



**NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
General Board Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 16, 2015

New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills CA 91343

NHWNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary; Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript or comprehensive record of what was said at a Meeting. Exceptions: Motions/Resolutions (as stated at the Meeting, which take precedence over versions written on the Agenda, if different); quotes (words that have quotation marks ("") at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and other wording from the Agenda such as the first paragraph(s) of some Items. Items are listed in and match the same order as on the Agenda.

**1. Welcome and Flag Salute**

President John McGovern called the Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Twelve of the 13 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: John McGovern (President), Dan Gibson (Vice-President), Patrick Santos (Treasurer), Carol Hart (Secretary), Dave Brown, Armando Diaz, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, David Hyman, Mike Khalid, David Phelps and Nancy Xander. One Board Member was absent: Daniel Mick (excused). 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. All 13 of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seats were vacant. Also attending: 27 Stakeholders and guests.

**2. Roll Call and announcement of quorum** -- It was announced that there is a quorum.

**3. Public Agencies -- Speakers**

U.S. Congressman Tony Cardenas - Brian Gavidia  
Brian Gavidia, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (cell 818-781-7407; office 818-504-0090; Brian.Gavidia@mail.house.gov; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), was not present and there was no report.

Councilman Englander's office - Ron Rubine  
Ron Rubine, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Ron.Rubine@LACity.org): there was no report.

DONE REP :Melvin Canas  
DONE Rep.: Melvin Canas, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, DONE, (818-374-9953; cell 323-972-7782; Melvin.Canas@LACity.org; [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)), was not present and there was no report.

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): there was no report.

Other official agencies

Marcus Smith, LAPD Devonshire Division Interim Senior Lead Officer (front desk 818.832.0746; 32989@LAPD.LACity.org; [http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station)), reported regarding homeless people that “we’re currently trying to fill a two-[officer] unit . . . to cite them and get them relocated” from illegal areas such as Freeway underpasses. They are seeking input about residential parking issues. The free National Night Out will be August 4<sup>th</sup> at Northridge Park. Information is available about burglary prevention. He reminded that vehicles only can be cited for illegally long parking if the vehicle has not been moved for more than 72 hours; if the vehicle has been moved “even one inch” the Police cannot cite the vehicle. Officer Smith noted strained Police resources spread over a “56 square mile area.”

[*This Agenda Item was continued after Item #4.*] Marco Santana, District Representative for State 18th District Senator Bob Hertzberg (818-901-5588; Marco.Santana@sen.ca.gov; <http://senate.ca.gov/hertzberg>), reported that the “Small Business Facebook” event “was a huge success.”

Julio Anleu, Field Deputy for LAUSD Board Member Monica Ratliff (ofc. 818.232.5445; cell 818.935.7049; Julio.Anleu@lausd.net; <http://Ratliff.LASchoolBoard.org>), announced learning events of August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Rosa Parks Learning Center and August 19<sup>th</sup> at Langdon Elementary School. He clarified that Ms. Ratliff represents Monroe High School and Gledhill St. Elementary School; Woodley Ave. is the boundary.

Oscar Polanco, Senior Emergency Response Team Member, LAHSA (the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; 213.225.6562; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. hotline 213.225.6581; HomelessCount@lahsa.org; [www.facebook.com/lahsa.org](http://www.facebook.com/lahsa.org)), distributed copies of the “LAHSA 2015 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Results.” He estimated that there are around 569 homeless people in the North Hills area and that “430 are unsheltered.” He described help available for families and said “there’s very minimal help available for individuals.” A “substantial number” refuse services; “as long as they’re not hurting themselves or others,” they cannot be forced to accept services. Mr. Polanco estimated that 31% of homeless people have some mental illness.”

[*This Agenda Item was continued after Item #9.*] State 18th District Senator Bob Hertzberg (818-901-5588; <http://senate.ca.gov/hertzberg>) explained the District system and showed a map. Each Senator represents around one million people. He described his legislative work. A traffic ticket fee amnesty program starts August 1<sup>st</sup>. He is working to change the law so that traffic tickets can be contested before paying a fine. Also, “voting centers” would be open 14 days before elections at various local facilities and businesses. Senator Hertzberg answered many questions.

