

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**

April 13, 2009

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

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Pres. Ernie Moscoso called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Int. Treas. Inez Morin led the pledge of allegiance. Sec. Freedner then took roll. Present were: Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, Judy Harris-Brice, Al Henriquez, Philip Manson, Inez Morin, Ernie Moscoso and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum. (Dr. Wung Chang and Katie Pelych arrived later in the evening.)

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES: Ms. Ramsawack thanked Mr. Freedner for his hard work in getting the minutes out fast and making changes as she requested; however, she asked that last month’s minutes also reflect the full name of the stakeholder speaking during public comments as John Mork, and in Board member comments, the fact that the Neighborhood Watch group (and not solely Ms. Ramsawack) planted trees at Slavin Park. Mr. Henriquez moved to approve the minutes as so amended, Ms. Dorick seconded and the motion passed, 8 – 0.

COMMENTS FROM GOV’T REPRESENTATIVES: Rubén Zaragoza of Councilman Cardenas’ office announced the 2nd Annual Pet Care Fair, Sat. 10-3 PM at Woodley Pak. Also, Citizenship Workshop in Pacoima, this Sat., 9-12. Aviation Day at Van Nuys Airport (job fair) on 4/24 from 9-2 pm, at Van Nuys Airport across from the Flyaway Station. Also, the Councilman supports the development project in North Hollywood, about which speakers have come this evening.

Mr. Freedner asked him to bring to the City Council’s attention: that when the City closes a public street for an event, the speakers there should not call for the overthrow of the “imperialist American government” on public property. This happened on Easter Sunday at Lincoln Park in East Los Angeles, is shameful, and seems to officially condone such activity. Ms. Harris-Brice called for more resources for youth in our areas.

Eric Menjivar of Councilperson Greuel’s office reported on the Whitsett/Saticoy slope: engineering looked at it and found issues with drainage, 2 blowouts (holes in ground)

and potential instability for the DOT warehouse. They will research who other solutions can be done. Also, the Council office seeks sponsorship of between \$500 and \$3,000 for the upcoming Child Health & Safety Fair. Ms. Ramsawack said she didn't know enough about the event, where will it be held? Valley Plaza Park on Oct. 4, replied Mr. Menjivar. Mr. Freedner asked for a list of proposals that our NC might pay for rather than first earmarking a sum of money to be spent for unknown purposes.

Mr. Menjivar also spoke of the vacant Valley Plaza properties and development project; there will be a meeting on April 16 between the CRA and City Council.

Paul Rudak of the DWP spoke briefly about the water line project starting in June, from Coldwater Canyon to Vanowen Street and east to Morella St., a 2 year duration. Hey will hold a town hall meeting, tentative date 5/20 at Valley Plaza Library, and will let people know about the meeting. Mr. Harris-Brice noted that the flyers should be in Spanish as well as English and Mr. Rudak said a postcard will be in both languages.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Hall announced his Neighborhood Watch group meets the last Wednesday of each month, 4/29 next meeting.

CELL PHONE / BUSINESS CARDS: Ms. Morin had no information yet from DONE rep Barry Stone, who's away on vacation. Ms. Ramsawack noted we should bear in mind we can't make a contract, but DONE offered to contract for us. On 4/5/07 a cell phone was purchased for \$153, and over \$2,100 in costs were paid over the following months. Mr. Freedner noted that business cards should be ordered as soon as possible, it doesn't need a further Board motion to put that into effect. Mr. Manson asked, what happened to the old cell phone? Mr. Henriquez replied "it's somewhere" and Mr. Freedner noted that it's still considered government property. Mr. Moscoso offered to try to determine its whereabouts, if possible. In the meantime, for inventory purposes, the phone could be listed as "lost" and he'll contact Mr. Stone and email all Board members within 10 days with an update.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT: Ms. Ramsawack was surprised but glad the DWP came tonight. Construction on Vanowen will have great impact on all of us. The Project Engineer and Site Supervisor have promised to come to our next meeting and she requests this be put on that Agenda. She also urged our approval of funding for the National Night Out event in August.

