

Minutes of the
NORTHRIDGE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NENC)
General Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 16, 2008

at Andasol Elementary School Auditorium, 10126 Encino Ave., Northridge, CA

Call to Order

President Kelly Lord called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Mr. Lord took the roll call. Board Members present:

Kelly Lord, President	Thomas Baker, 2 nd Vice-President
Steve Patel, Treasurer	Judith Nutter, Secretary
Sara Adelman, Youth Representative	Yeprem Davoodian, Board Member
Barry Greenberg, Board Member	Alice McCain, Board Member
Peter McCarty, Board Member	Lucille Meehan, Board Member
Carol Moore, Board Member	

Board Members absent: Don Dwiggin, 1st Vice-President (excused), and Conner Lansdale, Student Representative (excused).

Eleven of the 13 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, and the business of the Council could be conducted. Also present were 10 Stakeholders and Guests.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of the Minutes from March Board Meeting

The Minutes of the June 18, 2008 General Board Meeting were **APPROVED** as written without any objections.

NENC Council President Policies and Procedures for NC Meeting

Mr. Lord explained this.

Comments from City Officials

There were no comments.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item # 3.]

Public Comments

Stakeholder Diane Brooks, of the U.S. Tennis Association, introduced herself. She's requesting support for the Salute to Recreation Tennis Tournament at Northridge Park. Ms. Brooks will send a written request for her support request to be agendized at the next General Board Meeting.

Stakeholder Dorothy Boberg, of the California Clean Money Campaign, announced a meeting July 30th at the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council. For information, contact Judy Branfman at 800-566-3780. Ms. Boberg encouraged the NC to discuss gardening and other issues important in the current economy. Mr. McCarty mentioned that, two months ago, the NC “committed to zero-net energy by 2015.”

AGENDA:

1) Election results

Mr. Greenberg reported that the following Board Members were elected:

Business Representatives: Yeprem Davoodian and Barry Greenberg

Resident Representatives: Thomas Baker, Lucille Meehan, and Caroline Moore

Resident/Renter Representatives: Pam Butts, Kelly Lord, and Peter McCarty

Business Owner/Employee Representative: Steve Patel

At Large Representative: Alice McCain

Two Open seats are available

Two appointed seats: offered to and accepted by Colin Lansdale and Judy Nutter

Mr. Greenberg expressed that the Bylaws will be amended to reflect that the former President will preside until the new executive board has been selected.

MOTION (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Ms. McCain): to nominate Steve Patel as President.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Lord, and seconded): to nominate Peter McCarty as Second Vice-President.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Mr. McCarty): to nominate Barry Greenberg as Secretary.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Patel, and seconded): to nominate Kelly Lord as Treasurer.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Patel): to nominate Thomas Baker as First Vice-President.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Lord passed the gavel to new President Mr. Patel, who welcomed everyone and thanked Mr. Lord for his service. He announced that Ray Calnan and Travis Daniels did not submit candidate applications for the new term and are no longer on the Board.

Ms. McCain reminded that Sara Adelman, out-going Youth Representative, should be recognized for her service to the Board. Alice will provide a suitable recognition and a new Youth Representative will be recruited.

2) Swearing in of Board -- John Bwarie

John Bwarie, Deputy District Director for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-701-5253; john.bwarie@lacity.org), swore in the new Board Members for two-year terms.

Candidate Nestor Fantini introduced himself.

MOTION (by Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. McCain): to approve Nestor Fantini's election to the Northridge East Neighborhood Council as a Property Owner / Business Owner Representative.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Bwarie swore in new Board Member Nestor Fantini.

3) Appoint people to vacant seats

MOTION (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Mr. McCarty): to appoint Don Dwiggins to the Board as an At-large Member.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Greenberg noted that Mr. McCarty has posted notices at area schools to recruit a Youth Representative to the Board.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Public Comments.]

4) Darby Library Adoption Update -- possible action

Mr. Patel explained that this is to have a library within the NC boundaries. Mr. Baker pointed out that that library is not currently within any NC's boundaries.

MOTION (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Ms. McCain): to adopt the Darby/Nordhoff Library and extend the NC's boundaries around it.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Greenberg noted that Melvin Canas, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9953; melvin.canas@lacity.org), said that he'll e-mail information soon regarding this. Mr. Patel and Mr. Greenberg said that the Bylaws would need to

be amended, in consultation with DONE and BONC (the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners). Mr. Patel pointed out that this would allow the NC to have another meeting place and a documents storage place. Tonight's meeting place is not always available. Mr. Baker added that the library would also be a better Meeting posting location than schools, which are often difficult to access and whose notice boards are not very visible to the public.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

5) June/July budget committee report

A) Proposed Budget -- Possible action

Mr. Greenberg explained that the Budget Committee prepared this budget. Mr. Patel asked and it was agreed to keep this budget as a proposed budget to be voted upon at next month's Meeting. Mr. Lord stated that, after the budget is approved, he'll put it on the NC website.

