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**Subject:** Minutes of October NHNENC meeting  
**Date:** October 9, 2009 10:04:00 PM PDT  
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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

**BOARD MEMBERS of NHNENC:**

**CALIFORNIA**

**NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTH  
EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Randal Luse – Pres.  
Ben Moore  
Dr. Wung Chang  
Florence Dorick  
Inez T. Morin  
Katie Pelych

Ernie Moscoso – V-Pres.  
J. Eric Freedner–Sec.  
Donald Corton  
Judy Harris-Brice  
Philip Manson  
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**MINUTES of the MONTHLY MEETING of the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**October 8, 2009**

*Strathern Elementary School, 7939 St. Clair Avenue, North Hollywood, CA*

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pres. Randal Luse called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Sec. J. Eric Freedner took roll. Present: Florence Dorick, Mr. Freedner, Randal Luse, Phil Manson, Ben Moore, Inez Morin, Ernie Moscoso and Sarah Ramsawack. (Board member Judy Harris-Brice arrived shortly afterward, and Dr. Wung Chang arrived a few minutes later.)

Mr. Luse administered the NC oath to Mr. Moore.

**APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** Mr. Moore moved to approve the September minutes, Mr. Moscoso seconded (Ms. Harris-Brice arrives) and by a vote of 9- Yes, 0-No, the minutes were approved.

**COMMENTS FROM GOV'T REPRESENTATIVES:** Lara Larramendi of Sen. Alex Padilla's office reported on the status of five pieces of legislation the Senator has put forward.

**FUNDING REQUEST TO REPAIR LIBRARY WINDOWS:** Laura Dwan, Librarian, Valley Plaza Library, announced she's retiring next month. The grounds had been graffiti-free until the street closure. Now window film on 8 windows is marred by graffiti. She requested funding from the City as she had in the past to remove and replace the film, but was told that due to budget limitations, they are no longer doing it. She obtained a promise of \$200 to replace film on the front doors. Asks for \$2,272 or a part thereof from our NC for the windows.

Discussion – isn't library maintenance part of a property tax assessment? – Ms. Dwan said no, that's for County libraries only. What if the new film is again defaced? – it will have to be done again. Isn't the Q-Star camera across the street catching the vandals in the act? No – it's pointed the wrong direction, and the police so far have said it's too expensive to move the camera.

Mr. Luse requested putting this matter on the agenda next month as a possible one-time expenditure. Mr. Freedner noted it was on tonight's agenda but for a \$2,000 limit, but Mr. Luse asked to modify the request to be the \$2,272 requested. Mr. Moore suggested a max limit of \$2,500 in case more windows were defaced in the coming month, and the Board concurred.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**DONATION TO VALLEY INTERFAITH COUNCIL:** The Board discussed the agenda item to donate up to \$5,000 to Valley Interfaith Council. Noted, a similar agenda item for \$1,000 to Valley Rescue Mission also on agenda. Discussion - \$5,000 seemed a large amount, we can spread our money around to other organizations. Perhaps better to donate to an organization that provides employment leads so people can get back on their feet themselves. Mr. Moore moved: To fund the Valley Interfaith Council the sum of \$2,500 and to fund the Valley Rescue Mission the amount of \$2,000. Motion withdrawn by Chair's request. Further discussion: helping provide employment is an interesting point, but it's not before us tonight; explore finding such organizations in the future. L. A. Family Housing shelter is another local charity in need. Mr. Moore moved: that our NC fund Valley Interfaith Council in the amount of \$2,500.00. Second: Ms. Ramsawack.

Mr. Freedner noted the group was asking many NC's for funding, wondered which other NC's have given and how much – no one knows. VOTE: 7 – Yes, 1 – No, 1 – Abstain.

Mr. Moscoso to get grant form from Valley Interfaith Council.

**CHANGING DATE OF MONTHLY MEETINGS:** Mr. Moscoso noted that we've not heard from Barry Stone about his schedule. Board members Ramsawack, Dorick, Moscoso, and Luse indicated they found the second Thursday of the month to interfere with their other plans. Ms. Dorick suggested the first Thursday. But Mr. Freedner thought the third Thursday better, because sometimes the first Thursday would be the first day of a month, generally government announcements aren't received for NC action by then but by the third week of a month, such information would be known. Mr. Moore therefore moved: that the NHNENC move its regular monthly meeting nights to the third Thursday of every month. Second: Ms. Harris-Brice. Clarification by Ms. Ramsawack – applies from January to November, we don't meet in December. Agreed. VOTE: 8 – Yes, 1 – Abstain.

