

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**

March 12, 2009

Strathern St. Elem. Sch. Auditorium, 7939 St. Clair Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91605

CALL TO ORDER: Pres. Randal Luse called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Freedner then took roll, present were: Dr. Wung Chang, Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, Al Henriquez, Loretta Luse, Randal Luse, Inez Morin, and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum. (Judy Harris-Brice arrived shortly thereafter and Katie Pelych arrived afterward.)

APPROVAL OF FEB. MINUTES: Mr. Henriquez moved to approve last meeting’s minutes, Dr. Chang seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES: Eric Menjivar of Wendy Greuel’s office announced that Ms. Greuel would be leaving on July 1 after being elected Controller; he will remain in the office over the summer until the special elections. Ms. Greuel still wants to host the Child Health & Safety Fair and perhaps our NC might want to support it. He asked about putting in a retaining wall at Whitsett/ Saticoy South, but the estimate was over \$70,000, too costly.

Barry Stone of DONE thanked the three Board members who attended the Valley Regional Congress focus meeting. The Congress will be 5/30, highlighting Planning and Land Use and Emergency Preparedness. DONE is asking for financial support from all the Valley NC’s. Also, on 3/21 a round-table discussion with the General Manager about ethics and funding issue, 8 AM Braude Center. And the City Clerk is requiring all by-laws changes done by 6/1/09 for 2010 elections. By-laws must specify a minimum voting age and a “Factual Basis Seat” for stakeholders.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John, a stakeholder, was concerned about many vehicles parked constantly in streets and how to enforce parking rules. Principal Williams said she has yet to get the tables delivered. She appeals to us for an additional amount to purchase umbrellas for the tables, and perhaps additional funding for more tables or benches in the

garden area. Ms. Ramsawack asked for a specific amount so we could put it in our next agenda, and Ms. Williams replied, \$8,000.00. Mr. Luse agreed to sponsor that as an agenda item.

Mr. Luse also distributed NC parking passes gotten from Mr. Stone, Ms. Ramsawack, Mr. Henriquez and Ms. Harris-Brice each have one.

HOMELESS PEOPLE'S SLEEPING AREAS: Mr. Henriquez took over chairing the meeting and Mr. Freedner said he had heard nothing more about the Rosendahl proposal. Ms. Dorick said she'd heard just tonight that people near the beach would be given permits to park for 24 hours in specific areas.

PURCHASE OF BUSINESS CARDS, COMPUTER, TELEPHONE: Mr. Henriquez noted Ms. Morin had brought information about business cards. Dr. Chang reported having gone into a liquor store to speak with the owner. Not only was he not believed to be a NC member, but he was also insulted. How can he prove he was elected? The City Elections Department should provide some sort of certificate. Mr. Henriquez suggested making badges for NC members. Mr. Luse asked Mr. Stone if DONE could provide official identification, and Mr. Stone said no, but we could find someone who would make one; some NC's do use them. Mr. Henriquez noted employees of Parks & Recreation Dept. have badges. Mr. Freedner said the new Board members also needed table plaques and that "Anderson Trophy" apparently made the last set of them. Ms. Ramsawack noted that she had no trouble using business cards, why make badges? Mr. Henriquez replied that at a large gathering, such as being in a booth, badges do help identify "official" people.

Mr. Henriquez wondered if we should get a cell phone to be held by one person. Mr. Luse noted that an office isn't cheap, so the Board never opted for an office. Mr. Henriquez replied that without an office, we're very limited, for example, we cannot get a computer. Mr. Luse said staffing an office could be expensive.

Mr. Stone noted that since the NC cannot sign a contract, we can't have a cell phone, and doesn't know how we managed to get one before. We could also use voice-mail message service. Mr. Freedner wondered if it just wouldn't be cheaper having a computer website where people could leave messages and Board members pick them up. But, countered Mr. Luse, websites can be very expensive, at least several thousand dollars, to set up and we are not tech-savvy. Mr. Stone suggested we hire someone to set up a website. Ms. Morin agreed to look into getting a message phone and/or website, as well as the cost of business cards and plaques by our next meeting.

