

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



BOARD MEMBERS of NHNENC:

Benjamin Moore – Treas.
Wung Chang
Florence Dorick
Inez T. Morin
Katie Pelych
Sarah Ramsawack

Ernie Moscoso – Acting
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**

Thursday, February 18, 2010

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

CALL TO ORDER: Pres. Ernie Moscoso called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. He noted that only 6 Board members were present (Members Dorick, Freedner, Manson, Moore, himself and Ramsawack), such that a quorum was not present. However, Dr. Chang arrived shortly afterward and thereafter, Ms. Morin, such that a quorum was then established.

COMMENTS FROM GOV'T REPRESENTATIVES: Eric Menjivar, Field Deputy for Councilman Krekorian – policy website gives news of Committee and Council work at www.CD2Policy.wordpress. Also he sends out weekly newsletters, invites NC members to subscribe. Met with Rec. & Parks re Valley Plaza Nature Center – with money saved on Whitsett synthetic soccer field, he hopes to purchase solar lighting for the walking path. (Dr. Chang arrives)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Sheldon Walter – rapid transit projects may put hundreds of thousands of people to work. Metro Red Line extension to Bob Hope Airport. Need to create public jobs during these hard times. Handed out memo to all Board members.

Sarah Ramsawack – read report of LAPD Officer Ahedo – gang shooting on Vanowen St. last weekend.

Irene Harris & Mike Gaffney – represent American Cancer Society, announce Relay for Life in the East Valley Area. Seeking community involvement in the 24 hour track event, May 22-23 at Walter Reed School, hoping to raise \$50,000 this year. Seek teams from NC's and others.

Karl Kunak – thanks LAPD Officer Vasquez for her work at Holy Rosary Church, ridding area of illegal vendors. Also, as of this year, drivers need to swerve around emergency vehicles stopped on side of roads or risk a fine. Rev. Kraft of Valley Rescue Mission couldn't be here but on 4/4 will hold art sale, proceeds to go toward building for homeless to sleep. Thanks NC for our \$1,000 donation.

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Mr. Manson moved to approve January's minutes; Ms. Ramsawack seconded; passes unanimously (7 – 0).

TREASURER'S REPORT/BUDGET REVISIONS: Mr. Moore handed out monthly report. Petty cash now eliminated in response to Controller's audit findings. Need full documentation for all expenditures. Moore Business Systems has been paid. Some items still need backup documentation, asks Board to assist with those. Also showed Board the new Demand Warrant form with checklist, suggests we make advance preparations so vendors know what to submit to us. Wants to make sure funding goes as quickly as possible.

A little over \$110,000 remains in our budget, BUT there is uncertainty, some or all can be seized by the City at the end of this fiscal year. NC budgets for next year "still up in the air," has heard anything from \$12,500 to \$45,000. DONE lost most of its accounting staff, Barry Stone is now also processing our demand warrants.

Ms. Dorick asked, do we only have \$16,000 left to spend then? Mr. Moore replied we can spend up to \$110,000 if done by June 30. Discussion as to whether we should modify our current budget to provide a line item for refreshments at monthly meetings. Ms. Ramsawack noted tonight's pizza and coffee cost \$56.60, as a rough estimate, about \$70 per meeting night times 12 months (Mr. Freedner corrected to 11, if we don't meet in Dec.). Moves that we have a "refreshment budget" of \$1,000 annually for regular monthly meetings. Mr. Freedner noted Line 107 in our current budget is for operating expenses and presumably would include that. Second: Ms. Dorick. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

REMOTE CALL FORWARDING: Mr. Moscoso recently learned that "Magic Jack" would cost only \$40. (Ms. Morin arrives) Ms. Ramsawack – DONE won't pay for it, only AT&T or Verizon service. Mr. Moscoso suggested we could buy it and he'll be responsible for relaying messages. Mr. Freedner asked, who pays its monthly billing? – to which Mr. Moscoso explained, it's off the internet, no monthly charges, and may be \$20/year after the first year. Suggests putting this item back onto next month's agenda, with a purchase cost not to exceed \$50.