**NC OFFICIAL POSTING LOCATIONS:** (Dr. Chang arrives) Discussion as to where to post our Agendas. Suggestion – Valley Plaza Library. The three schools may not be the best locations, closed weekends and do stakeholders go to them to read notices? Yet, principals seem friendly toward the NC. Mr. Freedner moved: that our official posting locations be changed as follows: from Park Plaza Apartments to Strathern Street School, and from United Nations Soccer League to Arminta Elementary School. Second: Randal Luse. VOTE: 10 – Yes, 0 – No.

Ms. Dorick offers to help post notices at Strathern Street School.

LAPD Officer Vasquez (who just arrived) explained the current police situation outside – someone reported a break-in down the street. Officers responded, apprehended 3 males in back yard. Left crime stat maps. Marijuana dispensary near Fernangeles Park shut down last week. A home invasion robbery was not caught on Q-Star camera because the suspects kept moving, she may try to change setting on camera. Mr. Moore brought up issue of Q-Star beside Valley Plaza Library, she suggested contacting Mario at the company to see if that camera could be moved or repositioned.

**CITY ELECTIONS:** Mr. Freedner put this on the agenda as an accommodation but no representative came. Dropped from agenda.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT:** Ms. Ramsawack finalized plans for the Oct. 24 event. Information table with newsletters, etc. at Food 4 Less. A banner is planned but she preferred we have contact information on it. Perhaps “NHNENC.com” as a website address. Price, not to exceed \$200. Discussion as to not putting a website on the banner until we confirm the site is available to us. Better to leave the banner blank for now, in the future if we have solid information, we can add data. Ms. Ramsawack said the cost to make the banner without the address would be about \$120 and requested funding. But, funding not on our agenda. Committee just met two days ago, she explained; in September 2008 the Board voted \$1,000 for newsletter and that entire sum has not been spent, couldn't we take it from that? Further discussion – that was for a different project, can't make expenditure without public notice. Ms. Ramsawack noted last Saturday such an expenditure was approved for the Child Health & Safety Fair. She also asks reimbursement for \$220 postage for mailing newsletters, plus \$46.20 additional postage and \$29.61 for ink cartridges for labels. Mr. Freedner asked total amount sought for October 24 event, Ms. Ramsawack replied \$300 maximum. Ms. Morin announces resignation as Treasurer, will not process further requests for payments. General surprise. Mr. Moscoso suggests that Mr. Luse study situation and report back on how to get funding for the outreach event and how to reimburse Ms. Ramsawack for the \$295.81 she spent on newsletters.

**BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:** With the resignation of Mr. Henriquez, this committee did not form. Tabled, until next meeting for discussion on formation.

**HOW NEW MATTERS GET ONTO AGENDA:** Mr. Moscoso noted that last month the point was made that Mr. Luse was the one having the power to put things on the agenda. Mr. Luse replied, maybe amend the By-Laws? Mr. Moore had a copy of the standing rules of Silver Lake NC which addressed the matter. Discussion – suggestion that this be taken before the Rules Committee once it was formed. Mr. Moscoso suggested tabling until next meeting and using the same protocol we now use in the meantime.

*Recess – photos taken for use on the NC website..*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ms. Morin spoke to Mr. Acevedo about transferring responsibilities of accounting to Apple-One or Kelly Agency. Treasury balance = \$133,842. As of May 19 all information has been compiled. She resigns as Treasurer but will complete what's still on her desk. Still waiting for Mr. Henriquez to deliver laptop computer to her. Mr. Freedner suggests emailing a backup of the treasury records to him or Mr. Luse, so a backup exists. Items still needed: a letter of gift for Valley Plaza Park, and thank-you letter to DWP for installation of lights. Mr. Freedner suggested polling the Board to see if anyone wanted to step in as Treasurer, rather than just hiring outsiders; someone would need to be Treasurer anyway. Cost for temp help = \$27.39/hour. Usually just 6 hours/quarter, or so Mr. Acevedo told Ms. Morin. Also needed, \$1,000 demand warrant for Child Health & Safety Fair at which we were recognized as a sponsor. Messrs. Freedner and Luse commended Ms. Morin for her efforts in doing a “great job of straightening out the mess” since our former Treasurer left. Discussion as to if and how we “advertise” for a Treasurer. Mr. Moore – might be willing to step in as Interim Treasurer. Mr. Moscoso suggested putting this on the agenda for next month.

**FORMATION OF COMMITTEES:** Messrs. Freedner and Luse both thought that while standing committees could be useful, it doesn't seem a good idea now, in light of the fact that people don't have enough time to do that extra work. Ad hoc committees seem to work well for us. Discussion – if a land use or other similar topic comes up, the full Board can discuss it, and form an ad hoc committee to further investigate it at that time. Mr. Moscoso suggested tabling this matter until next month.

