CALL TO ORDER: President Randal Luse called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. Jeff Brooks led the pledge of allegiance.

SEATING OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Luse called up the new Board Members, Judy Harris-Brice, Dr. Wung Chang, Inez T. Morin, and Al Henriquez; and re-elected members Florence Dorick and Sarah Ramsawack, and Grayce Liu of DONE administered the NC oath. David Hernandez, departing Board member, said it was an honor and privilege to have served on our Board and that this one really set the standard for working together and helping the community. “This is your Neighborhood Council,” he added, “and its success is contingent upon you working together.” He promised to stop by from time to time.

Mr. Freedner took roll; present were: Jeff Brooks, Wung Chang, Donald Corton, Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, Judy Harris-Brice, Al Henriquez, Loretta Luse, Randal Luse, Inez T. Morin and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum. (Ernie Moscoso arrived almost immediately thereafter.)

COMMENTS FROM GOV’T REPRESENTATIVES: Rubén Zaragoza, Councilman Cardenas’ office, congratulated the incoming Board members, noting that our NC is an example of what local government can be, passing resolutions, holding the National Night Out and thanked us for our support. Over 600 people attended that event. On 9/22, the annual Coastal Cleanup will be held, this year it will also focus on local trash. Stratham and Arminta Schools will participate, and he asked our sponsorship for food, etc. Also the Councilman will purchase Q-Star cameras soon, 1 per NC district and asked our NC support in matching the cost of a camera. He will invite the President, Vice-President and Treasurers of the NC’s in his area to a meeting and provide information to bring back to their Boards. Mr. Brooks asked if they planned a “bulk
purchase" of the cameras, to which Mr. Zaragoza said yes, also dummy cameras and the cameras could be moved around to different areas in our NC area. Responding to a question by Ms. Ramsawack, Mr. Zaragoza said that our Board previously financed a camera for Councilperson Gruel for use in her district but not one for Cardenas' district yet. A brief discussion ensued as to where cameras might be deployed, as police officer Vasquez apparently said to Ms. Ramsawack that a certain location in her neighborhood would get such a camera installed.

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Mr. Corton moved to accept the July minutes. Mr. Moscoso seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Ms. Ramsawack moved to re-elect all existing officers, but Ms. Liu and Mr. Luse suggested individual elections, and the existing officers briefly explained their job duties. Mr. Luse drew smiles when he announced the job of President "is the easiest, bang on the gavel, point to the flag, and away we go each month."

Ms. Ramsawack nominated Randal Luse for another term as President. Mr. Corton seconded. Mr. Freedner thought terms were two years but upon a review of the amended By-Laws, it was determined that officers serve one-year terms. There were no other nominations for President and the nominations were closed.

Ms. Ramsawack then nominated Ernie Moscoso for another term as Vice-President, Mrs. Luse seconded; no other nominations, and nominations were closed.

Mrs. Luse nominated Jeff Brooks for another term as Treasurer; Mr. Luse seconded; no other nominations, nominations closed.

Mr. Brooks nominated J. Eric Freedner for another term as Secretary; Mr. Luse seconded; no other nominations; nominations closed.

VOTES: Randal Luse, President - 11 Yes, 1 Abstain (Mr. Luse); Ernie Moscoso, Vice-President - 11 Yes, 1 Abstain (Mr. Moscoso); Jeff Brooks, Treasurer - 11 Yes, 1 Abstain (Mr. Brooks); J. Eric Freedner, Secretary - 12 Yes (Mr. Freedner drew laughter by breaking with the evening's trend and voting for himself)

Dr. Chang suggested extending officers' terms. Mr. Henriquez asked if there weren't vacancies on the Board and Mr. Freedner replied, at least one for Youth/Senior Rep. In the past the Board has kept some vacancies but this could be filled if there was interest in the position from any stakeholder. Mrs. Luse noted that Ms. Pelych, present this evening, might want that seat. After brief discussion, it was decided by consensus that the filling of the vacant seat be put on next months' agenda, and Ms. Pelych, and anyone else, could apply to the Board to be elected.

