

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 – 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, March 19, 2010

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

CALL TO ORDER: Pres. Ernie Moscoso called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Sec. J. Eric Freedner took roll. Present were: Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, Phil Manson, Ben Moore, Inez Morin, Ernie Moscoso and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum (Judy Harris-Brice and Dr. Wung Chang arrived later in the evening).

APPROVAL OF MINTUES: Mr. Moore moved to accept last month's minutes, Mr. Manson seconded and the Board approved by a 7-Yes 0-No vote.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND GOV'T REPRESENTATIVES: J. J. Straight, representing SEIU Local 721, addressed the Board on behalf of 20,000 City employees. The union has serious concerns about what's going on with the city. She suggested alternatives to what Mayor Villaraigosa proposes, and supports NC funding. The City could save money by bringing \$2.5 billion of private contracts in-house. Some \$440 million is outstanding in debt, the City should collect that. For the past 27 months the union has offered \$27 billion in concessions, but haven't seen the City implement them. Fears half of Parks employees will be gone, 60% of library staff, 20% cuts in street services. Asks NC's to sign on with them. Possibility of early retirements rather than layoffs. Stakeholder Gary Hendrickson asks if Redevelopment Agency workers are in this union representation because this group is not cutting back but expanding. Ms. Straight replied that some Redevelopment employees are in the union.

Ms. Ramsawack suggested that all union workers take a 10% pay cut to help out.

LAPD Officer Esther Vasquez reported on crime issues, particularly a rise in burglaries. As to a police substation, its biggest problem would be staffing. (Ms. Harris-Brice arrives.)

Council rep. Eric Menjivar announced he'll be working with the Valley Glen area, Joaquin Macias to replace him in our area. Councilman Krekorian has a weekly newsletter for all interested persons, CD2Policy@wordpress.com which is also a live blogging site. Work on the nature center continues. Responding to a question by Ms. Ramsawack about solar lights, Mr. Menjivar said they plan to go before the Rec & Parks Commission in April or May for an agenda item about the lighting. Perhaps Prop K next year can finance improvements.

Art Artinian and John Basteghian spoke to the Board about Mr. Basteghian's second-hand merchandise store on Laurel Canyon Blvd. He wants Acme Second Hand at 7443 Laurel Canyon Blvd. to become a licensed pawn shop, House of Pawn. He has gone through the planning commission and asks our support.

Mr. Freedner noted there is another pawnshop currently at Laurel Canyon and Saticoy just up the street and suspects that the city may consider them a "blight" in the neighborhood. Mr. Artinian, representing CLASDA, pawnbrokers' association, agreed that this was a valid concern by the City. Less than 1% of pawned products turn out to be stolen, thieves won't give fingerprints or ID to the honest pawnbrokers who demand that. Competition among stores does help and Mr. Basteghian will offer better service to our community.

Ms. Ramsawack reported going to the other pawn shop this past week, it was the first time she'd been in one, and was distressed by the bullet-proof glass and dirty floors. Mr. Basteghian's shop was much nicer. Mr. Moore added that it serves no purpose to keep an empty storefront when entrepreneurs want to make good use of the business space.

Mr. Basteghian said that they had appeared at a hearing in Van Nuys, and only a representative of Councilman Cardenas spoke in opposition to it. To which Mr. Freedner asked why wasn't our NC invited or even told about this? Mr. Basteghian replied that they had tried to contact Randal Luse on March 10 to attend the hearing. Letters had been sent to all residents within a 500' radius of the store. It has been approved by the Planning Commission. Mr. Freedner asked if he also intended to pawn cars, and Mr. Basteghian replied no, not yet anyway, maybe several years down the line. Ms. Ramsawack added that our NC had no advance notice of the hearing, someone from Cardenas' office called her on Monday and made a comment that there had been "no response from the NC." The Board expressed dismay at not having been notified of the proceedings until after-the-fact. Nevertheless, Mr. Moscoso directed the Secretary to draft a letter from us to the Councilman Cárdenas, indicating that we are **not** opposed to the opening of the pawnshop, with a copy to be sent to Mr. Basteghian.

Karl Kunak announced a dinner auction put on by the Valley Rescue Mission on 3/20 at Granada Hills Presbyterian Church to raise money. And all should take a North Valley Reporter.

Sheldon Walter noted that Mayor Villaraigosa's in Washington getting millions for the "Subway to the Sea," and hopes it won't be flooded by the Pacific Ocean. Los Angeles is the largest city in the world without a decent transit system.

PURCHASE OF MAGIC JACK TELEPHONE: Mr. Moscoso has purchased the device and the phone number is working now. It's on a trial-period basis. Asks for funding. Motion by Mr. Moore: That the NHNENC fund, out of Line 105, "office equipment:" of our budget, up to \$48.00 to pay for the Magic Jack. Second: Ms. Harris-Brice. VOTE: 8 – Yes, 0 – No.

EAST VALLEY BASEBALL: Mr. Micelli not present. No report had been received. Mr. Freedner thought it was sent to the post office box. Further question now that funding cuts have taken place. Tabled to next month.

POLICE SUBSTATION: Ms. Ramsawack reported that Russ Milhoan of Archer's Towing met with Sgt. Edgar and offered part of his facility. She also spoke with the developers, attorney and owner of the property at Lankershim Blvd. and Strathern St., and all are in agreement that

a substation could be operated there. Just waiting decision of Capt. Hiltner, which may be forthcoming in a few days. She also went before the Planning Commission on 3/4 and spoke in favor of it. Surprisingly, Councilman Cardenas' representative there said, "No one wants a substation in this area."

