

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

**NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTH  
EAST NEIGHBORHOOD  
COUNCIL**

BOARD MEMBERS of NHNENC:

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

Ernie Moscoso – V-Pres.  
J. Eric Freedner–Sec.  
Donald Corton  
Judy Harris-Brice  
Philip Manson  
Sarah Ramsawack



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## MINUTES of the MONTHLY MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 19, 2009

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pres. Randal Luse called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM. Mr. Freedner noted that Board Members Chang, Dorick, Freedner, Harris-Brice, Luse, Manson, Moore, Pelych and Ramsawack, in attendance at the Special Meeting, remained present such that a quorum was established.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Moore moved to approve the October monthly meeting minutes. Mr. Manson seconded. VOTE: 9 – Yes, 0 – No.

**COMMENTS FROM GOV'T REPRESENTATIVES:** Eric Menjivar of Council 2 Office said Parks & Rec has provided funds for the walking path at Valley Plaza Park. The synthetic soccer field is almost complete and it's expected the grand opening will be in December. The City is replacing street lights with LED lights which will reduce annual lighting cost. He hopes for a large electoral turnout for the CD2 elections next month. Discussion as to future plans for Valley Plaza shopping center and how changing lights can increase revenue to city. Mr. Freedner asked for any update as to DWP's demand for \$120 monthly to maintain 6 light poles in the proposed Park, and Mr. Menjivar replied that they are trying to get Parks & Rec to take up that cost. Stakeholder Gary Hendrickson asked, how effective are Q-Star cameras? – has anyone been caught by their use? Mr. Menjivar replied they are working and Ms. Harris-Brice said that Officer Ahedo told her some taggers had been caught.

Lara Garamendi of Sen. Padillas' office invited all to his 12/1 Holiday Party in Van Nuys.

Ms. Ramsawack – read report by Officer Vasquez – burglary suspects caught and those types of crimes are down. Be wary of thefts from motor vehicles.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ken Craft of Valley Rescue Mission – distributed brochures about his program, plans to feed 1,500 at Thanksgiving, also Christmas meals and toy giveaway planned.

Karl Kunak – please get copies of grants needed to provide \$1,000 assistance, and other expenditures, let the public know how to download or obtain them.

John Horn of L. A. Family Housing Valley Shelter – met with Ms. Dorick in Sept., requests funding for a “community resource desk” at the shelter cafeteria, asking for \$15,000 and hands out itemized budget. The NC is requested to fund all or part of this.

Monica Flores of Arminta Elem. School – thanks for the 2 cameras and hopes we can fund 3 more, requesting \$4,893.16.

Christopher Clark, Arminta School Principal – corrects request, \$4,893.16 is for two cameras, that’s all they need. Spent \$21,000 for projectors and other classroom improvements. No break-ins over past 2 years due to cameras but is worried that thefts might occur; insurance doesn’t cover losses under \$500,000 per event.

ADVERTISING IN HOLY ROSARY CHURCH NEWSLETTER: Debby Barry of J. S. Paluch Co. spoke of the newsletter handed to about 2,800 people attending Church. There is little completion, it’s seen and read every week, Churchgoers are community-minded people, and people could go to our website to learn more about the NC. She terms is a good advertising deal at \$2,300 per year. Yearly ad subscription required, but the ad content can be changed 4 times a year. Mr. Kunak asked, can the ad be cancelled at any time, Ms. Barry replied, no, commitment is for a year. Payments may be made by the *month*, but it’s less costly for a 12-month agreement.

Mr. Freedner – read Mr. Stone’s email regarding City Clerk’s opinion as to advertising in a “church publication” – OK, but suggestion that the NC also advertise in newsletters of other religious institutions in our area. Board discussion – no others known, at least not with publications, perhaps we could contact churches and see if we could just leave some of our newsletters there for worshippers to take.

Mr. Freedner – suggests adding a disclaimer such as “Not affiliated with any religious organization” to the ad; general agreement.

Motion by Mr. Manson: That the NHNENC fund publishing an ad in “Our Lady of Holy Rosary Church Bulletin” for 52 weeks for a 6-space ad, for the cost of \$2,371.20.  
Second: Mr. Moore. Agreement that Mr. Manson should be the contact person for any changes to the ad content during the year. VOTE: 7 – Yes 0 – No (Ms. Pelych and Ms. Harris-Brice having left the meeting)

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT: Ms. Ramsawack had sent a report to Board members by email. The Food 4 Less event was very good, they handed out almost 300 newsletters and brochures, got names and addresses of about 47 people interested in the NC. Hoped some of those would attend tonight’s meeting; need to plan ahead for a spring event, train volunteers on what to say to people. The banner cost \$120.73, brochures were \$84.71, her total expenditures came in, under budget, at \$207.69.

