



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, December 17, 2020

DRAFT Minutes [to be replaced by “Approved _[Month]_ _[date]_, 202_[year]_”]

In conformity with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this duly noticed meeting was held entirely online and telephonically.

Document copies were available at www.nhwnc.net and shown online.

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 & Call Meeting to Order.

President Carol Hart called the Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven of the 13 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Heather Hudson Beeber, Jay Beeber, Gil Brenner, Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone (Vice-President), Maggie Elliott, Dan Gibson (Treasurer), Carol Hart (President), David Hyman, Madlena Minasian and Kreshell Ramey. Punam Gohel arrived later. Carlos Pelaez 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 link at www.empowerla.org/nhwnc), so the Board could take such votes.

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

Quorum was announced. Mr. Brown confirmed that all Board Members’ trainings were compliant and they were eligible to vote. All 13 of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seats were vacant. Also attended: approximately 15 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Opening Comments – President.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.] Ms. Hart indicated that there were no comments.

4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements

Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; Matthew.Hernandez@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), reported on various issues.

Christina Vega, with L.A. County, reported regarding the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study [Members@AlisoHealthStudyCAG.org; AlisoHealthStudyCAG.org; petition to get chemicals list: <https://bit.ly/3ezEEDO>].

Board Member Punam Gohel arrived at this time (7:42), making 12 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

5. General Public Comment

Anita Goldbaum attended an online meeting regarding safety and security at the shopping center at Balboa and Devonshire; email comments to SaveBalboa&Devonshire@gmail.com. Glenn Bailey, of the NCs Congress planning committee: the next Congress will be Saturday, September 25, 2021, probably again online; volunteers are welcome. The next VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>] meeting will be the usual second Thursday, January 14th, featuring the StreetsLA (formerly Bureau of Street Services) General Manager.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 19, 2020 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brenner, Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Minasian).

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the MER (Monthly Expenditure Report) for November 2020.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for November 2020.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

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

Glenn Bailey, a Budget Advocate [www.BudgetAdvocates.org], reported that the City budget deficit is expected to be \$650-\$700 million. The Police, Animal Services, and Engineering Departments are expected to be especially hard hit.

9. 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. Discussion and possible motion to eliminate the Technical Support Committee since the work has become a part of the Executive Officers’ duties.

Ms. Goldbaum suggested making the Committee inactive instead of eliminating it.

MOTION (by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will deactivate the standing Technical Support Committee until further notice.

Board Member David Hyman was unavailable to vote at this time, making 11 Board Members present online (the NHWNC Board quorum was seven).

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

10. Microsoft Office 365 Purchase Request (General Operating/Office Expense).

Discussion and possible approval of a pCard purchase for an annual subscription to Office 365 – NTE \$100.

Option A: MS 365 “Family” up to 6 users \$99/99 annually or \$9.99/month (Executive & Outreach Committees).

Option B: MS 365 Personal: one user only \$69/99 annually or \$6.99/month.

Ms. Hart reported that DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment; 213-978-1551; www.EmpowerLA.org] said this would be an operating expense. There was discussion of which, if any, option would be useful.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Beeber): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves of a pCard purchase for an annual subscription to Office 365 “Family” up to 6 users \$99.99 annually or \$9.99/month (Executive & Outreach Committees).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #15.

11. Neighborhood Council Elections / Fiscal Year 2020-21 / COVID-19 Pandemic.

[This paragraph and Items 1.-5. are copied from the Agenda.] INFORMATIONAL ONLY – The City Council approved CF 20-0963 on 11/4/2020 and Mayor signed it 11/16/2020 http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2020/20-0963_rpt_HENPAR_10-22-20.pdf “Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. AUTHORIZE the Controller to appropriate \$55,000 from the Unappropriated Balance (UB) General Municipal Elections 2020 Line Item, 100/58/580310, to the City Clerk, Fund No. 100/14, Salaries, As Needed, Account No. 001070.
2. AUTHORIZE the Controller’s Office to appropriate \$456,000 from the UB 2020 General Municipal Election Line Item, 100/58/580310, to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Fund No. 100/47 as follows: \$60,000 to Printing

and Binding, Account No. 002120; \$316,000 to Contractual Services, Account No. 003040; and \$80,000 to Office and Administration, Account No. 006010.

