

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



**NORTH HOLLYWOOD
NORTH EAST
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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BOARD MEMBERS of NHNENC:

Randal Luse – Pres. Wung Chang Florence Dorick Al Henriquez Inez T. Morin Katie Pelych	Ernie Moscoso – V-Pres. J. Eric Freedner–Sec. Donald Corton Judy Harris-Brice Loretta Luse Philip Manson Sarah Ramsawack
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**MINUTES of the MONTHLY MEETING of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

June 11, 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 7:15 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Sec. Freedner then took roll. Present were: Dr. Wung Chang, Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, Judy Harris-Brice, Al Henriquez, Loretta Luse, Randal Luse, Philip Manson, Inez Morin, and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES: Mr. Manson moved to approve last month's minutes. Ms. Dorick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM GOV'T REPRESENTATIVES: Eric Menjivar of Councilperson Greuel's office attended the groundbreaking for the synthetic soccer field at Whitsett Soccer Park; the project should be completed in 199 days. At Bellaire and Strathern a small pocket park was also dedicated. Three people so far intend to run in the CD2 special elections on September 22.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ricardo Acevedo – he's a staffing consultant for a national employment agency. Unemployment is around 10% but there are jobs available, and he wants to help people needing work. He asks partnerships with the council to help people find jobs.

Val Bridgeford – concerned about professional-type illegal fireworks shot off from lots, and asks how to address the problem. The LAPD is overburdened on July 4. Jose Dominguez suggests videotaping people and cars at such events, and turning in the tape to the police. Frank Sheftel noted that if people know specific sites where this happens annually, to call police in advance and they'll notify people there beforehand. Also, perhaps organize some local and legal fireworks shows for the public because the venues now used are far away and very crowded. And Mr. Freedner noted that Manny Figueres had emailed him, urging him to remind everyone, "All fireworks are illegal in Los Angeles."

Jose Dominguez – is organizing baseball/softball teams at Valley Plaza Park, but it's hard to get money for uniforms from the children. He asks for a \$3,000 NC contribution for that purpose. Also, he received stuff from Foot Locker – shoes, etc. for donating to schools. He asks the NC to send a letter to see how many kids are in school to get tennis shoes, backpacks, and clothing. He is giving items to 9 schools. Responding to a question by Dr. Chang, Mr. Dominguez said there are 12 kids to a ball team, and 12 teams, they meet one day a week, games are on Saturdays. All coaches are volunteers. The sponsorship money is needed by July 22, the All-Star tournament will be held at Balboa Park.

Mr. Freedner asked specifically what the funds would be spent on, and who is overseeing the project, and Mr. Dominguez replied, uniforms; and L. A. City Rec. & Parks Dept. is overseeing. Mr. Luse suggested putting this on our next regular Agenda.

Karl Kunak – reminds everyone June 14 is Flag Day and suggested all read The Star Spangled Banner. Also, Community Recycling, “dirtiest in the Valley” is holding a public meeting at Poli High on 6/23 to discuss their proposed facilities. And U.S. Congressman Murtha bloodied U.S. troops and suggests that interested persons write to Murtha or our Congressman, Brad Sherman, with their concerns.

Frank Sheftel – introduced himself as a candidate for the CD-2 City Council seat. He's from the local community, raised here and knows the district. He asks for community support in a field that will probably number quite a few candidates, but that some of those are “carpetbaggers” just interested in the money and power and moving in to take advantage of the situation.

Barry Stone of DONE – 6/13, City Clerk Election Date Lottery for Region B, suggests a representative be there at 8 AM. Also, the Treasurer needs to finish the Inventory Report and submit, and June 12 is the last day to submit demand warrants for this fiscal year. Annual Budgets are due 6/19, next year's budget amount is \$45,000.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Manson – in the past the Board voices many opinions, but ends up discussing minutia; members should strive to stop wasting precious time on such small talk.

Mr. Freedner – concerned about many bicyclists riding on sidewalks and otherwise breaking the law; attended the soccer field dedication; perhaps the Board should commence meetings earlier, at 6:30 PM, if we consistently run out of time; and as to City Council candidates, he knows of one “carpetbagger” who currently represents another city, and urges voters to carefully check out the candidates.

Dr. Chang – Mr. Dominguez can help out disadvantaged kids with the ball teams and he thinks it a very important motion for us.

Mr. Henriquez – we now have the laptop computer and some data recorders.

Ms. Dorick – Principal Williams is retiring at the end of this month and the school will be closed June 30 – Sept. 9. Should we send her a note of thanks for letting us meet there? Also, is the audit complete--if not, when and where will we know? Mr. Stone replied that we should check the website, he believes it's still ongoing. Ms. Dorick also wondered if we should send Ms. Greuel a letter of thanks for her help in our endeavors, and also welcomes the interim caretaker in the Council office. The midnight shift of 311 has been eliminated due to funding cuts, it now operates 7 AM – 11 PM. And, 6/27 Mayor's Appreciation Festival at City Hall.

