



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, September 19, 2019
at New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343
Minutes Approved 10/17/2019

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 said.

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

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. All 13 of the 13 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Gil Brenner, Heather Hudson Beeber, Jay Beeber, Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone, Maggie Elliott, Dan Gibson (President), Punam Gohel, Carol Hart (Vice-President), David Hyman, Madlena Minasian (Treasurer), Carlos Pelaez and Kreshell Ramey. No Board Members were 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 except Ms. Beeber, Mr. Gohel and Mr. Hyman were eligible to vote on funding Motions. All 13 of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seat was vacant. Also attended: 29 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Comments – President.

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

4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

Logan Smith, Field Representative for State 46th District Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian (818-376-4246; cell phone 661-755-2368; Logan.Smith@asm.ca.gov; <http://asmdc.org/members/a46>), invited everyone to discuss issues with him. The Assemblyman has nine Bills awaiting the Governor’s signature.

Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; Matthew.Hernandez@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), said that he will report next month on the new Councilman's proposed legislation.

Laurie Lusak, of SOLID (Supporters Of Law enforcement In Devonshire) (818-756-9011, ext. 1200; 818-718-9498; www.SOLIDDevonshire.org), announced their October 11th 8:00 p.m. \$10 all-you-can-eat pasta fundraising dinner.

Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reported that DONE's new General Manager is Raquel Beltran. City Council File #18-0467 would allow 16-year-olds to vote in Neighborhood Council elections. Inventories are due by December 1st.

Michelle Vergara, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (ofc. 818-221-3718; Michelle.Vergara@mail.house.gov; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), encouraged asking for federal issues help such as for Medicare, Social Security, veterans and the IRS. The Congressional App Challenge [CongressionalAppChallenge.us] is open to all 29th District Middle and High School students; submit by November 1st.

Danny Del Valle, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 818-363-1726; mobile/text phone 818-634-0362; 27677@LAPD.LACity.org, or DelVallesw.45@att.net for urgent; http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station), reported for Efren Corral (office 818-634-0579; 35472@LAPD.LACity.org); that the Impound Task Force impounded recreational and other vehicles that were "problem vehicles." The "Crime Prevention Detail . . . at Mason Park . . . area" will be operating. He said "we're doing very well in crime reduction." They are "doing active shooter training" for teachers and others. CPAB [the Community Police Advisory Board; http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station/content_basic_view/8984] meets monthly at St. John Eudes Church [9901 Mason Ave.]. There will be a pot-luck dinner November 14th, probably at 6:30 p.m., at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church [9501 Balboa Blvd., Northridge 91325]. If a sidewalk is blocked less than 36 inches, it is an L.A. Health Dept. issue; if 36 or more inches, it is a Police issue.

5. General Public Comments

Resident Anita Goldbaum requested the NHWNC to report every month regarding government legislation and urged more outreach. Aqueduct Ave. resident Jeff Bengston wanted Permit parking also on Aqueduct, not only on Haskell. Resident Kathy Cryer, representing the North Valley Family YMCA's [818-368-3231; <http://www.ymcala.org/north-valley>) Thanksgiving Food Basket Program, requested to Agendize \$500 in Thanksgiving basket giveaway funding. They will distribute 3,600 baskets through local schools. Volunteer basket-assemblers are needed.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the August 15, 2019 General Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 15, 2019 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED with 12 in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Minasian).

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

Ms. Crone reported that the Advocates have ongoing discussions with the City.

8. 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.

There were no appointments or changes at this time.

9. Discussion and possible action to approve the August 2019 Monthly Expense Report.

Copies had been distributed of the August "Monthly Expenditure Report," and a receipt(s), statement(s) and/or invoice(s).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for August 2019.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gibson noted regarding the three New Horizon charges that one month is duplicated.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brenner, Mr. Beeber, Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Hart, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained; Ms. Beeber, Gohel and Hyman were ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

10. Discussion and possible motion from the Rules and Elections Committee regarding agenda items discussed at the September 16, 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.

Replacement text:

COMMENTING PUBLICLY AS A PRIVATE PERSON

Chairs and committee members may from time to time wish to attend a meeting as a private citizen to offer a personal opinion or voice a concern regarding a particular issue. In that case it is NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL Joint Board and Rules and Elections Committee Meeting Agenda Posted 72 hours prior to meeting - All Meetings are open to the Public expected that committee members will refrain from identifying themselves as chair or member of the committee or Council and clearly state, "I am commenting today as a private citizen."