[*This Agenda Item was continued after Item #10.*] L.A. Board of Public Works President Kevin James (213-978-0251; Kevin.James@LACity.org; <http://bpw.lacity.org>) announced a July 30<sup>th</sup> sidewalk repairs program Hearing. The Clean Streets Initiative uses a “data-driven formula” to more efficiently allocate staff for projects. He described various Citywide projects and work. Crews can be City employees or contractors. A record 2,400 miles of City streets were worked on last year. He explained the difference between slurry sealing a street, which costs \$25,000 per mile, and repaving, which costs \$100,000-\$650,000 per mile. “B” and “C”-graded streets are being worked on; Mr. James indicated that “we haven’t touched any of the “D” and “F” streets” in years.

#### **4. General Public Comment**

Mr. Hyman introduced Naveen Bhardwa, 7-Eleven Franchisee, who gave \$711 to Monroe High School and thanked the NHWNC for its support. Stakeholder Anita Goldbaum reminded that “Board Members are responsible for spending our tax dollars wisely . . . so that there’s a real benefit for the Stakeholders of our community. Stakeholder Jim Cockerell thanked volunteers for cleanup help.

#### **5. Discussion and possible Motion** to accept 2015/2016 BUDGET and submit to Done

Ms. Xander encouraged Board Members to organize and staff events. No Motion was made or vote taken.

#### **6. Discussion and possible Motion** up to \$7,000 to approve a Community BBQ for October 2015. Possible dates are October 10, 17 or 24 at the Valley Park Church.

The barbeque would be Saturday, October 10, 2015, from 4 to 8 PM

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Hyman, seconded by Ms. Xander): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$7,000 to approve a Community BBQ for October 10, 2015 at the Valley Park Church.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Goldbaum was concerned that at last year’s barbeque there was “excess food” left over and believed \$7,000 is not needed. Mr. Cockerell believed it to be important “to have a little bit more” food than expected and to ensure that there’s enough food for everyone. Mr. McGovern indicated that the event will include NHWNC “election promotions.” Stakeholder Mary Armenteros and Board Members Mr. Khalid, Mr. Fordyce and Mr. Diaz believed that the Motion should be more specific as to for what the funding is. Ms. Xander noted that a binder of information about last year’s barbeque is available. Mr. Brown noted that it is possible to co-sponsor the event with another Neighborhood Council, possibly North Hills East. Mr. Gohel already asked the NHENC to contribute. Mr. Hart reminded that the NHWNC can partner with government officials. Mr. McGovern said that “we’re basing” the cost estimate “on last year’s event plus ten percent.”

Mr. McGovern requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item until later in this Meeting. No vote was taken.

[*This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #7.*] Mr. McGovern detailed last year's event expenses. Tables will again be requested from City Council District Twelve. Expenses will include "about \$3,000 in food." Some items used last year, such as tents, can be used again.

**MOTION to RETURN the MOTION to the FLOOR** (by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Phelps).

**DISCUSSION:** More than 1,000 Stakeholders attended last year. Volunteers will be recruited.

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

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously 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, McGovern, Phelps, Santos and Xander); one opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Fordyce); zero abstained.

7. **Discussion and possible Motion** [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Xander, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$7,000 to approve a Westsider Newsletter be written & mailed in November 2015 to all Stakeholders. This includes printing of 9,000 newsletters and postage for mailing.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Goldbaum would like Board Members to introduce themselves to businesses and write articles. Mr. McGovern reminded that the Board needs to approve NHWNC events before they are organized. Mr. Phelps said "the \$7,000 is reasonable," however, "I need to see something before I vote on it." Ms. Xander explained that the Newsletter "would go to every single address in our boundary" at a cost of "18.3 cents per piece."

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with ten in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Diaz, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, McGovern, Phelps, Santos and Xander); two opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Fordyce and Khalid); zero abstained.