COMMENTS FROM DONE REPRESENTATIVE: Grayce Liu announced NC Board orientation Saturday. Also, the City Auditor is "very picky" this coming year. NC's must be very specific about how much money is going to funding. Our Minutes have
not been specific as to what money is allocated for. And some expenses seem doubled each month. Responding to Mr. Moscoso’s question, yes, we need to go back and substantiate. Mr. Brooks agreed that we need to be more specific about what we fund, and Mr. Freedner noted that some past expenditures, such as car rental, are frowned upon by the City – for example, if we “hired” a vehicle and it got into an accident, we or the City could be sued. Our Board must be given specific line items in a funding request, as Ms. Ramsawack presented last month about the National Night Out event. Ms. Liu agreed and said substantiating receipts were needed by the end of the month or our funding might be suspended. Among items of evidence of funding which the City might be given: flyers for events we contributed outreach funding for, photos of events or items purchased, and samples of promo items paid for. In response to a question by Mrs. Luse, Mr. Brooks said the vehicle rentals for Camellia School were for a rented pressure washer and cleanup done around the school premises. Ms. Liu also asked for email and addresses for the new Board members, to be used in her roster and for mailing DONE information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Rebecca Goldman, who lives just west of Whitsett Avenue, said she came to vote at our NC election but found out she was “disenfranchised.” She was told she lived in the North Hollywood NW NC area. Why is Whitsett Avenue the boundary when the Hollywood Freeway forms a “natural boundary? Her children went to our local schools, and as to her omission from our NC area, “What do we you plan to do about it?”

Mr. Moscoso said the NC boundaries have been that way since we formed and the “powers that be” decided on the NE/NW area split. Others have come to us in the past wanting to annex parts of the NW area into ours, but those efforts were not approved by our Board. It “hurts his feelings” that she was not allowed to vote. Ms. Liu replied that, insofar as she knew, no one was turned away from our elections. But the NW group is in formation and people living in its area can assist people forming that group. Ms. Goldman replied, “We belong in this community!” Ms. Liu replied that a boundary change would have to be submitted to the BONC with a showing that it makes more sense to join one NC versus another.

Mr. Brooks noted that the NW NC area never formed, although there were 2 prior aborted attempts and one is now ongoing. Mr. Moscoso asked how many houses are in the area between Whitsett and the freeway and Ms. Ramsawack replied, “About 100.” Mr. Luse suggested Ms. Goldman and others here tonight from that area work within their own NC boundaries to get the NW up and running. Mr. Freedner explained that he attended a recent NW formational meeting – that NW group is now soliciting signatures for formation and drafting By-Laws, and considers their eastern boundary to be Whitsett, and in fact plan to gather signatures at the baseball park. They should be allowed to try forming their group and not have a “competing petition” circulating for joining our NC. If their efforts fail, we can always consider the request at a future time. No one in our NC would like it if another NC group attempted to grab some of our territory. Ms. Goldman replied that she and others fought hard to get Jamie Beth Slavin Park established, and it should be in our NC area. Mr. Moscoso
questioned this argument, saying that we only accepted the park as a venue for the National Night Out event put on by the Neighborhood Watch.

Mr. Brooks noted that Whitsett is a boundary street for various NC’s in the Valley, and Mr. Freedner wondered why these residents didn’t come to us in the 5 years we were established, at least during a time when no NW petitions were circulating. Ms. Goldman said she didn’t know about us but have been activists for years in their immediate neighborhood. Ms. Liu suggested they speak with the folks of the NHHWNC group and she will speak with Melvin about this. Ms. Goldman replied, “We should not have to speak with the people in the Northwest group.” Ms. Liu said she, and the others, could still participate with our NC as “expanded stakeholders,” and Mr. Moscoso suggested we might accept an annexation but only with further studies by BONC and DONE, and if the NW group had indeed “abandoned” that area of North Hollywood.

Laura Dwan, librarian at Valley Plaza Library, left flyers with upcoming events.

Jack Lindblad spoke of his plans for running for State Assembly and bringing NC issues directly to the Assembly.

Karl Kunak thanked the Board for the Arminta Street school security system, there have been no break-ins since. Bradley Landfill EIR is out with only 3 weeks to understand the whole thing, Laura Chick is holding a meeting on 9/9 at Fernangeles Park. The Bank of America proposes a bright red sign on Sunland Blvd. in the environmental protection zone and he asks for our opposition to it. He suggested putting the Minutes online so everyone can read them before approving them. Councilman Parks wants large stores such as Home Depot to supply day laborers with shelter, toilets, etc., but why shouldn’t small retailers have to do likewise? And only chain restaurants are being asked to post calories on menus, which seems discriminatory. Lastly, there are no City Council representatives staying during our meeting when we are trying to advise them of our concerns and suggestions.

