

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



**NORTH HOLLYWOOD
NORTH EAST
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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BOARD MEMBERS of NHNENC:

Randal Luse – Pres.	Ernie Moscoso – V-Pres.
Jeff Brooks–Treas.	J. Eric Freedner–Sec.
Wung Chang	Donald Corton
Florence Dorick	Judy Harris-Brice
Al Henriquez	Loretta Luse
Inez T. Morin	Philip Manson
Katie Pelych	Sarah Ramsawack

**MINUTES of the MONTHLY MEETING of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

January 8, 2009

Strathern St. Elementary School Auditorium, 7939 St. Clair Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91605

CALL TO ORDER: President Randal Luse called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Secretary J. Eric Freedner took roll. Present were: Dr. Wung Chang, Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, Judy Harris-Brice, Randal Luse, Inez Morin, Ernie Moscoso, and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum. (Katie Pelych arrived later in the evening.)

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES: Mr. Luse called for approval of November’s minutes. Ms. Ramsawack requested changes be made: regarding “Speaker Protocol,” she had contacted NC Funding because she had questions, and asked Mr. Freedner remove the reference to any “demand” not to issue a warrant; also in her capacity as Outreach Committee Chair, she often writes to stakeholders without Board consent and is within her rights with those. Mr. Freedner replied that he would have to check the wording of her email; but in any event, they were his words, not hers, that she wanted changed, and he refused to modify them at this time. Mr. Moscoso moved the minutes be approved, with the caveat that clarification of those remarks be made. Ms. Dorick seconded. Vote: 7 – Yes, 1 – No.

COMMENTS FROM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES: Ruben Zaragoza of Councilman Cardenas’ office was excited to be working with us at our new venue. He distributed flyers on how to be a good neighbor. Poly High students are interested in replanting trees that were removed from parkways several months ago. Mr. Moscoso asked about the decision as to keeping the zoo elephant, and Mr. Zaragoza replied that it has been sent to the Community Art & Recreation Committee for further study. Mr. Freedner asked why NC’s weren’t informed on a pending ban on sales of certain ammunition and weapons within Los Angeles before the City Council voted on it, and Mr. Zaragoza replied that he is not sure, that he doesn’t know about that ordinance, and that he’s not in a position to comment on it.

Joaquin Macias of Councilperson Greuel’s office, handed out a “Passport for Cleaner Communities” guide. He also left energy-saving light bulbs. The Board commented

on their possible dangerous mercury content, and Mr. Macias stressed that when the bulbs burn out, they should be disposed of properly. As to the Q-Star Cameras, he suggested the NC choose a “points person” and he would keep that person advised of developments. Cameras had some glitches but are up and running, however, they need to buy the police department some laptops to download data from the cameras. When the meeting about cameras takes place, he’ll also let us know about “ownership issues.”

Yolanda from Felipe Fuentes’ office is looking at the freeway issue and her office wants to hear of any ongoing problems or issues.

Barry Stone of DONE noted the City is facing a critical financial crisis, and asks stakeholders and Board members to fill out the online Budget Survey. There must be many cuts but people may have some say in that. Ms. Ramsawack printed some hard copies of the survey for anyone without a computer but it is easier to complete online.

LAPD Officer Esther Vasquez said that area north of Saticoy was now part of Foothill Division, to which she and other officers had been transferred. N. Hwd can now concentrate on the southern area. Mr. Moscoso asked if we still had the same number of cars and officers, and she replied, yes, they redistricted some officers. Principal Williams noted that a school staff member recently had her car catalytic converter stolen while parked at the school.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Since people voted in Measure R in November, increasing sales tax, Sheldon Walter said, there will be improvements to the local public transportation system. The Red Line may be extended to the Bob Hope Airport and north to Sylmar.

Officer Vasquez also noted that the City has yet to decide what areas might be set aside for homeless persons sleeping in cars. She questioned who will enforce it, what’s safe territory, and how to keep track of such people?

Karl Kunak said the “Toys for Iraq” program is stalled for now as he has no contact over there and people have to be more careful how to send supplies over there. (Ms. Pelych arrives.)

POSSIBLE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY INTO NC: Ms. Ramsawack noted many people in her Neighborhood Watch do live between Whitsett and the Freeway. “While we have the opportunity to do so, we have to take action to make it officially happen.” She suggested we go through Mr. Stone for the proper wording of the petition. She thanked him for providing us a map of the area in question. We need a motion to have something done and she has a copy of the motion to present tonight.

