



Northridge South Neighborhood Council Minutes of Regular Board Meeting August 24, 2017

1) Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by James Ashjian, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Board of Directors Roll Call: Present: James Ashjian, Michael Bell, Valerie Collins, Jennifer Elliott, Karen Lott, Marilynn Meyer, Courtney Molnar, Sal Pelaez, Donnal Poppe, Jose Portillo, Stephanie Schwinn, Fred Youssif.
Absent: C.J. Berina, Jose Hernandez **Vacant:** Youth stakeholder

3) Approval of minutes from June 22, 2017 Meeting: The minutes were approved as written with twelve “yes” votes.

4) Comments by public officials:

a. CD 12: Jonathan Coto, Field Deputy: Jonathan Coto is now the Public Works liaison. Councilmember Englander launched the “Neighborhoods FIRST” initiative, to help combat homelessness. Introduced motion (with councilmember Rodriguez) asking to have HOPE team members report to the city council regarding LAMC 85.02, which regulates living in personal vehicles on public streets. Introduced motion (with councilmember Blumenfield) asking to have LADOT and the city attorney report to the city council regarding adopting rules and regulations concerning the use of RVs on public streets. Valerie Collins said that RVs are not being towed because there is no place to put them. Stephanie Schwinn said that there is a “Homeless Not Hopeless” meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the Southern California Gas Company office at Oakdale Avenue and Plummer Street.

C.J. Berina arrived at 7:09 p.m.

b. Other public officials: Ankar Patel, LAUSD: Richard Ramos is the new principal at Northridge Middle School. Board member Scott Schmerelson is interested in special education; almost 80,000 students have special needs. If any questions, please contact. *Gibson Nyambura, DONE:* The neighborhood council elections may be pushed back to 2019 from 2018. He encouraged all neighborhood councils to submit community impact statements.

5) General public comment on non-agendized items: Fred Youssif: Northridge is proud of Don Larson. *Chris Sales:* The last Reseda Summer Series event will be on Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Mitch Englander will dedicate the flagpole and the “Horses Across the Valley” sculpture. It is expected that NSNC will attend. *Tyler Aguirre, Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance:* On behalf of STAND-L.A. [“Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling”], asked to be put on the agenda for the September 2017 meeting. On June 30, 2017 the city council approved a study regarding buffer zones around oil/gas sites. STAND-L.A. wants a 500’ buffer. On behalf of the Sustainability Alliance, asked NSNC for a letter of support. *Ethan Senser, Food and Water Watch:* Distributed copies of the “Drilling Down” publication and encouraged NSNC to read it. *Glenn Bailey, Congress of Neighborhood Councils Planning Committee:* On August 22, 2017 a directive was issued that DONE is to communicate with all neighborhood councils regarding elections. Asked who from NSNC signed up for the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. Attend either that or the Matadors Day of Service. There is a Sustainability Alliance mixer after the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. The sustainability representatives are invited. VANC will hold a planning and transportation forum on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at CBS Studios in Studio City. Asked the neighborhood councils to sponsor. The Neighborhood Council Funding Program Workgroup is starting to look at funding policies. If there are any suggestions or concerns, let him know. *Brian Allen, Budget Advocate:* The budget advocates look at the city budget from all aspects, deal with city departments on a closer level, and take information from the neighborhood councils. They then report back to the neighborhood councils. They are looking for two advocates from NSNC. The advocates meet twice a month: on a Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in West Los Angeles, and a Monday at 7:00 p.m. at DONE. Glenn Bailey added that each neighborhood council needs two advocates. Advocates are elected and serve as points of contact. The default advocates for each council are the president and treasurer.