Ms. Harris-Brice commented that we need to work as a cohesive unit as to outreach, our NC has many boundaries; outreach is not reaching her neighborhood. For example, no flyers, and she hasn't seen the plastic holders in stores. Ms. Ramsawack replied that more Neighborhood Watch groups were needed in our area to spread the word. Stakeholder Dean Hall agreed that our NC needs a more cohesive plan, he got one mailer back when we met at Camellia, it piqued his interest and he got involved; but, hasn't gotten anything since. If people don't know about us, we'll miss a lot of participants. Mr. Henriquez noted that the entire Board could conduct outreach; Sarah's role is *how* to communicate with the public. Ms. Harris-

Brice suggested putting everyone's ideas on the table and Ms. Dorick said that our newsletter was supposed to go out to every one in our NC. Mr. Freedner suggested an "outreach" topic at our next Board meeting, where all these ideas could be discussed in further detail. Ms. Ramsawack said she appreciated the input from Ms. Harris-Brice and Mr. Freedner in this regard. And Mr. Moscoso said that Sarah, as facilitator of her Neighborhood Watch, has an "ear" to many people in the area.

Dr. Chang suggested a monthly newsletter. Ms. Ramsawack replied the Board had approved such a newsletter; and Mr. Moscoso suggested putting this topic on our next agenda, for a 10 minute discussion only.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT: Mr. Henriquez handed out NC area maps and said they had only one meeting, it was fruitful but the second meeting was cancelled, He attended the DONE Elections Committee meeting, got templates on very specific By-laws for 2010 elections – will bring to Board at our 5/14 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT; BUDGET MOTION: Ms. Morin reported no change since our last meeting, balance is \$126,264.09. She can either have a detailed report at our next meeting or email all members. Mr. Freedner, noting our current need to spend about \$25,000 before June 30 and that we had not spent anything the first quarter due to the audit, moved: That the NC approve a one-time increase in budgeted funding for this second quarter, from \$12,500 as now budgeted, to \$25,000. Mr. Manson seconds. (Ms. Pelcyh arrives.) Ms. Ramsawack said she "understands where Eric's coming from," but didn't see the need for the motion. We have only tonight and possibly May to make spending decisions. Mr. Moscoso said that is exactly why we need the motion, to be able to do so. Vote: 9-Yes 1-Abstain (Pelcyh).

VALLEY PLAZA PARK IMPROVEMENTS: Ms. Morin handed out information on exercise equipment that might be purchased. Mr. Menjivar said his office would meet with the DWP re extra lighting in the walkway and general area. Ms. Morin said the entire improvements would cost about \$50,000, and we might partner with the City in providing some of that. Mr. Freedner asked for the specific plans, and Mr. Menjivar replied a walking trail of decomposed granite, exercise equipment for adults, some benches, extra lighting, and possibly a radioing park near the freeway. Ms. Morin suggested keeping this on agenda for next month.

LANKERSHIM/STRATHERN DEVELOPMENT: Jose Acevedo had come with his partner and principal, Joanne Carras and architect Chris Compton. The project would involve development of the Mel-O-Dee Nursery property and a four residential houses behind it. The owners of Mel-O-Dee sold to them as they want to retire. They have assembled 4.6 acres over the past several years. They plan a shopping center to wrap around Burger King from Lankershim back to the end of Blythe Street. 60,000 sq. ft. of retail, anchored by CVS Pharmacy and a mini-health clinic. They have filed an entitlement package, currently in environmental review and traffic study has been approved by the DOT, and is in a State Enterprise Zone. Mr. Freedner asked how many units will be there, and Ms. Carras said they are unsure now – they hope to have Panda Express, a small market, possibly Starbucks and a second story with offices.

