

**NORTHRIDGE EAST  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**  
PRESIDENT: Steve S. Patel  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Don Dwiggin and  
Peter McCarty  
TREASURER: Kelly Lord  
SECRETARY: Barry Greenberg



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Minutes (to be approved) of the  
**NORTHRIDGE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NENC)  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 17, 2010**

at Northridge Academy High School, 9601 Zelzah Ave., Northridge, CA 91342

**1. Call to Order**

President Steve Patel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Steven Ramirez.

**3. Roll Call – Determination of Quorum**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Steve Patel, Don Dwiggin, Peter McCarty, Barry Greenberg, Kelly Lord, Jay Draiman, Nestor Fantini, Stephen Hubbard, Alice McCain and Steven Ramirez.

Ten of the 15 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The NENC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is eight, so the Board could take such votes. No Board seats were vacant at this time. Also attending: at least 38 Stakeholders and Guests. Board Members absent: Yeprem Davoodian (unexcused), Lucille Meehan (unexcused), Brittany McCarthy (excused), Conor Lansdale (unexcused) and Michael McNulty (unexcused).

**4. Agenda Setting Meeting Participation**

Steve Patel, Don Dwiggin, Kelly Lord and Nestor Fantini participated.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Lord, seconded by Mr. Dwiggin): The Northridge East Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 20, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

**5. Comments from Public Officials**

a. Council District 12

No representative was present and there was no report.

- b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment  
No representative was present and there was no report.
- c. CSUN  
No representative was present and there was no report.
- d. Congressman Brad Sherman  
Jessica Yas, Field Deputy for U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; Jessica.Yas@mail.house.gov; www.house.gov/sherman), announced that the Congressman will soon be hosting another Town Hall Meeting, probably again at Reseda High School; she'll advise of the date and location. Federal funding is available for street repaving in Northridge; she'll advise as to which streets have been designated. Ms. Yas also congratulated CSUN on their new Performing Arts Center, for which the Congressman helped get funds; the first performance will be January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Public Comments**

Jerry Askew, Granada Hills South Board Member, reported that T-Mobile and other cell phone companies are using telephone poles to install more cell phone antennas, sometimes "right in front of somebody's house" including "on Devonshire St. on the south side of Encino" Ave. "There's only 14 days to appeal it . . . It costs \$100 . . . They're very ugly installations." He described that installations are usually larger than it seems to be stated on Public Notices. He encouraged NCs to coordinate efforts. "We've got an appeal going on." Mr. Patel asked and Mr. Dwiggin agreed to coordinate with Mr. Askew. There was discussion regarding NC jurisdiction and cell phone equipment installation procedures.

**7. Northridge Vision Committee Update**

Mr. Patel described the Committee and vision, and encouraged Stakeholder involvement and feedback. Mr. McCarty emphasized that the City will not be reviewing local Community Plans until five to 10 years from now; the Committee is an opportunity to self-determine how the community will look.

**8. Old Business -- Board Members' Duties/Responsibilities**

Mr. Patel announced that the Community Beautification Committee Chair position is available to any Stakeholder. Mr. McCarty announced that the Nabisco Company will contribute \$50,000 to a community garden that could be planned.

**8. New Business [The Agenda showed two #8 Items.]**

- a. Presentation re: Support Hospital High School Management – Brian Bauer, Exec. Dir. Granada Hills Charter HS [Possible Action].  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8. d.] Mr. Bauer distributed a "Granada Hills Charter High School" brochure, showed slides and described his group's application to run Valley Region High School #4, also temporarily known as Hospital High School. "Quality staff" would be available 24-7. They have a \$34 million annual operating budget, \$10 million in maintenance has already been

made and they have a \$10 million reserve available. He compared GHCHS student achievement with other schools, saying that socio-economically disadvantaged, learning disability and English-learning students “have made tremendous Academic Performance Index [API] gains.” Those groups comprise 8% of their student enrollment; the LAUSD [L.A. Unified School District] average is 12-13%. “The School is constructed for the visual and performing arts” and they’re “committed to offering sports” for students. Students are assigned to the School by a “random lottery” that’s “very public” and from a small “zone of choice around the School,” then by a selection process.

Stakeholders Mr. Askew, Charles Robertson, Jana Davenport, a current student and, later, Stakeholder Bonnie Bursk spoke in favor of the Charter group running the School.

- b. Presentation re: Support Hospital High School Management – Linda Del Cueto, Superintendent, Local District 1 (LAUSD) or representative [Possible Action]. Kathy Rutay spoke for Ms. Del Cueto, who was unable to attend, and described the LAUSD’s application to run Valley Region High School #4. They’re “still working on” plans due December 1st to run the School and have “had a lot of community input.” The plans “will be on the public website.” She described local School’s API and other achievements, adding that “the law says that we must relieve residential overcrowding at Cleveland High School.” Official George Bartleson pointed out that “local District One out-performs all of the other seven Districts.” Dr. Gregory Vallone, nearby Holmes Middle School Principal, described academic programs at the School, saying they “closed the gap” between high- and lesser-achieving students “better than any other School in . . . California.”