3. INSTRUCT the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to report back in subsequent Financial Status Reports for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020-21 regarding the expenditure of outreach funds allocated to the 2021 Neighborhood Council Elections including any current or projected cost savings.
4. INSTRUCT the City Clerk to request from the Office of the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk the use of ballot drop boxes for the 2021 Neighborhood Council elections, and report back with a status update and any additional resources needed.
5. AUTHORIZE the City Administrative Officer to make technical corrections as necessary to those transactions included in this report to implement Mayor's and Council's intentions."

Ms. Hart noted that the above "is for information only."

12. Expansion of Stakeholder Voting Rights – Accessibility and Ease of Voting.

[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] Discussion and possible motion – "Shall the Board add clarifying language to NHWNC Bylaws amending them with the following stipulation: "ALL North Hills West Neighborhood Council stakeholders shall be eligible to vote for any type of candidate regardless of the basis for either the voter's or the candidate's stakeholder category. (i.e. residential, business, or community interest.)

Ms. Hart requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

13. BONC's Unilateral Action – Failure to Notify in Advance or Invite Participation.

[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] BONC amended our Bylaws but NHWNC only received notification over-the-fact, with NO opportunity to comment or participate in making changes. Shall the NHWNC Board write a letter protesting our exclusion from this process?

Mr. Bailey clarified that the action was due to the City Council, not BONC [the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org] or DONE. Ms. Hart requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

14. Proposed formation of an ad hoc Election Outreach Committee. *[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.]* Discussion and approval of the Rules & Election Committee's recommendation to form such a Committee. ALL NHWNC Board Members are requested to contribute to these efforts whether they're committee members or not for both candidate and voter outreach for NHWNC Elections being held on April 27th, 2021 Note: The Candidate Filing period for Region 2 begins on December 26 and lasts 45 days until February 9th.

Ms. Hart requested help and urged Board and Committee Members to promote the election on social media.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves of the Rules & Election Committee's recommendation to form an ad hoc Election Outreach Committee.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

- 14. CF 17-0413 Citywide Cat Program / EIR** [originally CF 13-1513] http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2017/17-0413_ord_draft_11-02-2020.pdf. [*This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.*] This ordinance amends Section 53.00 of the LA Municipal Code adding a new Section 53.06.1 to raise the limit of cats that a person may keep or maintain from three to five but imposing conditions upon a person who keeps or maintains more than three cats. This applies to any building residential or not. The three main conditions are: 1. all cats shall be kept solely indoors; 2. All cats shall be spayed or neutered* 3. All cats shall be implanted with an animal identification device, such as a microchip, identifying the owner of the cat Location: The location where the cats are kept or maintained shall be registered with the Department of Animal Services using a Department approved form that specifies the name of the cat owner, the address of the location, the number of cats at the location, and any other information the Department deems necessary. Exception: The restrictions in this section shall not apply to any premises operating as a Pet Shop, Dog Kennel, or Cat Kennel pursuant to a valid permit issued by the Department." Note: The presence of 6 or more cats in any building... will trigger a "kennel" designation for which the owner or operator would be required to obtain an annual permit at the cost of \$290/year. <https://www.laanimalservices.com/laws-policies/permits> (see attachment G for more details) NOTE: On 12/09/20 The City Clerk transmitted the CF to Mayor. The last day for the Mayor to act is 12/21/20, therefore, ANY ACTION TAKEN BY NHWNC MUST BE IMMEDIATE IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THE MAYOR'S DECISION.

[*This was the second Item #14 on the Agenda.*] Ms. Hart explained the issue. Mr. Mausner added background. Mr. Bailey noted that the Mayor already approved the Ordinance. No Motion was made or vote taken.