FUNDING REQUEST OF EAST VALLEY BASEBALL: Frank Miceli gave the background of the league – turned dilapidated field into baseball park – wants to develop rear lot into several more ball fields. Last year sent a team to Cooperstown, NY for a "pay to play" tournament. Over 700 kids play at his park, he wants to raise money to take 15 players and 5 coaches east this year. Cost: \$745 per player, guaranteed to pay 7 games. (website = Cooperstowndreampark.com) Including airfare, it would cost \$33,000 to get 21 people there. (Dr. Chang leaves) Parents and kids plan fundraising on their own, but it won't be enough. It comes to \$2,200 per player - asks NC sponsorship of a child or other means – banner at the park, etc.

Mr. Freedner -- NC is not permitted to fund kids' travel as far as he knows. Similar plans and requests have come before the Board various times in the past – scholarships for 1 student in our NC area, baseball uniforms for a league, limousine service to prom for Poly Hi students. All turned down by DONE or by the Board. Problem is that such a plan favors just one or a few individuals, may not even be our stakeholders.

Ms. Dorick suggested buying equipment for all the boys, then Mr. Miceli could take travel expenses out from his current equipment budget. Mr. Freedner asked if the City Council might want to partner with us or offer assistance. Mr. Miceli replied that he met with Mr. Cardenas recently to discuss building bathroom/snack room/community room in the park, he has already run a sewer line off Whitsett onto the park property for this purpose. Hence, the City is already involved in that aspect of the baseball league.

Mr. Moore – agreed with Mr. Freedner’s reasoning about sponsoring just one or two children but we could sponsor the league as a whole. Discussion as to purchasing one or more banners to display at the ball park.

Ms. Ramsawack moved: In support of the East Valley Baseball League, that the NC make a donation for the Cooperstown trip in the amount of \$2,200. Discussion – Mr. Moore, we need to clarify what our money goes for; can’t donate for the trip. Mr. Moscoso: Instead of preceding motion, moves as follows: that the NC grant \$2,200.00 to East Valley Baseball League to fund players’ equipment. Second: Mr. Moore. Members Dorick and Morin – suggest a higher amount, \$4,400. Mr. Freedner objected, no monetary amount at all included on tonight’s agenda. Further discussion; Mr. Miceli said funding needed by July 23 but needs to make a \$1,000 deposit beforehand. Mr. Freedner suggested putting this over to next month, in the meantime, Mr. Miceli to submit a formal budget, letter, or grant application. Mr. Moscoso so directed, with the agenda item to specify a \$4,400 grant.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT: Ms. Ramsawack reported -- committee met on 2/9, recommendations as follows:

That the Secretary write a letter to Foothill LA Police Department, 12763 Osborne St., Pacoima, attention Capt. Hiltner, requesting a new substation be placed at the proposed shopping center at Lankershim Blvd. and Strathern St.

Also, the Secretary send a letter to Controller Wendy Greuel, inviting her to address our next meeting regarding her recent findings on expenditures and accounting.

She showed the proposed Academy mailer to the Board for approval.

Responding to a question by Mr. Moscoso, Ms. Ramsawack said Ms. Morin, Mr. Moore, Ms. Dorick and herself were in attendance at the committee meeting.

Also Ms. Ramsawack gave the Board various promo items bought in 2007, they have incorrect phone numbers for the NC on them. Should she remove the numbers and offer them to the public at the spring information event? (Mr. Moscoso said yes, if she could mark them out.)

Regarding the Daily News elections ad, she just heard from Mike O’Gara that Panorama City NC came in, we can now join in and advertise for less than \$1,000. She would like to revise the spending request to \$999. Mr. Moscoso noted that this can be taken from Line 201 of the budget for elections expenses.

Ms. Ramsawack noted the North Valley Reporter had printed the wrong phone number for our NC in December, and she handwrote in the correct number on every issue she distributed. Asked Cindy Cleghorn to insert her phone number as a contact in the March issue.

Mr. Moore – the flyer doesn’t mention our website address; also we don’t get \$50,000 annually to spend. Ms. Ramsawack to correct those items.

