

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

March 18, 2009

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM by President Steve Patel.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Peter McCarty.
3. Roll Call: Steve Patel, Thomas baker (excused), Peter McCarty, Barry Greenberg, Kelly Lord, Don Dwiggins, Nestor Fantini, Alice McCain (excused), Lucille Meehan, Caroline Moore, Conor Lansdale (tardy), Steven Ramirez, Brittny McCarthy. Quorum was present.
4. Approval of Minutes: Deferred to April meeting.
5. Mr. Patel welcomed Ms. McCarthy, the newly appointed CSUN Faculty/Staff. Ms. McCarthy was sworn in by Al Abrams from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.
6. Comments from Public Officials:
  - a. Council District 12 — No appearance.
  - b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment — Al Abrams discussed the city's budget deficit problem and how that will affect neighborhood council budgets. NC budgets will probably be reduced but there is currently no plan to redact the rollover policy. Mr. Abrams urged the public to attend upcoming town hall meetings to voice their opinions on what NCs do and financially deserve. He also discussed the city's strict financial disclosure policy for neighborhood councils. Mr. Patel wants to add a proposal regarding the financial disclosure policy to the April meeting to ask the city council for form 52 instead of form 54. Mr. Abrams reminded the council the importance of staying up to date on their Ethics Training.
7. Public Comments:
  - a. North Valley Reporter, Nina Royal — No appearance.
  - b. Rick Stoff from Chrysalis Enterprises addressed the council regarding using some of the council's budget to help clean up the neighborhood through Chrysalis. Chrysalis Enterprises offers jobs to homeless and provides cleaning and street-maintenance services. At Mr. Patel's request, Mr. Stoff will send a proposal to Mr. Patel by April 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Jay Bolton from Senior Services Business Council addressed the council regarding a \$500 for their annual Senior Dance. Mr. Bolton would also like local neighborhood councils to each nominate a senior to be honored at their event, given an award and possibly a gift.
  - d. Michael Howard from Lifecycle USA addressed the council regarding the creation of a commercial electronics recycling center in the San Fernando Valley. A portion of proceeds from collected items will be returned to collecting agents. Mr. Patel asked Mr. Howard to coordinate with Mr. Ramirez and Mr. McCarty on the project.
  - e. Officer Kathy Bennett informed the council and the public about traffic task forces in the area, some concentrating around CSUN due to the large number of pedestrians and others focusing on street racing. Neighborhoods without

neighborhood watches can contact their lead officer or Officer Bennett for information on how to start one.

8. Old Business:

- a. 18240 Superior St.— Mr. Fantini noted that the status of Superior Street is to be decided on seven criteria, including that the owners provide sketches of their plans and address the NENC.
- b. Opposition to VA/ACOF Apartment Housing — Peggy Burgess gave a presentation offering opposition to the North Valley VA Campus Apartments run by A Community of Friends and New Directions (which addressed the NENC in January). Ms. Burgess stated that the buildings which will be used, buildings 4 and 5, are in good condition and need little work to be ready for veterans to move in. There is no back up plan to house veterans if the ACOF/ND plan does not go through; Ms. Burgess wants the community to put pressure on the government to properly spend the money allocated for veterans. ACOF/ND project uses “veterans preference” language which has concerned many in the community that civilians could be served instead of veterans on land owned by the DVA. Many public comments followed.
- c. A Community of Friends — Ben Rosen from ACOF offered a rebuttal to Ms. Burgess’ presentation. Mr. Rosen insists that the DVA came to ACOF/ND to operate buildings 4 and 5 of the North Hills VA facilities and that the buildings are not in good condition and need to be completely refurbished on the inside. Mr. Rosen also discussed the use of “veterans preference” language as a legal requirement ensured the council that only veterans would be served in the facility. Mr. Rosen also informed the council that the land would be leased to ACOF for 75 years and ownership of land will always belong to DVA. Many questions and comments from the council and public followed. Mr. Patel wants to make sure the veterans are served well regardless of what group operates the facility.

9. New Business:

- a. Pedestrian Safety — Mr. Ramirez wants to know if legislation can be created to put in more crosswalks to increase pedestrian safety. Mr. Patel discussed the Zelzah Ave. speed limit increase. Mr. Ramirez and Mr. Patel are going to work together.
- b. Introduction of CSUN Course on Community Development — Defer to April meeting.
- c. City Ethics Course — An ethics training class will be offered Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys from 8am-12pm.
- d. Rollback Rezoning of 9800 White Oak — Defer to April meeting.
- e. Motion to Retain Land Use Consultant — Mr. Lord made a motion to allocate up to \$5,000.00 for a Land Use Consultant to prepare reports on zoning issues and other related Northridge general plans. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fantini. Short discussion followed. This is a restatement of a previous allocation allowed in the current fiscal year’s budget. Mr. Greenberg called to question; Mr. Patel called to vote. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. Citywide Sign Ordinance — Defer to April meeting.

g. NENC PR/Press Coordinator — Mr. Lord had no new reports and no action is needed at this time.

h. Salute to Recreation:

- i. Jazmine D. from Northridge Park discussed the Salute to Recreation which will take place May 29-31, 2009. She thanked the council for their financial support in the past and asked for their support again this year for the Salute to recreation and their annual Spring Nut Hunt.
- ii. Mr. Patel made a motion to offer \$500.00 to Northridge Park for the Spring Nut Hunt. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lord. Mr. Patel called to vote. Motion passed unanimously.
- iii. Mr. Patel made a motion to offer \$7,500.00 to Northridge Park for their fireworks show at Salute to Recreation. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lord. Short discussion followed. Mr. Patel called to vote. Motion passed unanimously.
- iv. Mr. McCarty made a motion to offer up to \$500.00 in support of the Senior Services Business Council's Senior Dance. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Patel. Mr. Greenberg called to question. Mr. Patel called to vote. Motion passed unanimously.
- v. Sun Block SPF 30 — Deferred to April meeting.
- vi. Mr. Lord made a motion to reassign \$558.48 as a first payment of \$1200.00 previously approved for USTA to be assigned to Head/Penn Racquet Sports. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fantini. Mr. Patel called to vote. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Committee Reports

- a. Youth — Principal/PTA representative meeting April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Environment — Recycling project with CSUN in motion.
- c. Public Safety— LAPD-Devonshire, CSUN, and the Department of Public Safety working on creating safer crosswalks around the neighborhood, especially around CSUN.

11. Mr. Patel offered a thank you to Weiler's Deli for providing this month's refreshments.

12. Mr. Lord made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Conor Lansdale. Meeting adjourned by Mr. Patel at 9:07PM.