



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, August 16, 2018
at New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343
Approved 9/20/2018

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 7:09 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven of the 13 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dan Gibson (President), Jay Beeber (Vice-President), Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Carol Hart, David Hyman, Sam Kwasman, Carlos Pelaez and Kreshell Ramey. Madlena Minasian (Treasurer) arrived later. Maggie Elliott 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: 24 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Comments – President.

Mr. Gibson had no announcements or comments at this time.

4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

Hannah Kelley, District Representative for State 18th District Senator Bob Hertzberg (818-901-5588; Hannah.Kelley@sen.ca.gov; <http://senate.ca.gov/hertzberg>), had a Certificate of Appreciation for Kathy Cryer being “North Hills West Senior Citizen of the Year.”

Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reported that he sent DONE-approved NHWNC Bylaws that

have a new map to the Board. He encouraged sharing the EmpowerLA.org/igniteLA website that has information for empowering young women.

Cara Onofre, Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy for LAUSD District Six Board Member Kelly Gonez (ofc. 213-241-6388; cell 818-389-9216; Cara.Onofre@lausd.net; <http://achieve.lausd.net/gonez>), described Ms. Gonez' activities and accomplishments in her first year in office, and local school news.

[*This Agenda Item was continued after Item #6.*] 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>), reported that the Councilman introduced legislation regarding 3-D guns. They are working with the Clean Streets, Clean Starts program and want work location suggestions.

5. General Public Comments.

Stakeholder Anita Goldbaum wanted to know more about an 8300 N. Hayvenhurst Ave. facility that Councilman Englander proposed be used for homeless peoples' storage. Glenn Bailey, "speaking as an individual," encouraged attending the September 22nd Congress of Neighborhood Councils at City Hall. Also, North Valley Bus Rapid Transit project public hearings will be held.

6. Presentation from Lynne German, Adult Literacy Coordinator Adult Literacy Services, Mid-Valley Regional Branch Los Angeles Public Library.

Ms. German [213-228-7037, x166; LGerman@lapl.org; <http://www.lapl.org/literacy>] noted that some people who don't read well are "in the North Hills area . . . this program is for adults 19 and older." She distributed program information and described services including "one-on-one tutoring . . . everything is free." Tutoring usually is "between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. . . . we have a huge waiting list." The Library has "English conversation classes . . . once a week . . . one on Monday mornings, one on Tuesday evenings . . . they can come at any time . . . our tutors do not have to be bi-lingual." The Library has a "career online high school" where adults can get "an accredited high school diploma . . . it takes about 18 months . . . the Library has a lot of computer-based programs." For "volunteering . . . we ask a six-month commitment."

Board Member Madlena Mlnasian arrived at this time (7:46), making 12 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

7. Presentation from Crisanta Gonzalez Emergency Management Coordinator IDMB - Valley Bureau of the Community Preparedness & Engagement Division Los Angeles Emergency Management Department. The City of Los Angeles is developing a program called Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) to help your family and your neighborhood prepare for disasters. RYLAN gives you the steps to take immediately after a disaster to help keep you and your family safe. It provides the tools to prepare and organize your neighborhood to respond together in that first hour after a disaster to reduce injuries, protect your property and the environment, and most importantly, to save lives.

Ms. Gonzalez (213-505-5467; Dept. 213-484-4800) showed slides and noted that there typically are six million people in Los Angeles, including those working, protected by around 9,900 police and 3,200 firefighters. After a disaster they will be working “to get the grid back up” and “the Internet.” She urged preparing homes, workplaces and schools for emergencies, and drilling and testing for different scenarios. It is expected that “our Internet is going to go down, our phones are going to go down” in a 7.8 or stronger earthquake. She showed an emergency preparedness video and encouraged input about increasing community engagement and participation. Ms. Gonzalez noted that federal and local laws make price-gouging illegal.

8. Update from Budget Advocates.

Brian Allen, a Budget Advocate [<http://ncbala.com>], encouraged feedback about City Department operations.

9. Report from Homelessness Liaison Kreshell Ramey.

Ms. Ramey reported that emergency aid funding of \$180 million is available for the Los Angeles area; she encouraged ideas for allocating the funding.

10. Update from Board Member Carol Hart regarding Haskell/Aqueduct parking issues.

Ms. Hart updated “we had a wonderful meeting at CD12 with [Transportation Deputy] Eric Moody”; they “could push forward a request to LAPD” regarding a “preferential parking district.” She described work to facilitate “red curbs” and street sweeping “twice a week,” and noted that at least 75% of each block must approve preferential parking for it to be established.

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. Jay Beeber as Liaison to the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC). Dave Brown as Liaison to the Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Alliance, North Hills West Neighborhood Watch 17A95, and Devonshire Community Police Advisory Board Maggie Elliott as Liaison to Resilience Los Angeles.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Jay Beeber as Liaison to the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC); Dave Brown as Liaison to the Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Alliance, North Hills West Neighborhood Watch 17A95, and Devonshire Community Police Advisory Board; and Maggie Elliott as Liaison to Resilience Los Angeles.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bailey requested that there be more than one VANC Liaison, which Mr. Brown supported.