6) President’s Comments: None

7) Old Business:

- a. **Budget Update:** None
- b. **Approval of Monthly Reconciliation Report:** There were no expenditures in July 2017 because expenses were pre-paid in June 2017. The July 2017 MER was approved with thirteen “yes” votes.
- c. **Congress of Neighborhood Councils:** James Ashjian encouraged board attendance at the Congress, but if not going to that, go to the Matadors Day of Service.
- d. **Additional Outreach Projects:** We need a photograph of the board for the updated pamphlet.
- e. **Other Opportunities for Outreach Programs:** No action taken
- f. **Budget:** No action taken

8) New Business:

- a. **Appointment of Tiffany Caldwell to Board:** The youth position on the board is vacant with the resignation of Nour Chaaban. The appointment would be temporary until the next election. Jennifer Elliott asked Ms Caldwell if she was within the position’s 16-25 age range and she said no, she is 34. Michael Bell said that the criteria for a board position does not need to be met when filling a vacancy, but it does during a general election. Gibson Nyambura (DONE) wants to clarify this with the city attorney before the board votes. This item was tabled to the September 2017 meeting.
- b. **Approval of Expenditure for Public Storage:** A monthly expenditure not to exceed \$275.00 during the 2017-18 fiscal year was approved with thirteen “yes” votes.
- c. **Approval of Expenditure for Website Maintenance:** A monthly expenditure during the 2017-18 fiscal year was approved with thirteen “yes” votes.
- d. **Approval of Expenditure for Community Connection Newspaper:** A monthly expenditure for advertising during the 2017-18 fiscal year was approved with thirteen “yes” votes.
- e. **Approval of July 2017 MER:** See item 7b.
- f. **Approval of Expenditure for Pocket Park Maintenance:** An expenditure for supplies not to exceed \$250.00 during the 2017-18 fiscal year was approved with thirteen “yes” votes.
- g. **Zelzah/Nordhoff Park Update:** Don Larson of Northridge Beautification showed renderings of the park to be located at Zelzah Avenue and Nordhoff Street, across from the planned CSUN hotel. The park will contain steel sculpture art. All of the existing trees will remain. He anticipates a funding request of \$4,000-\$5,000 in 2018-19. The CSUN hotel is also expected to make a donation.
- h. **Support for City Planning Transparency:** Jorge Castaneda, Community Organizer for Coalition to Preserve LA, spoke on behalf of Jill Stewart. The coalition is asking for a letter of support to have General Plan and Community Plan meetings transparent and open to public participation. Mr. Castaneda provided a draft resolution for our use in writing the letter.
- i. **General Plan Update:** Lisette Covarrubias was not in attendance but Claire Bowin, Department of City Planning, spoke. City Planning wants community engagement during the General Plan update process. The process had a soft launch last fall and research is ongoing. City Planning will have a table at the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. There will be four community conversations regarding open space in October 2017, and four conversations on various topics in November 2017. The website is ourla2040.org. The General Plan will be released in 2019 and there will be a public comment period. The goal is to adopt the plan in 2020.
- j. **NPG for Catalina Paint Store Mural:** The original budget was \$20,000 but was revised to \$15,000. NSNC has been asked to fund 1/3 of the cost (\$5,000). Donnal Poppe moved to approve \$2,500 and Stephanie Schwinn seconded. Motion approved with nine “yes” votes (Ashjian, Collins, Elliott, Lott, Meyer, Molnar, Pelaez, Poppe, Portillo) and four “no” votes (Bell, Berina, Schwinn, Youssif)
- k. **Board Officer Nominations:** Per Gibson Nyambura (DONE), this item was tabled to the September 2017 meeting.
- l. **Street Clean-Up Projects:** Tabled to the September 2017 meeting.

9) Committee Reports:

- a. **PALS Bike Repair Event:** Jose Portillo said the event scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2017 was not held. The bicycles that were purchased will be stored in the NSNC storage unit. Donnal Poppe moved to distribute the bicycles at the PALS toy giveaway in December 2017, and Sal Pelaez seconded. Motion passed with thirteen “yes” votes.

10) Board member announcements: Jose Portillo announced that on October 21, 2017 there will be a health fair at Park Parthenia. LAPD SLO Patti Peteque is still out.

11) Adjournment: Donnal Poppe moved to adjourn and Sal Pelaez seconded. Approved with thirteen “yes” votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.