



Northridge South Neighborhood Council Minutes of Regular Board Meeting May 25, 2017

- 1) Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by James Ashjian. Sal Pelaez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) Board of Directors Roll Call:** **Present:** James Ashjian, Michael Bell, C.J. Berina, Valerie Collins, Jennifer Elliott, Karen Lott, Marilynn Meyer, Sal Pelaez, Jose Portillo, Fred Youssif **Excused Absence:** Courtney Molnar, Stephanie Schwinn **Absent:** Nour Chaaban, Jose Hernandez, Donnal Poppe
- 3) Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2017 Board Meeting and May 8, 2017 Special Board Meeting:** Motion to approve the April 27 minutes as written made by Karen Lott and seconded by Marilynn Meyer. Motion passed with ten “yes” votes. Motion to approve the May 8 minutes as written made by Jose Portillo and seconded by Karen Lott. Motion passed with ten “yes” votes.
- 4) Comments by public officials:**
- a. CD 12:** Jonathan Coto, Field Deputy: The city’s annual budget was passed this week and the mayor will sign off on it. The budget summary may be found at CD12.org. The city council voted to support the “Rumble Strips” pilot program, which will alleviate street racing on Plummer Street between Canoga Avenue and Topanga Canyon Boulevard by installing “rumble strips”, similar to speed bumps. The city is committed to becoming a “no-kill” city (saving at least 90% of animals in the animal shelters) by December 31, 2017. On May 24, 2017 the “Making Movies that Matter” screening was held at the CSUN Valley Performing Arts Center. The annual Hawaiian festival and senior dance will be held on Friday, June 2, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at Northridge Park. Admission is \$2.00.
 - b. City Planning Presentation by Ata Khan:** The city is embarking on a six-year program to update all community plans. Mr. Khan is the Planning Assistant for the “Southwest Valley Plans”, which consists of plans for Reseda-West Van Nuys, Encino-Tarzana, and Canoga Park-Winnetka-Woodland Hills-West Hills. The NSNC boundaries cross the Northridge and Reseda-West Van Nuys community plans. He encouraged stakeholders to study the Reseda-West Van Nuys community plan map, fill out the feedback questionnaire and attend upcoming workshops. The last Reseda-West Van Nuys community plan update was in 1999.
 - c. Other public officials:** None
- 5) General public comment on non-agendized items:** *Jim Lacher, Jehovah’s Witnesses volunteer:* A congregation is seeking a conditional use permit to build a kingdom hall at 19519 Roscoe Boulevard (at Shirley Avenue). They are also seeking a zone variance for signage. Presently there is a single-family dwelling on the property. The kingdom hall will have 145 seats in the auditorium and 48 parking spaces. Meetings are held one night a week (after 7:00 p.m.) and also on weekends. *Paul Kao:* Lives on Melvin Avenue and is against the project, saying that Roscoe Boulevard already has so much traffic and that this will create traffic jams. *Ada Sacks:* She is against the project and asked if CD 12 supports it. Mr. Lacher responded that they did not know, and that Northridge Vision has not voiced any concerns against the project. *Barbara Perle:* Her property abuts the project site, and she does not want activity and lighting intruding on her property. She read aloud a letter from Dave Cargo of Coldwell Banker, who says that the project will have a negative impact on property values. She circulated a letter of opposition with over 50 signatures and read the letter aloud. *Charles Wilken:* He lives three properties away and is concerned about hazards created by parking on Shirley Avenue, which is a narrow road. He does not want the road widened and wants to keep the neighborhood low-density. He does not want to see the flavor of the neighborhood change. *Michael Rissi:* He referred to the Coptic church [17431 Roscoe Boulevard] not complying with planning rules, and

now he does not want more development. He wants to keep the rural feeling. *Sharon Tang:* She asked if the congregation representatives have visited the site. She used to live at Roscoe Boulevard and Shirley Avenue and has seen and heard traffic accidents there. She said that the congregation cannot control parking or jaywalking across the street. *Jill Stewart:* Wants the neighborhood councils in the San Fernando Valley to send a letter to the mayor and the appropriate council member requesting that Los Angeles General Plan meetings be open to the public. *Delia Martinez:* She was not informed of the Coptic church city planning hearing. NSNC member Fred Youssif talked to the priest at the church, but Mr. Youssif did not do anything for us. Why was the church allowed to keep going with their plans when they have not kept their prior promises? *Iris Petrisca:* NSNC member Fred Youssif volunteered to speak with the Coptic church regarding the neighbors' concerns. She said Mr. Youssif mocked the barn [El Encanto, Los Angeles HCM #782] near the church, saying "it's not the Pyramids", but the barn is significant to us. She said that Mr. Youssif did not represent us properly, and she will continue to fight the church.

6) President's Comments: Since the presentation regarding the proposed Jehovah's Witnesses kingdom hall on Roscoe Boulevard/Shirley Avenue was left off the agenda in error, a short presentation and public comments will be heard during the "general public comment" portion of the meeting. The council will not vote on this project at this meeting. The city planning hearing will be held on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 1:00 in Van Nuys.

7) Old Business:

a. Budget Update: None

Jose Portillo and Fred Youssif left the meeting.

b. Approval of Monthly Reconciliation Report: We funded the Museum of Tolerance trip for Northridge Middle School eighth-graders. For the PALS bicycle fair in July 2017, we purchased \$2,000 worth of bicycles. A \$4,000 grant to Northridge Beautification (Northridge Sparkle) is pending. We prepaid bills that come due in June and July. As of today our balance is \$13,000. The April 2017 MER was approved with eight "yes" votes.

c. Town Hall Meetings with CSUN (May 10, 2017) and Metrolink (May 4, 2017): The CSUN hotel will be built where the Orange Grove Bistro stands and is to be completed in 2019. Metrolink presented information regarding the feasibility study of upgrading or relocating the Northridge station.

d. Reseda Festival Funding: The motion to allocate \$2,500 to the festival was voted on at the special meeting on May 8, 2017. The motion passed with ten "yes" votes.

8) New Business:

a. July 2017: There will be no agenda-setting or stakeholder meetings in July 2017 due to Northridge Middle School's closure.

b. Congress of Neighborhood Councils: This event will be held in September 2017. Jill Stewart encouraged attendance. Motion to support event at \$500 made by Michael Bell and seconded by Sal Pelaez. Motion passed with eight "yes" votes.

c. Additional Outreach Projects: Item tabled due to Stephanie Schwinn's absence.

d. Nomination of Don Larson for Outstanding Senior: By show of hands, the council voted to support this nomination.

e. Other Opportunities for Outreach Programs: Item tabled due to Stephanie Schwinn's absence.

f. NSNC Officers: The annual election of the NSNC officers will take place at the June 22, 2017 stakeholder meeting.

9) Committee Reports: None

10) Board member announcements: Sal Pelaez thanked those who came out for the Balboa Boulevard and Aliso pocket park cleanups last weekend. James Ashjian said that the Valley Disaster Fair is upcoming. He also said that a "Historic Reseda" mural on the wall of the Catalina Paint store is being considered. This will be discussed at a future meeting. He also said that NSNC received a thank-you letter from the North Valley YMCA for supporting their youth camp.

11) Adjournment: Valerie Collins moved to adjourn and Marilyn Meyer seconded. Approved with eight "yes" votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.