



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 18, 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 7:08 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. Twelve of the 13 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dan Gibson (President), Dave Brown (Secretary), Jay Beeber (Vice-President), Maggie Elliott, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Carol Hart, David Hyman, Sam Kwasman, Antonino Lovato, Madlena Minasian (Treasurer) and Kreshell Ramey. Armando Diaz was absent (excused). 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~>), so the Board could take such votes. Quorum was announced. Mr. Brown reported that all Board Members were eligible to vote. All 13 of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seat was vacant. Also attended: 35 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Comments – President.

Mr. Gibson encouraged everyone to seek permission to speak.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the April 20, 2017 General Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 20, 2017 General Board Meeting with the following correction: page five, Item #13: “DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce believed that not enough information was shown regarding recurring expenses” should read “DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce believed that not enough information was shown regarding outstanding commitments.”

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; one abstained.

5. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

Bryan Lium, Captain, LAPD Devonshire Division (818-832-0633; Bryan.Lium@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station), reviewed crime statistics. He announced that the Police no longer encourage “Lock It, Hide It, Keep It”; now they encourage not leaving any valuables anywhere in your vehicles, including key fobs, keys and electronics. Japanese cars, especially, are being stolen; he encouraged putting a club on the steering wheel when your vehicle is not being driven. He reminded “don’t report a crime on social media; make a Police Report . . . don’t report a crime for a friend”; the friend needs to report the crime themselves. He noted that not all social media information is accurate. Captain Lium said “the Voluntary Citizens Patrol has been a big asset.” In addition, “we’re creating a Teen CPAB” [Community Police Advisory Board].

Julio Anleu, Field Representative for LAUSD Board Member Monica Ratliff (ofc. 818.232.5445; cell 818.935.7049; Julio.Anleu@lausd.net; <http://Ratliff.LASchoolBoard.org>), reported that a pilot lunch program featuring a vegan food option is available. Graffiti at schools can be reported through the MyLA311 phone app.

Gibson Nyambura, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; Gibson.Nyambura@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), encouraged submitting Community Impact Statements.

Ankur Patel, School and Community Coordinator for LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson (ofc. 818-654-3785; Ankur.Patel@lausd.net; <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>), is available to help.

6. General Public Comment

James Brown, 1st Vice-President, Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council, described emergency medical procedures, noting the importance of administering CPR within six minutes for a cardiac arrest victim. They partner with other Neighborhood Councils to provide free training. Carlos Pelaez of Aqueduct Ave. thanked the NHWNC for its support and would like support to install Neighborhood Watch signs. Jill Stewart (cell 916-595-9033) reported that a group met with the Mayor, who disagreed with them regarding whether developers should choose who writes their Environmental Impact Reports. In addition, the Mayor will allow spot zoning. Mike Majers believed that his neighborhood is in Granada Hills, not North Hills West. Glenn Bailey, of VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>), reminded that VANC meets on second Thursday nights and reported that the City is seeking Neighborhood Council funding program feedback.

7. 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 Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council adds Madlena Minasian to its ad hoc Executive Committee and removes Armando Diaz; moves Maggie Elliott from its Outreach to its Public Safety Committee; and removes Ms. Minasian from its Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety Committee.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

8. Committee Chair Reports

Mr. Gibson explained that Committees “are where the work gets done.”

a. Executive -- Dan Gibson

Mr. Gibson reported that the Committee met and will have monthly meetings.

b. Outreach -- Sam Kwasman

Mr. Kwasman thanked Stakeholders Anita Goldbaum, Mary Armenteros, Helen Donovan and Kathy Cryer, and Board Members Maggie Elliott and Dave Brown for their help with the April 22nd NHWNC Open House here at New Horizons. He suggested creating a “Welcome to North Hills West” sign. The Committee meets monthly; he encouraged to “give us your ideas.” Contact him at SKwasman@nhwnc.net.

c. Beautification -- Carol Hart

Ms. Hart reported that cleanup volunteers are welcomed. More pothole repairs soon will be made.

d. Emergency Prep/PS -- Dave Brown

Mr. Brown reported that CPAB (the Community Police Advisory Board; http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station/content_basic_view/8984) meets at Fire Station 87 [10124 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, 91344]. He suggested that the NHWNC help fund, with the LAPD, the purchase of steering wheel clubs. Speed humps and “rumble strips” will be available to help stop speeders. Soon, an eight-week Civilian Police Academy will start. He reminded that the Police do not see all posts on social media such as Nextdoor.com.