Mr. Freedner – objects to writing to Capt. Hiltner, we cannot force or influence the police to move into the shopping center nor the developer to accept such a deal; unless the LAPD has on its own already begun such discussions with the developer, in which event we could offer a

letter of support. Mr. Kunak: suggests contacting Jay Kim, zoning administrator, case # CEC-2008-4744-GPA-ZC or envelope # 2008-4745. But Mr. Freedner thought that, too, would be “influence.” Mr. Moscoso – as a Board, we must speak about such things, do we even want to authorize such a letter? Let’s discuss in open forum, get votes to do it. Probably, we’d love to see a new substation, feels we’re under-served by the LAPD.

Ms. Ramsawack offers to call Capt. Hiltner and speak about this to him, and report back. And Mr. Moscoso said that if he seems positive about it, we could then discuss it as an agenda item.

SUN VALLEY WATERSHED FLOOD MAPS: Mr. Moscoso said that affected homeowners must buy flood insurance, the mortgage companies will require it. Mr. Freedner explained that FEMA has designated parts of Sun Valley and North Hollywood as flood zones. But the map is incorrect in several particulars, including the flow of floodwaters along Tujunga Avenue. He has written letters of protest to City Council and the City Engineer. It’s likely most of the people in the flood zone aren’t even aware of these proceedings and the new costs and liabilities on their properties.

Mr. Kunak said that the last FEMA meeting was “rained out” but that there is only a small trickle of water flowing along northerly Tujunga Avenue. By the time the waters reach Strathern St., it’s a flood with lots of dirt and stones. This all comes from Penrose Landfill, whose owners never paid a penny to clean up. Properties around Strathern have walls around them to protect them. Water level used to rise to fire-hydrant height but now only to the top of curb; L.A. By-Products should be held accountable for it.

Mr. Moscoso suggested carrying this item over to next month’s agenda and Mr. Freedner agreed that he’d continue investigating this matter, perhaps it could be noted on the NC website. Mr. Moore asked to get copies of the relevant documents and maps and he might also be able to help.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Morin – needs more business cards, also Mr. Moore needs a name plaque.

Mr. Moscoso – will poll Board members a few days before meetings to make sure a quorum can attend.

Mr. Moore – funding very uncertain, perhaps we should invest in expenditures now that could save us money in the future; maybe invest in a small copier machine and paper? Also, website has email feature, but who gets the messages? Mr. Manson said he’ll look into that.

Mr. Freedner – City claims big economic troubles, yet last Saturday and Sunday, at 8 AM, he was awakened by jackhammers from Bureau of Street Lighting workers putting in new street light poles near his house. That’s not emergency work, but the workers are most likely getting time-and-a-half and double-time union pay. City employees should work only their regular hours to save on payroll costs. He noted the City and school district are promoting new parcel taxes to cover funding gaps. And predicted that in the near future, the Business Tax Exemption for small businesses will be wiped out. The City has begun busting illegal marijuana dispensaries for not properly labeling the drug.

Ms. Dorick – go to Floodsmart.gov , type in property address and see if it's at risk. During last storm, some of her roof shingles were damaged, she filed an insurance claim and only then learned she had a \$250 deductible that wasn't there years ago when she first bought the policy.

Ms. Ramsawack – asked Randy Luse, who was in attendance, to contact Jeff Brooks to collect all the NC awards he took that are rightfully ours. (Mr. Luse shook his head, he has no way to contact Jeff either anymore.) LAPD Project Jeopardy dinner at Bob's Big Boy in Sun Valley on Wed., 2/24, proceeds help youth at risk. Also, she learned that she can have a by-line in the North Valley Reporter to report on our NC and the Strathern Neighborhood Watch. Valley Alliance of NC's – uptight about budget restrictions. And, her Neighborhood Watch group is starting a CERT program, 20 people have signed up so far and there is room for more, invites Board members to sign up too.

ADJOURNMENT: No quorum at this point, but Mr. Moscoso invited Mr. Luse to adjourn the meeting, which he did by motion; second by Ms. Dorick; passes unanimously, the meeting ending at 9:40 p.m. Mr. Luse thanked all for their time and efforts over the past 7 years, “an exciting and important journey.”

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER
Secretary