

CITY OF LOS ANGELES California



ELECTED EXECUTIVE BOARD

Steve S. Patel – President
Don Dwiggins – 1st Vice President, Membership
Peter J. McCarty – 2nd Vice President, Outreach
Barry M. Greenberg – Secretary
Kelly M. Lord – Treasurer

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Yeprem Davoodian Alice N. McCain
Jay Draiman Lucille Meehan
Nestor Fantini Steven Ramirez

Stephen Hubbard

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Brittany McCarthy – CSUN Faculty/Staff
Conor P. Lansdale – CSUN Student
Michael McNulty – Youth



Northridge East Neighborhood Council

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

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

February 17, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Patel at 7:07PM.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steven Ramirez.
3. Roll Call: Steve Patel, Don Dwiggins (excused), Peter McCarty, Barry Greenberg, Kelly Lord, Thomas Baker, Nestor Fantini, Pamela Butts (excused), Alice McCain, Yeprem Davoodian (absent), Lucille Meehan, Caroline Moore (excused), Brittany McCarthy, Conor Lansdale (absent), Steven Ramirez. Quorum was present.
Agenda Setting Meeting Participation: Don Dwiggins, Steve Patel, Kelly Lord, Peter McCarty.
4. Approval of Minutes – Defer approval of January 20, 2010 meeting to March meeting.
5. Comments from Public Officials:
Council District 12 – John Bwarie discussed the Northridge Centennial which will have its own website, www.Northridge100.org, which will be up in the next ten days with information about the community and its upcoming celebrations. A scholarship program for high school students will be launched next month. Parts of the Centennial celebrations include tree planting as well as a bus tour of historic and significant stops in Northridge.
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – Melvin Caños announced that DONE will be holding a series of trainings for candidates up for election starting Thursday, February 25th at San Jose Elementary School in Mission Hills. More training workshops will continue after the Neighborhood Council Elections are held. In addition, the bylaws taskforce continues to meet and works to come up with a final document to be presented to the neighborhood councils. Meetings are coming up February 27th and March 13th for those interested in participating.
LAPD – No appearance.
CSUN – Ms. McCarthy announced that there will be a public hearing Monday, March 15th, 2010 at 6:30PM regarding new lights to be put up on the North Campus.
6. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

7. Old Business:

Election 2010 Update – Elections will be held Tuesday, March 2nd. Each board member is encouraged to take a few signs and put them in their lawns and also post posters around the community.

Candidate Presentation – Mr. Ramirez gave a short presentation regarding his candidacy for the upcoming election.

Free CERT Training Update – CERT training is continuing at Northridge Academy High School (NAHS) each Thursday afternoon. The school's representative noted that many students are interested in being CPR trained; Mr. Patel wants the school to bring a proposal to the Council regarding the cost for CPR funding and would like the CERT trainees come to the NENC March meeting.

Education Forum Follow Up – Mr. Fantini noted that the Forum was a great success and thanked the volunteers that helped put the Forum together. Mr. Patel presented Mr. Fantini with an award from Tamar Galatzan, LAUSD Board Member, for his service for the Education Forum.

Treasurer's Report and Update – Due to the City Council's budget crisis and their attempts to reduce the NENC budget, the Council's finances at this time are unsure. However, NENC will continue to earmark and spend money until the budget changes.

Reseda Blvd. Cleanup – Trashcans along Reseda Blvd. will be removed March 1st unless they are adopted or moved to MTA stops. Mr. Baker will partner with Mr. Bwarie to discuss the situation.

LAPD Summit Meeting Update – Mr. Patel is open to suggestions the public has regarding the community's safety which he will take to the Summit in mid-March.

8. New Business:

Food and Water Watch Presentation – Renee Maas discussed the negative aspects of the privatization of water, which increases costs and the chance of the water becoming more polluted. Food and Water Watch wants federal legislation that excludes water from public-private sector partnerships; they are also against the November ballot \$11.4 billion water bond. Ms. Maas can be contacted at rmaas@fwwatch.org; the Food and Water Watch website is www.foodandwaterwatch.org.

