



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 15, 2019
at New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343
Minutes Approved 9/19/2019

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 7:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Gibson.

2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum and Voting Eligibility.

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Ten of the 12 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Gil Brenner, Heather Hudson Beeber, Dave Brown (Secretary), Maggie Elliott, Dan Gibson (President), Punam Gohel, Carol Hart (Vice-President), David Hyman, Carlos Pelaez and Kreshell Ramey. Pat Crone and Madlena Minasian (Treasurer) were absent. New General Seat Board Member Jay Beeber (who was a previous Board Member) was appointed to the Board during below Item # six. 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 except Mr. Brenner were eligible to vote. Twelve of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant: General. Also attended: 25 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Comments – President.

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

4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

John Parker, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station), for Senior Lead Officer Efren Corral (office 818-634-0579; 35472@LAPD.LACity.org), thanked the NHWNC for August 6th National Night Out funding; “it was a great event . . . we’re trending downward” in crime statistics. He reminded not to leave valuables in vehicles; “They’re generally narcotic thieves. Be careful at shopping centers; don’t leave a credit card, phone, wallet or purse on a counter, in a washroom or elsewhere. He encouraged using a vehicle steering wheel Club. “If it’s not well lit, have somebody else accompany you.”

Semee Park, Director of Operations, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9898; Semee.Park@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), introduced Freddy Cupen-Ames, Neighborhood Council Advocate (Freddy.Cupen-Ames@LACity.org), “the new Project Coordinator.” It was reminded about the September 28th Congress of Neighborhoods at City Hall [<http://www.NCCongressLA.com>].

5. General Public Comment

Resident Anita Goldbaum believed that the recent North Valley Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project public meeting “was an insult” to attendees. No Metro officials were available to answer questions and attendees had to wait one hour to get in. Resident Linda Erdman reported that “we’re still working on the parking for Haskell Avenue”; she encouraged signing a petition. Glenn Bailey, “speaking as an individual,” announced the VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>) September 12th meeting. Resident Peggy Burgess thanked Mr. Gibson for the letter sent to the MTA about the BRT. She requested that the NHWNC send another letter requesting the MTA to move BRT meetings from downtown to the Valley around 6:00 p.m. in a large facility. She is opposed to the proposed Nordhoff BRT route.

6. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints applicant Jay Beeber to the vacant NHWNC General Board seat.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gibson noted that Mr. Beeber applied per the required procedure.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

New Board Member Jay Beeber was Seated at this time, making 11 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

Mr. Beeber noted that he may not have been eligible to vote on funding Motions, therefore, he would not vote on them.

7. Presentation from Carlos Botifoll, Partnership Specialist, U. S. Census Bureau, encouraging participation in the 2020 census. Copies were distributed of Census information. Mr. Botifoll presented. The Census is to “count everyone who lived in the United States in 2020 . . . regardless of immigration status . . . the responses given to the Census are completely confidential . . . used for statistics and that’s it . . . it’s completely safe . . . Census forms do not have a citizenship question and no signature is required . . . there’s a law that prohibits the Census Bureau from sharing that information . . . in March all the households in the country will be getting a postcard.” The Census also can be done “over the phone . . . there are nine questions; it takes around 10 minutes.” Homeless people also will be counted; “we need to count everybody . . . our government bases a lot of important decisions on that count.” If “there’s a significant undercount, California may lose Congressional Seats”; Congressional redistricting will begin in

January 2021. The Census affects federal funding “for the next 10 years.” “There are many jobs available in the Census Bureau . . . these are temporary jobs; some are full-time, some are part-time . . . at this time, you must be a citizen” to apply for a Census job. A Stakeholder noted that previous Census’ are available through 1940 that can help people find ancestors.

8. **Report from Budget** Advocate Glenn Bailey and NHWNC Budget Representative Pat Crone.

Mr. Bailey, a Budget Advocate [www.NCBALA.com], encouraged funding them and noted that a Budget Day report was emailed July 23rd to Board Members.

9. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the July 18, 2019 General Board Meeting Minutes.

Copies were distributed of draft July 18, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 18, 2019 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council establishes an ad hoc Legislative Affairs Committee with Carol Hart as Chair, and Board Member Jay Beeber and Stakeholder Anita Goldbaum as Members.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council removes Board Member Punam Gohel from and adds Board Member Jay Beeber to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, and removes Mr. Beeber from the Homeless Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Board Member David Hyman had stepped out by this time, making 10 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

11. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the July 2019 Monthly Expense Report.

