

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

MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 25, 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 6:40 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Sec. Freedner then took roll; present were: Dr. Wung Chang, Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, Loretta Luse, Randal Luse, Philip Manson, Inez Morin, Katie Pelych and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum. (Judy Harris-Brice arrived shortly afterward.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ben Moore – requested that the Board consider holding revised and more frequent meetings, as our meetings run long and perhaps more business could be done if the Board met twice a month.

DISCUSSION ON SUPPORT OF PROPOSED NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT:

Ms. Ramsawack distributed a revised activities and budget proposal for the National Night Out event in Jamie Beth Slavin Park. The Strathern Neighborhood Watch is very enthusiastic about putting this event on. They met with Ruben Zaragoza of Councilman Cardenas' office. They estimate a cost under the \$10,000 ceiling. The event could start with a parade down Strathern Street with the U.S. National Guard from Los Alamitos, perhaps a band or color guard. A small stage could be rented for the park, for speakers such as Mr. Cardenas. She suggested this year's event be "more of a fun evening" rather than a large dinner event. However, the NC does not have an address or phone number for her to give out to participants. Mr. Zaragoza said tables and chairs from the Councilman's office could not be guaranteed at this time. Her budget totals \$9,818 which is less than \$10,000 and further expects the event to be brought in under that budgeted total. Mr. Zaragoza said Strathern St. could not be fully closed but the parade could entail a "rolling closure." She was hoping to unite more people within our NC area; however, after speaking with representatives of the other Neighborhood Watch group in our area, she learned they wish to do their own celebration with a flashlight walk.

Mr. Freedner noted: that the NC could not supply cash prizes (\$80) as proposed in the budget; the total funding was still close to what was proposed and not approved by the Board two weeks ago; and asked if the police or other funding was available. Ms. Ramsawack replied that the senior lead officers were in charge only of their own police department events.

Mr. Luse said that last year's event, while expensive for us, was a "fine, well-attended event." While it supplied food and entertainment, it didn't serve the purpose of the NC itself. We spent a fair amount on two Latin Jazz Festivals, but they didn't bring in more people to us, which is a shame. He's been re-examining it all week, and disfavours spending so much money on it, and questions who would do the large amount of work needed to pull it off. He suggested they cut back on activities maybe by one-half. He noted National Night Out used to be just Neighborhood Watch – police and the firemen would come by, people shared a pot-luck dinner and then had a symbolic flashlight walk to "take back" their neighborhoods. Mrs. Luse added she saw nothing wrong if the Neighborhood Watch funded it but Mr. Freedner noted that they have no funding; and the Oakland website used as a model for planning events likewise showed no funding ideas.

Ms. Ramsawack replied that was why she was asking the community-minded Neighborhood Council to fund the event. Mrs. Luse suggested that next year they might form a committee to figure out funding. Dr. Chang spoke in support of the event but asked if the Council office had been contacted, or another nearby NC?—as that was a funding idea set forth at the recent Regional Valley Congress. [Ms. Harris-Brice arrives.]

Stakeholder Ben Moore favored holding the event, it may not be a big attention-getter for the NC but what other promotional activities are there for us? We could get photos taken, and get the community together in any way possible. Mr. Luse replied that the Latin Jazz Festival drew little response from all its participants for the NC. Mrs. Luse suggested we pick one or two budget items, such as portable toilets, and pay for those. Mr. Freedner added that the NC is planning to support other events such as the Child Health & Safety Fair, maybe a welcome party for the new City Councilperson later this year.

Ms. Ramsawack argued that over 300 people attend the Neighborhood Watch meetings sometimes, but Mr. Luse responded that we're not seeing that many at our NC meetings, ever. We must keep trying outreach plans, but he prefers spending throughout the year for smaller events. Ms. Ramsawack stated that she felt the NC either had to fund at the amount requested or there would be no National Night Out Event.

Mr. Freedner suggested that Ms. Ramsawack make a motion for reconsideration of her prior motion to fund the event at no more than \$10,000. Ms. Ramsawack therefore moved: that the Board reconsider the motion for the NHNENC to fund the National Night Out at Slavin Park. Ms. Dorick seconded. VOTE: 2 – Yes, 8 – No.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON OUTREACH IDEAS:

Mr. Luse – we’ve tried big events with little success. Try smaller events through committees, funded in reasonable amounts, and events spread around different parts of our NC area.

Mr. Manson – would like to discuss setting up and funding a website at our next regular meeting, with a presentation by the web-hosting service. Also, he has contacted a bike shop and perhaps a bicycle can be offered as a prize at some event.

