

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**

February 12, 2009

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Secretary J. Eric Freedner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Al Henriquez led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Freedner then took roll, present were: Dr. Wung Chang, Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, Al Henriquez, Inez Morin, Katie Pelych, and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum. (Ernie Moscoso arrived shortly thereafter.)

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES:** Mr. Henriquez moved acceptance of last meeting’s minutes, Ms. Dorick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:** LAPD Officer Ahedo mentioned the recent homicide at Bank of America at Laurel Canyon and Archwood Street, and the suspect has been arrested.

Eric Menjivar announced upcoming community events. Mr. Henriquez wondered if our NC could partner with the Council Office in promoting the Health & Safety Fair at Valley Plaza Park later this year, and Mr. Menjivar replied yes, but the plans are not finalized as of this time.

Ruben Zaragoza of Councilman Cardenas’ office invited everyone to attend a self-defense workshop on 3/21 at Fernangeles Park, 11AM – 1 PM. The City is reviewing a motion of shopping carts, whereby if 5 carts from any chain are found abandoned, the store would get a warning, for a second offense, a store representative would have to speak with the City Council, with successive enforcement including a fine for repeat offenses. Also, the Councilman is purchasing 6 Q-star cameras for his area and hopes each local NC would also match 1 camera at a cost of \$6,000, for a total of 12 cameras. Replying to a question by Ms. Ramsawack, he said that the computer programming for the cameras is included in the cost. Mr. Freedner said he’d like to know the results of usage and success for the 2 cameras our NC already purchased in Councilperson Greuel’s district, prior to voting on additional expenditures. Mr. Zaragoza also noted there is a \$1,000 reward for reporting vandalism and wondered

if cameras could be credited for that; if so, the funds should be used for those local communities. Stakeholder Karl Kunak suggested such funds go towards installing Q-star cameras at local schools.

LAPD Officer Esther Vasquez noted there has been an upswing in burglaries and motor vehicle theft in her area and suggested homeowners be vigilant.

Barry Stone of DONE reminded the Board to take the ethics training online; also the NC should select two representatives to attend the 2/21 Budget Day meeting at City Hall, as well as completing the Budget Survey. Also, on 2/26 at 6:30 PM in the Braude Center, the regional Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee meets and he suggested we send at least one representative. Ms. Ramsawack and Ms. Morin expressed interest in participating in the Budget Day event.

Ms. Ramsawack also noted that Ms. Morin, Dr. Chang and Ms. Dorick completed the ethics course.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Rick Stoff of Chrysalis Enterprises spoke of his organization's helping homeless people get part-time work, and suggested conducting "outreach with a broom." By this he means we might hire people from his organization for perhaps six weeks to sweep sidewalks and clean up and hand out flyers promoting the NC.

Karl Kunak warned everyone about using area codes (809), (284) and (876) which bear a \$2,400 per minute charge from overseas companies.

Gary Hendrickson suggested blocking telephones from using those area codes, and announced a new neon sign at the Metro Station crosswalk in North Hollywood; he fears drivers' attention will be taken away from pedestrians.

#### DISCUSSION REGARDING BALLOT PROPOSITION B:

Ms. Ramsawack moderated a discussion of the Solar Power Initiative. Speaking in favor of the plan were a Mr. Webster from DWP, Bill Gallegos of Communities for a Better Environment and James A. Unger, Deputy Campaign Manager of Yes on Measure B. Speaking against the measure was Ron Kaye. Board members and stakeholders were then allowed time to pose one question and the speakers (pro and con) then answered them.

This discussion lasted through most of the scheduled evening at the school auditorium.

Sheldon Walter then spoke briefly of his "speculation of transportation over the next 30 years" and what improvements might be forthcoming, perhaps in part from some government stimulus payments if they are applied to public transportation in our area.

#### BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT QUESTION:

Ms. Ramsawack handed out a detailed report of her committee meeting and its recommendations. Due to the lateness of the hour, and the desire of Messrs. Menjivar and Stone to speak to the issue, the Board requested she not read through the entire report but let individual Board members study it in detail over the coming weeks.

Mr. Menjivar noted that his office was helping the new NC, now called “North Hollywood West NC” to form, along with Melvin Canas of DONE, who could not be present this evening. They’ve gathered Petition signatures and wrote By-laws and done a Community Profile. They plan on submitting the application to BONC in April. Their proposed area, which includes the territory *east to Whitsett Avenue* is now completely surrounded by other existing NC’s. If our NC takes over the “orphaned area” between Whitsett and the 170 Freeway, it will reduce their population to a level lower than 20,000 and they would be unable to form a NC. The area would have to be carved up among other existing NC’s.