e. Planning and Land Use -- Jay Beeber

Mr. Beeber encouraged notifying the Committee if you see construction, notices, etc. Committee positions are available. The Committee will meet monthly, probably fourth Thursdays.

f. Rules & Elections -- Punam Gohel

Mr. Gohel reported that the Bylaws were changed by the Board to have staggered elections “so that . . . every two years you will be electing half the Board Members.”

g. Education -- Garry Fordyce

Mr. Fordyce reported that “all five of our schools filed NPGs” [Neighborhood Purposes Grant applications].

h. Budget & Finance -- Madlena Minasian

Ms. Minasian reported that she completed Treasurer’s training and is “working closely with DONE . . . to gain access” to funds; she will report next month.

9. Homelessness Liaison Report – Kreshell Ramey

Ms. Ramey described the community’s mixed feelings about helping homeless people. The Committee will meet bi-monthly. She encouraged contacting her at KRamey@nhwnc.net. According to L.A. Municipal Code 85.02, the “Vehicle Dwelling” Ordinance, “people can sleep in their cars.” The Housing Right Center (800-477-5977; www.hrc-la.org) provides free tenant services.

10. Website Report – Dave Brown

Mr. Brown reported that the recent worldwide computer virus may have temporarily negatively affected related aspects of the NHWNC website; evaluation by the website contractor was almost complete and all appeared to now be functioning properly; contact him [DBrown@nhwnc.net] if there is a problem. Still, “we continue to have a significant increase in visits” to the website.

11. Budget Representatives Report

Mr. Gohel reported that the City has an \$8.6 billion annual budget. The Budget Advocates interview all 23 City General Managers. “The Mayor accepts about 85%” of the Advocates’ recommendations. Mr. Gohel encouraged participating.

Board Member Sam Kwasman stepped out at this time, making 11 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

12. 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 receipts, invoices and/or and statements.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve the NHWNC April 2017 Monthly Expense Report.

Copies were distributed of the “Monthly Expenditure Report” for March 2017, and receipts, invoices and/or and statements. Mr. Gibson reported that the balance was \$13,639.18.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

Board Member Sam Kwasman returned around this time, making 12 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

14. **Discussion and possible action** to [see the below Motion]. Presentation from LACC.

Copies of a completed Neighborhood Purposes Grant application and information were distributed. Pablo Cardoso [L. A. Conservation Corps; 323-224-2550 x301; PCardoso@LACorps.org; www.LACorps.org], explained the Corps. They work with 14-24-year-olds “throughout the City performing beautification projects.” Ms. Hart explained the Motion. Details of crews and costs were explained. Mr. Brown noted the need for professional help. Mr. Fordyce believed this is “subsidizing a City Dept. . . . double-taxation”; he believed the NPG application to be incomplete and wanted to Table the Motion. Mr. Gibson, Mr. Beeber, Mr. Hyman, Mr. Gohel and Mr. Brown supported the allocation. Ms. Hart reported that she did “extensive research,” that the LACC would be “performing the work on behalf of the [NHWNC],” and that LACC truck magnets will show the NHWNC name.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the NHWNC's Beautification & Infrastructure Committee's recommendation for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. For the amount of \$4,999, for clean-up and weed abatement along targeted streets and public thoroughfares.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Kwasman, Lovato, Minasian and Ramey); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

15. **Discussion and possible action** to approve up to \$500.00 for tools and supplies needed for clean up events and announcements/invitations to be distributed to the residents of the area involved.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

16. **Discussion and possible action** to spend up to \$120.00 for water, coffee, and refreshments for the volunteer clean up team for each clean up event.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

17. **Discussion and possible action** to award a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the Valley Relic Museum to support the District 12 Annual Senior Dinner /Dance/Award night on Friday June 2, 2017, at Lemarsh Park in Northridge in an amount to be determined by the board. (\$500.00 requested).

