



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 15, 2018
New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343
Approved April 19, 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 7:06 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), Jay Beeber (Vice-President), Dave Brown (Secretary), Madlena Minasian (Treasurer), Maggie Elliott, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, David Hyman, Pat Crone, Sam Kwasman, Carlos Pelaez and Kreshell Ramey. Carol Hart was absent. 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. 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 Seats were vacant. Also attended: approximately 53 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Comments – President.

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

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the February 15, 2018 General Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 15, 2018 General Board Meeting as written.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce, who acknowledged that he was absent from the February 15th Board Meeting, extensively questioned why he was noted as absent.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Fordyce, seconded by Mr. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 15, 2018 General Board Meeting, noting that Mr. Fordyce's absence was due to him being at another function during the meeting.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Brown read from the Bylaws regarding absences.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Fordyce).

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>), announced upcoming events, including the April 4th Homeless Connect Day at Freedom Church. The City Council passed a February 28th Motion prohibiting "any advertisement related to marijuana."

[This Agenda Item was continued after Item #6.] Carlyne Hogikyan, Field Representative for State 46th District Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (818-376-4246; Carlyne.Hogikyan@asm.ca.gov; <https://a46.asmdc.org>), announced a women's self-defense class to be on April 21st, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at North Hills United Methodist Church.

6. Special Presentation: Setting Proper Speed Limits - NHWNC Vice President, Jay Beeber, will give a presentation explaining the 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.

Mr. Beeber presented slides and a video, reporting that U.S. vehicle and pedestrian fatalities have continued to significantly decrease since the 1920's, with some recent increase in pedestrian fatalities, possibly due to such recent factors as "distracted walking" with smartphones, etc. He reported that "50% of pedestrian fatalities are caused by pedestrians doing something unsafe." He described criteria for speed limit changes and "types of speed limits." He maintained that "raising or lowering speed limits doesn't change the speed that people drive on a roadway," despite beliefs. He listed ways to have "self-enforcing roadways" without changing speed limits, such as trees, raised medians, lane markings and speed humps.

7. Discussion and possible action for the NHWNC to file a Community Impact Statement opposing Council File No: 18-0002-S20 (Englander): Resolution that the City of Los Angeles include into its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation and/or administrative action that would increase local control of speed limit setting and enforcement. Councilmember Englander, in response to the need to

update some speed limits in Los Angeles after new speed surveys were recently conducted, has introduced a Motion for the City of LA to support a change in state law to allow cities to set speed limits lower than is justified based on the way the roadway has been built. This will lead to the city being able to set speed traps on roadways throughout LA and would gut the protections afforded to motorists under the state's anti-speed trap laws. A full explanation of the issue will be provided during the presentation by Vice President Jay Beeber on how speed limits are set under current state law. <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=180002-S20>

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Beeber): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will file a Community Impact Statement opposing Council File No: 18-0002-S20 (Englander): Resolution that the City of Los Angeles include into its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation and/or administrative action that would increase local control of speed limit setting and enforcement.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beeber described the issue. Stakeholders described instances of excessive speeding and other dangerous driving. Mr. Brown noted that in Europe extensive use of "traffic calming measures . . . really works."

MOTION PASSED; one opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Fordyce); zero abstained.

8. General Public Comment

Joe Benitez, Haskell Ave. resident, reported that "the parking problem on Haskell is really getting worse." Glenn Bailey, of VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>), reported that their March 8th Mixer was "standing room only." VANC meets second Thursdays. The City wants feedback about the 2019 NC elections.

9. Update from Budget Advocates.

Brian Allen, a Budget Advocate [<http://ncbala.com>], reported that they are "getting prepared to meet with the [City] Budget and Finance Committee" and soon will release their annual White Paper of recommendations. The Equity Funding Group is "looking at ways" to change Neighborhood Council (NC) funding depending upon NC population; feedback is sought.

10. Report from Homelessness Liaison Kreshell Ramey.

Ms. Ramey explained that Measure HHH funds have been used to create "transitional housing" with plans for residents "to move into permanent supportive housing" within six months.

11. 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.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #14.]

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will form an ad hoc committee on Neighborhood Purposes Grants with Board Members Pat Crone and Jay Beeber, and Stakeholder Anita Goldbaum as Members.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

12. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the February 2018 Monthly Expenditure Report.

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

13. **Discussion and possible action** regarding the Rules and Elections Committee recommendations concerning the requested boundary change with the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council. Supporting documents, attachments and Survey results are on the Neighborhood Council website at: www.nhwnc.net by clicking on the agenda for this meeting.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #16.] Copies were distributed of a letter from the Southland Regional Association of Realtors, Inc. to Mr. Kwasman. Stakeholders who made comments supporting the boundary change included Brian and Cathrine Reynolds, Michael Kemper, Karina Diaz, Stephanie Gans, Scott Marchus, Lynn Toler, Laury Franklin, Peggy Burgess and Anita Goldbaum. They believed it was needed, fair, and historically accurate. Mr. Kwasman explained area history and noted that “we were never North Hills . . . my tract deed says “Granada Hills” and I bought it 30 years ago . . . we’re still 91343.” Mr. Gohel said “I support you.” Mr. Beeber observed that “we will possibly have less funding, possibly less political influence.”