Mr. Stone said he has no information on how to annex a territory right now. Ms. Ramsawack replied that on page 2 of the instructions it says we must provide information on how we contact people, etc. She thereupon moved: “Motion for Boundary Adjustment from the Middle of Whitsett Avenue, West, to the Hollywood

Freeway, from Roscoe on the North South on Whitsett to the Intersection at Saticoy South in North Hollywood California. That this Neighborhood Council form a committee for the purpose of contacting and informing the residents and parties that live and work in the above area, and collect sufficient signatures of residents and parties involved on a properly worded petition, to provide to DONE the proper required forms to apply for an extension of our Western boundary so that those residents and parties can become stakeholders in the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council. That this committee should make the necessary in person contacts in the area, and then to advise the Council Board in the meeting on February 12, 2009, of their findings.”

Mr. Stone noted that the area in question has already been “claimed” by North Hollywood North West, they have worked hard to get petitions and By-laws ready. Melvin Canas and BONC have been working with them, and asked if there might be any shared space with them. Ms. Ramsawack replied that Jamie Beth Slavin Park and the Baseball Field could easily be shared. Ms. Morin seconded the motion.

Mr. Freedner reported that he had spoken very recently with Lorraine Matsa of No. Hollywood North West, who informed him that they claim the entire area to Whitsett as theirs, per their By-laws. Unfortunately she is not present tonight to personally give her views, but people can’t be residents of two different NC’s, although they can be stakeholders by other means in two or more simultaneously.

Mr. Stone said it would be “a lot of work” to make the annexation pass. Mr. Luse asked if BONC should first make a ruling on it before we start these activities, and Mr. Stone responded that it has to be on BONC’s Agenda. They set the policy and he knows of no set policies for NC’s to take over other areas when claimed by forming NC groups. He suggested we contact Bianca Vite of his office, (213) 485-1360. Someone has to appear before BONC. Mr. Luse asked, “Then BONC has no clue about this?” To which he replied, no, it hasn’t ever happened before.

Mr. Moscoso noted that the boundaries were given to us at the inception of the NC’s. Mr. Kunak wondered if City Attorney Darren Martinez needed to provide clarification. Mr. Luse asked the audience if anyone was here from that area; none were. Ms. Ramsawack said, “Tonight is the second time I have heard it said that someone can belong to two different Neighborhood Councils,” to which Mr. Stone replied yes, that is true, if a person is a stakeholder. As of 2/20/08 the City adopted a common stakeholder definition which has been adopted by every NC and the City Council. Ms. Dorick asked, if, hypothetically, she shops in Studio City, can she participate and vote in both NC’s? Mr. Stone said the City created a Community Representative or At-Large Board Member seat, some NC’s have just one, others have several, and such community stakeholders can vote for persons to fill those seats. Mr. Freedner noted that our NC has 4 At-Large seats, for which such persons can vote.

Mr. Moscoso called for the vote. Yes – 5 No – 3 Abstain – 1.

Mr. Moscoso asked who would be on the committee. Ms. Ramsawack, Ms. Dorick and Ms. Morin volunteered. Ms. Ramsawack asked if the committee could meet at the

school, or at any other location and Mr. Stone replied that the place needed to be open to the public and notices properly posted.

LAPTOP COMPUTER & BUSINESS CARDS (AND TELEPHONE): Mr. Moscoso said those who need business cards should contact Ms. Morin. However, we have no storage locker or office in which to store a computer that might be used just once a month.

Ms. Ramsawack asked who answers our NC telephone now? And, who *has* the phone now? No one knew, and Dr. Chang said the phone should provide a 24-hour message as to who we are, where we meet, etc. Principal Williams tried dialing our number; it has been disconnected. Mr. Moscoso directed Ms. Morin to come up with an answer on how to deal with this, and that Mr. Freedner take the cell phone number off the NC letterhead. Ms. Dorick felt it is “stupid” that no one can take a laptop home.

DWP AMMONIATION PLANT: Greg Barts and Nelson Mejia spoke of the new DWP project in North Hollywood. Mr. Mejia said the station would be at 11805 Vanowen St., a 2,800 sq. ft. building housing 3 large ammonia tanks and equipment. This is needed to comply with 2012 water requirements, there will be 10 such facilities around the City. Ms. Dorick worried about a possible ammonia leak, but Mr. Mejia said the facility would be guarded. Dr. Chang asked what the cost was, and Mr. Mejia replied, “About \$8,000,000.” To which Mr. Freedner noted, it would be \$80,000,000 citywide. Mr. Mejia said this particular conversion would be done in a year, other projects take up to 4 years to complete. A member of a Neighborhood Watch group in the area complained that early-morning construction make the ground shake at 7 AM. Mr. Mejia said excavating will only take another 4-5 weeks to complete.

Mr. Barts then spoke about water quality. Recycled water has been used for several decades for irrigation purposes. Some is sent to groundwater supply. As to pharmaceuticals in the water, the amounts detected are infinitely small, 1 part per trillion, and studies show no impact to health. Town hall meetings will be arranged in the future and people can also check the DWP website for updates.

