



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 20, 2017
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. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dan Gibson called the Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call and announcement of Quorum and Voting Eligibility.

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Nine of the 12 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dan Gibson (President), Dave Brown (Secretary), Jay Beeber, Garry Fordyce, Carol Hart, David Hyman, Sam Kwasman, Madlena Minasian and Kreshell Ramey. Punam Gohel arrived later. Armando Diaz (Treasurer) and Antonino Lovato were absent (both excused). New Residential Seat Board Member Maggie Elliott was appointed to the Board during below Item number six. The NHWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven (see <https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bj3apxsp3?a=q&qid=32&qskip=0&qrppg=1000&dlt=su46~>); quorum was announced. Mr. Brown reported that all Board Members were eligible to vote. Twelve of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant: (Residential). Also attended: 25 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Comments – President.

Mr. Gibson commented.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the March 16, 2017 General Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 16, 2017 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED; one opposed (Fordyce); zero abstained.

5. **Election of Board Officers** (Conducted by Parliamentarian Mike Kabo).
[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.*] Mr. Kabo explained yearly Officer election rules and, in turn, the duties of each.

A. President

Mr. Kwasman nominated Dan Gibson, seconded by Mr. Beeber. Stakeholders Anita Goldbaum and Mary Armenteros, and Board Members spoke in support. The nomination was PASSED by acclamation.

B. Vice-President

Mr. Gibson nominated Jay Beeber, seconded by Mr. Hyman. Stakeholders Mike Khalid and Maria Fisk, and Board Members spoke in support. The nomination was PASSED by acclamation.

C. Secretary

Mr. Gibson nominated Dave Brown, seconded by Ms. Ramey. Stakeholders Ms. Armenteros and Helen Donovan, and Board Members spoke in support. The nomination was PASSED by acclamation.

D. Treasurer

Mr. Gibson nominated Madlena Minasian, seconded Ms. Hart. Mr. Hyman nominated Gary Fordyce, who declined. Mr. Fordyce nominated Mr. Hyman, who declined. Stakeholder Ms. Armenteros, and Board Members Mr. Kwasman, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Brown and Mr. Beeber spoke in support. The nomination was PASSED by acclamation.

6. **Motion and possible action** to consider applications received for appointment to the vacant Residential board seat.

Copies were distributed of a completed “Application for Vacancy: General/Residential Board Member Seat” application.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Maggie Elliott to its vacant Residential Board Seat.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gibson introduced Ms. Elliott. Stakeholders Ms. Goldbaum and Ms. Armenteros, and Board Members Mr. Kwasman and Ms. Ramey spoke in favor of the nomination. Mr. Fordyce believed there was not enough notice given to Stakeholders regarding the vacant Seat.

MOTION to TABLE (by Mr. Fordyce): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council TABLES this Motion.

MOTION to TABLE FAILED for lack of a second.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Brown observed that “the vacancy was noted for two meetings” and there has been “an ongoing application for a vacancy on the website.” Mr.

Gibson stated that the vacancy was “announced during the last three meetings . . . even before the resignation.”

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Gibson); no opposition.

MOTION PASSED; one opposed (Fordyce); zero abstained.

Parliamentarian Mike Kabo led Ms. Elliott in reading aloud the Oath of Office.

New Board Member Maggie Elliott was Seated at this time, making 10 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

7. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

Brian Stege, Field Representative for State 46th District Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (818-376-4246; Brian.Stege@asm.ca.gov; <http://asmdc.org/members/a46>), introduced himself, noted available programs and offered help.

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>), reported there have been a number of “knock-knock burglaries”; the Councilman sponsored legislation offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to a conviction. There will be a SOLID [Supporters Of Law enforcement In Devonshire] pancake breakfast fundraiser (\$9) May 20th at the Devonshire Station. Mr. King will suggest to the Councilman to have a home safety training workshop.

Steve Cline, of the L.A. Recreation and Parks Dept., announced an arts festival June 2-4 at the Northridge Recreation Center. He answered many questions regarding Park services and facilities, and will report to officials that there is space for a small park at Hayvenhurst and Roscoe.

8. General Public Comments

Glenn Bailey, of VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>), reminded of the September 9th Congress of Neighborhood Councils at City Hall and that \$30,000 of the \$40,000 cost is supported by Neighborhood Councils. Aqueduct Ave. resident Jeff Bengston, also speaking on behalf of the DWP’s Rick Mucha, reported that non-residents are taking up parking, and speeding and doing other illegal activities on Aqueduct. Some people are barricading and placing cones to save parking spaces. Janelle Hamilton, Community Relations Division Representative, L.A. World Airport [424-646-5246; JHamilton@lawa.org; www.LAXIsHappening.com], noted that the land at Hayvenhurst and Roscoe is owned by LAWA; she will mention the community’s interest in creating a park there. She reported that one-third of L.A. Airport (LAX)’s operations are moving in May as part of an \$8.5 billion modernization program. LAX is the second busiest airport in the nation. She described project features and services, saying “we’re moving the shuttles out”; a “people-mover” will bring people to three stations in the central terminal area. An Environmental Impact

Report will be sent in June to the City. Expect construction to finish between the years 2023-2025.