Ms. Morin asked how long the construction would last and where trucks would park, and Ms. Carras said grading would commence first, then about 1 year for construction. Mr. Freedner expressed concern about the residences to the east – issues about lighting, view, etc., and asked if they planned to create a buffer or landscaping. And Mr. Compton replied yes, only staff parking would be done in the rear of the buildings, no major circulation there, and landscaping around perimeter. Also they will widen Strathern and Lankershim Boulevard in the area. No underground parking is planned. Mr. Compton asked for our support of the project. Ms. Ramsawack asked what a State Enterprise Zone was, and Ms. Carras replied that the City Council office applies for them – used in low to moderate income areas, where builders and employers get tax incentives, lenders get interest deduction on tax reporting and the DWP grants water credits for several years.

Mr. Manson termed this “probably the finest presentation seen in years” and moved that we provide letters of support for this project. Mr. Freedner was concerned that nearby residents don’t know about it, at least they haven’t given us any input. Ms. Carras said that notice had been sent to all within 500 ft. of the proposed project.; also they plan a meeting at a designated location about it.

Ms. Dorick termed it, “the best thing that could happen to the neighborhood.” And Mr. Zaragoza said it would bring jobs to the area, first construction and then at the retailers there. It would provide our area a much-needed pharmacy. And several houses to be removed were already nuisance properties.

Mr. Hall asked how many tenants’ commitments were need to go ahead, and Ms. Carras replied at least 50%. Also, parking spaces would be double what is mandated by code. And, said Mr. Zaragoza, no liquor licenses – with exception of CVS Pharmacy which would purchase 2 existing licenses but retire one. Mr. Moscoso added, no car washes or car dealers, we already have them! And then moved: that we provide a letter of support to the Council Office and the developers. Second: Ms. Dorick. Vote: 10 - Yes, 0 – No.

LAPTOP COMMUTER: Mr. Henriquez presented an estimate for a good laptop with accessories and software, total of \$1,035; and moved: that the Board approve the purchase of a laptop and accessories for the NC, not to exceed \$1,000.00. Second: Ms. Morin.

Ms. Ramsawack questioned: *who* will have control of it, *where* will it be kept and *who’s* in charge of it? Mr. Manson suggested Mr. Freedner be the custodian. After further discussion, Mr. Moscoso said the chair will designate the custodian, either Randy Luse or Mr. Moscoso for now. Vote: 9 –Yes, 1 – No.

Mr. Henriquez priced name tags at \$14.50 apiece and name placards for new Board members at \$17.45 each through Barry Kay locally. Mr. Moscoso moved: that the NC approve purchase, not to exceed \$400.00, of name placards and badges (Board members to sign up for what was needed). Mr. Manson seconded. Vote: 8 – Yes, 2 - Abstain.

CLARIFICATION OF ACTIVE MEMBERS/DECLARATION OF SEAT VACANCY: Ms. Ramsawack noted that no one seems to know who to confirm usage of this site. Mr. Moscoso replied the President will take responsibility for notifying the school of our meeting. Mr. Henriquez passed out the last election results. Mr. Freedner noted that the list of members was not a part of the By-Laws and no "Exhibit A" is even mentioned in them. The Board generally seemed to concur. The discussion turned to attendance of Board Members. Mr. Corton has recently missed meetings due to a medical condition. Mr. Brooks has been notified of meetings by both Mr. Luse and Mr. Freedner and has missed 3 of the most recent ones, without excuse.

Mr. Henriquez moved: Based on our By-Laws regarding 3 unexcused absences, that Jeff Brooks' NC seat be declared vacant. Second: Phil Manson. Mr. Freedner noted that Mr. Brooks could still be considered for the seat if he contacts us and the Board approves. Vote: 9 – Yes, 1 – Abstain.

Mr. Henriquez said we need to activate the Treasurer's credit card per DONE, by Board vote. But, Mr. Moscoso noted that with only one person begin able to use the card, the rest of us are in the clear if some misuse or loss occurs. Giving it to another member to use sets "a bad procedural issue" – who gave it, which got it, which used it, etc.

