

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Northridge East Neighborhood Council
Elected Executive Board

Kelly Lord – President
Don Dwiggins – 1st Vice President
Thomas Baker – 2nd Vice President
Judith Nutter - Secretary Appointed CSUN
Faculty/Staff
Steve Patel - Treasurer

Northridge East Neighborhood Council
Elected Board Members

Ray Calnan Travis Daniels
Yeprem Davoodian Barry Greenberg
Alice McCain Peter McCarty
Lucille Meehan Carol Moore
Sara Adelman Youth Representative

Conor Lansdale Appointed CSUN Student Body



Northridge East Neighborhood Council

Making Northridge a Better Place to Live, Work, Play and Learn

Wednesday, April 16, 2008 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Andasol Elementary School Auditorium 10126 Encino Ave.

Before the meeting, Ray Calnan asked all prospective public speakers to sign in.

Call to Order/ Roll Call

Kelly Lord called the meeting to order at 7:08pm and then Judith Nutter took the roll.

Present were Kelly Lord, Caroline Moore, Lucille Meehan, Peter McCarty, Barry Greenberg, Steve Patel, Ray Calnan, Don Dwiggins, Sara Adelman, and Judith Nutter.

Absent were Yeprem Davoodian, Travis Daniels, Alice McCain, and Tom Baker. All were excused.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Conor Lansdale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the minutes from the March Board Meeting:

Kelly Lord noted that a motion was in order to approve the minutes from last month. Caroline Moore made the motion, and Judy seconded it. The motion passed.

Comments from City Officials

Melvin Canas, Project Coordinator for DONE was present, but left early.

Public Comments:

Officer Bennett brought two flyers: The 5th Annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast will take place at Devonshire on Thursday May 8th. There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday May 28th at [a local] Church about identity theft. There was good news this time: Grand theft auto is eerily down - there were only 7 this past month. Burglary of motor vehicles, the main crime in the area, is way down. There are peaks and valleys, so we're probably heading up. I brought the neighborhood prosecutor from the NP program, Ali Ziai.

Ali Ziai, the new neighborhood prosecutor for the Devonshire district, introduced himself and promised that this is his only area of operation. His office works closely with city officials on quality of life issues, such as neighborhood blight. He offered that any interested parties please contact him at any time.

Kelly then called on speaker cards:

Caroline Mitchell from Northridge Academy: "Just here to introduce myself. Northridge Academy High School is on Zelzah & Lassen. We do careers and education [training.] I'm here to form a partnership. We had some budget cuts and need to fill positions in our career program. We're going to have a career fair. I will leave flyers about that. This is a good chance to meet kids who will be in the workforce soon."

Dorit Jacoby from the Andasol PTA, brought Gina Sanchez and Leticia Garson with her, to talk about teacher appreciation. The PTA would like to offer Northridge East the opportunity to offer \$650 for Teacher Appreciation Week. By doing this, the NENC will make their presence known, help a local school, and honor educators. In exchange, the PTA would like the council to come speak at the luncheon, where they will be acknowledged for the contribution with signage and in the PTA's newsletter. The PTA would also like to invite the council to their BMX show, 450 families last year, and NENC can have a booth there. Dorit gave the letter to Peter.

There were no more public comments, so Kelly moved to the agenda.

AGENDA:

1. Motion to enlist JPL Zoning Services to assist in Planning/Land Use (possible action up to \$5000) Lord

Kelly Lord said that we don't have a contract with JPL but we want to start ball rolling. Robert Lamishaw is a zoning consultant who can shepherd developments to city hall. City planning is a subject that is over our heads, so we want to bring in outside professionals to advise us. A situation like White Oak is an example of a place where we could use help. The motion is to proceed in negotiation with JPL. Caroline seconded that motion.