- 9. Discussion and possible action** to ratify the President's recommended Chair and Member appointments and changes to Standing and Ad Hoc committees.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints its new Treasurer Madlena Minasian as its Budget Committee Chair.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 10. Presentation** from Maria B. Fisk concerning issues regarding licensed and unlicensed Sober Living/Parolee Homes. Maria is co-founder of the Old Granada Hills Residents' Group (OGHRG) which was founded and incorporated in 2001 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. She currently serves as the chair of the OGHRG Zoning and Density Committee; member of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Planning and Land Use Committee and board member of the Granada Hills Specific Plan Design Review Board. She has an extensive background in Planning and Land Use and was integrally involved in the Community Care Facility Ordinance (CCFO) with former City Councilman Greg Smith and Councilman Mitch Englander.

Copies were distributed of "Group Homes" information and photos. Ms. Fisk defined and described group homes. She said "cities have nothing to say about" group homes because the homes are State-regulated. The homes are considered businesses and can rent to any number of people.

Board Member Punam Gohel arrived at this time, making 11 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

Ms. Fisk reviewed legislation and regulations regarding group homes. She urged to "get involved" in the City's Community Plan process, saying that "since 1998 this has been a huge problem for the State." A Stakeholder offered what they said was experienced information regarding group home corruption and violence. Stakeholder Peggy Burgess described the powerful sober-living homes lobby.

- 11. Discussion and possible action** to approve proposed Standing Rules for NHWNC.

Copies were distributed of "NHW NC proposed Standing Rules & approved proposed bylaws changes" and "NHW NC proposed standing rules final draft April 2017."

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its proposed Standing Rules.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beeber reported that the Rules & Elections “Committee made a number of recommendations.” He clarified that these “would be additional Standing Rules” to those already existing. He read aloud the proposed Rules. Mr. Fordyce expressed various concerns. Mr. Brown explained that draft meeting Minutes say “draft” until the Board approves them, after which the word “draft” is removed. It was noted that the Committee worked on this for seven months. Mr. Gohel pointed out that the Standing Rules are not subject to DONE (L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) approval. Mr. Brown explained that it is a simpler process to revise and approve Standing Rules than for Bylaws.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Gibson); no opposition.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Board Member Carol Hart stepped out at this time, making 10 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

12. Second monthly presentation of approved proposed NC Bylaws changes. Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve the NHWNC February 2017 Monthly Expense Report.
Copies were distributed of the “Monthly Expenditure Report” for February 2017, and receipts and statements.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for February 2017.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce believed that not enough information was shown regarding outstanding commitments.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Brown, Gibson, Hart, Hyman, Kwasman and Minasian); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); two abstained (the NHWNC counts abstentions as “yes” votes) (Elliott and Ramey).

14. Discussion and possible action to approve the NHWNC March 2017 Monthly Expense Report.
Copies were distributed of the “Monthly Expenditure Report” for March 2017 and a statement. Mr. Gibson reported that the balance was \$10,593.29 and that the new Treasurer (Ms. Minasian) soon will submit these Reports. No Motion was made or vote taken.

15. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

Board Member Madlena Minasian recused (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest) from voting on the below Motion and left the room at this time, making nine Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven). Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote “yes” or “no.”

Copies were distributed of a completed Neighborhood Purposes Grant application.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will award a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$2500.00 to the Granada Hills Community Foundation. These funds would be used for “material management and supplies – trash bins, receptacles, portable toilets and water” for the 2017 Granada Hills Street Faire.

DISCUSSION: Richard Fisk reported that this is the Faire’s 14th year. The County, City Council District 12 and other Neighborhood Councils also support it. He described Faire activities. Around 100-150 vendors and 10,000-15,000 people attend. He explained outreach possibilities available in return for funding. The NHWNC can have a booth. The Faire will be held October 7th, the same date as the annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair [ValleyDisasterPreparedness@gmail.com; www.ValleyDisasterFair.com]. Ms. Goldbaum believed the funding request to be too much.

Board Member Carol Hart returned at this time, making 10 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

Ms. Goldbaum urged allocating only \$500, believing the event “does not benefit our community.” Ms. Armenteros also believed the amount was too high.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gohel, seconded by Ms. Ramey, accepted by Mr. Gibson): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council amends the Motion amount to \$500.00.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of nine of the 10 eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Fordyce, Gibson, Hart, Hyman and Kwasman); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Ramey); zero abstained; one recused (Minasian). Mr. Gibson did not vote.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beeber was concerned that the event will not be in North Hills West. Mr. Kwasman believed that the allocation is more than fair for an area that is officially part of Granada Hills. Mr. Fisk specifically explained what outreach is available for \$500 in funding. Stakeholder Jim Cockerell believed the funding could better be used for North Hills West beautification. Mr. Brown noted that the Granada Hills South and North Neighborhood Councils have given “quite a bit of help” with CERT [Community Emergency Response Team, 818-756-9674; www.cert-la.com, lafdcert@LACity.org] training outreach.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Gibson); no opposition.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of nine of the 10 eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Elliott, Fordyce, Gibson, Hart, Hyman and Kwasman); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Beeber and Ramey); zero abstained; one recused (Minasian). Mr. Gibson did not vote.

