



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

Thursday, April 21, 2016

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: Motion(s) (included as stated at the Meeting, or, if not stated, as written on the Agenda); quotes (words that have quotation marks ("") at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and Agenda wording copied into the Minutes.

### **1. [blank]**

#### **A. Welcome and Come To Order with Flag Salute.**

President John McGovern called the Meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

#### **B. Recognition of outgoing board**

Melvin Canas, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, DONE, (818-374-9895; cell 323-972-7782; Melvin.Canas@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), introduced himself. Dora Esparza, Field Representative for State 46th District Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (818-376-4246; Dora.Esparza@asm.ca.gov; <http://asmcd.org/members/a46>), and Erich King, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Erich.King@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>), presented Certificates of Recognition or Appreciation to outgoing Board Members John McGovern, Nancy Xander, Mike Khalid and Patrick Santos.

### **2. SEATING OF THE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD**

#### **A. Roll Call**

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.*] Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Eleven of the 12 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Dan Gibson (President), David Phelps (Vice-President), Dave Brown (Secretary), Armando Diaz (Treasurer), Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Carol Hart, Sam Kwasman, Antonino Lovato, Daniel Mick and Kreshell Ramey. One Board Member was absent: David Hyman (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. Twelve of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant (General). Also attending: approximately 56 Stakeholders and guests.

B. Neighborhood Council Board Member Oath

Mr. Canas led new Board Members Sam Kwasman, Antonino Lovato and Kreshell Ramey in reading aloud the Oath of Office. They were Seated with the Board.

**3. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

Parliamentarian Mike Kabo described the Board Officers election process and read aloud from the Bylaws in turn the responsibilities of each Officer.

President: Mr. Phelps nominated Dan Gibson. PASSED with no opposition.

Vice-President: Mr. Fordyce nominated David Phelps. PASSED with no opposition.

Secretary: Mr. Mick nominated Carol Hart, who declined. Mr. Phelps nominated Dave Brown. PASSED with no opposition.

Treasurer: Mr. Gibson nominated Armando Diaz. PASSED with no opposition.

A. Board designation of Bank Card Holder and Second Signatory.

Mr. Canas explained the positions and that they must complete Treasurer's Training.

Bank Card Holder: Mr. Gibson nominated Armando Diaz. PASSED with no opposition.

Second Signatory: Mr. Gohel nominated Dan Gibson. PASSED with no opposition.

B. Board designation of NC Liaisons to City Depts.

The following were nominated and PASSED with no opposition (one exception):

Carol Hart (by herself) as the DWP Liaison.

Carol Hart (by herself) as the Sustainability Alliance Representative.

David Phelps nominated Stakeholder Bonnie Cockerell, who declined, as the Public Works Liaison.

Dave Brown (by himself) as the Public Works Liaison.

Daniel Mick, by Ms. Hart, as the Legal Liaison.

Daniel Mick (by himself) as the Animal Services Liaison.

Antonino Lovato, by Mr. Phelps, as an Emergency Preparedness Alliance Co-Representative.

Dave Brown (by himself) as an Emergency Preparedness Alliance Co-Representative.

Lydia Grant, BONC [L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners] Commissioner (ofc. 213.978.1551; cell 818-470-6629; LydiaJeanGrant@gmail.com; Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reminded that Board Members need to complete Funding Training and Ethics Training, and sign the Code of Conduct. Also, the Board "must post their Meeting Minutes to the website . . . [it is] very important" to make Board actions "open and transparent." She encouraged submitting two Community Impact Statements per month, if possible, "to let City Hall know what the community has to say."

4. **PRESENTATION** FROM THE AUDOBAN SOCIETY & CONCERNED CITIZENS GROUP RE THE “ANGEL FEST” music concert in the Sepulveda Dam / animal and bird sanctuary. Discussion and possible motion for the new Board of NHWNC to SUPPORT A BAN on this music festival so as to preserve and protect the sanctuary and protect surrounding neighborhoods.