Barry made a point of order - it is not appropriate to chair and to make a motion at the same time. Kelly handed the gavel to Don. Barry then asked if Mr. Lamishaw was the only consultant approached. Kelly said yes, he was. Alice asserted that Mr. Lamishaw is familiar with the neighborhood and is a good choice. Kelly said Mr. Lamishaw started planning a pilot program that has to do with outreach, and he knows so much about planning that he designs courses for it. Kelly chose him because he has met him before, and he has presented here, about the liquor store issue a while back. Kelly also sits on the over-site committee and met with him there. Kelly asked him about potential conflicts of interest, since he works with other councils. Kelly spoke with those councils and they mentioned other names of potential consultants. Ray asked if the benefit is

worth 10% of our budget. Can Mr. Lamishaw come speak here? Kelly said yes, he would. He charges \$400 an hour. We would give him \$300 an hour, and we'd use him for 10 hours - that could be over a couple of years. In response to Ray's concerns, Kelly countered that it is prudent to be proactive, prior to situations like White Oaks and its complex zoning issues where we battle developers and city councilmen. That is the kind of thing for which we exist. It's worth the money because none of us can do it all. Ray clarified whether or not this motion entails immediate payment. Steve Patel asked a similar question. Kelly said that we have to let the stakeholders know that we could be spending a certain amount of money, and we have to begin on a serious note.

Don noted that the White Oak project affects the surrounding areas too, so it looks like we'll need some help as this goes forward. He also suggested that it'd be good to meet with this guy. Peter asserted to Ray that it may be necessary to be in place to move quickly, so this motion is indeed structured correctly. We set aside this money to be retained for that purpose. Ray argued that we shouldn't have to pay someone just to come and speak with us. We shouldn't pay someone to fix a situation that may not arise. Judy asked if the idea was for Lamishaw to only represent us, or will he also educate us? Kelly said that the original intent would be for him to represent, and to do so for other fellow councils. He's probably too expensive to be used for educating. Barry discussed if the idea is to earmark certain funds to deal with planning issues, but said it would be premature to hire someone without going through a formal interview process. He suggested that a committee be formed to conduct that process. Don suggested that someone amend the motion, or whether Kelly wanted to even continue with this motion. Kelly reminded the board of what needs to be done in a timely fashion, which is to move forward on land use issues. Few of us have time to serve on additional committees, and contracts that don't work out can be terminated. Let's prepare for action, and not let more time go by. Steve Patel said that we definitely need help in this area, and recommended that the board earmark funds and invite Lamishaw to come talk to us, have people ready on a standby basis. Ray asked Steve where the money would come from. Steve said 'special land use funds.'

Kelly: The concept is to move to create a position of land use consultant, and fund that position with up to \$5000.

Audience Member: You pay before there's an action?

Kelly: Correct, we budget at least half the retainer beforehand, like with a lawyer or an accountant, so that he can get started in order to expedite issues. We're weighing down with debate. Let's not have the fear of mistake slow us down.

Conor suggested to change the language of the motion so that the company is not named.

Kelly changed the motion to read: "Move that a land use consultant position be established to assist the NENC and to fund that position up to \$5000."

Conor seconded that motion.

Don took a vote, and only two were opposed.

2. Motion to Amend Greig Smith Northridge Community Review to encompass all surrounding Neighborhoods of California State University Northridge (possible action) Dwiggin, Patel, Greenberg

Kelly asked Steve to run this motion. Steve talked about the joint NENC and NWNC New Vision Committee, formed to decide what we want the community of Northridge to look like over the next few years. That White Oak development, with 4 homes turning into many more, was not what we wanted, but what DO we want? Reseda was one that we started to look at, who's going to maintain the maintenance of that area? From March, we will pick it up, and Peter is my co-chair. Greig Smith was helpful on that. We are going to team up the councils and decide on a vision for the Reseda Blvd commercial park as CSUN expands. We will ask the community, and recruit volunteers. The future discussions will require surveys, an ongoing process. Developers will come in whether we like it or not as is, so hopefully that can soon be dictated by community, so that the community isn't railroaded by developers. The Northridge Community Plan is a plan from 1998 that has not been updated since - we want to look at that and see if it meets our requirements, and update that if needed. That plan dictates our community growth, as far as what building happens and where. We want to work with Greig Smith to freeze an area from zone change, or to go beyond that to freeze all zone change requests for the next 12 months. In that time, we will revisit and update that plan, then ideally invite developers and tell them what we want to go where. CSUN, the Chamber of Commerce, and Greig Smith, all agree.