Ms. Ramsawack – Handed out her printed comments (attached to the official minutes). Attended Valley Regional Congress with Dr. Chang and Ms. Dorick, and was encouraged to develop alliances with other groups. Consider changing our meeting nights so we can attend the Valley Alliance monthly meeting and become more involved in the larger picture. Also, ally with SVANC regarding vacant market at Saticoy and Tujunga. And many more committees should be created.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT: The committee met in May, Ms. Ramsawack said, discussing a NC slogan or icon, door-to-door flyer distribution, defining the word "stakeholder" on the flyer, which was sent out. Use of Ch. 35, Daily News. Information tables at various businesses such as Archie's Market, Food 4 Less, etc. The committee next meets 6/12 at 3:30 PM here.

Mr. Henriquez said he thought the entire Board was to be made aware and saw all literature prior to its going out to third parties. He never saw the recent flyers. Or, are Board members all at liberty to send out letters and such on their own?

Ms. Ramsawack showed the Board a copy of the newsletter and said that DONE could translate it into Spanish upon request. Also, she had been specifically requested to send a letter to Mr. Cardenas, which she did. Mr. Henriquez replied that this begs the question, the Board hadn't seen this flyer before it was distributed; we need to work together as a Board, all members should review that which has our name on it, and give approval. Mr. Freedner lets everyone see the minutes and his proposed letters before mailing them. And make sure the message "is a Board message, not an individual message."

Mr. Luse noted that sometimes we have to take action quickly, but all Council members should see what's composed. Mr. Henriquez suggested specifying actions to be taken at a Board meeting, and Mrs. Luse pointedly asked, "Were these flyers presented to the Board before passing them out?" Ms. Ramsawack replied that she's perfectly willing "to push a button" and email everyone a copy but sometimes she needs to get something out quickly. But, Mrs. Luse, added, that doesn't necessarily give other Board members the opportunity to change or critique it. And Mr. Henriquez noted that the By-Laws Committee recently met and accomplished its business, kept the Board informed and got the paperwork to DONE on time. (Ms. Morin leaves.)

Mr. Stone clarified the work of a committee: to make recommendations to the Board and the Board either approves that or now. A committee can hear testimony of other people, however. Mr. Kunak noted that when he, Dave Hernandez and Mr. Freedner were on the SVANC board, Deputy City Attorney Darren Martinez told the board that

all letters going from a NC must be approved by the NC itself and backed up by the Minutes. And, a NC must ask for public comment during each agenda item. Mr. Stone agreed, but depending on the number of people who wish to speak.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Morin had left a note with Mr. Luse, balance is now \$95,332.68, this assumes the Q-Star camera purchase and the tables for Strathern School have gone through. It does not include the new \$45,000 for the coming year.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT: Ms. Ramsawack was grateful the NC was considering partnership in this event. She requested \$10,000 last year and it came in under budget. Although she had mentioned \$11,000 earlier, she wanted to revise her request for this year's event, to a maximum of \$10,000, with an actual estimated cost of \$9,000. Her proposed budget includes pizza from a local merchant, popcorn stands, sno-cone carts, ice-cream stand, and a parade from Laurel Canyon west to Slavin Park. She hopes for National Guard presence as well as students from Strathern Elementary School. She thereupon moved: that the NHNENC fund the National Night Out event to a maximum of \$10,000. Mr. Luse requested clarification, "up to \$10,000" which was accepted. Second – Dr. Chang.

Mr. Freedner termed the proposal "a bit over-the-top" in light of the current economy, and also noted that last year the Board was to have received the roster or a list of persons attending for our outreach purposes, but he received nothing. The NC might better want to pick which events or costs it would like to sponsor, rather than picking up the entire tab. Ms. Harris-Brice commended Ms. Ramsawack on her work but the proposal seems to have "nothing about stopping crime," but is more of a carnival, celebrating....what?! She didn't hear Councilman Cardenas speak last year, it was nice to meet people, but the park's not even in our area – how about staging the event at Valley Plaza Park, in our NC and where crime is higher and its impact can be better felt? Mrs. Luse reminded the Board that the original concept was a block-by-block event, meet your neighbors and find out they'll stand up to crime, participate in a Neighborhood Watch program, foster relations with local police. None of that took place last year and it doesn't look like it will this year.

Ms. Dorick reminded Mrs. Luse that Randal Luse did go around greeting people last year, so did Jeff Brooks and the other Board members attending, and invited them to come to meetings. Mr. Freedner said that without the promised roster of emails or addresses, there was no way to follow up with attendees as to when our meetings would take place.

Mr. Luse recalled the times when National Night Out consisted of a potluck dinner, the police would show up, people would walk around several blocks in their home areas. Last year's event was "fantastic – but too big." Stakeholder Maggie Adnan, a member of the Strathern Neighborhood Watch, noted that activities could expand to block parties, parades, festivals, etc. Ms. Dorick said they fed over 700 people, with close to 1,000 there, banners were up advertising that our NC was sponsoring the event. But, Mr. Manson, countered, why spend \$10,000 again on something we got no exposure on? – Sure, people showed up, there was free food. Ms. Dorick asked if we got better results after spending \$10,000 on the Latin Jazz Festival and Mr.

