

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD MEMBERS of NHNENC:

CALIFORNIA

NORTH HOLLYWOOD  
NORTH EAST  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
COUNCIL

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Ethel Gordon  
Loretta Luse  
Jamie McDonald-  
Adlof  
Sarah Ramsawack

Ernie Moscoso – V-  
Pres.  
J. Eric Freedner–Sec.  
Florence Dorick  
David Hernandez  
Philip Manson  
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MINUTES of the MONTHLY MEETING of the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 10, 2008

Park Plaza Apts. Recreation room, 6755 Rhodes Avenue, North Hollywood, CA

CALL TO ORDER: President Randal Luse called the meeting to order at 7:23 PM. Jeff Brooks led the pledge of allegiance, and J. Eric Freedner took roll. Present were Jeff Brooks, Donald Corton, Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, David Hernandez, Loretta Luse, Randal Luse, Phil Manson, Ernie Moscoso, and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Mr. Corton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 10-0.

COMMENTS FROM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

L.A.P.D. Officer Ahedo noted crime was up slightly over last month, but the Gang Unit made arrests at Lankershim and Sherman Way for possession of meth and witness intimidation. There have been some car thefts, residential burglaries and random robberies. The police are also trying to rehabilitate the homeless.

L.A. Fire Dept. Battalion Chief Joseph H. Klein spoke about proposed improvements to Fire Station 89. Currently there is not enough room to park all the trucks inside the garage. They plan to expand the garage, renovate the kitchen, and add emergency lights, a restroom for female officers and a diesel exhaust capture system. Mr. Hernandez thanked all the firemen for their services to the community and suggested that if anything were needed regarding the renovations, they might return with a funding request in the future.

Councilperson Wendy Greuel discussed the Q-star camera on Laurel Grove Avenue. City personnel have had to come out only 4 times since its installation in September after a 300% increase in graffiti last year. She asked our NC to partner with her to purchase additional cameras. Q-Star representative Carly Lee described the new

camera as solar powered, digital, and capable of wireless downloads. It has a 1200 photo memory card, and the camera is activated by motion. The housing is bullet resistant and mounted 16' high. It can be moved from 1 location to another. Responding to a question by Mr. Manson, Ms. Less said its range goes from zooming into a small space up to a 125 X 75' area.

Ms. Greuel also mentioned her transportation policy and goals – street repaving, etc. She is trying to get input for city strategy. Stakeholder Sheldon Walter commended her for being Chair of the City Transportation Committee.

Mr. Hernandez asked if each City Council was getting 3 Q-star cameras, and if the devices would stay within our NC area if we voted funding for another one. Ms. Greuel responded, yes; Mrs. Luse asked if the camera could also be put on private property and Ms. Greuel said yes, if not attached to public property.

Mr. Freedner asked how the camera differentiated between humans and passing animals, and Ms. Lee replied that the camera is set for a 20 sec. interval between when the first motion is sensed and the second time, when if motion is still occurring, the camera will activate.

Alex Medina of Councilman Cardenas' office noted that Recreation & Parks needs help with new facilities. Mr. Moscoso asked if Cardenas' district also had cameras installed, to which Mr. Medina replied, yes, three are installed now. Mrs. Luse asked why Councilman Cardenas never came to our NC meetings, or even to our elections.

Melvin Canas of DONE announced that NC elections would be run by the City Clerk, necessitating possible amendments to our by-laws by February. Probably elections would be held in June 2008 for all Valley NC's. He then introduced Grayce Liu, our new project coordinator. Ms. Liu will represent SVANC, Foothill, Sherman Oaks, and Old Northridge as well as our NC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Sheldon Walter attended the Transit official conference which discussed spending \$50 billion over the next 20 years, and encouraged all to vote on 2/5.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Ms. Ramsawack did not yet receive records of where all the posters went, and some business cards are for places outside of our NC boundaries.

PROPOSITION S PRESENTATION: David Luther, Chief Administrative Analyst of the Mayor's Office, spoke on behalf of Prop S, the Telecommunications Tax. A videotaped statement by Walter Moore was played in opposition to the proposition.