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC), in conjunction with the Granada Hills South NC and the Northridge East NC, approves the boundary change with the Granada Hills South NC and the Northridge East NC based on Item Number Two, Section One of the Neighborhood Council Petition for Boundary Adjustment and authorizes NHWNC Board Member Sam Kwasman to be responsible for any and all paperwork that needs to be turned into the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment, and recognizes that Fire Station 87 is a shared facility according to the Petition, including changes to the boundary description in the NHWNC Bylaws.

DISCUSSION: Semee Park, Director of Operations, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9898; Semee.Park@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), stated that “you will have to submit a Bylaws change by April 15th . . . there’s also an application for the boundary adjustment . . . the Department will review . . . we’ll submit it to BONC [L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org]. There was discussion of whether two NHWNC Board Members would become ineligible to serve.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 14. Discussion and possible motion** that the NHWNC form an ad-hoc committee chaired by the NHWNC Treasurer to establish guidelines for expenditures of Neighborhood Purposes Grants and Community Improvement Projects consistent with the Neighborhood Council Funding Program Policies & Guidelines. The NHWNC routinely receives requests for expenditures of NC funds for Community Improvement Projects and Neighborhood Purposes Grants from local public-benefit organizations and schools. During Board consideration of these requests, concerns are often raised as to what constitutes a “community benefit”, the extent to which that benefit extends to the North Hills West community as a whole, the appropriateness of expending public funds for “charitable causes”, and the proper amount of funds to allocate to a specific project or purpose to ensure all applicants are treated equitably and funds are not depleted by a limited number of requests.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will form an ad-hoc committee chaired by the NHWNC Treasurer to establish guidelines for expenditures of Neighborhood Purposes Grants and Community Improvement Projects consistent with the Neighborhood Council Funding Program Policies & Guidelines to address the following questions:

1. What constitutes a “community benefit”?
2. What criteria shall be used to determine if an expenditure request extends a public benefit to the North Hills West community as a whole?
3. Should public funds be expended for primarily “charitable causes”?
4. What is the proper amount of funds to allocate to a specific project or purpose to ensure all applicants are treated equitably and funds are not depleted by a limited number of requests?
5. Any other questions or issues the committee deems necessary and proper to address under the purpose for which it was created.

The committee shall be named The Ad-hoc Committee on Expenditures for Neighborhood Purposes Grants and Community Improvement Projects.

I further move that the committee work in consultation with the Rules and Election Committee to report back to the NHWNC Board within 3 months with recommendations for adopting these guidelines for incorporation into the NHWNC standing rules.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Goldbaum and Ms. Elliott volunteered.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC) approves up to \$600.00 payable to Racks 4 Less to purchase shelving for the NHWNC storage container.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Brown explained the need; in the container “everything’s just stacked up against the wall.” Mr. Fordyce complained that shelving from 2000 is missing and that he’s never seen the inside of the container; Board Members welcomed him to see it and to help paint the second coat.

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

- 16. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to the Southern California Preparedness Foundation for the 11th Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair to be held Saturday, September 29, 2018. This Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Fair, which regularly draws over 3,000 participants, benefits the Neighborhood Council and surrounding communities by increasing neighborhood awareness, providing education and training, and enhancing whole community disaster preparedness. This event is family-friendly, open to the public, and free to attendees. Free Family Emergency Preparedness (EP) Starter kits (while supplies last), will be given to registered families attending the Fair. Additionally, a free lunch is offered while supplies last. The grant money will be used to procure supplies, services, and rentals in support of the Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair which provides Family Emergency Preparedness starter kits, informative presentations, displays and basic trainings, in a family friendly and accessible environment.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC) approves a Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to the Southern California Preparedness Foundation for the 11th Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair to be held Saturday, September 29, 2018.

Board Members Dave Brown and Maggie Elliott recused (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest; both are Board Members of the Southern California Preparedness Foundation) from voting on the below Motion and left the room at this time, making ten Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven). Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote “yes” or “no.”

DISCUSSION: Linda Pruet, Lake Balboa NC Board Member, presented. More than 7,000 people attended last year, and 1,500 free emergency preparedness kits and other items were given away. There again will be free activities at the free event. Volunteers are needed; spread the word. Mr. Bailey said “the cost of the event is about \$49,000.”

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the ten eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hyman, Crone, Kwasman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained; two recused (Brown and Elliott).

Board Members Dave Brown and Maggie Elliott, who had recused from voting, returned to the room at this time, making 12 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

17. Discussion and possible motion to enter into a preferred contractual arrangement (per LA City Clerk Funding Procedures and Guidelines) with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the annual Community Clean-up and Weed Abatement Project.

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item to next month’s Meeting.

18. Committee Reports

There were no reports at this time.

19. Motion to Adjourn

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

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:03 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>.