Sheldon Walter noted that the MTA Board approved the measure to increase sales tax by ½% for transportation funding.

**FUNDING FOR OUTREACH FLYERS:** Mr. Ramsawack reported needing 1,000 more flyers, having given the 500 away already, but, responding to Mr. Moscoso, she can still do that with a $500 budget. Mr. Freedner noted the issue was on tonight’s agenda because the Board had yet to approve any amount for this outreach effort.

Whereupon, Ms. Ramsawack moved: That the NC fund up to $500 for flyers and brochure holders. Mrs. Luse seconded. Vote: Unanimous (12-0)

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT:** Ms. Ramsawack next handed out a spread sheet with the final funding of the National Night Out event, which came in under budget at $7,233.96. The Chevron station also donated $500 cash to the event. She thanked Russ Milhoun of Archer’s Towing for banner and help (the Board gives him a round of applause). 1,026 signed the roster, and they fed about 700; only about 500
were in the Neighborhood Watch groups. Unfortunately, the media did not cover this event.

Dr. Chang suggested we make a trophy for people we supported the event. Ms. Ramsawack noted that Councilman Cardenas gave plaques to Ms. Dorick, Katie Pelych and herself. Dr. Chang replied that the NC should make up a plaque or certificate as thanks to those in the community who also helped put on the event. Mr. Moscoso said perhaps the Board could write a letter of commendation to the supporters and also to its past members.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Brooks announced our Budget has been approved in the last week of July for $50,000, and about $90,000 has been rolled over, and our available funds are now about $139,000. Mr. Moscoso noted that DONE directed us to report receipts turn in and this should be made part of our records.

SUPPLIES FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Moscoso agreed with Mr. Freedner's agenda item, that all new members deserve business cards and plaques. He suggested they put their phone numbers or email address on the cards. Mr. Brooks replied the cost goes up if cards are customized, and Mr. Freedner suggested members merely write their phone numbers or other contact information on the cards as they saw fit. He then moved: that the NC expend a maximum of $500.00 for business cards and plaques for the new Board members, and for copies of the By-laws and other materials if said members are not given them at the DONE training meeting. Mr. Luse seconded. VOTE: 12-Yes, 0-No.

TRASH COLLECTION FEES: Mr. Freedner said that the City has just increased trash fees to $36 monthly, or $72 per billing cycle. It's been reported in the Daily News that Councilman Greig Smith admitted that none of this increase went to hire more police officers, as was the stated legislative intent for trash fee increases. But now the City is thinking of charging customers by trash weight. This seems like a poor idea to him. Among possible problems with such a system: (a) who knows how much their trash actually weighs, and will the City actually weigh it by the pound or round off to, say, the nearest 20 pounds? (b) to save money, people may very well dump trash either in neighbors' containers or in alleyways or other places or let it pile up in their yards; (c) the idea penalizes large families, for example, people with ten children would of course generate more trash than single persons and be charged more, but such people are the least likely to be able to afford extra charges. The $36 monthly fee has now been voted upon and we can do little to change it, but we can and perhaps should sound off on the trash-by-weight fee before it's voted on.

Ms. Pelych noted that new water use restrictions have also just been made into law.

Mr. Henriquez agreed that we should sound off on this and let the City Council members know what we think. The Council seems to be using this novel idea to justify its vote of an increase and should also hear from the community, including NC's. Mrs. Luse agreed that such a plan would affect everyone in the community, and people would pay for heavy items such as watermelon shells, even though such things are commonly thrown in the trash. Ms. Dorick agreed that she thought the fee
increase was to hire more police but now she has learned that instead monies have gone to raises for existing officers and other personnel. No one seems to mind this. Why don't more people get upset? We should indeed say something about this to Councilpersons Cardenas and Greuel.

Mr. Lindblad noted that garbage tonnage can be reduced by composting and we all need to take personal responsibility for the garbage we create. But, replied Ms. Dorick, those who live in apartments cannot engage in composting. Mr. Brooks said that apartment buildings are serviced by private companies and so would not be part of this plan, but still, if the trash bins are too heavy, they are subject to extra charges. Mr. Freedner replied that residential property owners don't have the option of hiring commercial trash companies to pick up, they must all use DWP. "The City is trying to balance everything on our backs," mused Mr. Moscoso.