PONY LEAGUE: Frank Miceli noted that his organization was not the Little League. His original goal in coming to our NC was to improve the East Valley baseball lot, which is not in any NC district. He is looking for our support, Rec & Parks has already given him the thumbs-up. The field needs bathrooms, paved parking, and security lighting. They share the facility with Blue Star, connected with Valley Torah School,

who play only on Sundays in the spring. The neighborhood must approve the lighting plans. Tony Cervera's family first built the baseball field. The plan to erect a new scoreboard and would also like 2 new fields in back for girls' softball. Players are charged \$100-125 to join, which Mr. Miceli said compares favorably with other ball parks such as Valley Circle in the West Valley or Sherman Oaks, which costs \$200. He's looking for letters of support from NC's.

Mr. Luse asked who owns the property. To which Mr. Miceli replied, Dept. of Rec & Parks; his is a non-profit organization. There were 123 children enrolled last year.

Mr. Luse wondered if there was enough participation to make the venture viable. Mr. Miceli said not yet, former San Val league left many people unhappy. Mr. Miceli added that currently girls play in Van Nuys Park in Sherman Oaks but they never know if they can get on the field there.

Mr. Brooks suggested we might discuss funding the organization on another evening. Mrs. Luse asked how the East Valley field benefits children we have right here – since we don't have Notre Dame School, where many of the players come from, in our area. "It infuses our kids to join the program," replied Mr. Moscoso. Mr. Freedner wondered what nearby residents might think of lighting, increased traffic and crowds at the field – should we try to get their opinions first?

Mr. Hernandez replied that any improvement will benefit our area. Two more fields would be more beautiful than weeds, and maintaining it is a net benefit to the City. Mr. Hernandez then moved: that we write a letter of support for East Valley Baseball field. Ms. Ramsawack seconded. Responding to a question by Mr. Freedner, Mr. Miceli suggested the letter be addressed to him. Vote: 10 Yes – 0 No.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Brooks said no budget revisions were needed at this time. As to questions about our funding items found online on DONE's website, he said that sometimes excess money allocated to projects was used for other things, such as gas used by the schools – he will bring quarterly recaps and share those with the Board. He audits the expenditures and then DONE reviews that. Currently we have about \$116,000 to invest.

FUNDING PROTOCOL: Mr. Freedner showed the Board a funding request form he had prepared. Mr. Moscoso noted that we'd like people to come back to us after funding, to see how it went. That way, we could gain insight on whether our funding efforts were successful both as to our own publicity and truly assisted other agencies. He suggested we discuss this issue further next month. Mr. Luse suggested that Ms. McDonald-Adlof also be given a chance to attend a Funding Committee meeting. Ms. Liu offered to get us information on what a non-profit organization has to do to report back to a NC. Mr. Brooks volunteered to also be on the committee.

PURCHASE OF Q-STAR CAMERA: Mr. Hernandez asked what is the cost of a camera, and Mr. Luse replied, \$7,000. Mr. Hernandez wondered if we were being asked to fund only one camera, and Mr. Moscoso replied that Ms. Greuel's territory covers only a niche of our NC area. Mr. Brooks thought that if we partnered for 2

cameras, she would match those. Mr. Freedner wondered if we should similarly consider support for a camera in Cardenas' area. Mr. Moscoso replied that was the same situation as the schools – we should not be obligated to treat them equally, and only Ms. Greuel came to use to ask our support.

At this point, Mr. Hernandez moved: that NHNENC contribute \$7,000 for two Q-Star cameras, with the stipulation that Councilperson Greuel match those funds and that the two cameras remain within our NC district. Mrs. Luse seconded. Responding to a question by Mr. Manson, Mr. Moscoso said Ms. Greuel would determine the exact locations of the cameras, after consultation with the police, etc. Vote: 10-Yes, 0-No.

Mr. Moscoso directed the Secretary to write to Councilperson Greuel and maybe contact the press regarding our support for the cameras.

AUDIO SYSTEM FOR POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM: Mr. Freedner noted that no one from the Police Dept. had ever contacted us to ask for this. Mr. Brooks said the request was from Mike O'Gara of SVANC, and other NCs' were to coordinate efforts in funding. He's heard nothing further. Mr. Hernandez said the matter was on Midtown NoHo's agenda last night but doesn't know what happened. He suggested someone contact the North Hollywood Police Department and ask, and carry this item over to next month's agenda. Mr. Moscoso and the Board agreed.

