

Minutes of the Meeting of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

February 18, 2009

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by President Steve Patel.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alice McCain.
3. Roll Call: Steve Patel, Thomas Baker (excused), Peter McCarty (excused), Barry Greenberg, Kelly Lord (tardy, excused), Pamela Butts (excused), Yeprem Davoodian, Don Dwiggins, Nestor Fantini (excused), Alice McCain, Lucille Meehan, Connor Lansdale, Steven Ramirez. Quorum was present.
4. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from January 21, 2009. None opposed, motion passed.
5. Comments from Public Officials:
 - a. Council District 12 – John Bwarie discussed how the state’s budget affects the city budget; unlike the state the city must balance its budget every fiscal year. Councilman Smith has proposed a motion to reimburse residents who buy a water censor to save water; waiting on action. There is no current update on the smoking ban proposed by Councilman Smith.
 - b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – No appearance.
6. Public Comments:
 - a. CSUN Young Democrats President Ali Bamdad informed the Council that the Young Democrats are a group of dedicated students who want to help the community and are involved in city and state issues and elections. They are currently involved with Proposition B. Yeprem Davoodian is the faculty advisor. The Council and the Mr. Bamdad made an agreement to work together on local issues that affect both organizations.
7. Old Business:
 - a. 18240 Superior St. Subdivision: Expect approval from City Planning within the next month to divide lot into two properties. Appeal will take a lot of time and effort and will likely only take place if the lots are developed for multi-family residents or dorms since it is close to the university.
 - b. Speed Limit Changes on Zelzah: NENC does not want speed limits to increase because the stretch of street in question has many schools and residences on it. LADOT wants to increase speed limit to use radar enforcement; radar enforcement currently usable in school and residential areas. Local Neighborhood Council’s have currently frozen the issue until a final verdict is made on a memorandum of communication between LADOT and neighborhood councils. Mr. Patel believes NENC should keep its motion against the speed limit increase.
 - c. Business Cards: Mr. Patel announced that NENC will have business cards by the following week.
 - d. VA Housing at North Hills Campus: Mr. Dwiggins reiterated details on VA Housing that were given at January meeting. Mr. Patel noted that new information has come to light since the previous meeting. NENC agrees that the community needs veteran housing and wants housing to serve veterans well. Mr. Patel deferred any motion on the issue until the NENC has more information regarding the North Hills Campus.

- e. White Oak Re-Zone Issue: Discussion deferred to March meeting.
8. New Business:
- a. Treasury Report – Mr. Lord noted that report will be given at the March meeting after upcoming DONE meeting.
 - b. Measure “B” DWP Overview – Mr. Dwiggins gave a presentation on upcoming Measure B which involves DWP owned and operated solar panel installations. Presentation included specific details about the Measure as well as arguments for and arguments against. Mr. Patel is concerned that the issue is on the March ballot and many people are confused or not informed on the Measure; believes many measures pass before voters know proper information and wants anyone with facts regarding the Measure to email NENC website. Mr. Patel also discussed possibility of a debate on the issue at the university with CSUN Young Democrats.
 - c. Providence Holy Cross Medical Center – Maria Townsend and Pat (?) gave a report on the 136-bed expansion to Holy Cross. Privately funded project was approved and started but halted by LA City Council after community group CARE cited environmental issues with the build. Holy Cross is adamant that the expansion causes no environmental problems and believes CARE and SCIU want Holy Cross, a currently non-union hospital, to unionize. Presenters requested NENC write letters to LA City Council and Mayor Villaraigosa stating support for expansion. Mr. Patel noted that the Council cannot take any action on the issue since it was not on the February agenda; issue tabled until March meeting.
 - d. Citrus Sunday -- Mr. Patel and Mr. Ramirez will be NENC representatives for this year’s Citrus Sunday. Motion presented by Mr. Patel to use \$500 of NENC money to buy reusable shopping bags for the event, 2nd by Mr. Lord. Motion passed.
 - e. NENC PR/Press Coordinator – In a quest to be more efficient and better inform the community about NENC, the Council would like to use the services of writer Robin Kellogg who would take photos and write press releases for general meetings and special events. Mr. Lord made a motion to allocate \$600 of funding to Ms. Kellogg for three months of probationary service, 2nd by Mr. Dwiggins. Discussion followed. Mr. Lord made a friendly amendment to allocate \$200 of funding for one month of probationary service. Call to question by Mr. Davoodian; one opposition. Motion passed.
9. Upcoming Events:
- a. Citrus Sunday – May 3, 2009.
 - b. Municipal Elections – Mr. Greenberg wants to remind everyone to be informed on issues before they vote and know what exactly they are voting for or against.
10. Committee Reports:
- a. Youth/Environmental -- Mr. Ramirez discussed his experience at the Green Expo and urges everyone to go to the next one as it was a great learning experience. See LA Convention Center website for more details.
 - b. Mr. Lansdale – New parking structure at CSUN will hopefully help traffic in and around the university.
 - c. Mr. Davoodian provided copies of minutes from January retreat

- d. Mr. Patel urges people to bring community issues to NENC's attention so community can work together to solve them.
 - e. Ms. McCain wants to take action on Holy Cross issue at March 3rd agenda setting meeting, as does Ms. Meehan and Ms. Moore. Mr. Patel assured them issue will be discussed March 3rd and wants to invite opposition to Holy Cross expansion to general March meeting.
11. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Patel, 2nd by Mr. Lord. Meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.