Muriel Coaten of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society ([www.SFVAudubon.org](http://www.SFVAudubon.org)) described the planned Angel Fest music festival which would permit 65,000 people per day at up to five stages with 11:00 p.m. closing times and later lighting for nightly cleanups. There also would be “pyrotechnics and fireworks.” Rulings by the Army Corps of Engineers are awaited regarding details; she encouraged writing to the Corps to oppose having such events there. The policy had been to not allow more than 65 people in the Wildlife Preserve; now, thousands could be in it. She said that “much of the Wildlife Preserve would be closed for the better part of a month” for set up, the concert and take down. The first such planned annual concert was postponed until October 2017 and the City wants other large events there. Stakeholders warned that up to 200,000 people could attend, far more than the number of tickets issued, and the sound systems would be heard far beyond the Park. Concerns also were expressed that the event would trash the Park; the City worked on this for three years before the media started talking about it; and that each time such events “get bigger and bigger until” they “self-destruct.” Ms. Coaten added that “more than half” of Park use restrictions “would have to be waived.” No Motion was made or vote taken.

5. **Public agency speakers and announcements**

Julio Anleu, Field Deputy for LAUSD Board Member Monica Ratliff (ofc. 818-241-6388; cell 818-935-7049; [JulioAnleu@lausd.net](mailto:JulioAnleu@lausd.net); <http://Ratliff.LASchoolBoard.org>), announced Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00-3:00 workshops for students and parents at Monroe High School; college representatives will be there.

Glenn Bailey, Budget Advocate [[www.BudgetAdvocatesLA.com](http://www.BudgetAdvocatesLA.com)], encouraged appointing two Budget Representatives. The Mayor’s proposed 2016-2017 Budget was released. The Advocates will review it; he encouraged feedback to the City.

6. **Presentations.** Neighborhood general Board orientations (Melvin Canas) Mr. Canas encouraged submitting Community Impact Statements (CISs) to let the City Council know of NHWNC positions. Ms. Grant noted that Neighborhood Councils only can take advantage of the up-to-five-minute separate speaking opportunity to the City Council if they have submitted a CIS. Mr. Canas noted that Dania Minassian is the local Deputy City Attorney of the Neighborhood Council Advice Division (213-978-8132; [Dania.Minassian@LACity.org](mailto:Dania.Minassian@LACity.org)). He urged that if a Board Member has a conflict of interest concern to contact the City Attorney’s Office. He reminded that Neighborhood Councils advise the City Council and have \$42,000 per year to allocate. He explained the Brown Act, that Meetings must be Noticed “by 72 hours in advance” and that “Agendas need to be . . . as descriptive as possible.” The NHWNC President “has the final say” on Agenda content. Agendas must be

posted on the website and in one or more physical places (such as Uncle Joe's Donuts) and emailed to NCSupport@LACity.org. Public comment "is not a conversation back and forth." "Minutes are now required." He reminded to provide, if requested, ADA (American with Disabilities Act)-covered services. The NHWNC quorum of a quorum is four. Up to three Board Members can discuss what is or could be Board business outside of an official Meeting; if four or more Board Members are present, then "the Brown Act would be precluded from discussing it." No more than three Board Members can be on an NHWNC Committee. Public Records Act requests must be responded to within ten calendar days.

**7. Possible Committee appointments by the President**

Mr. Gibson described the importance of Committees and encouraged volunteering. Mr. Brown noted that NHWNC.net has Committee descriptions.

**8. Board comments**

Mr. Phelps urged the Board and community to move forward and reminded that Board Members are volunteers. Mr. Lovato reported that the 15-member Volunteer Community Patrol patrols and responds to complaints. Mr. Kwasman would like the Public Comments Agenda item moved to earlier in Board Meetings. Ms. Hart will attend the Sustainability Alliance meeting for Cool Blocks Program Training. Other Board Members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

**9. Public Comments**

Sylvia Hanna, of the Southland Association of Realtors, announced a seniors dance. Stakeholder Kathy Cryer would like the NHWNC to Agendize hearing "the other side" about the planned Angel Fest music festival. Stakeholder Rosa Cantu is "interested in the open Seat" on the Board and described her community service. Ms. Grant clarified that she "is here in a support role only . . . to guide . . . I am not taking any action." She reminded that funding is for outreach and assisting in getting City services. She urged Stakeholders to hold the Board accountable. Mr. Gibson said he will provide "open and honest communication" and challenged the Board to follow that example.

*[The above Agenda Item was followed by a recess, then continued with Item #2. A.]*

**10. Motion to adjourn**

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

**MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED;** zero opposed or abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:10 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, possibly 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>.