

**BOARD MEMBERS OF
NHNENC:**

Ernie Moscoso--President
John Basteghian--Vice President
Ben Moore---Treasurer

Dr. Wung Chang Chuck Loring
Florence Dorick Inez T. Morin
Judy Harris Sarah Ramsawack



**NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTH
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COUNCIL**

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NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTH EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Regular Board Meeting

With Special Meeting from LADWP, Dr. Fred Pickel, RATEPAYER ADVOCATE 6pm to 7pm

Thursday, September 20, 2012 from 7:00pm to 9:30pm
LOS ANGELES FIRE STATION 89 COMMUNITY ROOM
7063 Laurel Canyon, North Hollywood, Ca 91605

President Moscoso introduced Dr. Fred Pickel, the Ratepayer Advocate to the community that had gathered to hear about the proposed rate increases from the LADWP. Dr. Pickel began his study of the challenges on February 12, 2012, and has gone out into many community meetings to explain the reasons for the upcoming rate increases. He is independent of the LADWP and works out of the Office of Public Accountability (OPA).¹ He has been able to access and review the LADWP records and statistics to develop much of his data, and then he makes his recommendations to both the LADWP and to the public.

Dr. Pickel referred us to KPMG, which is the audit firm for the LADWP funds. KPMG is one of the largest professional services companies in the world.² He encouraged us to learn about KPMG online. Recommendations that were accepted by the LADWP is to defer the water rate increases until mid 2013, and another recommendation was for a shorter period of the power increase from five (5) years down to two (2) years. Dr. Pickel explained how the approval system works. His report goes to the Los Angeles City Council, to the Energy and Environment Committee for a vote on September 25, 2012, to the Mayor, with the possible effective date of electric power increases as early as November 2012.

Dr. Pickel touched on the history of the power system that was established in 1911, and had its second rate increase in July 2013. Today, the power increases are 70% driven by state and federal mandates and must be completed by certain dates to avoid the expenditure of thousands, or millions of dollars in fees and fines for non-compliance. Presently the City of Los Angeles gets about 40% of its electric power from two different coal plants. Leases on these two plants will expire and by state mandate cannot be renewed, thus there is great employment opportunity in the further development of and expansion of the wind turbines, the solar panels in

¹ We can learn about the OPA by going to www.lacity.org & in the Search Field on left column, type in Ratepayer Advocate Report and press enter. You will find four information fields.

² KPMG was established in 1870 with headquarters located in The Netherlands per Wikipedia.

the desert and developing geothermal power. One of our current coal plants is the Navajo Generating Station³, located near the Grand Canyon National Park, and has a Los Angeles lease expiring in about 2014. The other lease is from Intermountain Power Plant and is owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles, and is near Delta Utah.⁴ to expire about 2020.

The Regular Board Meeting began at 7:10PM with President Moscoso leading in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States. There was no roll call due to the lack of quorum.

SLO Officer Esther Vasquez presented the latest LAPD crime reports for our area. She spoke about the new Captain Sean Malinowski to take charge at the Foothill Station. Capt. Malinowski originated the practice of Predictive Policing and will bring the practice back to Foothill. He will be welcomed to the community at a breakfast at 8am in the Bob's Big Boy Restaurant on Sunland Boulevard on Tuesday, September 25, 2012.

Officer Vasquez thanked the Neighborhood Council for their donations to the special lockers for the officers at the Foothill Station.

At 7:25pm, President Moscoso called the meeting to order. There was no roll call. Those Board Members seated at the table were Ernie Moscoso, Ben Moore, Florence Dorick, Judy Harris, Inez T. Morin, Chuck Loring, and Sarah Ramsawack. Dr. Chang arrived after 8pm. John Basteghian was absent.

Item #5 on agenda **COMMENTS FROM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Jackie Keene from office of CD#2, Paul Krekorian spoke about the deadline for a grant of \$5,000 for Beautification.

Sulma Hernandez from office of CD#6, Tony Cardenas spoke about the upcoming coalition gang reduction on September 27, 2012. Cost is \$50.00 per person.

Item #3 on agenda: **PRESENTATION: "Don't Waste LA"** (7:40pm)

Amardeep Gill spoke about needed changes in the waste collection and disposal practices in the city. The Puente Hills disposal site location to close soon. There are limited choices for business and multi-family units regarding waste disposal. There are many private companies for waste collection and each has their own rates. The city has a goal of 2025 for complete resolution for the current volume of waste. Also there need to be established standards for collection and processing and there needs to be revisions for the diversion to recycles.

