



# NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



## JOINT BOARD & RULES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Draft

Agenda, Draft minutes and supporting documents are on the NC website at: [nhwnc.net](http://nhwnc.net)

Thursday, July 12, 2018 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm  
Mid-Valley Regional Library, 16244 Nordoff Street, NORTH HILLS, CA 91343

Punam Gohel - Chair, Jay Beeber, Dave Brown

Note the following numbers correspond to the published agenda numbers.

1. Welcome and Flag Salute
2. Roll Call and announcement of quorum and qualifications, quorum was announced at 6:10p.m. with all members present, all members in compliance.
3. Motion to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2018:  
Mr. Brown motioned, Mr. Gohel 2nd. Motion approved unanimously
4. General Public Comments  
None
5. Discussion regarding current NHWNC bylaws approved 6/30/2017,  
**Section 7: Absences & Board member re-instatement procedure.**  
Rec- ommended motion is to add wording clarifying the 12 months and what happens with the prior accumulated absences.

The Rules and Election Committee voted to recommend the following amendments to the NHWNC Bylaws, ARTICLE V, Section 7: Absences:

Reinstatement Process- If requesting reinstatement, the former Board Member must, within ten (10) days of the third consecutive or fifth total absence, notify the Presiding Officer in writing of their intent to request reinstatement.

The Presiding Officer or their designee ~~will~~ shall schedule the request to be heard at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. Upon hearing the former Board Member's request, the Board will vote as to ~~reinstatement and any conditions regarding further attendance the former Board member must meet to remain on the Board.~~ *reinstatement. The Board may make the Board Member's reinstatement subject to any reasonable conditions as the Board may see fit to impose. If reinstated, the reinstated Board Member's prior absences shall remain on the record and any subsequent absences shall subject the Board Member to removal per the policy on absences as established within this section.*

Mr. Beeber motioned, Mr. Gohel 2nd. Motion approved unanimously

6. Discussion & motion regarding adding a Standing Rule clarifying who is allowed to vote on behalf of our NC at Alliance and other related meetings:

The Rules and Election Committee voted to recommend the following addition to the NHWNC Standing Rules:

Members of the NHWNC may attend regional or city-wide NC alliance meetings or meetings of other organizations and may speak on any subject but must clearly state that the views they are expressing are their own personal views and do not necessarily represent the view of the NHWNC. Once the NHWNC has taken an official position on a matter, a NHWNC board member in attendance at a regional or city wide NC alliance meeting or a meeting of another organization may convey the position taken by the NHWNC provided that they do so accurately and completely.

NHWNC board members may not vote as representatives of the board on any matter at regional or city-wide NC alliance meetings or a meeting of another organization unless said board member is the board's official representative to that body or they have otherwise been authorized to vote on behalf of the board through an official action of the board.

Mr. Beeber motioned, Mr. Gohel 2nd. Motion approved unanimously

7. Discussion regarding LA City Councilmember David Ryu's motion regarding changes to the NC system. Motion wording here: [http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0467\\_mot\\_05-25-2018.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0467_mot_05-25-2018.pdf)

Feedback request letter here: [https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/davidryucc/mailings/300/attach-ments/original/David\\_Ryu\\_Letter\\_Neighborhood\\_Council\\_System\\_Reforms\\_05-25-18.pdf?1527294399](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/davidryucc/mailings/300/attach-ments/original/David_Ryu_Letter_Neighborhood_Council_System_Reforms_05-25-18.pdf?1527294399)

Proposal letter here: [http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0467\\_mot\\_05-25-2018.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0467_mot_05-25-2018.pdf)

The Rules and Election Committee made the following recommendations as to LA City Councilmember David Ryu's motion Council File: 18-0467 regarding changes to the NC system:

- Recommendation to change the name of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to the Neighborhood Councils Department (NCD), the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) to the Neighborhood Councils Commission (NCC), and phasing out the use of the term/branding 'EmpowerLA' due to the confusion reported by the public and the perception of Neighborhood Council members that DONE's role should be primarily to support Neighborhood Councils, which the name Neighborhood Councils Department would better reflect.

(1.) **R&E Recommendation** - Support

- Recommendation to remove the "Community Impact Stakeholder," which has caused substantial confusion and disputed elections, and recommendations and next steps for including specific additional definitions by ordinance of eligible voters and board members of Neighborhood Councils, such as student or parent/guardian of a student.

