



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 19, 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.

Vice-President Jay Beeber called the Meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carol Hart. Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Seven of the 12 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Jay Beeber (Vice-President), Dave Brown (Secretary), Maggie Elliott, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Carol Hart and David Hyman. Five Board Members were absent: Dan Gibson (President), Sam Kwasman, Antonino Lovato, Madlena Minasian (Treasurer), and Kreshell Ramey. The NHWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven (see the Bylaws at <https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bj3apxsp3?a=q&qid=32&qskip=0&qrppg=1000&delta=su46~>), so the Board could take such votes.

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

Quorum was announced. Mr. Brown confirmed that all Board Members were eligible to vote. Twelve of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). [Mr. Lovato's resignation was accepted in below Item #8.] One Board Seat was vacant (Residential); to apply, email Secretary@nhwnc.net. Also attended: 33 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Comments – President.

Vice-President Beeber thanked those who set up and everyone for attending.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the September 21, 2017 General Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Fordyce requested that draft Minutes say “draft” on them.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 21, 2017 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

5. Public agency speakers and announcements.

Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Matt.Hernandez@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>), described recent City Council legislation and referred Stakeholder concerns to appropriate staff.

Carolyn Hogikyan, Field Representative for State 46th District Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (818-376-4246; Carolyn.Hogikyan@asm.ca.gov; <http://asmdc.org/members/a46>), offered help regarding homeless encampments, transportation issues and more.

6. General Public Comment

Stakeholder Adam Halaby was concerned about loiterers outside an elderly neighbor's home; Mr. Beeber referred him to public officials. Daniel DeLozaro was concerned about "lots of cars that don't belong in our neighborhood . . . double parking" on Haskell Ave., blocking trash and other bin placement. Leslie Montano said Haskell parking is "a hassle . . . people parked for weeks." Carole Crone said Haskell parkers "block . . . driveways." Joe Benitez said "they block the mailbox . . . they make it dangerous for us to drive out of the house" by blocking view of cross-traffic. Bob Barton said "it's spreading . . . it's a quality of life issue." Carole David said vehicles are "mostly coming from the other side of the freeway." Ron Wilkes noted "there's condoms on the street . . . homeless people" canvassing the area and "we don't get mail at times." Madelena Ibarbican believed "the neighborhood is deteriorating." Linda E. said "I have contacted the [City] Councilman's Office . . . I have gotten nowhere . . . I'm not getting answers I need to resolve this problem . . . junk cars . . . for four weeks . . . it's a daily struggle . . . we don't get any street sweeping." Lewis Brown agreed. Albert Reyes, "the letter carrier for North Hills" said "this is pretty much the worst I've seen" for trying to deliver mail; "the main issue are the cars . . . it's unsafe . . . cars are doing 65, 75 miles per hour . . . I've had customers who've had their medicines delayed . . . [and] holiday packages." Andrea Alvarado reported that "I got hit" backing out of her driveway. A student said "there's a lot of waste" in the neighborhood; she noted that students walking through then think it's okay to also litter.

Mr. Beeber noted that the City is allowing housing development without requiring enough parking. He encouraged helping hold elected officials accountable and noted that "there's a 72-hour limit" to park in the same place. Mr. Hernandez committed to bring the concerns to Councilman Englander, saying "I took notes . . . I'm going to relay your concerns." Stakeholder Jim Cockerell reported that "Aqueduct [Ave.] residents had this same problem . . . you might want to talk with some of those residents." Mr. Beeber encouraged signing up for NHWNC emails and emailing concerns to Board@NHWNC.net to "address to the entire Board." Stakeholder Chris Carle said there is a "troubling and increasing homeless problem." He has called

“dozens of times” about it and described trespassing, trashing and drugging on his property. Mr. Beeber referred him to Homelessness Liaison Ms. Ramey.

7. Recognition of the James Monroe High School Homecoming Court.

Mr. Fordyce reported that the Court could not attend this Meeting; he will request to re-Agendize this.

8. Discussion and possible action to accept the resignation of residential board member Antonino Lovato.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council accepts the resignation of residential Board Member Antonino Lovato.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC counts abstentions as a non vote, without negatively affecting quorum) (Fordyce).

9. Discussion and possible action to ratify the President’s recommended Chair and Member appointments and changes to Standing and Ad Hoc committees. The President wishes to appoint Carlos and Elena Pelaez to the Beautification and Infrastructure Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Hyman, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Carlos and Elena Pelaez to the Beautification and Infrastructure Committee.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC counts abstentions as a non vote, without negatively affecting quorum) (Fordyce).

10. Homelessness Liaison Report – Kreshell Ramey
Ms. Ramey was not present; there was no report.

11. Report from Budget Advocates

Brian Allen, of the Budget Advocates [<http://ncbala.com>], reported that they are meeting with City departments and encouraged ideas and feedback.

12. Discussion and possible action to approve the NHWNC September 2017 Monthly Expense Report.

Copies were distributed of the “Monthly Expenditure Report” (MER) for September 2017, and receipts and invoices. Mr. Brown noted that, though the Granada Hills Community Foundation requested a \$2,500 grant, \$500 was allocated: “the Board approved \$500 . . . the event was held . . . the vendor has been paid.” There was discussion of adjusting the MER to reflect that.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for September 2017 as adjusted by adding \$500 to the grant description.