Mr. Henriquez asked our Board why people *other than* our Board members were not going around signing petitions to join our NC. Mr. Menjivar identified Carol Alson, Tonya and a George Hiraki, as well as Lorraine Matso, as being the lead people forming the NW group. Mr. Hendrickson asked Ms. Ramsawack why she felt it’s important to stop what the other forming NC wants to accomplish, and Ms. Ramsawack that her reasons are set forth on page 1 of her report. Also, she wondered if 20,000 addresses *were* needed for a NC? – As we had been told we had 27,000 but the mailing service only found about 11,600 addresses in our NC area. Mr. Freedner explained again that our NC area contains industrial areas, wherein employees are considered stakeholders (despite the fact that they seem not to participate) – one “address” could have well over 30 stakeholders working there.

Mr. Stone confirmed that the “population” of a NC area is based on census tract data, including the known or suspected number of people in houses having one mailing address. Mr. Menjivar added that the NW area doesn’t have as large an industrial area so it needs the residential population between the 170 Freeway and Whitsett Avenue.

Ms. Ramsawack noted that our former DONE rep, Grayce Liu, brought the Petition and instructions to our meeting so that is why she listed the strategies in tonight’s report. But, countered Mr. Freedner, it seemed that Ms. Liu didn’t know about the population question; and it didn’t appear to him that Grayce wanted to harm or stop the formation of the NW group by handing out Petition forms to us. Ms. Dorick reminded the board that “all those people came here,” about 6 or 10, and said they felt forgotten and left out; that none of them had been contacted by the forming NW group. Mr. Menjivar replied that they had set up a booth one day at the East Valley Baseball field and collected signatures. And Mr. Moscoso added, that we waited for those interested people in the NW area to come back to us at later meetings, and none ever did. Mr. Kunak thought there was a caveat in the NC Plan, that 20,000 was a threshold figure *unless* there were extenuating circumstances, such as being surrounded by other existing NC’s.

Mr. Menjivar noted that if our annexation moved forward, **all** the petition signatures of the NW group would become nullified, since the people were signing a petition that

specially mentioned inclusion of the area between the 170 Freeway and Whitsett Avenue. Their entire effort would be wasted and they'd have to begin again with signature number 1.

Mr. Henriquez asked Ms. Ramsawack: "Does this change your drive or feelings?" And she replied, "I definitely understand everything that's being said" but that it's a working goal for us as well.

Mr. Moscoso noted that we can't read through her report and take a vote on this tonight. And Mr. Stone reminded the Board that the Boundary Report was handed out to members but not posted at the meeting location nor made available to all those in attendance earlier in the night; also, there were not enough Agendas to go around. Ms. Ramsawack suggested moving to table this to the next meeting but Mr. Freedner suggested merely agreeing by consensus, which the Board agreed.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ms. Ramsawack has been getting emails from Jim Alger regarding sending representatives to the DWP MOU Committee. We should have 2 reps going in to that. Mr. Moscoso cautioned that this was a "political issue" which we generally avoid. And Mr. Freedner added that not only had we never signed the MOU but we never even saw a copy.

Ms. Ramsawack also noted we did "a wonderful event" tonight with the Solar Initiative discussion and to do such things again but as a special forum event.

Ms. Dorick noted that the Daily News had not listed tonight's meeting and Mr. Freedner said he'll again send them a calendar of our upcoming meetings now that our meeting place is known.

Mr. Moscoso suggested that we read the Agenda aloud at every meeting so that there would be no question as to what would be discussed. And perhaps we could have gotten into some business items tonight *before* embarking on the Measure B discussion.

Mr. Henriquez thanked Ms. Ramsawack for all her hard work in putting the discussion together. People saw a "different Board tonight" than what they might have been accustomed to in the past. He does want to go over our By-laws next month to discuss some things. Also, still no business cards printed, nor a laptop computer. We need to move forward on getting such supplies!

Mr. Freedner said that while he appreciated the Solar Measure discussion, it was as he feared: it took up virtually all of our available time and we were then unable to discuss Agenda items, which will all have to be put over to next month.

ADJOURNMENT: Our allotted time for use of the school having come to an end, Mr. Henriquez moved to adjourn; Ms. Dorick second and by unanimous vote the meeting ended at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER  
Secretary