Mr. Freedner moved: that the NHNENC reimburse Ms. Ramsawack the sum of \$207.69 for expenses related to the October 24 Food 4 Less Outreach Event. Second: Mr. Luse. VOTE: 7 – Yes, 0 – No. Mr. Freedner also asked the Board to give a round of applause to Ms. Ramsawack for her efforts. Dr. Chang added, he really learned a lot at this event.

TREASURER/BUDGET REVISIONS: Mr. Luse suggested the Board take up the matter of filling the Treasurer position tonight and delay discussion on the budget. Ms. Ramsawack moved: that we elect Ben Moore as Treasurer. Second: Ms. Dorick. VOTE: 6 – Yes, 1 – Abstain.

REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FOR NEWSLETTER EXPENSES: Mr. Manson moved: that the NC reimburse Ms. Ramsawack the sum of \$295.81 for postage and supplies for the NC newsletters. Second: Dr. Chang. Discussion – should this be coupled with the prior reimbursement request to Ms. Ramsawack for similar event? Submit one or two requests to Funding? Mr. Moore said he'd ask about it. VOTE: 7 – Yes, 0 - No.

MISSION STATEMENT: Ms. Ramsawack asks if the Board could appoint an ad hoc committee to review and present a revised Mission Statement. General discussion, perhaps members could just submit suggestions to her and she could report back in January. No one has given her any suggestions yet. Mr. Luse read the current Mission Statement, there was general feeling that it would suffice for election purposes but we'd certainly welcome any new suggestions or wordings that Ms. Ramsawack might bring.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONGRESS and BUDGET DAY MEETINGS: Ms. Ramsawack email a detailed report to the Board and left her 3-page report for stakeholders. Regarding the trash fee, the Mayor brought up this subject on his own, residents pay about 30% of the cost, with the City paying the remaining 70%. The police force has increased to 9,982 officers. The state is withholding money due the City.

Mr. Kunak – termed the trash fee “illegal” since it's funded by *residents of homes and small units* but providing service to all people in the City. No trash fee is applied for apartments over 4 units.

ARMINTA SCHOOL CAMERA FUNDING REQUEST: Mr. Kunak - Amount sought is \$4,893.16, for 2 cameras, not 3. NC money was locked up when David Hernandez made a motion in 2007 approving up to \$5,000 for cameras. \$2,567.69 was spent, leaving a bit over \$2,000.00 yet to spend. Board discussion – Mr. Freedner believed excess funds from 2 fiscal years back were no longer available for spending now, old funding cut off every July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Moore concurred, thinking a “fresh funding request” now, promises to inquire and report back to us. Board generally receptive to idea of funding at least part of the money requested, Mr. Luse finally suggested tabling to January 2010 for our action, also noting that we would not pay for maintenance fees or to move cameras around, etc.

LIGHTING AT VALLEY PLAZA PARK: Ms. Ramsawack termed the \$100-plus monthly charge proposed by the DWP a “commitment into perpetuity” that we are not allowed to consent to. Mr. Manson suggested tabling this matter until we learn more information about it, such as whether Parks & Rec. will fund it.

ELECTIONS: Ms. Ramsawack reported that she and Ms. Dorick attended a meeting with Mike O’Gara at SVANC – hoped for a full-page ad in the Daily News at \$4,500. Among 9 NC’s, or 10, in “Section B,” the cost to us would not exceed \$1,000 and the Outreach Committee suggested that we contribute such a sum to this effort. We would receive equal say in commenting on the ad design. Asks for an Agenda item, “not to exceed \$1,000” for this. As some answer is needed by December, she asks that we

conduct a “straw poll” tonight as to our interest. Mr. Freedner – 3 different ads? – For candidacy, write-ins, and then the election day? Ms. Ramsawack – ad would only promote the election day in March. Mr. Luse asked the Board’s opinion only as to participating: 6 – Yes, 1 – No.

Mr. Kunak – noted that in the past SVANC tried half and full-page ads in the Daily News – seemingly not real effective, a flyer in the paper might have more impact.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Manson – apologizes/explains he became frustrated at Monday’s special meeting.

Mr. Luse – replies that it was he who made the bad decision not to put the website hosting onto the Agenda.

Dr. Chang – only he of the whole NC attended last Tuesday night’s community meeting regarding the new school on Saticoy Street, perhaps 2 or 3 NC members should attend such events.

ADJOURNMENT:

Due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Moore moved to adjourn. Second: Mr. Freedner.  
VOTE: Passes unanimously, the meeting ending at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER  
Secretary