



CHATSWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



P.O. Box 3395, Chatsworth, CA 91313-3395

<http://chatsworthcouncil.org>

Phone: 818-464-3511

Nicolas Montañó-President, Kamesh Aysola-Vice President
Tracey Jennings -Treasurer, Kristen Shubert-Secretary,
Shekhar Chikhalikar, Ricardo Gracia, Shilpa Gupta, Karen Kikalo, Paul LaBella,
Mark Lauterman, Jill Mather, Douglas Nolan, Shawn Sangeladji, Ramiel George
Shamwel, Shawn Shawmlou, Shelly Thompson, Jim Van Gundy, Bree Worden, Tina
Moore-Yamron

Chatsworth Neighborhood Council
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 4th, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.
To be held at Lawrence Middle School Library,
10100 Variel Avenue, Chatsworth, Calif. 91311

Any and all items listed below on the agenda are subject to discussion and possible action
by the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council.

AGENDA

1. Welcome, call to order, pledge of allegiance, and roll call

Call to order: (6:30pm start time)

Board Member	Present	Absent
Kamesh Aysola	X	
Shekhar Chikhalikar	x	
Ricardo Gracia	X	
Shilpa Gupta		excused
Tracey Jennings	x	
Karen Kikalo	x	
Paul LaBella	X (late)	
Mark Lauterman	X	
Jill Mather	X	

Board Member	Present	Absent
Nicolas Montano	X	
Tina Moore-Yamron	x	
Doug Nolan		X
Shawn Sangeladji	X	
Ramiel George Shamwell	X	
Shawn Shawmlou	x	
Kristen Shubert	x	
Shelly Thompson	X	
Jim Van Gundy	x	
Bree Worden	x	

Note: 17 members present, 2 absent

2. Executive Officer Reports

a. President’s Report

Discussion and possible Action to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) for **CF 23-1114 to** authorize the use of teleconferencing(ZOOM) for Chatsworth Neighborhood Council meetings, including board meetings and committee meetings, in accordance with the rules established by Senate Bill 411 and the subsequent motion passed by the City Council on November 1, 2023. The special teleconferencing rules available to Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils are necessary because it increases the accessibility of our meetings, improves our community engagement, and ensures the health and safety of participants.

Action: to file a Community Impact Statement for CF 23-1114 to authorize use of ZOOM:

Mover	Nick Montano		Second				
Ayes	13	Nays	3	Abstentions	0	Absent	2
Motion	Carries				Fails: X	1 ineligible	

Note: Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Discussion and possible coordination with other NC’s to investigate the impact the Topanga canyon bike lane project. -All Neighborhood councils Presidents will meet to determine the impact on their communities, requested by the Northridge Neighborhood Council President.

Discussion and possible action to remove **Cari Tri, Board member at large**, Representative from Chatsworth Neighborhood Council (CNC) due to being absent for 04/03 2024, 05/01/2024, 06/05/2024 and 08/07/2024 failure to attend 30%, or more, of duly noticed meetings in a Board year, per CNC Bylaws Article V Governing Board, Section 7: Absences.

They have the option to resign by **08/30/2024, 12 pm PST** the item will be removed before the General Meeting Agenda is posted, or you may choose to give a statement during the allotted 2 minutes at the **09/04/2024 General Meeting**

-Both members resigned before start of September meeting.

-Tina Moore-Yamron asked about the length of both of their terms. Jose Galdamez says Carey Tri had one year remaining and James McDonald was just elected to a two year term.

b. Vice President’s Report

c. Secretary’s Report: Kristen Shubert: Kamesh Motions to approve, Shelly Thompson seconds motion:

Discussion and possible action to approve Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Regular Board Meeting minutes from June 5, 2024. **APPROVED**
 Discussion and possible action to approve Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Special Board Meeting minutes from June 15, 2024. **APPROVED**

Discussion and possible action to approve Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Regular Board Meeting minutes from August 7, 2024. **APPROVED**

d. Treasurer’s Report: Tracey Jennings

Motion: To approve the July 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER). (To view the MER online, visit <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/NCFundPortal/Dashboard.html> and select Chatsworth Neighborhood Council from the drop-down menu, and then click on MER.

Action: to vote to approve the MERS:

Board Member	YES	No
Kamesh Aysola	X	
Shekhar Chikhalikar	x	
Ricardo Gracia	X	
Shilpa Gupta		absent
Tracey Jennings	x	
Karen Kikalo	x	
Paul LaBella	X	
Mark Lauterman		X
Jill Mather		ineligible

Board Member	YES	No
Nicolas Montano	X	
Tina Moore-Yamron	X	
Doug Nolan		absent
Shawn Sangeladji	X	
Ramiel George Shamwell	X	
Shawn Shawmlou	x	
Kristen Shubert	x	
Shelly Thompson	X	
Jim Van Gundy	x	
Bree Worden	x	

Mover	Kamesh Aysola		Second	Paul LaBella	
Ayes	15	Nays	1	Abstentions	0
Motion	Carries		X	Fails	Ineligible 1

3. Government Reports – Representative of elected officials, elected officials, LAFD, LAPD Senior Lead Officer for Chatsworth Area.