8. **Discussion and possible Motion** to [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will approve up to \$1,500.00 for NHWNC website special projects on an as needed basis for 2015-2016.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. McGovern noted the NHWNC's new website [<http://www.nhwnc.net>]. Soon he will meet with Webmaster Wendy Moore about more website work and she will train the Board about the website. Ms. Xander added that old addresses re-direct to the new website.

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

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Diaz, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Khalid, McGovern, Phelps, Santos and Xander); zero opposed; zero abstained.

**9. Discussion and possible Motion** of [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Xander, seconded by Mr. Fordyce): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$250.00 for advertising & implementation of the President Volunteer Service Awards for 2015 - 2016.

**DISCUSSION:** Stakeholder Kathy Cryer explained the program “for recognizing and tracking volunteer work.” Volunteers five years old and up qualify; “it’s all done online.”

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

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Diaz, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Khalid, McGovern, Phelps, Santos and Xander); zero opposed; zero abstained.

**10. Discussion and possible Motion** for [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Xander): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$5,000 to approve a Spring Fling Egg Hunt event for next Spring 2016.

**DISCUSSION:** Stakeholder Martha Kopy noted there are many such Egg Hunts in the area in Spring and believed the funding could be better used. Ms. Goldbaum recommended Tabling this Item, especially it is not scheduled to happen until Spring. Mr. Hyman noted that Vicky Magaw, Branch Manager, Mid Valley Regional Library, supports the event. Mr. Khalid encouraged “an age limit.” Ms. Hart encouraged separating younger children from older children. Mr. Brown said “this is an investment toward future participants” in the community. Ms. Xander said “it raises awareness that we exist.” Mr. Phelps supports such events but prefers that they first be budgeted.

**MOTION to TABLE** this Item (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gibson).

**MOTION to TABLE PASSED** with no opposition.

**11. Discussion and possible Motion** up to \$5,000 for election awareness, seeking qualified candidates, candidate forum, voting etc.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #17.*]

**MOTION to TABLE** Item #'s 11-16 (by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Diaz).

**MOTION to TABLE PASSED** by a voice vote with no opposition.

12. **Discussion and possible Motion** up to \$250.00 for magnetic placards advertising the North Hills West Neighborhood Council for many uses including beautification cleanups and other activities.

See above Item #11.

13. **Discussion and possible Motion** on whether the North Hills West Neighborhood Council would like to sponsor a CERT class.

See above Item #11.

14. **Discussion and possible Motion** on whether the North Hills West Neighborhood Council would like to host a Map Your Neighborhood Class.

See above Item #11.

15. **Discussion and possible Motion** up to \$500 to host a Holiday Potluck at our December 17, 2015 general Board Meeting.

See above Item #11.

16. **Motion to accept MER for previous month**

See above Item #11.

17. **Board Comments**

Mr. Brown listed recent and upcoming Board activities: June 4th, A Time 4 Gratitude Veterans Breakfast at New Horizons sponsored and organized by Council District 12; June 10th Devonshire Town Hall; June 20th Kut the Kaboom event at Brand Park; June 20th NHWNC & Friends cleanup on Roscoe; June 26th New Horizons, midday performance for the NH fundraiser at the Alex Theatre; June 27th NC Budget Day at City Hall; July 1st Neighborhood Watch sign installations resumed; July 11th Foothill Trails District EP mini-Fair; August 4th National Night Out at Northridge Park; and October 3rd, the 8th Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair at FS 87. Mr. Phelps noted the successful cleanup on two blocks of Roscoe Blvd. Ms. Hart encouraged the Board to discuss issues about which it could issue Community Impact Statements. August 6<sup>th</sup> "small potholes" are to be repaired.

**Motion to adjourn**

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

**MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED** by a voice vote with no opposition.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:59 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, edited by NHWNC. *The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/ Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda.* The NHWNC Minutes page is <http://www.nhwnc.net/agendas-minutes/minutes-and-agendas>.