Karen Matsui, Principal, Northridge Academy High School, observed that the LAUSD “has been very supportive” in addressing community concerns. Stakeholder Maria Fisk believed that “we need to break up the District . . . We’ve given [the LAUSD] chances for years.”

Mr. Patel encouraged Agendizing this issue for the Wednesday, January 19, 2011 General Board Meeting. Ms. Rutay noted that there’ll be a January 20<sup>th</sup> “Open Forum then an advisory vote . . . The final decision is made by the Board of Education in February.” Stakeholder Brad Smith encouraged the NENC to give its opinion to be submitted “with the application” that will be submitted December 1<sup>st</sup>. There was discussion regarding the NENC postponing any decision until January.

- c. Presentation of LAFD -- Chief Officers Association budget and finance— Chief Gerry Malais.  
Mr. Malais was unable to attend and there was no presentation.
- d. Support for local schools “Recognition Event” by NENC Education Committee -- [Mr. Fantini, Possible Action up to \$1,000].

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the first Item #8.] Mr. Fantini announced that every General Board Meeting will include a presentation by a teacher or student.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McCarty): The Northridge East Neighborhood Council allocates \$1,000 to purchase plaques in support of a local schools "Recognition Event."

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Fantini expressed that it's "important" to recognize teachers and students. Mr. Lord confirmed that the NENC name is on the plaques and that "outreach comes in many forms."

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote; Mr. Hubbard opposed and Mr. Greenberg abstained.

- e. Motion to support "Invent for Life" teacher training for up to 5 teachers @ \$300 each [Mr. Fantini -- Possible action up to \$1,500].

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8. b.] Mr. Fantini reported that Stakeholder Paul MacNeal addressed the NENC Education Committee regarding his Invent for Life program "to train teachers" to teach science.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Greenberg): The Northridge East Neighborhood Council allocates \$1,500 for "Invent for Life" teacher training for up to five teachers at \$300 each.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. McCarty said that the NENC "will have candidate" teachers.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

- f. Motion to urge DONE to expedite previously approved funding for specific local schools program [Mr. Fantini—mandatory action].

Mr. Fantini relayed that DONE [the L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment] said that the documents will be sent.

- g. Motion to support "Community Care Facility" ordinance [Mr. Dwiggin -- Action item].

Ms. Fisk of the Old Granada Hills Residents Group reported there're three group homes in the area each with 15-30 residents. She displayed photos showing evidence of and described many people living in the homes, poor maintenance and many safety and security problems. She urged the NENC to write a letter of concern to the City and support the below Motion. Recommendations will be made in December and a Public Hearing held in February.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. McCarty): The Northridge East Neighborhood Council supports a proposed L.A. City Council Ordinance

restricting and limiting group homes in Los Angeles. The NENC Executive Board will draft specific language for such a letter to be sent to the City Council.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

- h. Motion to support “CD12 Candidate Forum on January 31, 2011 [Mr. Patel -- Funding up to \$100].

Mr. Patel announced that the NENC will invite all 11 City Council District 12 Candidates to a January 31, 2011 Candidates Forum that’ll include questions and answers and invited all Neighborhood Councils within CD 12 to contribute \$50-\$100 to help support the Forum.

**MOTION** (by Mr. McCarty, seconded by Mr. Hubbard): The Northridge East Neighborhood Council allocates \$100 in support of a City Council District 12 Candidates Forum to be held on January 31, 2011.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

- i. Web Site Monthly maintenance and update —Vendor [Messrs. Dwiggins/Patel -- Funding approval per budget \$100/month].

Mr. Dwiggins reported that two vendors are being considered. Mr. Patel assigned and Mr. Dwiggins agreed to make the choice between the two.

- j. Devonshire House renovation plan update [Messrs. Patel/Dwiggins].

Mr. Patel described “asset mapping” the community toward making “Northridge a destination market . . . Proposition K funds are available to renovate the Devonshire House . . . We’ve always advocated making that a community center . . . The three [Northridge] Neighborhood Councils would have their offices there.” Mr. Dwiggins met with Pat LoPresti of the Project Advisory Board; tomorrow there’ll be a Meeting regarding Devonshire House.

## **9. Committee Reports**

### Other

Mr. Ramirez asked everyone to support the Toy Drive by “donating a new unwrapped toy.” He can be e-mailed at S.Ramirez@NENC-LA.org. Mr. Greenberg added that “toys go to the Devonshire [Division] LAPD PALS program.”

### Land Use

Mr. Dwiggins reported that the Committee met and discussed the proposed City Planning Department streamlining Ordinances.

Ms. McCain left at this time.

### Environmental

Mr. McCarty reported that the San Fernando Valley Green Team and the DWP are seeking volunteer homeowners to install water conservation technology.

Treasurer/Budget

Mr. Lord reported that he met with DONE's Amelia Herrera-Robles, who said that "all outstanding Demand Warrants will be completed by the end of this month . . . [back] to '06."

**10. Adjournment**

**Mr. Patel thanked Ms. Matsui for hosting this Meeting and thanked attendees.**

Mr. Patel declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.