The motion is to revisit the NCP from 1998 within a 12-month period and to make needed changes for updated plans. Peter clarified that this is not anti-growth; this is about furthering our goals and engaging in dialogue. Steve said growth is inevitable, but we want a say in what kind of growth we want. Peter mentioned the Business Improvement District (BID). And on www.nenc.org is a version of the NCP.

So the motion is to stop or freeze all zone changes for a period of 12 months in order to allow stakeholders time to review the NCP, which has not been updated in 12 years, in order to give them enough time to implement changes. Alice made the motion, Don seconded. Barry then asked if the city is on a 12-year plan. John Bwarie said that they're trying to get to an 8-year cycle. Steve said that it's a long process so we should get started now, because land use issues will continue to come up. Keep in mind that this motion does nothing. It gives us no power to stop zone changes. Just gives us power to go to Greig Smith and suggest changes, to have influences.

Ray asked for a friendly amendment, that we request to be put on rotation for 2008/2009. John Bwarie and Barry discussed the area from Zelzah to White Oak, Lassen to Farm. The motion was discussed as before, but adding verbiage to request Greig Smith to put NENC in the rotation. John Bwarie said that in reality, it's just a request because the rotation is pretty much set & we'd be in competition with Watts and Venice. But we can make the appeal that we make public what we support or don't, so in that way we can alert developers in advance about what the neighborhood wants when the developers are first moving in.

Kelly called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed.

3. Presentation by Valley Symphony and Partnership request for Local Schools (possible action up to \$500)

No one was present, so the board moved on to the next item.

4. Review up coming NENC June Elections and Outreach Advertising (action required \$2000) Dwiggins

Melvin Canas had left, so Don Dwiggins spoke on his behalf. Don said that DONE had passed out thick surveys for the board members, and smaller ones to stakeholders. There was the goal of 100

surveys to be returned to DONE in order to make neighborhood councils more effective. There are some surveys here to be passed out – board members should take 10 each and get them filled out. If we need more, we can print them off our website.

Barry said that we're entering election cycle for neighborhood council. Very soon, the city clerk's office, who will be running council elections for the first time, will be sending out mailers that ask 2 questions: 1) Interested in running for position on NC? Here's information on how to register and what the deadlines are for submission. 2) If you desire to vote, here's how you register to do so by mail. In the past, we held elections in this auditorium on Sunday afternoons, to sparse attendance. So this time, there is the opportunity to vote by mail. I have been trying to get the city clerk's office to give out a candidate's statement form. Like judge's statements on ballots, but those are paid for. So this is different. Towards the end of May there will be a 2nd mailing with a sample ballot with names and a final deadline to register as a write-in candidate (which is 3 days before the election date). The election date is Saturday June 28th, 12pm to 6pm. With 60,000 residents in Northridge, this tonight is the turnout we get at a meeting. We need more. Come again, and bring two more people with.

5. St. Nicolas Parish Festival Purchase Outreach Advertising (possible action up to \$500) McCarty

Peter introduced Bill Aloagu of the Parish Committee, who spoke about the 35th Anniversary of the Valley Greek Festival which is taking place over Memorial Day weekend. Last year there was a huge turnout, with radio & TV coverage and newspaper advertising. We hope for the same this year. We ask the NENC for a supportive ad, which would be a \$500 full page ad. Here is last year's [Bill held up the print ad]. We give booth space to the council. Proceeds will go to our philanthropies and programs. For more information, please go to www.valleygreekfestival.com.

Kelly made the motion to authorize \$500 for this purpose. Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ray asked if someone could work on that. Kelly asked Peter to do it.

6. Sunoko Lin seeking Conditional Use Permit to construct a Church at 18259 Halsted St.

Pastor Sunoko Lin was not present. Douglas McNair appeared in his stead, and stated that the church submitted their architect's plan to the planning & zoning department who asked for some changes, so the architect is doing that. Barry said that such plans would go to building and safety, not planning and zoning. The gentleman read Sunoko's email, which said 'planning & zoning', and spoke of the plans to return to council next month.