B) Treasurer Report -- Motion to purchase QuickBooks and professional assistance -- possible action up to \$500

MOTION (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Ms. Moore): to purchase the QuickBooks computer software through the Internet and to hire professional training and support assistance.

DISCUSSION: The NC budget would be view-only on the website and not accessible to the public, so that it could only be changed by authorized persons. Mr. Patel added that the DONE budget is already online.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

C) Outreach item -- Motion to renew for term of 6 months ad in North Valley Community Newspaper

MOTION (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Ms. Moore): to purchase, at \$250 per month for six months, an ad in the North Valley Community News.

DISCUSSION: Mr. McCarty indicated that the News has a circulation of 44,000, more than the L.A. Times or the Daily News, and that the ad would be ¼ page.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

6) New Vision -- Possible action

A) Motion to support New Vision -- possible action up to \$750 per month
Mr. Lord proposed a Motion to support NE/W Vision Reseda Boulevard maintenance from Roscoe Boulevard to Lassen Street by allocating up to \$550 per month. He explained part of the NE/W Vision Program, on which the NC is

collaborating with the Northridge West NC (NWNC), CSUN (California State University at Northridge), the Chamber of Commerce, Councilman Smith, and more organizations, though the Chamber is not financially contributing. Mr. Patel observed that we can seek to install signage on Reseda Boulevard recognizing the NWNC's contribution. Councilman Smith's funds ran out. The Program is part of the Northridge Community Plan, which has not been updated since 1998. Mr. Greenberg is concerned with maintaining an area outside the NC's boundaries; there's currently no NC representing Reseda Boulevard from Roscoe Boulevard to Parthenia Street. Mr. Patel declared, "it's not about the Neighborhood Council; it's about Northridge." Mr. Greenberg recommends that that area be approved for maintenance as a six-month pilot program. Mr. Baker is concerned that the West Valley Alliance has not maintained the area well, so that it would be better, for \$1,100 per month, to hire a gardening service. Mr. Greenberg believes that that would be premature and speculative. Mr. McCarty declared that the proposed Motion has a specific focus and a real time frame.

MOTION (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Mr. McCarty): for the Northridge East Neighborhood Council to support the NE/W Vision Committee by allocating up to \$550 per month for maintenance of Reseda Boulevard from Roscoe Boulevard to Lassen Street, for a six-month pilot program, with an option to extend an additional six months.

MOTION PASSED with one opposing.

7) Kris Daams, Senator Padilla's office on Senate bill (SB 1420)

Kris Daams, of State 20th District Senator Alex Padilla's Office (818-901-5588; dist20.casen.govoffice.com), introduced himself. He distributed flyers about and described a Homeowners and Renters Assistance Program that's available. Qualified applicants can receive a property tax rebate. It's free to apply at various locations. Mr. Daams also distributed a "SB 1420 – Padilla: Nutritional Labeling on Menus and Menu Boards" summary and spoke regarding SB (Senate Bill) 1420, which involves menu labeling at chain restaurants with more than 15 locations. It's one tool to encourage people to eat healthier food. The labeling must be "clear and conspicuous."

MOTION (by Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Fantini): for the Northridge East Neighborhood Council to support Senate Bill 1420 as it is currently written.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lord feels that the legislation will do little; "it's a stick, instead of a carrot" and is "social engineering."

MOTION PASSED with eight in favor and three opposing.

Board Member Reports and comments

Mr. McCarty reported that the Seniors Committee is "going great" and that the Mission Hills, Granada Hills South, and Northridge West NCs are working with us. The NC has declared Northridge as a fall-free zone. He noted that the Environmental Committee is

“launching, with the schools, an effort to create community gardens.” He reports that the Education Committee found that our area has approximately 17 schools, including eight LAUSD (L.A. Unified School District), and that the Sherry Lansing Foundation is working to get seniors to work with the LAUSD. There’re also CSUN and the Northridge Academy. The Committee is seeking volunteers.

Mr. Patel will organize the Agenda for next month’s Meeting, and thanked Mr. Daams for attending. Mr. Greenberg reported that the Website Committee will soon provide more information. He also encouraged the Stakeholders to return and bring at least one friend. Mr. Baker likes the Moore Business Results website maintenance proposal.

Future Agenda Items and other Calendar Events

None were presented.

Adjournment

MOTION (by Mr. Patel): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED without any objections at 8:45 p.m. and the Meeting was **ADJOURNED**.