Mr. Freedner asked what happened to the DWP project to build electric cars? And Mr. Barts was not sure, it was before he joined DWP but he will check into it.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT: Ms. Ramsawack noted that brochures and holders printed in July cannot be used now due to our change of location. We have not yet voted to spend \$500 for 1,000 flyers. She wanted to move that we approve that expenditure. Because of our current situation, we have not done outreach, but with a new permanent meeting place, she will try to make efforts to notify people of the NC. She hopes to go forward with 2,000 copies of a newsletter as approved in September. Mr. Moscoso asked for the Treasurer’s report first.

TREASURER REPORT: Ms. Morin announced our available balance is \$127,012.50. Expenses paid since last meeting were to Academy Mailing, \$541.51 to Miceli’s and \$1,296.45 to Ms. Ramsawack, the latter two for the National Night Out event. What is the audit status?, asked Mr. Moscoso, and Ms. Morin said we’re still being audited and

investigated. Mr. Stone added that all financial stats for NC's are now on line. Mr. Freedner asked if our funding was still frozen and Ms. Ramsawack noted the bank card had supposedly been frozen since Sept. 08 – but it has been used since that date, most recently in December. Kevin McNeeley hasn't given us any notice of release. Yet, \$14.95 monthly has been billed for AOL cable service. Principal Williams said that service has been cancelled. Mr. Freedner was upset that the Board voted for cancellation of such recurring funding back in October, but according to this new information, the charges keep coming in. Mr. Stone promised to look into why new unapproved charges had in fact been charged against our account.

Mr. Kunak asked about the \$7,000 expenditure for Arminta Street School but Mr. Moscoso said we're still being audited and cannot fund that at this time. Ms. Morin reported \$363.04 plus \$90.76 have been billed by the temp agency for audit employment help. Mr. Freedner asked if City Accountant He would also bill us for her services, and was told by Mr. Stone, no, she is on City salary.

Mr. Moscoso praised Ms. Morin for her efforts. The Board gave her a round of applause.

NC DISCLOSURE POLICIES: Ms. Ramsawack said we don't know the status of this one. Mr. Freedner said he'd heard the City Council postponed discussion on it, perhaps due to legal questions and suggested we just wait to see what the City tells us. Mr. Stone said BONC was taking that up at its next meeting. Ms. Ramsawack said that would be on 1/26, at 11:30 AM in City Hall downtown.

HOMELESS PERSONS ALLOWED TO SLEEP IN CARS: Mr. Moscoso said we need further info on this, our Councilmen should tell us. Mr. Freedner suggested putting this over to next month but in the meantime, contacting Mr. Cardenas and Ms. Greuel to express our concerns and requesting further information and to have their representatives prepared to discuss it with us at our next meeting, to which the Board agreed.

BOARD COMMENTS: Dr. Chang asked what happened with the \$28,000 credit card expenses and Ms. Morin replied investigation is ongoing.

Mr. Freedner said that NH NW NC had proposed sharing Whitsett Park with us, and wondered why Melvin Canas had not spoken with us about it before learning it from Ms. Matsa. He notes that we paid for the Q-Star camera there but they will get half its benefits. Also, can we not share Park Plaza as well? Mr. Stone replied that only public areas can be "shared," not private housing – despite the fact that some public funds might have gone into the housing (as Ms. Dorick noted).

Mr. Freedner also noted Mr. Brooks had not attended in 3 months, he was hoping Jeff would be here tonight; Mr. Luse replied that Jeff left a note saying that due to a sudden illness in his family, he had to travel to northern California, however, he had ordered pizza and drinks for tonight's meeting. And Mr. Freedner noted that the City Council tends not to ask our (or our stakeholders') opinion on many items before taking a vote on them, not just the ammunition issue, for example, but also the citywide parking fees increase.

Ms. Morin requested an agenda item: improvements to Valley Plaza Park south of the pedestrian walkway over the 170 Freeway and east of the Freeway.

Ms. Ramsawack said that three Board members had passed the ethics certification, Mr. Freedner some time earlier and she and Ms. Morin in November. She wondered if the Board might want a speaker for the solar issue coming on the March ballot. The Board wondered if it was proper to hold a "political" event, but Mr. Stone said that if a pro and con speaker were invited (not necessarily attending), it could be done. Ms. Ramsawack also said she'd attend the BONC meeting on 1/26, also the Renewable Energy Workshop, 9:30 – 12 Saturday.

Ms. Harris-Brice asked if the mixer was in violation of the Brown Act and Mr. Stone said he thought not, so long as policy or politics were not discussed. Mr. Luse added that DONE would have ruled it OK, had Mr. Stone learned of it earlier. Also we don't know when Jeff's coming back, he has one key to the post office box and he (Mr. Luse) has the

other, but he'll try to get a duplicate issued.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER
Secretary