(2.) **R&E Recommendation** - Support elimination of "Community Impact/Community Interest Stakeholder". To prevent the substantial confusion, disputed elections, and potential takeover of Neighborhood Councils by outside interests that has occurred in the past or may occur in the future, the NHWNC supports a narrow definition of "stakeholder". Any person deemed a stakeholder that is eli-

gible to vote or serve as a board member must have a substantial, ongoing, stake in the neighborhood. Residents, owners of real property, and owners of licensed businesses where their primary place of operation is located within the Neighborhood Council's boundaries fit this definition. The following persons, among others, would not necessarily meet this narrow definition of stakeholder:

Parents of children attending a school within the NC

Persons who simply work within the boundaries of the NC

Persons who are members of a secular or religious institution, organization or club which meets or is located within the NC.

Persons who avail themselves of governmental services within the NC.

Persons who patronize businesses within the NC.

Persons who recreate within the NC

Further, the NHWNC believes in the concept of "one person, one vote". Therefore, stakeholders should be limited to stakeholder status in one and only one NC.

- Recommendation to remove any reference to "selections" and clarify that Neighborhood Council board members will be elected.

**(3.) R&E Recommendation – Support.**

- Recommendation to create a one-time review process, overseen by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, to evaluate Neighborhood Council bylaws to determine if board seats are equitably allocated amongst stakeholder types and provide formal suggestions to Neighborhood Councils on ways to adjust board seats as needed to increase equity.

**(4.) R&E Recommendation – Oppose.** The demographics of each NC are specific to that NC. Some NC's, such as NHWNC are primarily residential in nature and have few businesses or other types of institutions within their boundaries. Therefore, forcing the allocations of board seats to be "equitable" would actually reduce equity as minority interests would gain influence beyond their proportions. Further, the term "equity" is too loosely defined. Finally, we do not have confidence in the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to fairly and efficiently conduct this evaluation.

- Recommendations and next steps for adopting regulations to provide a uniform minimum voting age and board member age to allow consistent participation across the City, and what that age should be.

**(5.) R&E Recommendation – Support a uniform voting age of 18 years old as in all other elections.**

- Recommendations and next steps for developing and adopting a planning and land use training required for all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Neighborhood Council planning and land use committees.

**(6.) R&E Recommendation – Support the creation of such training but oppose making this training mandatory.** Some Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Neighborhood Council planning and land use committees have extensive experience in this area and have been serving in this capacity for many years. It is unnecessary to force these individuals to take additional training. Further, we do not have confidence that DONE, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, or any other entity within the city is competent to objectively determine which Chairs and Vice-Chairs have sufficient training and which do not. Finally, it is inappropriate for the city to impose even greater demands upon the time of NC mem-

bers without just compensation.

- Recommendation for Neighborhood Councils to be able to roll-over a non-cumulative maximum of \$10,000 in any given fiscal year.

(7.) **R&E Recommendation** – Support.

- Recommendations and next steps for to remove the expiration of the ability for Neighborhood Councils to accept in-kind or monetary donations.

(8.) **R&E Recommendation** – Oppose. Allowing NC's to accept in-kind or monetary donations opens the democratic process up to possible corruption by moneyed special interests.

- On the costs and other implications of holding all Neighborhood Council elections on the same day in order to provide for a uniform citywide advertising and outreach campaign.

(9.) **R&E Recommendation** – No objection.

- Develop a process to assist Neighborhood Councils with accessing shared space in City facilities.

(10.) **R&E Recommendation** – Support.

- Develop an ongoing compendium of best practices generated from Neighborhood Councils and share those on a periodic basis with all Neighborhood Councils and include 'how-to guides' for accomplishing those best practices.

(11.) **R&E Recommendation** – Support.

- Develop point of contact lists for key city departments and agencies, and share those lists with Neighborhood Councils, facilitate the training of those points of contact at those relevant departments on the most fruitful ways to assist and communicate with Neighborhood Council members, and coordinate with Neighborhood Councils to formally appoint a point of contact at each NC to communicate between each NC and the point of contact at each department, thus creating a single line of communication.

(12.) **R&E Recommendation** – Support.

On all items above, Mr. Beeber motioned, Mr. Gohel 2nd. Motion approved unanimously

8. Discussion & possible motion regarding adding Alternate Board Member seats to NHWNC at the next scheduled Neighborhood Council Election: Tabled

9. Discussion & possible motion regarding lowering NHWNC Board Member minimum age and Stakeholder voting age from current 18 to 17 years of age: (See item 7, # 5 above)

10. Notice: EmpowerLA NC Election Workshop, open to everyone, on Monday July 16, 2018, from 6 to 8 pm at Granada Hills Charter HS, 10535 Zelzah Ave.
11. Committee Member Comments (1 minute each)
12. Requests For Future Agenda Items: no items were presented at this time
13. Motion to Adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Beeber/Gohel 2nd, passed.