

(Minutes to be approved)



**NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**General Board Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, September 18, 2014  
New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills CA 91343

NHWNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

**1. Welcome, Flag Salute, Roll Call and announcement of quorum.**

President John McGovern called the Meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. All 12 of the 12 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: John McGovern (President), Dan Gibson (Vice-President), Debra Perkins (Treasurer), Carol Hart (Secretary), Dave Brown, Armando Diaz, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, David Hyman, Mike Khalid, Carlos Maya and Nancy Xander. The NHWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/NorthHillsWestNC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Twelve of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant. Also attending: 19 Stakeholders and guests.

**2. General Public Comment**

Linda Muhlmeyer described the CERT [Community Emergency Response Team, (818-756-9674; [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com), [lafdcert@LACity.org](mailto:lafdcert@LACity.org)] Program and safety benefits, especially during emergencies. More information is at [LindaMuhlmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:LindaMuhlmeyer@gmail.com). William Kuzmin described the formation and goals of the Stakeholders Empowerment Enlightenment Coalition ([www.SEEC-Reform.com](http://www.SEEC-Reform.com)) which will meet October 27<sup>th</sup>. Stakeholder Mary Armenteros believed the NHWNC did not “properly” post tonight’s Meeting Agendas and violated the Brown Act. Glenn Bailey, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9953; [Glenn@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:Glenn@EmpowerLA.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)), announced the October 9<sup>th</sup> County Supervisor Candidates Debate; the October 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Budget Day at Van Nuys City Hall; the October 18<sup>th</sup> VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils] Meeting; and the VANC December 11<sup>th</sup> Planning Forum.

### **3. Public Speakers**

#### A. U.S. Congressman Tony Cardenas' office representative - Brian Gavidia

Mr. Gavidia was not present and there was no report.

#### B. Councilman Englander's office - Ron Rubine

*[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3. G.]* Ron Rubine, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Ron.Rubine@LACity.org), announced a November 3<sup>rd</sup> Interfaith Breakfast at Temple Ahavat Shalom focusing on homelessness and shelters; all are welcome. There will be a SOLID [Supporters Of Law enforcement In Devonshire] Pasta Dinner October 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas Church.

#### C. DONE Rep.: Melvin Canas

Mr. Canas, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, DONE, (818-374-9953; cell 323-972-7782; Melvin.Canas@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org): there was no report.

#### D. LAUSD Board Member Tamar Galatzan office representative – David Azevedo

Mr. Azevedo, District Director for LAUSD Board Member Tamar Galatzan (213.241.5692; David.Azevedo@lausd.net; http://GalatzanGazette.com) described facilities, playground equipment, computer labs and more funded in recent years. A “computer science education curriculum” was passed by the LAUSD.

#### E. VANC REP: Nancy Xander

*[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4. C.]* Ms. Xander described the recent VANC Meeting, including City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell’s presentation.

#### F. BONC REP: Lydia Grant

Lydia Grant, BONC [L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners] Commissioner (ofc. 213.978.1551; cell 818.470.6629; Lydia.Grant@LACity.org; Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reminded about the September 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of Neighborhood Councils. There is a “new Code of Conduct policy” covering all 95 Neighborhood Councils in the City; all Board Members will “need to read and sign a Code of Conduct . . . within 60 days . . . this is what the City Attorneys advised us.” She requested for this to be Agendized for her to discuss with the Board. She said that if the policy is not implemented “the City Council will do it for us.” Ms. Grant reminded for the Board to keep its Board Roster updated.

G. Bob Hertzberg - State Senator Candidate

Bob Hertzberg, State Senate 18th District Candidate, described his government background and community service interests, especially renewable energy, budget, political process improvements and higher education.

**4. Officer Reports**

A. President

1. Updates on various approvals and expenses

Mr. McGovern asked and Mr. Hyman explained outreach procedures. Mr. McGovern asked and Mr. Brown explained Neighborhood Watch sign installations; the cost is “about \$75-\$80 per sign.” Mr. McGovern asked and Ms. Perkins explained proposed Blood Drive organizing work, procedures and challenges; “maybe at a later date” it can be held.

B. Vice-President

Mr. Gibson indicated that there was no report.