LAPD Captain Carmona arrived and spoke about the recent incident that resulted in the demotion of Capt. Hiltner from Foothill Division. Capt. Carmona said we have twenty-one (21) areas in the LAPD, and that the Foothill Division has the lowest crime rate.

³ The Navajo Station is on Navajo Indian Reservation land and hopes to continue operations through 2044. Find a fact sheet about the Navajo Generating Station at www.ngspower.com.

⁴ Intermountain Power Plant principally serves Utah and Southern California.

Item #4 on agenda **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**: By 8:20pm we had a quorum and the Minutes for August 16, 2012 were presented. Ben Moore said that on page 5, item #15 should show that for the motion for \$500 to the Congress should also read that the amount is from line #202 of our NC budget. With this change Ben Moore made the motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Chuck Loring made the second and the vote was unanimous with 7-yes, 0-no, and 0-abstentions.

Item #6 on agenda **PUBLIC COMMENTS** 8:27pm

Karl Kunak spoke about the student's folders for each of the four elementary schools.

Item #7 on agenda **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chuck Loring spoke about the tee shirt order. Since there was an error on the tees, he asked the printer for the erroneous shirts to be free give-aways.

Judy Harris passed.

Florence Dorick asked for sending a letter to the Mayor for Grayce Liu to become the permanent General Manager for DONE to be on the agenda for October 18, 2012.

Dr. Chang expressed compliments for past NHNENC Board Member, Eric Freedner.

Ben Moore passed.

Sarah Ramsawack thanked the Board for their patience while recovering from surgeries and illness. She spoke about the work on the Neighborhood Council is not an honorary task but rather a privilege to serve our responsibility to our Stakeholders. She called attention to the announcement items on the Bulletin Board. She encouraged all Board Members and Stakeholders to register immediately to attend the Congress of Neighborhood Councils on Saturday, September 22, 2012, at City Hall. She pointed out that the DONE website still shows us as meeting on Tuesdays at Armintha School and she called DONE and spoke to our current NC analyst--Amelia Herrera-Robles, and will be sending updates to both Amelia and to Stephen Box as she requested. Sarah Ramsawack also spoke of an idea from the VANC meeting of Sept. 13, 2012 where it was said allegedly that the cost for the survey of broken sidewalks in the city could cost over \$1,000,000. The idea is that this is an opportunity for the ninety-five (95) Neighborhood Councils to contribute by surveying their territory and identifying all of the damaged pedestrian sidewalks by exact location. Sarah Ramsawack showed what she had documented in a time of thirty minutes recorded the addresses of about 20 locations of damage on Whitsett Avenue alone. The Board Member response to the idea was dispirited. Sarah Ramsawack stated that this is the third request to add to the next agenda the formulation of the ad hoc committee to create Standing Rules. President Moscoso said that after the new members are added in October he will have that item on the agenda. Finally, Sarah Ramsawack asked for the location of our NC laptop computer. President Moscoso has the computer.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #8 on agenda **TREASURER REPORT**

Treasurer Ben Moore presented a current status on our NC budget. With the total original \$37,000 approved by the City Council effective July 1, 2012, that we could add \$3,000 for use in the 2012 elections. To date we have \$10,000 for category 400 and we have a Grand Total of \$40,000. He reported that our NC spent \$1,090 on the 2012 Election and of the designaed \$3,000 and that we did not spend \$1,910. The amount of \$1,910 will be transferred to the General Fund for the City of Los Angeles. The report of credit card purchases was reviewed by the Board and Chuck Loring made the motion to approve the credit card report. Florence Dorick seconded and the vote was unanimous with 8-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

Item #9 on the agenda **COMMITTEE REPORTS (8:55pm)**

a. Outreach---needs a flyer to insert into the folders

- b. Land Use--There was no Planning and Land Use meeting on Sept. 8, due to the upcoming Congress on September 22, 2012 at City Hall.
- c. City Services, (Chair John Basteghian was absent.)
- d. Communications---Ben Moore said that the committee has not met yet but that he is working on improvements to the Website calendar.
- e. ad hoc Community Assessment--Sarah Ramsawack reported that our work was informative and that we did submit our report to DONE before the deadline of September 1, 2012. There will be more work to come on this project.

Item #10 on agenda **ELECTIONS PLANNING**

President Moscoso volunteered to help at the election at Mid-town North Hollywood Neighborhood council and that they had about 120 people show up for their election.

