We can't rely on the government. We are the front-line. Summary: Need an examination on local neighborhood level of what can be done, for example forming relations so widows don't go through earthquakes alone; trying to meet to access what resources are available. Advocacy will not solve this problem. We will form that expertise locally. September 29<sup>th</sup>, we can be part of a citywide effort.
- Don Dwiggin:
  - Copies of PDF Development Properties, lots of info.
  - Phyllis Winger and the City Planner: The Planning Department is looking at an entire section of White Oak. Anticipating taking in all homes and putting in 173 new homes. Found out that there is a 2004 L.A. ordinance--Small Lots Subdivision Ordinance to develop small pockets in commercial areas, multi-family areas. Just personally wanted to make everyone aware to notify neighbors and not wait for Stemnock; provide a summary so they can make their own decisions. Peter suggests forming a committee. Don's concern is for NENC to understand all options, and to bring a good amount of stakeholders when the issue comes to the board.
- Ray Calnan: Showed a sample Safety CD with NENC's flyer that would be distributed to three elementary schools before summer vacation.
- Thomas Baker:
  - Update on Adelman: Matt made Eagle Scout. Cord of honor ceremony. Will be entering a San Francisco State program.
  - Our involvement in Salute to Recreations was successful. NENC received a plaque from Councilmember Smith's office. Will ask to hang at Northridge Park. The table was busy—we passed out three cases of NENC's notepads. Many people were aware the NENC provided the fireworks show and expressed their gratitude.

Alice McCain motioned to adjourn the meeting. Harold Ellison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:10p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Anchulee Raongthum, AppleOne, July 6, 2007*