-Mickie Loi – LAPD Violent crimes are down by 18%, burglaries are down to last year, grand theft auto is up by 150 cars, 60% of catalytic converters are being stolen from Prius and Toyota Carollas. Train station crime is down because of Police presence. Officer Coral is now back on duty.

Anthony Sixtent, email 40990@LAPD.on-line was acting Officer on duty. Wednesday – Black Car Meeting at 6pm, Porter Ranch Community Center. Police Academy starting soon.

STATE- no representative

County – Daniell Vicente – In October, the committee that decides polling locations will be at the CNC meeting. The DoubleTree has been added as a voting option within eleven days of election. Chatsworth Park Elementary will be a polling place within four days of the election.

Judy Daniels: emphasized the lack of ADA accessible voting at the school and the poor loading and unloading options.

Tina Moore-Yamron – not a good location

Kamesh Aysola– The DoubleTree will be available for eleven days?

Glenn Bailey: The entrance gate to Chatsworth Elementary hinders access for handicapped. Can we get a temporary parking ON Topanga to access the gate? Daniell says he will check.

Shekhar Chikhalikar – Why can't the parking lot be open? Daniell says not during school hours.

Scott Schmerelson – It is not a great place to vote.

Kristen Shubert reminded Daniell that he has not yet responded to an email sent in JUNE regarding opening the bathrooms at the train station. He says, "I will get back to you on Thursday."

CD-12 – no representative

Scott Schmerelson – Past offices include Borad Member for District #3, Neighborhood Council member for Porter ranch, Chatsworth, Woodland Hills, and Hollywood. Worked in schools in Chatsworth and downtown; forty years with the district. It is his goal to visit 105 schools. Chatsworth High School has a record-breaking 2023 with 120 students taking AP exams. In 2024, there will be **53** valedictorians with a 4.0+ GPA out of 2750 students! Superior Street Elementary is upgrading the gardening program, has top ballroom dancers, and is at the top **10%** in the state! Scott encourages Principals to connect with neighborhood councils. He encourages volunteering. Wellness Fair on September 19th at Mullholland School.

City – David Bright – West Valley Rep from Mayor Bass's office. Cooling Centers available in at Mid Valley, 8801 Kester Ave., Panarama City.

Mayor is in Paris for Paralympics, which we will host in 2028. Start thinking about how to get Chatsworth involved in the Olympics.

SFV – Small Business summit, September 12, Soraya Center at CSUN. Use the link to RSVP: How to work with government, access capital and resources.

4. Presentation by American Red Cross representative Earl Torres

-Disasters are INCREASING...

-Consider a 14 day deployment to open shelters and canteens in areas of need. The workforce is 90% volunteers. Red Cross provides training.

-Red Cross provides free smoke alarms!

-Consider joining the Disaster Action Team with LAFD

-DONATE!

5. Standing Committees:

a. **Land Use & Equestrian Committee – Motion:** To approve CNC letter regarding CF 23-0623 (Streamlining of 100% affordable housing/codification of ED1

b. **Outreach Committee -**

i. **Motion:** To approve the DOTH budget from 7000.00 to 8000.00 for the 2025 event to be held on either **MARCH 23** or **MARCH 30** (to be held at Stoney Point Ranch).

Action: to approve increasing the DOTH budget from \$7,000 to \$8,000:

Board Member	YES	No
Kamesh Aysola	X	
Shekhar Chikhalikar	x	
Ricardo Gracia	X	
Shilpa Gupta		absent
Tracey Jennings		X
Karen Kikalo	x	
Paul LaBella	X	
Mark Lauterman		X
Jill Mather		ineligible

Board Member	YES	No
Nicolas Montano	X	
Tina Moore-Yamron	x	
Doug Nolan		absent
Shawn Sangeladji	X	
Ramiel George Shamwell	X	
Shawn Shawmlou	x	
Kristen Shubert		X
Shelly Thompson	X	
Jim Van Gundy	x	
Bree Worden	x	

Mover	Jill Mather		Second		Nick Montano		
Ayes	13	Nays	3	Abstentions	0	Absent	2
Motion	Carries			Fails X	Ineligible 1		

ii. **Motion:** To approve up to \$200 for Outreach educational pamphlet for 311 app and pavement responsibilities for homeowners.

Action: to approve up to \$200 for printing of Outreach informational pamphlets:

Board Member	YES	No
Kamesh Aysola	X	
Shekhar Chikhalikar	x	
Ricardo Gracia	X	
Shilpa Gupta		absent
Tracey Jennings	x	
Karen Kikalo	x	
Paul LaBella	X	
Mark Lauterman		X
Jill Mather		ineligible

Board Member	YES	No
Nicolas Montano	X	
Tina Moore-Yamron	x	
Doug Nolan		absent
Shawn Sangeladji	X	
Ramiel George Shamwell	X	
Shawn Shawmlou	x	
Kristen Shubert	x	
Shelly Thompson	X	
Jim Van Gundy	x	
Bree Worden	x	

Mover	Jill Mather		Second		Karen Kikalo		
Ayes	15	Nays	1	Abstentions	0	Absent	2
Motion	Carries		X	Fails	Ineligible 1		

- c. **Public Safety and Transportation Committee – Ricardo Gracia** – Concern about the Topanga and 118 exit and speed – How do we address?
- d. **Homelessness Awareness Committee – Paul LaBella** – Still working on a visit/tour of Travel Lodge property in Chatsworth for the Board.
- e. **Beautification and Enhancement Committee –**

- i. **Discussion:** First CNC clean-up will be on the **29th of September.**
Location will be Chatsworth Street Between DeSoto and Mason, 0800am to 1000am.