Officer Esther Vasquez, who had just arrived, spoke of success with a truant task force at Poly High. Surprisingly, neighborhood burglaries dropped when kids were caught. (Katie Pelych arrives.)

PARKS & REC. SPEAKER: Thomas Leveque, Park Maintenance Supervisor, spoke about the Valley Plaza Nature Center on the east side of the 170 Freeway. They have had a homeless problem. Caltrans repairs holes in the chain-link fences but people keep trying to live in parks. The Q-Star camera installed at Whitsett is working well,

keeping graffiti way down. Parks & Rec plans to install artificial turf at the soccer fields, which would be cheaper than constant re-seeding.

Ms. Morin asked how the pedestrian bridge might be upgraded, and Mr. Leveque replied that this would be Caltrans' duty. Also, gophers in the park have been a problem. Mr. Henriquez invited him to return periodically to update us on improvements and services.

OUTREACH REPORT: Ms. Ramsawack had been out of town for several weeks. Prior to that, she had success in getting the DWP to send letters to residents in the area of the ammoniation plant, although some residents told her they never got their letters. Also, last month our NC discussion on Measure B helped voters prepare for the election. And, we must help the people in our community that say, "We feel left out." He tried to get people from the North Hwd West NC to come tonight and they didn't. Our NC must decide if it wants to work further on it. She will contact DWP and ask for more contact with stakeholders near the ammoniation site.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Morin issued two checks last month, \$49 to Mr. Luse for the post office box and \$38 to Mr. Freedner for copying costs. Current balance is \$126,264.09. She spoke to Man-Qin He, the audit has been completed and submitted to LAPD, it has cost us \$736.58 to date.

"Are we now in a position to operate normally?" asked Mr. Henriquez. Mr. Stone replied, yes, but the investigation is still pending. Responding to another question from Mr. Luse, Mr. Stone said that it would not impact us as to how we can do business or spend money; he has given Ms. Morin information on getting a debit card, and thanked her for taking on that responsibility.

Mr. Henriquez asked Ms. Morin if she could produce a monthly report for the Board on balances, etc. Mr. Stone noted that anyone can also go to the DONE site and view what's been spent. Mr. Freedner suggested, however, that the Board be kept aware of how much has been earmarked in each budget category so we know where spending can be made or not, as the case may be.

Ms. Dorick asked if it was true that we had to spend money by June, "use it or lose it," and Mr. Stone confirmed this; also, what happens if a Board member wants to fund a project, does that member also fill out a Request Form? Mr. Henriquez thought the forms should be for stakeholders' use and Mr. Freedner explained he had created the forms so that the Board might know who was the actual person or entity requesting funding, etc. And Ms. Ramsawack agreed to submit a request for expenditure for the Regional Congress at next month's meeting.

BY-LAWS REVIEW: Mr. Henriquez went through the list, "Attachment A", to the By-laws. Mr. Freedner noted that list was not from any prior By-laws but from an elections procedure or handbook, and was outdated. Mr. Henriquez asked if members could switch titles, and Mr. Stone said, no, not until next election; they served in the capacities as elected. Mr. Henriquez asked about the status of Jeff Brooks – he wants to give him the benefit of doubt but it's been months since Jeff attended a meeting. Mr. Luse replied he had sent messages that he was out of town,

etc. This month no message was received. He will try to email Jeff and learn more. Mr. Freedner wondered how an absence was “excused,” was it by Board decision? – And Mr. Luse said that any contact with a Board member could be deemed “excused.” Mr. Henriquez then asked if Ms. Morin had to be formally installed as Treasurer, to which Mr. Stone replied that since we elected Jeff as Treasurer, she can’t formally become Treasurer at this time.

BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT AND ANNEXATION: Mr. Henriquez said he understood there is still movement afoot to form the NHWNC. Mr. Menjivar said the other group has been forming for 2 years and is ready to submit its application; he asked a representative to come but the time was inconvenient; but he’s here on their behalf. DONE worries that only 19,000 residents will be left within NHWNC, less than the 20,000 minimum, and worse, all petitions and documents signed so far will become invalid if the boundary lines are now different, since their formational papers all mention Whitsett as the eastern boundary. “When and where do they meet?” asked Ms. Dorick. Mr. Menjivar replied, 4th Wednesday each month at Saticoy Elementary School, 6:30 PM.

Mr. Henriquez thereupon moved: to abandon the boundary line adjustment and annexation and disband the ad hoc committee studying same. Mr. Luse seconded.

Ms. Ramsawack asked how she should deal with complaints from residents west of Whitsett Avenue and east of the 170, that they’re being ignored? Mr. Luse replied, “That our boundaries are as defined 5 years ago and it is not our fault.” Mr. Freedner added, those people might still be our stakeholders if their children attend school here, or they participate in community activities; it’s no longer important to be a “resident” to be included in a NC. Mr. Stone concurred, saying they could be “factual basis stakeholders.” And that we could share public facilities such as the baseball field and the park, but we would have to file an application to BONC to do so. (Ms. Pelych leaves.)

Mr. Henriquez felt we needed to use “good faith” among NC’s and saw no need for it at this point; if NHWNC is unsuccessful, we can always reopen annexation discussions. But how long would that be, asked Ms. Ramsawack, another 4 years? Mr. Freedner felt that as long as the current formational group is staying together, they are moving toward becoming a certified NC, but if they break apart, that would be another matter.

VOTE: 5 – Yes 3 – No 1 – Abstain. PASSES

APRIL MEETING DATE: Mr. Freedner noted that next month’s meeting fell on the first night of Passover. Mr. Henriquez recommended against skipping the month, and Mr. Freedner said that wasn’t his intent, couldn’t the Board meet another night of the week, or another Thursday? School might be closed for Easter from April 6 – 10, per Mr. Henriquez; but an alternative date of Monday, April 13, was suggested, pending approval by Principal Williams. Ms. Dorick agreed to speak with her about it. The Board concurred that if not possible, Tuesday, April 14.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ms. Ramsawack would like to present another National Night Out event on 8/4/09. Also, if we are not meeting on Thursday next month, it gives us an opportunity to participate with them. She heard Kevin McNeeley say that all money in NC budgets over \$100,000 would be lost if not spent by then. We need to spend this money by then, "I think it would be a shame for us to lose that money!" She recently helped plant 13 trees in Slavin Park, but there are no toilet facilities there; perhaps we can get toilet units put in. Also, we should spend \$3,000 for the Regional NC Congress. We could also purchase another 3-4 Q-Star cameras for \$21,000. And, it is a shame that Strathern Elementary School still does not have the tables we approved for \$6,000 in December 07.

Ms. Harris-Brice suggested we do some outreach and spend money on that; also clean medians put in a "Welcome" sign like they have in Studio City. And, perhaps fund a "Family Day in the Park."

Mr. Stone cautioned we need to actually spend the excess funds, not just " earmark" it. Try for the:"biggest bang for the buck." And we cannot partner and spend money on Slavin Park as it is not within our NC boundaries.

Ms. Dorick wondered if we could give some money to the food bank put on at Holy Rosary Church in Sun Valley.

Mr. Freedner noted that we probably had "spent" almost \$100,000 in the past five minutes, but suggested: outreach conducted in Spanish and trash cans and/or flower pots along Lankershim Boulevard to make the shopping area look more attractive, if merchants could be convinced to help maintain such amenities.

Mrs. Luse termed tonight a great learning experience with many new ideas. And Ms. Ramsawack closed by quoting a comment from Bong-Hwan Kim, who had expressed concern about NC's in bookkeeping trouble.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to conduct, Mr. Freedner moved to adjourn; Ms. Dorick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, the meeting ending at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER
Secretary