Board Member Madlena Minasian, who had recused from voting, returned to the room at this time, making 11 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

16. Discussion and possible action to approve NHWNC's Beautification & Infrastructure Committee's recommendation for a Community Clean Up Service Contract or Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. for up to \$8,000, for clean-up and weed abatement along targeted streets and public thoroughfares.

It was agreed to make a Motion for \$4,995 in funding.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Beautification & Infrastructure Committee's recommendation for a Community Clean Up Service Contract or Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. for up to \$4,995, for clean-up and weed abatement along targeted streets and public thoroughfares.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hart explained that the Corps (LACC) provides youth job training and other services and that her research indicated that the LACC is a “highly regarded” organization. They quoted \$4,995 for weed abatement and community cleanup, including “for eight specific areas . . . we will continue documenting” other areas needing work. She discussed this with DONE and CD12; “the money is already allocated.” She is “seeking pre-approval” to ask for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant application. No repairs would be made; only cleanup and “they will have their own outfits . . . and safety gear.” Specific work locations “will be part of the community benefits statement.” Ms. Ramey believed the work focus needs to be “more specific.” Mr. Cockerell urged “it’s time to get some help” and described previous years’ volunteer work. Mr. Bailey encouraged distributing fliers to homeowners whose properties need cleanup and suggested not listing specific locations because “circumstances change.” Mr. Khalid observed that some senior homeowners want help. Mr. Brown said “a blighted property is an absolute magnet” for crime. Mr. Gibson noted that, though taxes are paid for this, work is not getting done. Also, Ms. Hart “solicited private companies . . . they’re busy.” An LACC representative will speak at the next Board Meeting.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Gibson); no opposition.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Kwasman, Minasian and Ramey; one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

- 17. Discussion and possible action** to participate in the District 12 Annual Senior Dinner / Dance/Award night on Friday June 2, 2017, at Lemarsh Park in Northridge by funding for a \$500 NPG to the Valley Relic Museum - the event’s sponsor. NPG Package attached.
Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.
- 18. Discussion and possible action** to select NHWNC Senior of the Year, to receive an Award Certificate from District 12-Councilmember Mitch Englander, at the Senior Dance Event.
Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.
- 19. Discussion and possible motion** to participate in the Northridge Hawaiian Festival of the Arts, at Lemarsh Park in Northridge which will be held Sat. June 3 and Sun. June 4, 2017. This participation is subject to sufficient board member and stakeholder volunteers to staff a NHWNC info table on Sat. June 3rd.
Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.
- 20. Discussion and possible funding motion** to approve \$500 for the Northridge Hawaiian Festival of the Arts. Payment would be made by a funds transfer to the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation who is hosting the event.
Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.
- 21. Discussion and possible action** to select from options concerning the Neighborhood Council 2020 elections.
Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.
- 22. Discussion and possible action** for the NHWNC to support a motion passed by the Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance on January 28, 2017. This motion supports the inclusion of \$192,000 as a multi-departmental budget item in the 2017-18 city budget to cover the cost of 4 staff and related expenses. Two staff members for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and two for the Emergency Management Department, who will work on preparing a disaster preparedness plan which will lead to pre-placement of supplies for first responders and training of individuals at the neighborhood level.
Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.
- 23. Discussion and possible action** to support the work of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates and their White Paper dated 3/8/2017 and approve the filing of a Community Impact Statement for Council File : 17-0600. For more information please click here: <http://ncbala.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SEmpowerLA117030812520.pdf>

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

24. Discussion and possible action to approve Treasurer's recommendations to revise budget category amounts.

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

25. Website Report – Dave Brown

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

26. Budget Representatives Report

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

27. Homelessness Report – Kreshell Ramey

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

28. Committee Chair Reports

a. Outreach -- Sam Kwasman

Mr. Kwasman and Ms. Armenteros reported on extensive outreach, preparations and activities for the April 22nd NHWNC Open House here at New Horizons. The Committee met every month.

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE the remaining Item #28 Items.

b. Beautification -- Carol Hart

c. Emergency Prep/PS -- Dave Brown

d. Land Use

e. Rules & Elections -- Punam Gohel

f. Education -- Garry Fordyce

g. Budget & Finance -- Armando Diaz

29. Board Member Comments

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

30. Requests For Future Agenda Items

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

31. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Minasian).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by NHWNC. The

NHWNC Minutes page is <http://www.nhwnc.net/agendas-minutes/minutes-and-agendas>.