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 2019.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Ms. Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes). Mr. Beeber and Mr. Brenner were ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

- 12. Discussion and possible motion** from the Rules and Elections Committee regarding agenda items discussed at the July 15, 2019 committee meeting including adding to Standing Rule #12 which currently reads: Any individual Board or committee member is free to speak or write expressing his or her own opinion in a public venue or media outlet as long as it is clearly stated that the person is not speaking on behalf of the Council as an official representative of the NHWNC Board or its committees and that the views expressed represent that person’s opinion only. The committee recommends adding the following wording: In an instance where a Board member is speaking in opposition to a duly voted position of the Board, the voted position of the Board shall be stated as such and the individual shall expressly state they are speaking as an individual, in opposition to that voted position of the Board.

Mr. Gohel requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item to September.

Mr. Brown and Ms. Elliott recused from voting (self-declared as/was declared ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest and left the room at this time, making six Board Members present and eligible to vote on funding Motions. Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote “yes” or “no.”

- 13. Discussion and possible action** to [see the below Motion]. At 7:00 pm on Friday, August 16, 2019, at the Knollwood Country Club in Granada Hills, Dr. Jones will deliver a one-hour talk on disaster readiness to our community. This event is free to the public, and all are invited, up to the capacity of the Club's main hall (380), plus additional overflow seating in the Gallery Room. Registration will be processed via Eventbrite.com. As a leading seismologist for the USGS for thirty years, Dr. Lucy Jones has been at the forefront of scientific research for decades, and her outstanding initiatives to create earthquake warnings and disaster scenarios have become integral to keeping Californians safe. Dr. Jones delivers passionate lectures on how we can make our societies and communities more resilient to future disasters. All supporters will be recognized at the event.

Copies were distributed of a filled-in Neighborhood Purposes Grant application and event flier.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the expenditure of up to the requested amount of \$800 for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the Southern California Preparedness Foundation in support of a presentation by Dr. Lucy Jones.

DISCUSSION: Concern was expressed that there had not been enough time to outreach about the event to NHWNC Stakeholders. Mr. Gibson noted that the funding request was made one week before the Meeting and that the event was to be the day after this Meeting. There were comments supporting and opposing the expenditure.

FUNDING MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the six eligible voters present with zero in favor; all six opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Ms. Beeber, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Pelaez and Ramey); zero abstained; two recused (Brown and Elliott). Mr. Beeber and Mr. Brenner were ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

Mr. Brown and Ms. Elliott’s recusals ended and they returned to the room at this time, making eight Board Members present and eligible to vote on funding Motions.

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

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the expenditure of up to \$60.00 per month for the purchase of an Adobe Creative Cloud subscription on a month-by-month basis through the end of the fiscal year.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hart explained this. There was discussion of how to administrate the account.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Ms. Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart and Pelaez); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Ramey). Mr. Beeber and Mr. Brenner were ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

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

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves up to a total of \$3,000 to provide meeting space for committee meetings as needed at a rate not to exceed \$200 per hr.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bailey reported that LAUSD offers free meeting space.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Ms. Beeber, Brown, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained. Mr. Beeber and Mr. Brenner were ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

16. Discussion and possible action to approve adjustments to the 2019-2020 NHWNC Budget.

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed, since Ms. Minasian was not present, to TABLE this Item.

17. Committee and Liaison Reports

Planning and Land Use Management Committee: Ms. Beeber will post on the website information about the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) regarding the School on Haskell.

Beautification & Infrastructure Committee: Mr. Pelaez reported that 10 pothole repair requests, originated by Stakeholders and Board Members, were made and filled. Regarding Haskell Ave. Permit parking, “we are moving right ahead”; only Haskell would be affected at this time. Qualification is based upon 75% of residents on a block agreeing to apply for Permit parking. Stakeholder Jill Akahoshi reported that “No stopping anytime” signs were gotten for Plummer St.

Emergency Preparedness / Public Safety Committee: Mr. Brown reported that six more Neighborhood Watch signs were installed. At the September 28th Congress, there will be a workshop on how to implement the Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Plan. Most hospitals and Fire Stations can connect to ham radio operators.

Homelessness Committee: Ms. Ramey reported that the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness will host a Homeless Solutions Information Fair October 5th from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at One Generation [18255 Victory Blvd., Reseda, CA 91335; (818) 705-2345; Info@onegeneration.org; <http://www.onegeneration.org>]. She requested to Agendize event funding. Officer Parker reported that only two homeless people accepted services help who were in the Sepulveda Basin encampment that was destroyed by fire. Mr. Cupen-Ames noted the homeless outreach portal www.LA-HOP.org.

Outreach Committee: Ms. Hart reported that NHWNC stickers will be printed.

18. Board Member Announcements

Ms. Hart requested Newsletter content. Ms. Beeber encouraged emailing JacksonM@Metro.net regarding having BRT meetings in the Valley.

Board Member David Hyman returned at this time (9:09), making 11 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

Ms. Hart added Sheila@bos.LACounty.gov also can be emailed regarding having Valley BRT meetings.

19. Adjournment

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

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:13 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>.