



**NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**General Board Meeting Minutes** Thursday, February 15, 2018  
New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343  
Approved March 15, 2018

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 7:01 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. Eleven of the 12 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dan Gibson (President), Jay Beeber (Vice-President), Dave Brown (Secretary), Madlena Minasian (Treasurer), Maggie Elliott, Punam Gohel, Carol Hart, David Hyman, Sam Kwasman, Carlos Pelaez and Kreshell Ramey. Garry Fordyce was absent due to him being at another function during the meeting. 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&dlt=su46~>), so the Board could take such votes. Quorum was announced. It was 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 [Pat Krone was appointed in Item #5]. Also attended: 32 Stakeholders and guests.

**3. Announcements and Comments – President.**

Mr. Gibson thanked Stakeholder Helen Donovan for printing materials, Mr. Brown for providing and operating the sound system, and the Minutes Writer.

**4. Discussion and possible action to approve the January 18, 2018 General Board Meeting Minutes.**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 18, 2018 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED**; zero opposed; zero abstained.

5. **Discussion and possible action** to fill the vacant Residential Board Seat position by appointing Stakeholder Pat Krone to the Seat.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Stakeholder Pat Krone to fill the vacant Residential Board Seat position.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Krone described her extensive governmental and private business background and desire to serve. She was especially interested in the Haskell Ave. problems and in beautification. Ms. Hart said that Ms. Krone has been “very active . . . ready and willing to help.”

**MOTION PASSED;** zero opposed; zero abstained.

Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), led Ms. Krone in reading aloud the Oath of Office. *New Board Member Pat Krone was Seated with the Board, making 12 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).* Mr. Galdamez noted that Ms. Krone had “completed all her training . . . is eligible to vote on all” items.

6. **Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.**

Ms. Elliott announced and displayed a 15-year Certificate that the NHWNC received from the City. Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Matthew.Hernandez@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), reported that “we got a lot of complaints” about trash hauling. He encouraged reporting illegally parked RVs [recreational vehicles]. He encouraged notifying the CD12 Rapid Response Team of Deputies regarding bulky items needing pickup, and other services. Contact him or Colin Crews (Field Deputy, Colin.Crews@LACity.org) regarding homeless encampments.

Mr. Galdamez reported that the EmpowerLA Awards will be March 29<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. “New funding policies and guidelines” are at Clerk.LACity.com. Feedback is sought March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Canoga Park Community Center about the 2019 NC elections. Bylaws amendments are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

7. **General Public Comments**

Resident Bonnie Cockerell noted that Board meetings are more pleasant to attend without conflict. Stakeholder Anita Goldbaum believed that State Assembly Bills 47 and 57, which reduced consequences for criminals, need to be reversed. Resident Linda Erdman reported that street sweeping is needed on Haskell Ave. Joe Benitez, Haskell Ave. resident, was concerned about vehicles blocking mail deliveries and trash pickup. Glenn Bailey, of VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>), reminded that their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary mixer will be Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at CBS Studios; “it’s a mixer, not a meeting . . . you must RSVP . . . first-come, first-serve.” Also, “funding requests must be done within 45 days of the vote” by a Board or the City will reject it. Reimbursements now are capped; DONE has details. If two or more Monthly Expenditure Reports are at least 45 days late, the City Council “will freeze [the

Neighborhood Council's] funds." He urged to "get involved" regarding the NC funding equity issue. Stakeholder Angeline Krolnik-Campos was concerned about criminal behavior by homeless people, especially on Aqueduct Ave.; she stated that "it's way, way out of control" with trash, dumping and smelling bad.

**8. Update from Budget Advocates.**

Mr. Bailey reported that Regional Budget Day "had robust discussion . . . on a variety of City service issues"; information "will be given to the Budget Advocates." The Advocates will meet with the Mayor before the April 20<sup>th</sup> release of the City Budget; he urged giving input.

**9. Report from Homelessness Liaison Kreshell Ramey.**

Ms. Ramey reported that the latest Homeless Count [[www.TheyCountWillYou.org](http://www.TheyCountWillYou.org)] statistics will be available in May and that "United Way is hiring Field Organizers."

**10. Discussion and possible action to ratify the President's recommended Chair and Member appointments and changes to Standing and Ad Hoc committees as well as NHWNC liaisons.**

There were no appointments or changes at this time.

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

**11. Discussion and possible action to approve the January 2018 Monthly Expenditure Report.**

Copies were distributed of the "Monthly Expenditure Report" for January 2018, and a receipt(s), statement(s) and/or invoice(s).

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2018.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Krone, Kwasman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

*Board Member David Hyman returned at this time, making 12 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).*

**12. Discussion and possible action to finalize the distribution procedure for the 176 auto anti-theft devices (known as "the Club") approved for purchase at the January GBM.**

Mr. Brown reminded not to leave valuables in vehicles. "The manufacturer" of the Clubs "is Winner International . . . they're in two models" which he described. They will cost the NHWNC approximately \$11 per Club; they usually cost around \$42 each. "We're getting free shipment." There was discussion of promotion and distribution of the Clubs. Mr. Galdamez clarified distribution guidelines.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Gibson): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council, at its next General Board Meeting, will distribute Clubs on a first-come, first-serve basis to a single club per household.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Ms. Hart, accepted by Mr. Beeber and Mr. Gibson): to add at the end of the Motion the words “and that will be publicized through all outlets.”