Mr. Moscoso noted that a demand warrant could be issued to buy the laptop. Mr. Freedner asked if the \$500 petty cash withdrawal was part of the credit card usage, and Ms. Morin thought that the credit card limit was \$1,000 plus the monthly petty cash allowance.

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING:

Mr. Moscoso suggested we speak first about Sun Valley Graffiti Busters. Mr. Freedner said he thought of them as they've helped our community for years. Their funding has been cut and Susan Bartlett could use help in getting supplies. Mr. Moscoso wondered if \$1,000 was *enough* money.

There followed a discussion about other funding proposals on the agenda, total is over \$29,000. Ms. Ramsawack said Q-Star cameras cost \$7,000 each, and Officer Vasquez says area in our NC need them. We need at least 3. Total: \$22,117.64. 4 would cost about \$29,228. Mr. Freedner noted that he had computed the cost for cameras at \$3,500 each, thinking the Council office would match funding for them. The Board wondered if actually spending the money for them could be done by June 30. Ms. Morin offered to speak personally with Man-Qin He or Roger at NC Funding. Mr. Moscoso wondered when "money was spent", is it considered spent if we submit a warrant for funding?

Mr. Freedner asked the Board for input on the \$3,000 request for the Valley Regional Congress. Ms. Ramsawack showed a list of local NC's opposing paying for it. General discussion.

Ms. Ramsawack called for a motion to budget \$11,000 from the NC to sponsor the National Night Out event in August. Ms. Harris-Brice said that Mr. Zaragoza had

other suggestions about the event – hold a “walk” in the area, not just a “feast.” The event last year was excellent but she felt it didn’t really reach the public. No one introduced themselves at the park, no speakers such as NC or Neighborhood Watch representatives, etc. “Just a picnic.” If held this year in the park, perhaps a stage, sound system, speakers such as Mr. Cardenas. Ms. Ramsawack countered that the advertising banners clearly stated the event was sponsored by the NHNENC, Councilman Cardenas’ office, Dept. of Recreation & Parks. Ms. Harris-Brice also suggested distributing flyers in Spanish as Latinos seemed not to understand the event.

Mr. Freedner noted that he had on three occasions asked for data about the Q-Star cameras – how many arrests had been made as a result of them, where is the proof they really effective?

After further discussion, the Board by consensus agreed as to funding:

\$8,000 – Umbrellas and more benches/tables for Strathern School - No.

\$4,000 - Security cameras for Arminta St. School - No.

\$3,000 – Valley Regional Congress – No.

\$1,000 – Sun Valley Graffiti Busters supplies - Yes.

Ms. Ramsawack promised to ask Officers Vasquez and Ahedo for Q-Star camera results statistics, and report back to the board. Also, she will see if Councilman Cardenas’ office will match with 3 additional Q-Star cameras. And she moved: that the NC purchase three Q-Star Cameras, for a price not to exceed \$22,117.64 for their use within that part of our NC area that is also within Councilman Cardenas’ district.

Second: Mr. Manson. Vote: 10 – Yes, 0 – No.

Mr. Freedner then moved: that the NHNENC purchase materials for the benefit and use of Sun Valley Graffiti Busters, not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Second: Ms. Harris-Brice Vote: 10 – Yes, 0 – No.

Mr. Moscoso said the Chair reserved the right to call a Special Meeting before our next scheduled monthly meeting to discuss any matters we have been unable to get to tonight due to time constraints. However, it appeared to him that we had gotten most of the Agenda items.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ms. Ramsawack announced that the meeting of the Valley Alliance of NC’s usually is held the same night as our monthly meetings; but this month, it will be on April 16, at the Sherman Oaks Hospital on Van Nuys Boulevard. They have excellent meetings and good speakers and she urged all of us to attend at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Manson moved to adjourn, Ms. Harris-Brice seconded, and by 10 – 0 unanimous vote, the meeting concluded at 10:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER
Secretary