MISSION STATEMENT: Ms. Ramsawack read the proposed Mission Statement and suggested the Board's input. Mr. Manson replied that he emailed it to everyone on the Board so that they could provide input. Mr. Freedner moved: that we adopt the Mission Statement as presented. Mr. Manson seconded. By consensus, the Board agreed that the phrase "make government..." should be replaced with "to encourage government..." Mr. Moscoso noted that the Statement "moves with the times" and we can always change it later. Vote: 10 – Yes, 0 – No.

NEWSLETTER/BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS: In the absence of Ms. McDonald-Adlof, these items will be tabled until next month.

ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS: Ms. Ramsawack referred to the discussion we had back in September and October about the constant presence of abandoned carts in our area. She would like to encourage Councilman Cardenas by letter to take legislative steps about this before the City Council. She suggested retailers be required to put in retentive devices to keep carts from leaving their premises.

Mr. Manson noted that at Kmart in Burbank, not a cart was lost since they installed such a device, which justified the installation costs. Mr. Luse said Wal-Mart carts seem to lock up in the middle of their lot. However, there are so many retailers in our area and adjacent ones. Mr. Moscoso suggested we advise Mr. Cardenas but not suggest how he should legislate. Mrs. Luse encouraged Mr. Cardenas to visit all the retail stores in our area that have carts to speak with the managers about installing locking devices.

Mr. Freedner questioned the purpose of a letter, since Mr. Cardenas' office indicated to us that the matter would be pending before City Council. Ms. Ramsawack replied

that we should demonstrate our strong interest in improving conditions, “can we encourage him too much?”

Mrs. Luse suggested that someone from his office come to us next month and update us as to what’s happening. Perhaps Arturo Gonzalez should come back to us each month and tell us. Mr. Manson suggested writing to Councilman Cardenas’ office, requesting someone to speak to us next month. The Secretary was directed to write such a letter.

NC ELECTIONS: Mr. Moscoso noted that per DONE, the elections would be pushed up to June. Mr. Freedner announced an informational meeting at Braude Center, on 1/19/08, at 10 AM, hosted by DONE, and all on the elections committee were urged to attend.

L.A.P.D. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES: Mr. Hernandez explained that the new Financial Disclosure Order, ¶132, mandates “regular and periodic financial disclosures” by officers who handle contraband and cash. He attended the Police Commission meeting to learn of the controversy. The Commission passed the order that officers fill out financial disclosure of any business dealings, any business dealings of their families, all credit card records, and vehicle registration and undergo interrogation into their business dealings, debt, and bankruptcies, all to see if any potential existed for corruption. Officers who refuse to comply will be transferred out of their units. The applies only to Gang and Narcotics Units. Councilmembers Weiss and Hahn moved to asset control over the special order of the Police Commission. He asks that our NC pass a motion supporting Weiss’ motion, to transfer jurisdiction to the City Council.

Mr. Freedner, supporting the idea, wondered why only 2 groups of officers were set forth? Other officers handle contraband guns, jewelry, cars, cargo, etc., and any of them could be corrupted if such was a true concern of the Commission. All police officers should submit financial information, or none should.

Ms. Dorick thought that the most possible corruption and money could be made with the Gangs and Narcotics Units. Mr. Freedner added that people could obtain the disclosure information, to the officers’ detriment.

Mr. Hernandez moved: that we support Councilmembers Weiss and Hahn in transferring jurisdiction of the Financial Disclosure Program of the Police Commission to the Los Angeles City Council. Second: Mr. Manson. Vote: 9 – Yes, 0 – No.

Mr. Hernandez suggested directing the letter to Jack Weiss and Janice Hahn, with a copy of the Police Protective League, and copies also to Tony Cárdenas and Wendy Greuel.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mrs. Ramsawack noted Chatsworth NC is having a community cleanup. She proposed we consider doing a similar cleanup, whereby the public could see

immediate success. The Department of Sanitation would provide the necessary trucks. Mr. Moscoso suggested this be put on our agenda next month.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Ramsawack moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Dorick, passes unanimously, the meeting ending at 10:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER  
Secretary