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.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

19. **Discussion and possible action** to award a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to Vintage STEM Magnet to support their National Aeronautics and Space Administration night on June 2, 2017 in an amount to be determined by the board. (\$1,300 requested). Presentation by Principle Nancy E. Williams-Mourao.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

20. **Discussion and possible action** to award a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to New Horizons to help support their Technology and Media Arts program in an amount to be determined by the board. (\$1,500 requested). Presentation by Shade Mokuolo of New Horizons.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

21. **Discussion and possible action** to award a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the Friends of the Mid-Valley Library to provide books for the "Hot Off the Press" collection in an amount to be determined by the board. (\$1,500 requested). Presentation by Vicki Magaw, Branch Manager of the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

22. **Discussion and possible action** to award a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the Mayall Academy of Arts and Technology Magnet for their Mural and Reading Garden Project in an amount to be determined by the board. (\$5,000 requested). Presentation by Principle Linda Kim.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

23. **Discussion and possible action** 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.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

24. **Discussion and possible action** 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.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

25. **Discussion and possible action** to allocate any remaining budget balance via internal transfer up to \$1,000 each to the LA Congress of Neighborhoods – September 9, 2017 Annual Event, the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, and the LA Congress of Neighborhoods – Networking/EmpowerLA Awards event.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

26. **Discussion and possible action** to approve Treasurer’s recommendations to revise budget category amounts.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

27. **Discussion and possible action** regarding the Board's position concerning a Starbucks development located at 9900 BALBOA BLVD/16937 LASSEN ST. Applicant is requesting a conditional use permit for a 2,240 sf Starbucks restaurant with drive-thru and outdoor seating operating from 4 am to 12 midnight. A new Starbucks pole sign will be constructed on the corner. Supporting documents available on our website at www.nhwnc.net.

Starbucks consultant Kayman Wong presented and displayed a photo, elevations and site plan. The Starbucks would be on the northeast corner. Mr. Wong said “it is zoned commercial . . . we would be allowed by right . . . we need to ask for a change in hours” and a Conditional Use Permit. He said “our busy time is between six and nine” a.m. Mr. Beeber reported that the Committee discussed “a number of concerns,” including traffic, which he pointed out on the site plan. He said “we asked them to do an eight-foot wall so that there’s no noise” going back into the neighborhood. He explained that “they’re entitled to a 7:00 [a.m.] opening . . . they’re asking for an additional three hours” earlier. Mr. Wong explained that the speaker box “would never be more than 15 decibels above the ambient noise.” He indicated that a 15-foot wall will block construction noise. Kimberly Long said “my house will be directly across” from the Starbucks; she opposed the location, especially the drive-through, believing the operating hours would start too early and end too late “in a residential area.” Glenn Bailey, as Northridge East Neighborhood Council President, reported that the NENC passed a Motion containing conditions regarding the project, including that “that ugly billboard comes down.” Jeff Bengston and Mr. Majers opposed the project, believing that waiting vehicles will back up onto and block the street. Mr. Wong said “we have a dedicated queue” for 10 vehicles, longer than usual, allowing eight to 10 cars to queue, minimizing street congestion. He explained that the design “gives us the longest queue” for the site; the standard geometric design per IDT basic traffic standards manual specifies that within zero to 35 feet of an intersection, no turns should be allowed into or out of property; within 35 to 90 feet, right in and right out turns only; beyond 90 feet, full access, no restrictions, can be in and out turns in both directions. The measurement from the intersection of Balboa and Lassen to the turn-in curb is 152 feet, thus the City allows

both direction turns there because the driveway is 152 feet from the intersection, which is much further than the minimum distance needed. In addition, an employee can help regulate traffic if and when needed; this was specified as an acceptable conditional item. Mr. Fordyce said that vehicles “will back up onto Lassen” and noted that the traffic study was done by a developer-hired company; he believed that the study did not mention the nearby Kindercare facility. He was concerned about Starbucks customers’ vehicle exhaust effects on residents, especially children. Mr. Wong noted that the LADOT reviewed the traffic study; he believed that it “accurately describes all transportation impacts.” He said “our queues are nowhere near In-N-Out’s”; theirs are up to 17 cars long while Starbucks averages eight cars long. In addition, the speed of vehicle throughput for the Starbucks is faster than In-N-Out. Mr. Beeber described NHWNC determination options.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Gibson): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Starbucks development located at 9900 Balboa Blvd./16937 Lassen St. for a conditional use permit for a 2,240 square-foot Starbucks restaurant with the following conditions: construction of an eight-foot wall along the Kindercare facility; landscaping for that wall; construction of a 15-foot sound wall with sound-absorbing blankets during construction; if queuing backs onto Lassen St., tenant (Starbucks) will actively monitor Lassen St. queuing into the drive-through and initiate mitigation by an employee as and when needed (this includes both right and left turns); and installation of signage indicating “no left turns allowed” from eastbound Lassen into the Starbucks driveway.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wong explained that “we are only ground-leasing this property; we don’t own the property . . . we don’t have any control over” the billboard, about which he said “I believe it’s a 10-year lease with extensions.” He added that the small billboard is being removed; essentially, a Starbucks sign will replace it.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Mr. Kwasman, accepted by Mr. Beeber and Mr. Gibson): that no left-turns would be allowed between 6:00-9:00 a.m. from eastbound Lassen into the Starbucks driveway and that the large billboard lease would not be renewed when that lease ends in approximately seven years, then that billboard would be removed.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED; one opposed (Fordyce); zero abstained.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED; one opposed (Ramey); zero abstained.

