

North Hills West Neighborhood Council

Special Joint Board and Beautification & Infrastructure Committee

Posted 24 Hours Prior To Meeting – All Meetings are open to the Public

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 14th, 2016 – 5:30PM - 7:00PM

Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society “The Onion”, 9550 Haskell Avenue, North Hills CA, 91343

DULY APPOINTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carol Hart, Chair / David Hyman / Antonino Lovato / Bonnie & Jim Cockerell / Kathy Crier / John McGovern

Public Comment Limited to 2 Minutes per Speaker

(Unless waived or additionally restricted by the Presiding Officer of the Board)

Meet & Greet Gathering Period 5:30 – 6:00 pm

1. Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 pm (Chair)
2. Committee Member Roll Call: Carol Hart, Antonino Lovato, Bonnie & Jim Cockerell, and Kathy Crier - **Present** John McGovern and David Hyman – **Absent**. Quorum was established with 5 out of 7 members present.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS** (Public Comments Limited To 2 Minutes Only) - **NONE**
4. **PRESENTATIONS (LIMITED TO 15 MINUTES MAXIMUM TOTAL) - NONE**
5. **OLD BUSINESS** (Public Comments Limited to 2 Minutes Only) - **NONE**
 - a. Fiscal Year-End Report (provided by Past Chair, David Phelps) **Postponed**: *Since no FYE report had yet been provided, the Chair announced that this item would be postponed until the next meeting.
6. **NEW BUSINESS** (Public Comments Limited to 2 Minutes Only) Garry Fordyce commented that he didn't receive a copy of the text with the recommended re-wording.
 - a) Discussion and possible motion to approve rewording of the website committee description. Since no substantive changes were made the consensus opinion was that the website description could be submitted as read. (Please see Committee description text appended at the end of these minutes.)
 - b) Discuss the committee's past activities, goals, and objectives. **Postponed**: *
 - i) Were these goals and objectives realistic and achievable? **Postponed**: *
 - ii) If not, what would be necessary to make them *work* for our stakeholders? **Postponed**: *
 - c) Evaluate past activities with an eye toward both shortcomings and successes. **Postponed**: *
 - i) What worked and what needs to be improved? **Postponed**: *
 - d) Discuss CD 12, BOS, et al... to obtain the permits, to obtain additional resources and tools needed. **Discussed. No Action taken at this time.**

- e) Discussion and possible motion to approve granting a “Certification of Appreciation” to the owner of Oakridge Landscape, Inc. for their Clean Up efforts **Postponed:** *
- f) Discussion regarding planning the next Community “Clean Sweep” for July. **Discussed.**
Action 1 – Reconnoiter: NHWNC to be divided into precincts (Sections A-G?) Each Committee Member was asked to drive or walk their section to assess problem areas. Spot which trees need to be trimmed, where weeds are high, graffiti must be removed, or trash picked up. Make plans through summer months for autumn “Clean Sweep” Projects.
Action 2 – Research: Find Private Contractors to provide the most difficult or dangerous tasks. Tree Trimming, Large Item Pick Up, etc... Consider Community Service Crews from Juvenile Justice System.
Action 3 – Resources: Antonino offered location and contact info for two LAFD Engine companies: FS 87 on Balboa south of Devonshire [818-756-8687] and FS 90 on Parthenia north of Roscoe [818 756-8690] Go to LAFD.org “Coverage Maps” for more details.

7. Discussion and Possible motion to approve request of a \$10,000 Budget Allocation for Community Clean-Ups

Discussion: Chair suggested that NHWNC follow Northridge East NC’s lead by hiring-out the hardest work. A poll was taken and all agreed that this is a fine idea.

- a. Stakeholder Mary Armenteros advised that the Committee back-up it’s budget allocation request with quotes from service companies.
- b. Chair committed to identify the names of Service Providers and Contractors.
 - 1. Chair suggested Conservation Corps and Juvenile or Restorative Justice “diversionary programs” as a possible source for roadside clean-up crews.
- c. Chair called for committee members and stakeholders to aid in identifying problem areas and the specific jobs that are needed and the use of the NC’s Grid Map.
- d. Chair discussed the **planters on Hayvenhurst** as a Beautification project.
 - 1. They need to be re-planted and some hardscape or plumbing repairs may be needed along with NHWNC signage.

Action 4 – Obtain quotes: Budget spending of NC Funds on Beautification projects

- e. Bonnie made and Nino seconded a motion to request a \$10,000 budget allocation for Beautification and Infrastructure Committee (for Community Clean-up & Repair Projects)
 - 1. Key discussion points noted above.

Motion passed unanimously. 5/0/0/0/2/0 (Yes/No/Abstain/Recused/Absent/Ineligible)

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

In response to stakeholders’ expressed concerns (more PLUM Committee purview but NHWNC issue):

Stakeholder Request – RESEARCH Homeless issues & underpasses with accumulated trash and graffiti:

Seek information and assistance from LAPD Senior Lead Officer Efren Corral, LAANC - Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, CPAB-Community Police Activities Board, LAHSA - Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Identify elected official within City, County, State, and Federal governments who focus on this. Ascertain what we can do as an NC Committee to address this issue. (We can certainly study the issues involved and advocate for legislation that can help mitigate Homeless crisis in Los Angeles.

Stakeholder Request – RESEARCH Light Pole-mounted Flags. Ron Smith, Kiwanis Club was invited to present at a past NHWNC General Board Meeting. Consider adding a budget line item to pay for U.S. flags and installation. NOTE: Gold Star Wives at Nursing Care Facility on Sepulveda north of Van Owen. (?)

9. MEETING ADJOURNED – [7:05PM]

NHWNC Beautification and Infrastructure Committee Description

Members: Carol N. Hart, Antonino Lovato, Kathy Cryer, Jim Cockrell, Bonnie Cockrell, John McGovern,

Nhwnc.net description: (with amendment suggestions to improve FOCUS as well as grammar & syntax)

“This *fun in the sun* committee works primarily to keep the North Hills West area up to its Stakeholders’ standards. They attend to Community Improvement projects such as graffiti removal, reporting illegal dumping, planting of California Native plants in community planters, weed control, and general clean-up of targeted areas including, but not limited to sidewalks and alleys.

Additional ideas include block-mapping to plan and then take ACTION on these issues - street-by-street, in achievable, one-day “Clean Sweep” projects. Dividing blocks into sections that include both sides, allows us to form Neighborhood, Block-based Teams. This could ensure greater stakeholder engagement and more socially rewarding activities!

It also EMPOWERS us to bring more intensive attention to each block. That’s just one part of the new “Cool Blocks” Program, coming to a Neighborhood near you, very soon!

Residential and Business Stakeholders are encouraged to participate by bringing your ideas and location information to any Committee member and we’ll bring our team-building to you!

Targeted Areas of Interest: Graffiti removal, illegal dumping, planting of California Natives in shared, public areas and community planters, WEED & FEED of public median strips and street trees, and organizing “Clean Sweep” projects in alleys, streets & along our sidewalks.

Going forward we will reach out to Alin Sahagian, our Neighborhood Prosecutor, to request a ‘Restorative Justice’ /Conservation Corps model to obtain Adult & Juvenile Community Service Program Volunteers. While doing so we can engage these people and teach them something about *consequential thinking* and “**The Power of Community**!”