C. Treasurer

*[Item #4. C. 1. was meant to be #4. D. 1.] [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4. D. 1.]*

2. Motion to approve August 2014 Monthly Expense Report (MER).

**MOTION** (by Ms. Perkins, seconded by Mr. McGovern): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its August 2014 Monthly Expense Report.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Perkins reviewed recent expenditures of \$3,495.08 and said “that brings us current.” She explained the new checking account [that all Neighborhood Councils have]: “we are allowed \$4,000 per month . . . we have to maintain a minimum of \$1,000 each month.” Mr. McGovern explained in detail that DONE and the City Attorney’s Office were involved “constantly . . . every step of the way” regarding the [September 6, 2014] barbeque expenses. Ms. Armenteros believed that some expenses were duplicated on the July and August MER’s. Ms. Perkins explained that funds were not available in July to pay expenditures; therefore, they were paid in August. She reminded that this Fiscal Year’s [2014-2015] Budget was approved July 17<sup>th</sup> by the Board. Ms. Perkins and Mr. McGovern explained that the separate spreadsheet was created by them to help inform Stakeholders.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Diaz, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Khalid, Maya, McGovern, Perkins and Xander); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce).

There was extensive discussion about Mr. Fordyce's concerns about the accuracy of the MER's and Minutes vote counts.

#### D. Secretary

Ms. Hart described NationBuilder (<http://NationBuilder.com>) benefits and that a representative will present at the next [October 16<sup>th</sup>] NHWNC Board Meeting.

*[This Motion was Agendized in Item #4. C. but meant to be Agendized here.]*

##### 1. Motion to approve August 21, 2014 GBM Minutes

**MOTION** (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. McGovern): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 21, 2014 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. McGovern); there was no objection.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote of the 12 eligible voters present with ten in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hyman, Khalid, Maya, McGovern, Perkins and Xander); two abstained (Diaz and Hart).

#### 5. New Business

A. Discussion & possible Motion to Approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant request for Valley Academy of Art & Sciences (VAAS) in the amount of \$3140.98. This program is designed to assist with their Robotics program in the design stage for students 9-12 grades. Valley Academy of Arts & Sciences is a Charter School within LAUSD. NPG was submitted by Teacher Anthony Milanes.

Mr. McGovern noted that he had requested for Mr. Milanes to present at the last NHWNC Board Meeting. Ms. Perkins noted that funds were requested July 21<sup>st</sup>. Stakeholder Anita Goldbaum was opposed to the allocation. She believed there would not be enough return on investment; that the NHWNC Budget would need to be adjusted; that VAAS is not in North Hills West; and that VAAS did not request funding from other Neighborhood Councils. Mr. Kuzman said that the Granada Hills South NC already allocated the \$3,140.98 requested. Mr. McGovern explained that he asked and the VAAS High School Principal will provide statistics about how many students are from North Hills West. Mr. McGovern will request the Outreach Committee to Agendize this.

#### 6. Committee Reports

A. Planning and Land Use – Punam Gohel

Mr. Gohel reminded that the Committee meets on first Mondays each month.

## B. Emergency Preparedness / Public Safety - Dave Brown

Mr. Brown described the September 27th Disaster Preparedness Fair service opportunity.

## C. Outreach – Nancy Xander

Ms. Xander reported that “the barbeque on September 6<sup>th</sup> was well-attended” by “between 400-500 people.” Information was provided from that to Mr. Maya about Stakeholder issues. She described lessons learned; there was “a lot of engagement” with Stakeholders. For event outreach “we distributed fliers to . . . 95% of this neighborhood . . . we’re still getting responses” from Stakeholders who could not attend the barbeque. She presented Certificates of Appreciation from State 46th District Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian (818-376-4246; <http://asmdc.org/members/a46>) to Stakeholders Bonnie and Jim Cockerell; Martha Kopy; Helen Donovan, Kathy Cryer; Pastor Kevin Jones of barbeque host Valley Park Church; Phillip Kay; Alan Swayze and more. Ms. Hart encouraged posting photos and comments on the website [<http://NorthHillsWestNC.empowerla.org>].

## 7. Motion to adjourn

Mr. McGovern explained that, due to the facility needing to close, the Special Board Meeting scheduled for after this Meeting will be re-Agendized.

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Mr. Khalid, seconded by Mr. McGovern).

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote with no objection.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, edited by NHWNC Board.