Northridge East NC Host Northridge Festival Planning – Mr. Lord made a motion that NENC sponsor a planning committee with other organizations including NWNC and Kiwanis in the amount of \$500 for the Northridge Festival; 2nd by Ms. McCain. Motion passes unanimously.

Addressing the CAO recommended cuts to DONE and Neighborhood Council Funding – Defer to next month.

Presentation by City Officials:

Wendy Greuel, City Controller – Ms. Greuel explained the Controller's Office's three main components, including an audit division, financial

reporting division, and the demand audit division. She discussed the DONE audit which found an over \$5 million discrepancy between what NCs thought they had, what the City thought NCs had, and what DONE thought the NCs had. The audit resulted in the Controller's office wanting to keep the purchase card against the City Accounting Officer's recommendation, and also wanted to keep \$500 in an account for each NC per year that will be accessible at any time. Ms. Greuel also discussed rollover monies and the discrepancies between DONE NC accounts and NC accounts will be reconciled by mid-March. Mr. Lord asked Ms. Greuel about the \$26 million in the Unappropriated Non-General Account; she responded that out of the \$26 million, whatever is already spent will not be taken back but the rest will be swept back into the general fund and/or into a reserve account. Mr. Lord also discussed the NENC's use of and need for their roll-over monies and their fiscally conservative policies to ensure they have a surplus; Ms. Greuel responded that point of the sweeping of reserve funds is to keep Councils and Committees accountable and she does not advocate taking NC funds for before a reconciliation of accounts occurs. Mr. Englander reminded everyone that Councilman Smith suggests that NCs detail their needs/visions for rollover monies so that they may be used if approved. There was a discussion between the Council and Ms. Greuel regarding the city's energy expenses, volunteers, taxes, and revenue and job creation.

Bong Hwan Kim, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – No appearance.

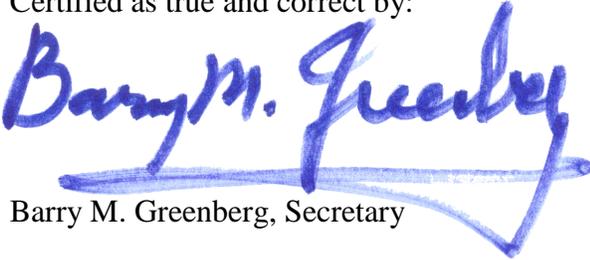
Mitch Englander, Chief of Staff, CD12 – Councilman Greig Smith sent a letter to Councilman Krekorian discussing the proposals regarding the NC current fiscal budgets and roll-over monies. Mr. Englander noted that CD12 is the most fiscally responsible district in the city of Los Angeles and applauded its Vision Plan. Mr. Englander also discussed the city's plan to partner with the private sector for certain programs which will reduce the city's budget and allow the programs to be run more efficiently. Mr. Patel suggested a meeting with Mr. Englander to brainstorm about programs and ideas that the city wants to move forward on.

Al Abrams, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners – Mr. Abrams discussed the possible changes the Neighborhood Councils face from the City Council, including reducing their budgets to \$0 and putting their roll-over monies into a general fund. Councilman Krekorian is presenting a motion before City Council tomorrow to make the Board of Commissioners a managerial body in charge of NC funding. In addition, the motion tomorrow is to reject the CAO's proposal to reduce any of the NC budget due to the charter's instruction that NCs be given one year's notice before any budgets are

reduced. Mr. Abrams also discussed the bylaws taskforce and its intentions to standardize NC bylaws in able to help NCs file grievances if necessary. A website is up for stakeholders and NCs to make suggestions to the Council regarding budget cuts and/or revenue creation can be accessed through the CD12 website at <http://cd12.lacity.org/>.

9. Committee Reports – Mr. Ramirez announced that NAHS will get 11 new recycling bins for plastic bottles. Mr. Patel has been invited to be “Principal for a Day” at NAHS and will report to the Council next month. Ms. McCain announced a Town Hall meeting hosted by Congressman Brad Sherman to be held at Reseda High School at 2pm Sunday, February 21st.
10. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:23PM.

Certified as true and correct by:



Barry M. Greenberg, Secretary