Mrs. Luse – spoke favorably about a website as an outreach tool.

Ms. Harris-Brice – suggested refrigerator magnets with our meeting dates. Also see if services for events can be donated by the many shops and businesses in our area and which are all assets to the community.

Ms. Dorick – asked if anyone has contacted Chambers of Commerce or their members; also we need to have a NC phone number and/or address on any magnets we hand out.

Dr. Chang – suggested the purchase of magnets be put on next meeting’s agenda.

Ms. Morin – saw SVANC has a banner inside Poly Hi auditorium, and we should try to do the same, perhaps here at Strathern School.

Mr. Freedner – other than a meet-and-greet for the new City Councilman, perhaps a cleanup day along a busy commercial street such as Lankershim Boulevard or Laurel Canyon, and get the Council office and businesses involved.

Ms. Ramsawack – set up partnerships with businesses, perhaps an information table at some places, twice a year. Perhaps a bicycle safety banner, or pole banners along Strathern, Lauren Canyon and other sites. Valley Village has such banners, “MyValleyVillage.com” to promote themselves.

BUDGET DISCUSSION & APPROVAL: Ms. Morin handed out proposed 2009-10 budgets to the Board. Mr. Freedner noted that the line item for “cell phone” should be removed as we cannot own one by contract or be reimbursed for the costs. Mrs. Luse suggested that \$150 be rolled into the “office equipment” category and the Board concurred. Ms. Morin thanked Ms. Dorick for her help with the budget.

Mr. Luse noted that Fire Station 89 was under construction, and there seemed no viable entry there for our next meeting. The Library requires us to pay for security for night meetings. He hesitates to suggest Park Plaza again. Ms. Dorick thought we might meet at Messiah Lutheran Church on Cantara and Laurel Canyon, a meeting room in back. Mr. Freedner wondered if a custodian for the Church venue would also be needed. Or, Mr. Luse suggested, perhaps meet for the next two months at the Library but on Saturday during the day; 9 members thought that would be OK. Mr. Freedner wondered if Park Plaza might be used temporarily since the reason we were told not to use it was that there were “equal facilities” across the NC area, and now it appears there are not. Mr. Luse promised to look into all these alternatives and email the board members with his findings.

There was no further discussion about the proposed budget, therefore Mr. Manson moved: that NHNENC approve the 2009-10 budget as presented, requesting \$45,000 new from NC Funding; with the exception of the proposed cell phone expense, said line item to be moved and combined into "Office Equipment" category. Second: Dr. Chang. VOTE: 10 – Yes, 0 – No.

The Board then briefly discussed contacting Barry Stone or the appropriate person at the City to ask how we can get a telephone and/or answering service as soon as possible. Ms. Morin agreed to contact the City about it. Mr. Freedner also noted that we need to get messages from our g-mail address, no one present seemed to know who had tried contacting us that way. [Mr. Manson, Mrs. Luse and Ms. Pelych leave.]

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Ramsawack – where is our audio equipment and why is it not used at our meetings, to which Mr. Luse replied, here in the school but Mr. Corton was the one experienced in its setup. Ms. Ramsawack replied that we should find another tech-savvy person to set it up. Also, who's handling the inventory and what is the status? Ms. Morin replied she has the labels and list and needs to know what items the NC actually has.

Ms. Dorick – food truck vendors are proliferating again, and leaving a mess in the neighborhood; LAPD doesn't seem to want to know about it, they told her to call Dept. of Transportation. Mr. Luse said DOT handles such things now but we may just have to live with it, to which Ms. Morin said she's talked to some drivers, telling them to stop honking horns in front of her house. Ms. Dorick also asked if Board members have to fill out a funding request form if they bring a funding idea, and Ms. Ramsawack suggested adding language such as: "Stakeholders who wish funding must fill out and turn this form in to the President."

Mr. Freedner – was distressed that the Board apparently double-spent for Strathern school tables, that is, that the money *claimed to have been spent* on that by Mr. Brooks was again spent by a recent demand warrant. Ms. Dorick explained that a year ago DONE had asked for a letter and other substantiating material from the school, it had only recently been obtained and turned in. In fact, one expenditure that Mr. Brooks claimed was for tables was dated several days *before* the Board even considered the motion. She and Mr. Freedner did agree that the Board should demand restitution and Ms. Dorick offered to contact the City Attorney. Mr. Freedner said that we might not get anything but we should be on record as doing what we can about it.

There being no further business, and due to the lateness of the hour, the meeting concluded at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER
Secretary