The Board was puzzled by this comment. Mr. Moore – suggests writing a letter stating our NC position. Mr. Freedner had concerns about "dictating" how a developer might use his property, or putting conditions upon it. Mr. Moscoso suggested just sending a copy of these Minutes, with a showing of approval for the police substation. To which Ms. Ramsawack called for a 'show of stakeholders' hands in support of the idea."

Everyone present raised their hands in approval! Ms. Ramsawack also promised to garner 1,000 signatures from our NC area on a petition, also supporting the substation.

SUN VALLEY FLOOD ZONE PROJECT: Mr. Freedner reported that at the SVANC Board Meeting last week, the City and County representatives were present and spoke to the group. He was then invited to speak for some time before them as well. As a result of his protest, receipt of which was acknowledged by the City, the City Engineer plans to review and revise the flood map. There will be another public hearing and the process extended for 270 days. Meanwhile, he checked with his insurer, and the special flood policy will cost \$350 additional per year, and a survey was about \$800. Mr. Kunak asked if the flood insurance requirement was not something that would kick in after a present owner sold his house and Mr. Freedner replied no, once the current mortgage holder learns of it, they will probably require the flood policy and at that time, the insurance rating would have changed such that the premium would become higher.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Moore said most of our outstanding expenditures have been submitted to DONE, a BTRC number is needed for one warrant. Also, proof of our participation at the Child Health & Safety Fair. Mr. Freedner offered to send him photos taken on the event, with our Board members present. He calculates we've spent \$30,551.06. The big question is how much remains. It's all uncertain at present. Even the \$45,000 funding for fiscal year 2010-11 is not certain. The best he can estimate tonight is that \$14,439.94 remains in our budget. We seem to have lost between \$80,000 and \$90,000 as a result of the City's seizure of "rollover funds."

Mr. Freedner suggested that, lest we promise something we cannot deliver, for any funding we choose to make before the situation becomes clarified, the Board add a disclaimer: "contingent upon our having funds to so spend." General agreement by the Board.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT: Ms. Ramsawack reports meeting on 3/1, 4 persons were present. She received 800 copies of the North Valley Reporter and has distributed 500; 300 copies remain and those must be taken to specified drop-off points within the next few days. Mr. Basteghian volunteered to place some at his car wash. Messrs. Moscoso and Kunak also took stacks of papers to distribute in their areas. As to the spring information table at Food 4 Less, Ms. Ramsawack suggested T-shirts with the NC logo on the front, in full color. The shirts cost \$5.05 each from Staples, she will get back to the Board about the cost of printing the color logo. The event will be on Saturday, May 8. She also requests another newsletter for our NC and will have more information and pricing on that in April.

CANDIDATE FORUM: Messrs. Moore and Moscoso both addressed the Board. Mr. Moore – willing to be Treasurer during these hard times. Mr. Moscoso – on the Board for 7 years and “moving up by attrition.”

BAORD MWEEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Ramsawack – happy with stakeholders’ attendance tonight, encourages more input. Someone must take over coffee and pizza service. Suggests stakeholder join outreach committee. Important too that we have a land-use committee.

Ms. Dorick – mission art show lists 1,100 pieces going up for auction Saturday.

Mr. Moore – requests copy of sign-in sheet, reimbursement needed for pizza which is a good addition to our meetings; also if he gets updates on budget and financial matters, he’ll email that to the Board and any stakeholders who also specifically request it.

Mr. Manson – website contains Agendas, Minutes, and Committee Activities, look at it and get good information about our neighborhood. Usage increased 50% between Feb. and March.

Mr. Freedner – gave out two coupons for office supplies from Office Depot.

Mr. Moscoso – March 23 election at L.A. Family Housing Building. Make sure you vote, also people ask him questions online, such as ex-Treasurer had historical items and some are missing now. But, better to “let sleeping dogs lie.” How important is it to dig up the past? He does not plan on visiting or strong-arming Mr. Brooks. Don’t let this take away from what we are now doing on the Council.

Ms. Ramsawack noted she’d gone to Park Plaza to look for any missing items, they made a thorough search but found nothing. Suggests sending a letter to Mr. Brooks at his last-known address asking for the plaques and certificates. Mr. Freedner replied that he’d been advised by the City not to do that, nor visit, it might be part of the restitution deal between the City Attorney and Mr. Brooks, but in any event, he had previously emailed Jeff about the lost items and gotten no response. Some of these old awards are for things the NC doesn’t even sponsor these days. Outreach purposes are better served if the NC just gathered letters of thanks from the events we’ve funded and supported during the past two years. Mr. Manson wondered if we shouldn’t contact the City Attorney to ask them to intervene for returning any improperly-retained items. Ms. Ramsawack suggested that the NC have a custodian of historical items so that this sort of thing doesn’t happen again. And Mr. Moscoso replied that we “are at the sunset of this Board, let’s talk about it when a new Board comes in.”

Dr. Chang – explains his car was stolen yesterday, he had a friend bring him to the meeting tonight. The Board wishes him all the best in its speedy recovery.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to transact, and having reached the hour at which we needed to leave, Ms. Ramsawack moved to adjourn, Mr. Freedner seconded and by unanimous vote, the meeting ended at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER, Secretary