MOTION PASSED with 11 in favor; one opposed; zero abstained.

12. Discussion and possible action to approve the July 19, 2018 General Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 19, 2018 General Board Meeting as written.

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

13. Discussion and possible action to approve the July 2018 Monthly Expenditure Report. (Available on NC Funding System online portal: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/NCFundPortal/Dashboard.html>).

Copies were distributed of the July “Monthly Expenditure Report”, and a receipt(s), statement(s) and/or invoice(s).

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce believed that “this is not an acceptable MER.” Mr. Bailey and Mr. Allen noted that the transactions are, as Ms. Hart said, “usual and customary.” Mr. Fordyce admitted that the City Clerk’s Office verified that something “is an error in the system.”

Board Member Kreshell Ramey left at this time (8:40), making 11 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beeber, Brown, Crone, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Kwasman, Minasian and Pelaez); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

14. Discussion and possible motion upon recommendation from the Outreach Committee to approve change of date for the December General Board Meeting & Annual Holiday Party from December 20th to Dec 13th to maximize stakeholder attendance.

Mr. Kwasman explained and there was discussion about this.

MOTION (by the Outreach Committee): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves changing the date for the December General Board Meeting & Annual Holiday Party from December 20th to December 13th to maximize stakeholder attendance.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council replaces the above Motion wording “December 13th” with “between the 10th and the 18th, the exact date to be determined.”

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

15. Discussion and possible motion to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Fordyce): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves up to \$250 for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) Election Forum to be held October 11, 2018 at Carla’s Café at CBS Studio Center 4024 Radford Ave. Studio City, CA 91604.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Beeber): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council deletes from the above Motion the phrase “up to.”

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

AMENDED 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, Crone, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Kwasman, Minasian and Pelaez); zero opposed; zero abstained.

16. Discussion and possible motion to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Fordyce): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves up to \$250 for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) Anniversary Mixer to be held March 14, 2019 at Carla’s Café at CBS Studio Center 4024 Radford Ave. Studio City, CA 91604.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Fordyce, seconded by Mr. Beeber): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council deletes from the above Motion the phrase “up to.”

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

AMENDED 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, Crone, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Kwasman, Minasian and Pelaez); zero opposed; zero abstained.

17. Discussion and possible action regarding the Ad-hoc Committee on Expenditures for Neighborhood Purposes Grants and Community Improvement Projects recommendations and proposed guidelines for qualifying and processing

Neighborhood Purposes Grants and Community Improvement Projects. See website for complete details www.nhwnc.net.

Ms. Minasian explained the need. The Committee met twice. Applicants “need to come to the Budget and Finance Committee.” She read aloud from the recommendations. The latest annual application date would be “probably March.” Mr. Galdamez reminded that the City Clerk needs to receive the paperwork, not DONE. Mr. Beeber reminded that “these are guidelines . . . a framework.” Mr. Fordyce believed “we need a little more specificity.” Ms. Crone confirmed that the idea was for applicants to come to the Committee “two or three months” before they need the money; “the purpose of the Committee was to streamline the procedure.”

MOTION (by the Ad-hoc Committee on Expenditures for Neighborhood Purposes Grants and Community Improvement Projects): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council accepts recommendations and proposed guidelines of its Ad-hoc Committee on Expenditures for Neighborhood Purposes Grants and Community Improvement Projects for qualifying and processing Neighborhood Purposes Grants and Community Improvement Projects.

MOTION PASSED with 10 in favor; one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

18. **Discussion and possible action** to file a Community Impact Statement in support Council File 18-0467 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/onlinedocs/2018/18-0467_mot_05-25-2018.pdf This discussion consists of the final item not considered (due to time constraints) at the board meeting of July 19th. R&E Recommendation 2 – [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by the Rules and Election Committee): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will file a Community Impact Statement in support Council File 18-0467 to reform and improve the Neighborhood Council system, to include the following 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 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.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beeber explained the issue. There was very extensive discussion of the Motion’s merits and drawbacks, including the “one person, one vote” concept. Resident Bonnie Cockerell noted that one “shining star” Board Member would become ineligible to be on the Board.

MOTION FAILED by a hand vote with two in favor; eight opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes).

19. **Discussion and possible action** to [see the below Motion]. See website for details www.nhwnc.net.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance position on Sidewalk Repair and Tree Removal. NCSA statement: “We support a policy of repairing sidewalks while maintaining a healthy, safe and sustainable urban forest and urge the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Services to reaffirm its own 2001 policy goals:...”

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hart explained the issue. The statement requests “sufficient time” for Stakeholders to give feedback regarding tree removal; “it’s a huge quality of life issue.” Mr. Fordyce contended that “there’s . . . no information provided” for the Motion. Resident Jim Cockerell reported that a year ago he sent many photos of broken sidewalks to the City and “the City’s turned a blind eye.”

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

20. **Committee Reports**

There were no reports at this time.

21. **Adjournment**

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

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:14 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>.