Steve gave the history, that this was the old frat house on Etiwanda and Halsted, which is now owned by church organizers who plan to put a church in an area marked as a single-family residential area. (And it sits on a septic tank. Isn't that sacrilegious?) This is an unsteady precedent. I was baffled when I heard this – do you [Douglas] know anything we don't? How is it possible to make this a public gathering place? How do we explain this to the community? I'm speaking for myself here, not the board. Peter asked if he could take that back for an answer. Ray said that 90% of the time, churches are in RA zones, but still maybe this one shouldn't be in this RA zone.

7. Parent Teacher Association at Andasol Elementary School seeking NENC Partnership with YMCA to fund Physical Education programs (possible action \$3500)

Dorit Jacoby appeared with some parents to speak in favor of the physical education of children in community. Andasol Elementary has a structured PE program taught by life professionals, which also gives teachers time to run their collaborative grade level programs. Funding has always been a challenge. A couple years ago, we had an emergency meeting with the principal; since then, the PTA has stepped in to ensure that this program lasts until June. This is a structured program, much more than just taking kids out once a day; it promotes learning. We ask for \$3500, which is half of the PTA's commitment. We continually fundraise, almost entirely for this program. We would like to offer a more consistent means of outreach to the council: We will have reminders of NENC meetings in our newsletter and on our marquee. Also at our events, where we have great turnout. We will put out a NENC banner at our valet parking area on Mail [spelling?] Street, where many kids get dropped off.

Conor asked if they need volunteers. Dorit and her companions said that they'd love it. Especially in their reading group. This school is part of the central core that keeps this community together. We would be happy to talk to you afterwards about volunteering. Any time two hands can reach out together, it makes for a stronger grip.

Judy asked how many students are served here. The answer is 480 students.

Kelly: If we do for one, we have to do for all. And we have a lot of requests. So I'd like the motion to set up our assistance in your outreach in the way of a subcommittee, up to \$5000. Lucille seconded the motion. Kelly then invited discussion. Steve said that discretionary funds should be available to all schools, not preferential.

Sara asked if any other schools have come forward. Kelly said not as of today, but they could. Peter made a point of information, he has contacted the schools - they are aware of the council meetings and have been invited.

John said that it's advisable to spend money before it's lost - to unencumber funds.

Kelly agreed: some people here are as frugal with council money as if it were their own. If we don't spend it, we can lose it. It would be good if we could set funds aside... John said that this is not that world

Leticia Garson pointed out that the council would not just be reaching out to 486 students, but also their parents. For example, this moved me to get here to a council meeting

Kelly asked her to leave her email address - you're a good candidate for the subcommittee.

Alice offered a friendly amendment to raise the monetary amount to \$10,000. Peter seconded it.

Steve suggested \$2,000 per school (Alice said there are 4 schools) so Steve retracted that.

Ray asked to specify where the money is coming from. Steve said that there is no line item, but the money can come from special projects also, as before.

Kelly's motion - to set up a school outreach committee and allocate up to \$10,000.

Alice made the motion, Peter seconded.

Judy asked when that subcommittee would be created. Kelly said ASAP, Steve said by our next meeting.

John - after this fiscal year, the available money is gone.

Barry was opposed. The motion passed otherwise.

Board Member Reports and comments from the Board on subject matters within the Boards jurisdiction

Ray said that the Citrus Sunday food drive went well, and that the food went to Valley Interfaith food banks. A Safety CD was sent out last year to families, and he is hoping to know that it was

received, because we want that stuff to have an impact. Last year we put money out (\$1.50 per CD) and saw no return on it.

Peter reported from the Environmental Committee. He has contacted the principals and administrations at Andasol Elementary, Northridge Academy, and Darby. One principal asked him to read the book *Cloudy Today With A Chance Of Meatballs*. He then talked about the upcoming May 17th event.

Barry talked about NENC's monthly ad in the North Valley Community News. The ad is due this Tuesday morning, so anybody who wants anything put in regarding the NENC agenda, please get it to me by Monday morning. Secondly, I will set up our new emails over the weekend. Therefore emails won't work over the weekend, so call me if you have any problems.

Future Agenda Items and other Calendar Events

Kelly thanked everyone who attended and hopes to see everybody next month. He then said that a motion to adjourn was in order.

Adjournment

Caroline Moore made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.