**NEW MISSION STATEMENT:** Ms. Ramsawack noted that while the mission statement of January 2008 was done sincerely, we have since grown as to what we can do, and asked to form a committee to review and see if it meets what we are now doing. Discussion – seems to overly complicate affairs of the NC, old one works well, mission is set forth in By-Laws. Consensus – submit any ideas to Ms. Ramsawack who can then bring them to us next month, along with her own ideas. Tabled.

**NC INVENTORY / STORAGE:** Inventory had been given out to all by Ms. Morin. Ms. Ramsawack noted she has leftovers from '08 National Night Out in her garage and can no longer store them – 4 big containers with lids from Target. Mr. Luse volunteers to store the items at his house. Mr. Freedner adds, the items were not bought as NC property but as Neighborhood Watch property, and not accepted into possession. After Latin Jazz Festival, similar items were discarded or otherwise used by Jamie McDonald-Adlof, who had been storing them.

**FUNDING REQUEST OF VALLEY RESCUE MISSION:** Mr. Moore moved: that the NHNENC purchase food and supplies for the Valley Rescue Mission, North Hollywood, in an amount of *exactly* \$1,000.00. Second: Ms. Dorick. Discussion – would we get public recognition for this gift? Possibly do a news release? VOTE: 8 – Yes, 1 – No.

**FUNDING REQUEST FOR CAMERAS AT ARMINTA SCHOOL:** No one present to speak on the matter, Mr. Moscoso removed the item from the agenda.

**MULTIPLE SPEAKER REQUESTS:** Mr. Moore recommended we hand this to the By-Laws and Rules Committee. Mr. Moscoso added, our Agenda clearly states three minutes' speaking time per speaker, regardless of how many organizations he or she claims to represent.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Dr. Chang – notes that we have another empty Board seat with Mr. Henriquez's resignation. Mr. Moscoso suggests we announce those vacancies.

Mr. Manson – needs the Board to select the website tagline. Offers 13 choices, Ms. Dorick, Ms. Ramsawack, and Mr. Freedner had replied to his prior email and added a few ideas of their own. Discussion, “straw poll” in which one person chose #5 (“NOHO North East – The Power of Communication”); seven liked #10 (“Dedicated To Serving The Community” – submitted by Ms. Ramsawack); and one for #11 (“Your Neighborhood – Your Government” – submitted by Mr. Freedner).

Mr. Moore – has information from Ms. Morin regarding bus stops – put up for free, maybe pursue the idea if an intersection in our area needs one. Email him with suggestions.

Mr. Freedner – dismayed to learn that City Councilman Koretz has stated that hiring 10,000 police officers is a “pipe dream” and not needed, after the DWP trash fee hike was implemented with the specific promise that revenue garnered from it would be used to hire 10,000 new officers. Only 38 cadets now graduating the Academy.

Mr. Moscoso – free foreclosure prevention clinic, Oct. 10, in Chatsworth. And thanks the Board for all coming and keeping to time limits tonight.

Ms. Dorick – Ken Craft is doing a fantastic job at the Valley Rescue Mission, providing English classes and trying to find people jobs. They could also use volunteers on Thanksgiving or donations, even clothing.

Ms. Ramsawack – need to confirm Starthern St. School is available for 11 months of our meetings, they weren't prepared for us tonight. Needs volunteers for Oct. 24 event (Messrs. Moore and Luse volunteer). Also, will attend the Congress of Neighborhood Councils downtown this Saturday. Congratulates Mr. Moore on taking and completing his ethics training. Also plans to attend the Mayor's Budget Day conference with Ms. Dorick, asks for a November agenda item so she can report back on it, and any Board input for this event. Mr. Freedner suggests – allowing the DWP to retain the rateholders' payments, rather than turning over a portion to the City as is customary, so that the DWP can make necessary and overdue repairs to its infrastructure without raising people's rate. Also, Ms. Ramsawack would like to form a Study Group to learn more about the Brown Act.

Mr. Luse – people on the Board have various ideas, respect others' opinions. Don't let it turn into hard feelings but maintain a certain amount of civility. We lost Al Henriquez because he got frustrated. We should be a bit thick-skinned amid all this – mellow a little in presentations but do the business we're supposed to. We can work together and get the job done. And, he thanked Mr. Moore for volunteering to serve as Treasurer.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Moore moved to adjourn; Ms. Ramsawack seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 9 – 0, the meeting concluding at 10:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER  
Secretary