There was a break at this time.

28. **Discussion and possible action** on the possibility of a request to move the North Hills West community west of the 405 San Diego Freeway into either the Northridge or Granada Hills Community Planning Area. Currently the North Hills West community is designated as part of the Mission Hills- Panorama City-North Hills Community Planning Area. However, the North Hills West community is quite

different in land use from communities on the east side of the 405 freeway. Those communities have more intense land use which is more commercial and dense apartment housing. The land use in the North Hills West community is more closely aligned with land use in the Northridge and Granada Hills Community Planning Areas. The PLUM Committee passed a motion in support of the above recommendation to begin exploring this possibility.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

29. **Discussion and possible action** to ask for support from residents in North Hills West who may become aware of any large parcels of property that are for sale and to notify the Neighborhood Council of such. The following motion was approved by the PLUM committee: Move that the Neighborhood Council include in outreach to the community including but not limited to newsletters, e-blasts, posting to NHWNC website, posting to the Nextdoor website, and announcements at board meetings a request from community members to notify the board when they become aware of any large parcels of property that are for sale and/or might be developed.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

30. **Discussion and possible action** regarding a motion to send a letter to Los Angeles elected officials and Planning Officials asking for a more open and transparent planning process with regards to updating the city's General Plan and Community Plans. Request to authorize the PLUM committee chair and other interested stakeholders to meet with our City Council representative and/or planning staff to begin discussions on the eventual update to our community plan and how it may impact the North Hills West community. There has been a proposal by City officials to lump together the entire South Valley into a mega-district to encompass the first 5-6 updated Community Plans. No Neighborhood Councils within these 5-6 Valley-area Community Plans, huge areas, were asked if they were willing to be lumped together for the purpose of planning their futures around Measure M transit projects and a fixed rail line that does not yet exist.

Mr. Beeber explained that "the Planning and Land Use Committee approved this Item." Jill Stewart showed a tree loss map of "urban deforestation" in the City. She said "we're forming a non-profit" to hold the City more accountable and have the City be much more transparent regarding community planning and General Plans. She believed "the City has . . . absolutely no justification for private meetings with . . . carefully picked special needs groups." She urged "get involved now" regarding the City's planning process.

MOTION (by the Planning and Land Use Committee): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will send a letter to Los Angeles elected officials and Planning Officials asking for a more open and transparent planning process with regards to updating the city's General Plan and Community Plans; and authorizes the Planning and Land Use Committee Chair and other interested stakeholders to

meet with our City Council representative and/or planning staff to begin discussions on the eventual update to our community plan and how it may impact the North Hills West community.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Stewart reported that the City would not reveal with whom they are meeting regarding the General Plan and Community Plan updates.

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

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

31. **Discussion and possible action** to select from options concerning the Neighborhood Council 2020 elections.

Mr. Gibson explained and there was discussion regarding the election options. Delaying the election by one year to 2019 would enable a new bylaws changes submission date to be established. Additionally, a delay of one year until the next election would enable more refinement of the online voting aspect.

MOTION (by the Rules and Elections Committee): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council is in favor of delaying the next Neighborhood Council election, currently scheduled for 2018, to 2019 to accommodate the request from the City Clerk.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bailey reported that “the overwhelming number of NCs . . . that’ve responded . . . have chosen #2.”

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

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

32. **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 preplacement of supplies for first responders and training of individuals at the neighborhood level.

It was agreed to Table this Item.

33. **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>

It was agreed to Table this Item.

34. Board Member Comments

There were no comments at this time.

35. Requests For Future Agenda Items

There were no requests at this time.

36. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Kwasman).

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:17 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>.

These draft minutes were approved as corrected at the July 20, 2017 General Board Meeting