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Krone, Kwasman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 13. Discussion and possible action** to allocate up to \$300 to purchase refreshments for the Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northridge Park Gym, 18300 Lemarsh St., Northridge 91324. The presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Nordella will focus on results from the Health Study on Porter Ranch residents following the Aliso Canyon gas leak. This is in collaboration with the Northridge West and Northridge East Neighborhood Councils.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$300 to purchase refreshments for the Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northridge Park Gym, 18300 Lemarsh St., Northridge 91324.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Mr. Beeber, accepted by Mr. Gibson and Ms. Hart): to replace the Motion word “allocate” with “participate and allocate” and, at the end, to add the words “subject to display of the NHWNC banner and distributing outreach materials,” so that the Motion reads “The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will participate and allocate up to \$300 to purchase refreshments for the Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northridge Park Gym, 18300 Lemarsh St., Northridge 91324, subject to display of the NHWNC banner and distributing outreach materials.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously 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, Krone, Kwasman, Minasian and Pelaez); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Ramey); zero abstained.

- 14. Discussion and possible action** to [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$500 to the Gledhill Street Elementary School to purchase miscellaneous two-way radio items to replace damaged and missing radio components such as antennas, rechargeable batteries, and charging bases. The radios will be used for emergencies and emergency drills, communication amongst yard supervision during recess and lunch schedules, and amongst the administrative team.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Brown explained the need and that “this is a very economical request.” A Stakeholder noted that School staff “were in dire need” of the radios at a recent School event. Mr. Beeber was concerned whether, though a good cause, this was “a good use of the money.” Mr. Hyman noted that the NHWNC needs to allocate \$24,000 within the next four months.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Krone, Kwasman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brown).

- 15. Discussion** regarding the requested boundary change with Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council. No Motion will be made or vote taken at this meeting that supports or directs the boundary to be changed.

Mr. Kwasman presented, noting “we were never officially North Hills . . . we’re on the Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Map since 1953 . . . Granada Hills South [Neighborhood Council] is willing to accept us as a part of their Council . . . the DMV would be willing to recognize us as Granada Hills . . . our Police and Fire Stations are in Granada Hills . . . North Hills Neighborhood Watch has written a letter supporting us.” Stakeholders Peggy Burgess and Donald Jacob supported this. Mike Majers and others noted that they are north of Lassen, which residents consider part of Granada Hills. Lee Albers noted that his children were educated in Granada Hills schools. Ernie Hilger remembered that “in the 50’s this was known as Granada Hills.” Mr. Bailey, as Northridge East NC President, further explained why the area was designated as North Hills instead of Granada Hills. Stakeholder Mary Armenteros said that “it’s the right thing to do . . . allowing that section to become part of Granada Hills.” Mr. Galdamez described the procedure needed to make the change; he reminded that BONC [L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org] makes the final decision. Mr. Gibson referred this to the NHWNC Rules and Elections Committee, to report to the NHWNC at least 10 days before the next Board Meeting (March 15<sup>th</sup>), at which the Board will vote on this. Mr. Brown recommended considering using Nextdoor.com as an outreach resource. No Motion was made or vote taken.

- 16. Discussion** led by NHWNC Board Member Punam Gohel and possible action regarding the RecycleLA program.

Mr. Gohel presented, explaining that only seven companies are hauling trash for 550,000 multi-family and 235,000 single-family homes in Los Angeles. He said “they have a monopoly.” He was charged almost \$41 “to open the gate” to pick up each trash bin. Mr. Gibson reported that his business fees “have more than doubled.” The City Attorney is considering action “to nullify the contract.” Mr. Gohel will prepare a letter for NHWNC consideration. Mr. Bailey noted that “there are now five [City] Council File Motions” regarding this: CF17-0878 (about bin sharing); and CF 17-0878-S1, S2, S2 and S4 (each about nullifying the contract). No Motion was made or vote taken.

- 17. NHWNC Vice-President Jay Beeber will present** regarding legal requirements for setting and enforcing speed limits, why speed limits are sometimes raised or

lowered, and how the laws protect you while allowing the police to catch dangerous drivers.

It was agreed to TABLE this Item.

- 18. Discussion and possible action** to file a Community Impact Statement regarding City Council File #17-1421. This File calls for a study relating to mitigating the negative effects of illegal fireworks in Los Angeles.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will file a Community Impact Statement regarding City Council File #17-1421.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Brown explained the issue; children have been killed and brush fires started by illegal fireworks. The study would be “to document the problem.” Ms. Hart clarified that “this is not just fourth of July.” A Stakeholder reported large “mortar”-sounding fireworks being detonated at the end of the Van Nuys Airport runway and noted the potential danger to aircraft, homes and people.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Mr. Beeber, accepted by Mr. Gibson and Mr. Gohel): to replace the Motion word “regarding” with “supporting.”

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED;** zero opposed; zero abstained.

**19. Committee Reports**

Planning and Land Use Management: Mr. Beeber updated.

Beautification: Ms. Hart updated.

Rules & Elections: Mr. Gohel updated.

Outreach: Mr. Kwasman updated.

Public Safety: Mr. Brown updated and encouraged participating in the Map Your Neighborhood program. Also, the City is promoting the RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood) program [<http://www.emergency.lacity.org/rylan>].

**20. Board Member Comments.**

Ms. Krone was impressed with Board Members’ and Stakeholders’ knowledge. Mr. Brown reported that the CERT [Community Emergency Response Team; 818-756-9674; [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com); [lafdcert@LACity.org](mailto:lafdcert@LACity.org)] class, which the NHWNC supported, finishes February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**21. Adjournment**

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Kwasman).

**MOTION PASSED;** zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:59 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>.