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

13. Discussion and possible action regarding NHWNC response to Senator De Leon’s comments concerning Neighborhood Councils. Listen to the Senator’s comments at http://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/as-seen-on/NewsConference-Californias-Historic-Legislative-Session_Los-Angeles-447419693.html. Mr. Beeber explained the issue. Board Members and Stakeholders expressed disagreement with State Senator De Leon’s comments.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council authorizes the President of the NHWNC to draft a letter to Senator DeLeon expressing our concerns about his comments regarding Neighborhood Council as NIMBYs and issuing “threats” to City Council Members and to ask for a public apology for these comments.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote of the seven eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Gohel, Hart and Hyman); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council Board authorizes the President of the NHWNC to draft a letter to Council Member Englander expressing our concerns about Senator DeLeon’s comments that City Council members have told him that “behind the scenes” they supported efforts to lessen the public’s participation in the planning process and that they “have been handcuffed by the Nymbyism and the threats from Neighborhood Councils within our own communities”. The letter should ask CM Englander if he concurs with these comments and if not, to publicly state so.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce believed the Motion to be improper and possibly a Brown Act violation because it was not specifically Agendized.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote of the seven eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Gohel, Hart and Hyman); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

14. Discussion and possible action regarding the board’s position on a proposal by City officials to increase appeal fees for planning and land use appeals (Council File Number: 09-0969). City officials have proposed increasing the fees in Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sections 19.01 through 19.10 (excluding 19.01 F) to full cost recovery. This would have the effect of increasing the fee for non-applicants to appeal land use decisions from the current \$89.00 to \$13,538.00. The PLUM Committee passed the following Motion: To authorize the Committee Chair to draft a

letter to be transmitted to the NHWNC Board for approval and transmission to officials of the City of Los Angeles and any other appropriate parties objecting to the proposal by City officials to increase the fee for non-applicants to appeal land use decisions from the current \$89.00 to \$13,538.00.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council authorizes the PLUM Committee Chair to draft a letter to be transmitted to the NHWNC Board for approval and transmission to officials of the City of Los Angeles and any other appropriate parties objecting to the proposal by City officials to increase the fee for non-applicants to appeal land use decisions from the current \$89.00 to \$13,538.00, as a Community Impact Statement.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with seven in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

15. [This Agenda Item was blank; it was noted that this was a typographical error.]

16. **Discussion and possible action** regarding the board's position on Council File 15-1449, Parking Reform / Technology to Reduce Street Sweeping Tickets. City Council has adopted a pilot program to create a notification system to inform residents of when they can park on a street after it has been swept. This should reduce the number of tickets issued for street sweeping and reduce inconvenience for those who live on streets with street sweeping restrictions. The pilot program will be implemented in Woodland Hills and West LA, and if successful, will be rolled out to the entire city. The original proposal was generated by the Los Angeles Working Group on Parking Reform.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports the proposal to create a pilot program to develop a notification system to inform residents of when they can park on a street after it has been swept, as proposed by the Los Angeles Working Group on Parking Reform. This should reduce the number of tickets issued for street sweeping and reduce inconvenience for those who live on streets with street sweeping restrictions. We encourage the Department of Transportation and Bureau of Street Services to enact the pilot program as soon as possible and, if successful, roll the program out to the entire city as soon as feasible. We ask that the City Council allocate the necessary funds to accomplish these objectives.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beeber explained benefits including increasing parking, noting that "one-quarter of the tickets issued in the City are for street sweeping," including after streets have already been swept.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Hart); no opposition.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with seven in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

17. Website Report – Dave Brown

Mr. Brown encouraged feedback regarding website content and display. Mr. Beeber noted spam emails requesting product mentions on the website; Mr. Brown said “don’t respond to them.” He clarified that all NHWNC domain names “are owned by the [NHWNC].” He explained NHWNC database management.

18. Committee Chair Reports

a. Executive -- Dan Gibson

Mr. Gibson was not present; there was no report.

b. Outreach Committee-- Sam Kwasman

Mr. Kwasman was not present; there was no report.

c. Beautification Committee-- Carol Hart

Ms. Hart reported that she is communicating with City Council District 12: planters at Plummer and Hayvenhurst were “weeded” and being watered. Ms. Hart is working to have dead trees removed. Mr. Beeber reported that free street trees are available through City Plants. Residents can go to the City Plants website to sign up for individual trees or become “block captains” to organize getting trees for their neighborhood.

d. Emergency Preparedness/Public Safety Committee-- Dave Brown

Mr. Brown reported on the “very successful Valley Preparedness Fair . . . over 7,000 people attended” from around the City, 1,400 Family Emergency Preparedness Kits were distributed for free, 2,500 meals served, 75 of the 97 Neighborhood Councils had Board and or Stakeholder participation, 125 Child ID kits were processed, and 53 units of blood (out of 67 potential donors) were collected by Cedars-Sinai, setting a new record for both.

The 2018 Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair will be on Saturday October 6th To be at the Northridge Fashion Center, following the recent successful debut at that location for 2017.

e. Planning and Land Use Committee-- Jay Beeber

Mr. Beeber will announce when the next meeting will be held.

f. Rules & Elections Committee-- Punam Gohel

Mr. Gohel will announce when the next meeting will be held.

g. ad hoc Education Committee-- Garry Fordyce

Mr. Fordyce reported that he participated with the Monroe High School Homecoming Parade; “it was very successful” and he presented to Court members.

h. Budget & Finance Committee-- Madlena Minasian

Ms. Minasian was not present; there was no report.

19. Board Member Comments

Ms. Hart reported that a free diabetes management event will be held Saturday, November 18th from 10:00-1:00 in San Fernando.

20. Requests For Future Agenda Items

Ms. Hart requested Agendizing regarding a Memorandum of Understanding for “permanent supportive housing.” Mr. Beeber indicated that State 18th District Senator Bob Hertzberg (818-901-5588; <http://sd18.senate.ca.gov/contact/email>; <http://senate.ca.gov/hertzberg>) will speak at the next NHWNC Board Meeting.

21. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Hyman).

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:46 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>.