President Moscoso also said that for our NC that there will be Council affirmation at the meeting on October 18, 2012. And expecting some new Board Members that there will be training on October 6, 2012.⁵

Item #11 on agenda **COMMENTS FROM GARY BENJAMIN on the NHNENC Community Forum.** Gary Benjamin was absent.

Item #12 **VANC REPORT** (9:10pm)

Highlights of the VANC meeting of September 13, 2012, were given by Sarah Ramsawack. Regarding the NC Elections it was agreed “ that the NC has to do the Outreach, and that if it does not get done, {then} that NC is not outreaching.”

Dr. Fred Pickel, the Ratepayer Advocate, whose position was created by the election ballot of March 2012, spoke about the reasons for the rate increases that are needed to provide water and power to the city of some 4,000,000 people. We need to develop clean reliable sustainable resources to generate power that will replace that energy which currently is provided by two generating plants that are mandated to not have lease renewals in the future.⁶

In the search for a permanent General Manager for DONE, the motion was made to send a letter to the Mayor with the request that Grayce Liu be assigned to be the new permanent G.M. The motion passed unanimously for the letter to be composed and mailed to the Mayor.⁷

VANC President Jill Barad said that the Valley Alliance will be offering another educational Planning and Land Use forum on Thursday, November 8, 2012, at the CBS Studios at 5:30pm. Michael LoGrande will be the guest speaker⁸

Item #13 on agenda **EMPOWER LA INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER**

Ben Moore made the motion to send a letter to the mayor to support Grayce Liu for the position of new permanent General Manager of DONE. The second was by Dr. Chang. The vote was unanimous with 8-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS

⁵ DONE has advised us that the training for New Board Members is rescheduled to Saturday, October 13, at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys at 8am.

⁶ The presentation by Dr. Pickel at the VANC meeting was upgraded and the presentation by Dr. Pickel at the NHNENC meeting on September 20, 2012. See the handout on the Roster Table.

⁷ The letter from VANC was presented and read by Jill Banks-Barad to the Congress of NCs on September 22, 2012, to support Grayce Liu for the position of permanent General Manager.

⁸ Learn more about city planning online at <www.planning.lacity.org>

Item #14 on agenda **NC TO SUPPORT CD#6 WITH TURKEY BASKETS**

Sulma Hernandez from the office of CD#6, Tony Cardenas, requests the NC to support the effort to provide Thanksgiving baskets to fifteen (15) needy families that are identified by each of the local schools in the CD#6 up to \$1,000. Dr. Chang made the motion to spend up to \$1,000 from budget line #402 for the food baskets as described and the motion was seconded by Judy Harris. In the vote there were 7-yes, 1-no, and 0-abstains.

Item #15 on agenda **CONGRESS OF NCs on September 22, 2012**

All were encouraged to register and to attend.

Item #16 on agenda **VANC EDUCATION FORUM ON PLANNING AND LAND USE**

Sarah Ramsawack made the motion that the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council participate in the VANC Planning and Land Use Forum on November 8, 2012 at the CBS Studios and to pay up to \$225 from the Event Category, line 202, per advise of our treasurer. The motion was seconded by Chuck Loring. In discussion the last VANC Land Use Forum was in November 2010 and was attended by Sarah Ramsawack. The motion passed unanimously with eight 8-yes votes, 0-no, and 0-abstains. Treasurer Ben Moore to get contact information for payment. Land-Use Chair Sarah Ramsawack will be attending the educational forum. Inez T. Morin and Chuck Loring also expressed interest in attending.

Item #17 on agenda **TWO BOARD MEMBERS FOR MAYOR'S BUDGET DAY FOR 2012-2013**

Sarah Ramsawack and Inez T. Morin to attend the date (to be determined) in October.

Item #18 on agenda **PRESENTATION OF 10-YEAR CERTIFICATE AT BONC OCT. 2, 2012**

President Moscoso encouraged all Board Members to attend the BONC meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, with their yellow NC shirts at the Colfax Elementary School, at 6:00pm, at 11724 Addison Street, North Hollywood.

Item #19 on agenda **ADJOURNMENT**

Ben Moore moved that the meeting be adjourned and Inez T. Morin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm

Respectfully submitted by

SARAH RAMSAWACK (pro tem in absence of an elected Secretary)

The next Regular Board Meeting of the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council will be on Thursday, October 18, 2012, in the conference room of the LA Fire Station #89.