Mr. Henriquez replied he'd like further information on the plan, and the Board concurred; however Mrs. Luse suggested we send a letter to Councilpersons Cardenas and Greuel, something along the lines that this plan isn’t what our people would like to see, and to come to our meeting to explain; and Ms. Ramsawack also noted, “Before the weight issue becomes a done deal, we should put our feelings into some sort of motion.”

Mr. Moscoso liked the idea of having the City explain to us why they voted for $36 per month and more information on how paying by weight would work. Ms. Ramsawack suggested we make a formal motion for information but also add “In our advisory role as a Neighborhood Council, we urge the City Council not to adopt this measure.”

Mr. Brooks wondered if we could not get a Bureau of Sanitation spokesperson to come and explain the plan to us. After further discussion, the Board by consensus directed Mr. Freedner to write to Councilpersons Cardenas and Greuel, outlining our grave concerns expressed this evening as to the pay-by-weight trash collection idea, and our dissatisfaction with a $36 monthly increase where no new policemen were hired. This matter should then be brought back to our Board next month as an agenda item for possible action.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Dr. Chang appreciates what the Board's been doing, he suggests making or getting at least 30 trophies to go to past officers as everyone deserves one: Ms. Ramsawack also deserves a trophy, as do all companies supporting National Night Out. Mrs. Luse replied that perhaps framed certificates could be provided to companies. Mr. Moscoso noted that we were merely a sponsor of the event, so logically, our NC too should get a trophy, not hand them out.

Ms. Luse noted that she had to pick up water bottles left by the Green Party candidate visiting tonight.

“We were a little out of killer tonight due to new members,” noted Mr. Moscoso. He does not appreciate “audiences directing me” since this is our meeting. We discuss
and listen to what stakeholders have to say. Usually we manage to come to a consensus or table an issue for the next meeting. We should stop other parties from coming behind dais and disturbing us by handing out flyers and such. He appreciates all the new members joining us, and never thought about trophies before, but maybe we should do it as a celebration.

Mr. Freedner noted that when the NW / NE NC issue came up, it had to be addressed. He didn’t mean to appear angry at the stakeholders, but we must see what happens with the new NW group. It’s too bad they didn’t start up years ago, since by now they lost $250,000 that could have been put to community good, even some to the National Night Out event too. On another note, the Daily News also recently reported that Councilman Cárdenas is taking steps to enact a locking shopping cart law like Glendale’s – our NC discussed this issue and sent him a recommendation for such about a year ago. It seems too bad that our NC has yet to get public credit for our efforts but at least it shows that the City may do something about the problem.

Mr. Luse noted that NC training is a worthwhile event and other specialized events may occur from time to time. He welcomes everyone on board, and while some nights will feature “hot button issues” he welcomes the chance to hear what everyone has to say.

Mr. Brooks noted that Ralphs on Laurel Canyon has joined those stores getting carts with magnetic brakes. As for the NW council, this is their third attempt to form, before they failed due to conflicts and lack of interest, he hopes things will go differently this time. He will check on trophies and plaques, they may be considered “gifts” and hence not an item for which we can expend public funds.

Mr. Corton welcomed the new members to the Board, and commended Sarah for the National Night Out event. He also notes that Arco station at Vanowen and Vineland is now under construction.

Ms. Morin said she was glad to be here on the Board.

Ms. Dorick noted that a young man, Mr. Satterstrom, was recently killed on Lauran Canyon near Taco Bell by a gang member. Something must be done about the gangs, and can the Council tell us more about what the Mayor will do with the proposed extra $39 annual “gang money” parcel tax? $39 is a lot if you’re on fixed income, added to the trash fee, etc. “Seniors have a lot to worry about.”

Mr. Moscoso suggested this item be put on the agenda next month for discussion.

Ms. Ramsawack was glad that Mr. Freedner mentioned shopping carts, but they are still a blight on our community. 99 Cent Stores and Smart & Final also have locking carts now: “It’s good to know they take responsibility for their property.” She also apologized for any apparent and inadvertent violations of the Brown Act.

Ms. Harris-Brice said she’s ready to get the community together.
And Mr. Henriquez noted, "It's a lot easier sitting on the other side of the room" with the audience, but things carry more weight on this side. He suggested Board members should not think they have to respond to public comments, some times we should just let things be as stated. Also perhaps we should have a historian or keep track of what we're doing, and may be have someone designated to keep up with City Council affairs.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to transact, Mr. Moscoso moved to adjourn, Mr. Henriquez seconded, and by unanimous vote, the meeting ended at 10:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER  
Secretary