- ii. **Motion** To approve NPG for \$1524 for the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains. To be used by area Title I schools. Presented by Ann Lamanna. Over 100 school kids will hike the area in Chatsworth Park from 9am-noon one day in October. Costs to cover are port-a-potty, bus transportation, and stipend for Native American speakers who speak about their ancestral land and culture. Germain and Superior Street schools will be taking part in this educational program.

Action: Approve the NPG for \$1524 for the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Pass:

Board Member	YES	No
Kamesh Aysola	X	
Shekhar Chikhalikar	x	
Ricardo Gracia	X	
Shilpa Gupta		absent
Tracey Jennings	X	
Karen Kikalo	x	
Paul LaBella	X	
Mark Lauterman	X	
Jill Mather		ineligible

Board Member	YES	No
Nicolas Montano	X	
Tina Moore-Yamron	x	
Doug Nolan		absent
Shawn Sangeladji	X	
Ramiel George Shamwell	X	
Shawn Shawmlou	x	
Kristen Shubert	X	
Shelly Thompson	X	
Jim Van Gundy	x	
Bree Worden	x	

Mover		Jim Van Gundy	Second	N/A			
Ayes	16	Nays	0	Abstentions	0	Absent	2
Motion		Carries	X	Fails		Ineligible	1

- f. **Selections Committee – Motion: Jim Van Gundy** to approve the 2025 Selection budget in the amount of \$3050.00.

Action: to approve the Selection Committee budget for 2025 in the amount of \$3050.00

Board Member	YES	No
Kamesh Aysola	X	
Shekhar Chikhalikar	x	
Ricardo Gracia	X	
Shilpa Gupta		absent
Tracey Jennings	X	
Karen Kikalo	x	
Paul LaBella	X	
Mark Lauterman	X	
Jill Mather		ineligible

Board Member	YES	No
Nicolas Montano	X	
Tina Moore-Yamron	x	
Doug Nolan		absent
Shawn Sangeladji	X	
Ramiel George Shamwell	X	
Shawn Shawmlou	x	
Kristen Shubert	X	
Shelly Thompson	X	
Jim Van Gundy	x	
Bree Worden	x	

Mover		Jim Van Gundy	Second	N/A				
Ayes	16	Nays	0	Abstentions	0	Absent	2	
Motion		Carries	X		Fails		Ineligible	1

Note: Motion needs 2/3 vote to pass

6. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Report – Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) Jose Galdamez: Board Member Monday to recognize someone in our council, please submit.

-Board Members who still have Training to complete: Jill Mather and Shilpa Gupta.
 # 24-0867 – Neighborhood term limits may be introduced to promote diversity and include one youth member who will vote. Commissioners, Monica Rodriguez, to amend bylaws. **If you oppose – CALL your Council Member, John Lee, for input.**

Judy Daniels – Very critical to the Board that all 99 councils will be impacted by setting term limits. The youth member is 14-17 yrs, but can only vote is 16 yrs. “Look around, isn’t our council already diverse???”

Jose Galdamez – Term limits do not exist now.

Kristen Shubert – “Don’t they understand we cant fill our current seats for CNC now? What happens if terms are limited???”

Judy – “HALF of councils cannot get enough candidates.”Thirty-nine councils did not have enough members for quorum.

Glenn Bailey: Article 5, section 4,”There will be no term limits.”as stated in current bylaws.

Create a CIS for the motion???

-September 28 -8a-5:00pm, Congress of Neighborhoods at City Hall. Leadership, outreach, land use and other topics relating to Council. Network with other councils. **FREE PARKING!**

7. Budget Advocates Report: Glenn Bailey -How does the city obtain funding? discussion was held on September fourth. Recorded.

-Open enrollment for Budget Committee start October -November. Shawn Sangeladji will be first rep to the Budget Council.

- 8. Announcements :** September 21st – Karen Waters Hosts the North Valley Council from 8:30am -noon in Granada Hills, breakfast. RSVP through CNC website or Empower email notification.

October 19th – Oktoberfest at the Chatsworth Train Station

- 9. Public Comment – GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**
Public Comment for non-agendized items will be limited to one minute each per individual due to time concerns. Public comments will be limited to 10 comments.

Adjournment , Kamesh Aysola motions, Karen Kikalo seconds.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

–Comments from the public

on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to one minute per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Public Comment for unagendized topics will be limited to one minute. Due to time concerns public comments will be limited to 10 comments at 1 minute per comment per individual.

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2.- <https://www.chatsworthcouncil.org/>
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