Manson said no, and we no longer sponsor it, and Ms. Dorick replied, “So – it’s a draw.”

Mr. Stone suggested partnering with North Hollywood and Foothill police departments and just sponsor some items at the proposed event. LAPD has the funding to help out, and if we took a booth at an established venue, it may cost us nothing. A stakeholder, Ben, asked if there was a spike in attendance at Neighborhood Watch meetings following last year’s event, and no one present could answer that. After some further discussion about joining forces with the LAPD and Ms. Ramsawack’s indignation about the audit and investigation of the NC following last year’s event, a vote was requested: Yes – 4 No – 4 Abstain – 1 Fails.

Mr. Freedner wondered if the Board might want to vote on supporting the event at a lower monetary amount, if so, what? Perhaps more information about working with the LAPD was needed before a vote would be attempted again. Mr. Henriquez suggested meeting again in a shorter time, perhaps in 2 weeks, to discuss this matter. Ms. Harris-Brice wondered why we shouldn’t partner with the other National Night Out group and maybe have the celebration for free or nearly so. Mr. Henriquez suggested the Outreach Committee at its meeting get ideas and report back to the Board.

NC LOGO: Mr. Henriquez suggested tabling this until our next regular meeting.

CHANGING LOCATION OF POSTING PLACES: Mr. Freedner noted Mr. Stone had left and he was to have provided information about this. It too should be tabled.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILD HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR: Mr. Menjivar said the NC would be mentioned on its flyer if we decided to sponsor the October 4 event. About 2,000 attended last year. They had a stage, music, entertainment, and the NC would get acknowledgement. Mr. Freedner wondered if “parties in the parks” are still a good thing in light of the economy.

Mr. Henriquez moved: that NHNENC partner with Council District 2/Wendy Greuel and support the Child Health & Safety Fair by providing the amount of \$500. Second: Dr. Chang. Mr. Freedner suggested we distribute a flyer or have a poster on bicycle safety there. Mr. Luse and he wondered if we shouldn’t allot \$1,000 for the event. Mr. Henriquez agreed to amend his motion, to provide the amount of \$1,000 for the event, Ms. Dorick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9 – Yes, 0 - No.

ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON OUTREACH: Mr. Henriquez suggested discussing this in 2 weeks at the meeting where National Night Out would be brought up and by consensus the Board agreed.

VALLEY PLAZA PARK IMPROVEMENTS: Ms. Morin had left the meeting but Mr. Menjivar noted that DWP met out there 2 weeks ago, they are putting in 5 lights, not 6; they have prepared a Prop 84 request for the granite pathway; perhaps some Quigley funds will also be made available.

REPORT ON VALLEY REGIONAL CONGRESS: Ms. Dorick learned that other NC’s may have 12 persons on each Committee, some of whom are stakeholders. Also free

telephone service is available through the internet. Ms. Ramsawack added that a lot of inspiration is to be gained by attending these meetings, and Dr. Chang echoed her sentiments.

ARMINTA STREET SCHOOL SECURITY CAMERAS: Mr. Kunak said the expenditure was approved last July, because of snafus and our financial issues, the project never got completed. The money was budgeted and should be in there somewhere. Mr. Freedner replied that he had put this on the agenda based on a funding request that Mr. Kunak had brought to a Board meeting only several months ago, which he believed was for a new security project, not using remaining monies from the prior one. Also, we never received any letters of acceptance from the school, and Mr. Kunak replied, the letters were sent directly to DONE. The Board felt that at least copies should have come to the Board for its own records. Mr. Kunak replied that the point is moot anyway until October, as the school will close for the summer, and Mr. Henriquez suggested we leave the issue on the agenda and look at past minutes to get an idea of what happened.

STRATHERN ST. SCHOOL FUNDING – UMBRELLAS: Mr. Freedner asked if the tables ever came in, Ms. Dorick replied, yes, again a letter of acknowledgement was sent to DONE (Ms. Dorick later clarified that the tables were still on order). Mr. Freedner said no one had seen any specific budget about umbrellas, what kind, how much each cost, etc., and Mr. Henriquez agreed that it would be best to table this matter. And Mrs. Luse suggested we wait for the new school principal to come in and speak to us about any needed capital improvements, maybe something more important was desired.

DWP AQUEDUCT TOUR: Ms. Ramsawack reported that she and Ms. Morin got to take a 3-day tour to learn where water comes from and how it's processed and they learned a lot; she passed out information regarding the new water billing system and suggested Board members in turn inform their neighbors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Freedner said we needed to locate a meeting place for next month in Starthern School would close. He suggested Park Plaza Library. Mr. Henriquez said he would check into that, and set the next special meeting for June 25, at 6:30 PM, at Stathern St. School if still available, or as announced.

ADJOURNMENT: Due to the lateness of the hour, Ms. Harris-Brice moved to adjourn, Mrs. Luse seconded, and by unanimous vote, the meeting ended at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER
Secretary