In matters related to the chair's or point person's area of concentration, it is expected that the representative will, in advance, notify the NHWNC President, the Board Secretary and the Committee Chair that they will be attending a publicly noticed meeting or non-public event.

We value the freedom of speech which gives any Board member the right to make a Public Comment as he or she wishes but they must state that their comments are made as a private citizen. If he or she refers to their relationship as a Board member, it is considered representing the Board. In a case where a Board member misrepresents the position of the Board then Article 5, Section 8 (Censure) applies.

Mr. Gohel explained the need to "define the wording." Ms. Goldbaum supported it. Budget Advocate Brian Allen "feel[s it] is very, very important . . . we do not have the right to misrepresent anything we are speaking on"; he believed the Board should censure Board Members who do it. Garry Fordyce stated that "I'd like to know who writes this jibberish . . . you write a very long dissertation designed to use up someone's time." Mr. Brown stated that "this came up because . . . Garry Fordyce . . . an untrustworthy individual who . . . twice misrepresented" the NHWNC. Ms. Ramey said "it is too wordy." Mr. Beeber believed that issues already were addressed. Ms. Beeber disagreed with requiring 72 hours notice. Mr. Fordyce stated that "you had a blowhard Board Member" and believed that a Committee was "writing this kind of garbage." Mr. Beeber clarified that he is not a Member of the Rules and Elections Committee. Mr. Gibson said "it involves free speech, but it also involves the responsibilities of Board Members."

MOTION to TABLE (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Ms. Beeber).

MOTION to TABLE PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

Copies had been distributed of a completed Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) application.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Crone): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the expenditure of up to the requested amount of \$2,500 for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the Granada Hills Community Foundation to assist in funding the Granada Hills Chamber 15th Annual Street Faire to be held October 5, 2019.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Allen clarified that the funding would go to the Foundation, which “is a suspended corporation at the moment.”

Mr. Brown, Ms. Elliott and Ms. Minasian 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 seven Board Members present and eligible to vote on funding Motions. Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote “yes” or “no.”

Resident Mike Khalid believed it would be “throwing away” the money. Mr. Fordyce stated that “there are no details . . . they’re a long way away because you decided to give away a part of this Council . . . this amount of money is outrageous . . . you can’t just continue giving your money away.” There was discussion of the funding decision-making procedure, including that an event representative needs to present at least eight weeks before the event. Ms. Hart stated that “we didn’t get a lot of North Hills visitors” at last year’s Street Faire.

MOTION to TABLE (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gohel).

MOTION to TABLE PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

Mr. Gibson indicated that there were no adjustments at this time.

Mr. Brown, Ms. Elliott and Ms. Minasian’s recusals ended and they returned to the room at this time, making 10 Board Members present and eligible to vote on funding Motions.

13. Committee and Liaison Reports

Beautification – Carlos Pelaez

Mr. Pelaez reported that petitions for Haskell Ave. Permit parking would be submitted the next day “to get the Permits.”

Emergency Preparedness / Public Safety -- Dave Brown

Mr. Brown reported that “30-day impounds” were being done of illegally parked vehicles. He encouraged seeing the website for upcoming events.

Homeless – Kreshell Ramey

Ms. Ramey described an upcoming event.

Outreach – Carol Hart

Ms. Hart encouraged Holiday Party ideas.

Ad hoc Legislative Affairs – Carol Hart

Ms. Hart reported that the Committee will meet.

Planning and Land Use Management – Heather Beeber

Ms. Beeber reported that Metro postponed their public meeting. The Committee may meet this month.

Rules & Elections -- Punam Gohel

Mr. Gohel explained that the Committee “implemented staggered elections . . . each election will have one-half the Board Members” continuing and one-half up for election, enabling having “a well-trained, well-experienced” Board.

Budget & Finance -- Madlena Minasian

Ms. Minasian reported that “all the bills are paid and there’s nothing outstanding . . . we have a little bit over \$51,000.”

14. Board Member announcements and requests for future agenda items.

Mr. Brown requested to Agendize purchasing a weedwacker-and-leaf blower combination and a curb-stencil kit. Mr. Gohel requested to Agendize sponsoring a CPR class. Ms. Hart said there will be November 20th and 21st “climate crisis presentations” at the Library and other locations. Mr. Gibson encouraged emailing him with specific Agenda ideas.

15. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Minasian).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:52 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>.