



**NORTH HILLS WEST
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

Posted 72 hours prior to meeting - All Meetings are open to the Public



Thursday, July 19, 2018 from 7:00 - 9:30 pm

NEW HORIZONS - SAM'S CAFÉ @ 15725 PARTHENIA STREET NORTH HILLS, CA 91343

Refreshments and Meet & Greet @ 6:30 PM

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Dan Gibson - President, Jay Beeber- Vice President, Madlena Minasian - Treasurer, Dave Brown - Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Crone, Maggie Elliott, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Carol Hart, David Hyman,
Sam Kwasman, Carlos Pelaez, Kreshell Ramey

**ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE BOARD.
PLEASE NOTE THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE BOARD MAY TAKE ITEMS OUT OF ORDER.
ALL SPEAKER CARDS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY BEFORE THE MEETING BEGINS.**

The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes action. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, but the Board has the discretion to modify the amount of time for any speaker.

**Supporting documents available on our website at
www.nhwnc.net**

- 1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 2. Roll Call and the announcement of Quorum and Voting Eligibility.**
- 3. Announcements and Comments - President.**
- 4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.**
- 5. General Public Comments - 2 minutes per Speaker**

The public may provide comments to the Board on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. However, please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on the issue you bring to its attention until the matter is agendized for discussion at a future public meeting.

6. Presentation from Scott Wyskocil, Secretary of the Van Nuys Airport Community Garden concerning the history and current operations of the club.
7. Update from Budget Advocates.
8. Report from Homelessness Liaison Kreshell Ramey.
9. Update from Carol Hart regarding Haskell/Aqueduct parking issues.
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.
11. Discussion and possible action to approve the June 21, 2018 General Board Meeting Minutes.
12. Discussion and possible action to approve the June 2018 Monthly Expenditure Report. (available on NC Funding System online portal: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/NCFundPortal/Dashboard.html>)
13. Discussion and possible action to approve additional keys to be made for heavier duty Butch locks for the NC storage bin, NTE \$100.
14. Reimbursement of Board member Dave Brown for misc. expenses, total: \$149.02

All proposals/recommendations in Items 16 -18 are from the Rules and Election Committee meeting held on July 12, 2018 and, therefore, do not require a second. All items passed on a unanimous vote of the three committee members.

15. Discussion and possible action regarding a proposal from the Rules and Election Committee to amend the NHWNC Bylaws, ARTICLE V, Section 7: Absences - to read:

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.*

16. Discussion and possible action regarding a proposal from the Rules and Election Committee to add the following language to the standing rules of the NHWNC:

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.

17. Discussion and possible action to file a Community Impact Statement in support Council File 18-0270 to reform and improve the Neighborhood Council system. The Rules and Election Committee makes the following recommendations as to LA City Councilmember David Ryu's motion Council File: 18-0467 regarding changes to the NC system. The full council file can be found here: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=18-0467>

The motion can be found here: http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2018/18-0467_mot_05-25-2018.pdf

- 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.

R&E Recommendation 1 - 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.

R&E Recommendation 2 - 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 eligible 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.

R&E Recommendation 3 - 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.

R&E Recommendation 4 - 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.

R&E Recommendation 5 - 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.

R&E Recommendation 6 - 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 members 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.

R&E Recommendation 7 - Support.

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

R&E Recommendation 8 - 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.

R&E Recommendation 9 - No objection.

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

R&E Recommendation 10 - 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.

R&E Recommendation 11 - 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.

R&E Recommendation 12 - Support.

18. Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of one pallet of bottled waters to be distributed at National Night Out, Northridge Park, on Tuesday August 7, 2018. NTE \$250.

19. Committee Reports

20. Adjournment

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council Agenda is posted for public review at the following North Hills West locations: Uncle Joe's Donuts - 8704 Woodley Avenue and on our website at www.nhwnc.net

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any item on the Agenda PRIOR to the Board taking action on an item.

Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments on other matters, not appearing on the Agenda that are within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction, will be heard during the Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items period.

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting Dan Gibson, Board President, via email at dgibson.nhwnc@gmail.com or by phone 818-903-2259.

RECONSIDERATION PROCESS - Reconsideration of a vote by the Board may be called as a Motion by the Board members that voted on the prevailing side of the decision.

GRIEVANCE PROCESS - A stakeholder or group of stakeholders may present a grievance concerning the legality of actions by the Board during public comment. Substantive grievances will be examined by a panel set by the Board and the decisions may be appealed to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS - In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda please contact Dan Gibson, Board President, via email at dgibson.nhwnc@gmail.com, by phone 818-903-2259 or mail to NHWNC – PO Box 2091 – North Hills – CA – 91393.

NHWNC BYLAWS - Please be advised that the Bylaws of the North Hills West Neighborhood Council provide a process for reconsideration of actions as well as a grievance procedure. For your convenience, the Bylaws are available during every meeting.

SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR AL CONCEJO VECINAL 3 DÍAS DE TRABAJO (72 HORAS) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA ASISTENCIA CON ESTA NOTIFICACION, POR FAVOR CONTACTE A DAN GIBSON, PRESIDENTE DE LA MESA, POR EMAIL A dgibson.nhwnc@gmail.com O POR TELEFONO 818-903-2259.

Please Do Not Remove Before July 20, 2018