- 15. Reopening of the West Valley Animal Shelter – City Owned vs. Privately Owned Shelters.** [*This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.*] Discussion and possible approval of VANC recommendation regarding the issuance of a Community Impact Statement on the reopening the West Valley Animal Shelter as a municipal shelter <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-1114>. On 11/25/20 City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield moved to amend CF 20-1114 as follows: [Relative to the Shelter long term plan for the West Valley Animal] I (Bob Blumenfield) MOVE [that the original motion] BE AMENDED to add the following bolded language to Recommendation No. 2(b): 2. DIRECT the Department of Animal Services (DAS) to report in regard to its long-range plan for the West Valley Animal Shelter to include: b. The roles and duties of the various DAS staff positions that are essential for the re-opening of the West Valley Animal Shelter as a fully operational municipal owned animal shelter or

a non-municipal owned animal shelter. NOTE: Expert Speakers Jeff Mausner (VANC Animal Liaison), Barbara Hatley (a 30-year veteran of Animal Services) and Michelle Cornelius (long-time West Valley Animal Shelter volunteer) have been invited to speak on this topic.

Jeff Mausner, a Tarzana NC Board Member, said the DAS budget is proposed by the City to be cut nearly \$4 million. A DAS plan would turn the Shelter into a "Community Resource Center"; some services would be transferred to the East Valley Shelter, which already is at capacity. A petition opposing the plan has 8,000 signatures, and nine NCs voted to oppose the plan. Ms. Hatley noted that her views are personal and do not represent the DAS. She agreed that services would be transferred to the East Valley shelter, which she believed to be "logistically impossible . . . East Valley cannot handle the volume" and that "the Police cannot help take up our slack" if someone is attacked by a dog. The DAS' "hybrid" plan "would be less us and more private." She listed services that "will not be done" under the plan and explained why she thought "a hybrid is a bad idea." Ms. Cornelius believed that shelter operating staff should not be laid off. Mr. Beeber believed that the City will later request more funding for DAS. Ms. Beeber noted services needs. Mr. Hernandez relayed that Councilmember Lee believes that the plan "would be a huge disservice to this area."

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Ms. Crone): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council authorizes Carol Hart to write and submit a Community Impact Statement in opposition to the current L.A. Animal Services draft proposal for the West Valley Animal Shelter, taking into consideration the discussion at this meeting and will submit the Community Impact Statement without the need to return a draft for approval to the NHWNC. Furthermore, the NHWNC supports the reopening of the WVAS solely as a fully-functioning municipal shelter.

Board Member Maggie Elliott was unavailable to vote at this time, making 11 Board Members present online (the NHWNC Board quorum was seven).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brenner, Brown, Crone, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

16. Discussion and possible ratification of the Board's previous approval of the Southern California Preparedness Foundation's NPG for \$1500. The Board must re-approve the NPG again in order for us to submit it.

Ms. Hart explained the need.

Mr. Brown and Ms. Elliott recused from voting (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest), making nine Board Members present online and eligible to vote (the NHWNC quorum is seven). Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote "yes" or "no."

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Beeber): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council re-approves the Board's previous approval of the Southern California Preparedness Foundation's Neighborhood Purposes Grant for \$1,500.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hart explained that the funding was for the [October 10, 2020] Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair.

Board Member Gil Brenner had left by this time, making nine Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Crone, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman and Minasian); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Ramey); two recused (Brown and Elliott).

Mr. Brown and Ms. Elliott's recusals ended and they returned to the meeting at this time, making 11 Board Members present online and eligible to vote (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

17. Committee & Liaison Reports

Planning and Land Use Management Committee -- Ms. Beeber reported that the Committee didn't meet because there was no need. Regarding the Oakridge Landscape development on Haskell, the only permit that was pulled was for plumbing; contact her if you have more information.

Rules & Election Committee – Mr. Gohel reported that the Committee met; Mr. Brown added information. Mr. Beeber requested that the Committee consider whether a Board Member is to be recorded as "present" at a Board meeting if they arrive very late.

Homelessness Liaison – Ms. Ramey indicated that there was no report.

Emergency Preparedness / Public Safety Committee – Mr. Brown indicated that there was no report.

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

Mr. Beeber noted an increase in violent crime in the area. Mr. Brown agreed and noted that volunteerism to help the police has increased.

19. Motion to adjourn

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

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

Ms. Hart **ADJOURNED** the Meeting at 10:36 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 the NHWNC. The NHWNC Minutes page is <http://www.nhwnc.net/agendas-minutes/minutes-and-agendas>.