



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 18, 2021
Minutes Approved 3/18/2021

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 7:08 p.m.

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

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. All 10 of the 10 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone (Vice-President), Maggie Elliott, Dan Gibson (Treasurer), Punam Gohel, Carol Hart (President), David Hyman, Madlena Minasian, Carlos Pelaez and Kreshell Ramey. Gil Brenner had been removed. 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. Quorum was announced. Mr. Brown confirmed that all Board Members' trainings were compliant and they were eligible to vote. Ten of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Three Board Seats were vacant (Residential (2) and General (1)). Also attended: at least 11 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Opening Comments – President.

Ms. Hart cautioned not to answer a phishing email that she did not send that appears to be from her.

4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

John Darnell, a Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], introduced himself. He said that the NHWNC election will be April 27th and vote-by-mail is from February 26th – April 20th. Ms. Hart explained that no NHWNC election is necessary. [See below Item #13.]

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 that the

City Department of Building and Safety can close “unlicensed cannabis” facilities. He reminded everyone to “be prepared” for emergencies.

Efren Corral, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer [office 818-634-0579; 35472@LAPD.online; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station], and Patty Peteque, another Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer [cell 818-832-0827; 31373@LAPD.LACity.org], were not present; there was no report.

5. General Public Comments

Stakeholder John encouraged attending PlanCheck [<http://plancheckncla.com>] meetings. Stakeholder Brian Allen announced that the Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Group (CAG) “is having weekly . . . mini-town hall” home meetings; see www.AlisoHealthStudyCAG.org.

Bart Trevino, of the San Fernando Valley Partnership [office 818-837-7767, cell 818-383-0262, BTrevino@SFVP.org], offered services regarding underage drinking and community safety.

Ms. Hart announced that the Mid Valley Regional Library [818-895-3650; <http://www.lapl.org/user/82/contact>; <http://www.lapl.org/branches/mid-valley>] will be celebrating its 25th anniversary.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the January 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 21, 2021 Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the MER (Monthly Expenditure Report) for January 2021.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gibson): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2021.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

Mr. Bailey, a Budget Advocate [<http://ncbala.com>], reported that the City budget deficit is expected to be “over a billion dollars. Neighborhood Councils are requested to advise the Advocates on what issues to prioritize.

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.

There were no appointments or changes at this time.

10. **Public Agenda Item Request – Discussion and possible action on the topic of licensing additional Group Homes** on their small block. This is an opportunity for stakeholders to address the proliferation of Single Family Home conversions being purchased & converted into Group Homes in otherwise quiet family neighborhoods. Stakeholders have expressed concerned about operators’ adherence to safety protocols public safety issue. An invitation to City, County, and State Agency representatives to address stakeholder concerns has been distributed. What public safety precautions do State licensing regulations provide? Have residents been notified or informed? Doesn’t California Heath Code: 1297.1 include a 300’proximity limitation? (ZIMAS). Question: Does the proposed new group home placement violate proximity or density restrictions?

Resident William Bermeo said “there are a proliferation of group homes in our area . . . in a very short distance there are six”; he was concerned about “safety and quality of life.” He believed that State Health Code 1267.9 says that such homes should “not [be] less than 300 feet apart”; he wanted information about “who enforces it.” He described apparent criminal activity “right around the corner” and added that notice “has not happened” of another group home opening. Mr. Hernandez said he has “been working on this” issue. No Motion was made or vote taken.

11. **Public Agenda Item Request – Discussion and possible action on the topic of mandatory student vaccinations prior to reopening of public schools.** An invitation to City, County, and State Agency representatives to address stakeholder concerns has been distributed. Related City Council File: 20-1588 “Governor Newsom / California Department of Public Health / Public Education System Recovery / COVID-19 Vaccines Distribution / Teacher and Staff Prioritization” was introduced on 12/20/20.

Resident Gil Brenner introduced this Item. Ms. Hart relayed that Michael Menjivar, Deputy Director of Community Engagement for Kelly Gonez, LAUSD District Six Board Member [818-358-5042; ofc. 213-241-6388; Michael.Menjivar@lausd.net; <http://achieve.lausd.net/gonez>; social media handle @KellyForLASchools], emailed her that LAUSD is focusing on immunizing school faculty and staff, not students at this time. No Motion was made or vote taken.

12. **West Valley Animal Shelter Update** – Discussion and possible motion to support VANC’s and the stakeholders of many West Valley communities requests to keep the shelter open and operated by the City of Los Angeles.

Mr. Bailey updated on City deliberations on City Council File 20-1114. No Motion was made or vote taken.

13. **2021 NC Election Update**: As of 5 PM on February 9th, only 7 candidates had registered to run for 7 open seats (6 were open as planned and the 7th seat became

vacant as of January 10th due to Board Member relocation.) Discussion and possible action to approve dissolution of the ad hoc Election Outreach Committee as the NHWNC NC election is no longer necessary. Discussion and possible approval to reallocate Election Outreach funds for a separate stakeholder engagement campaign of Community Action Outreach Events (virtual until further notice.) Neighborhood Council Elections: Thomas Soong, Director of Outreach and Communications, has requested our help in seeking nonprofit community partners for a city program to engage their assistance with NC Election Outreach. This is an open invitation to submit additional nonprofit and community-based organizations' names.

Ms. Hart explained the above. Mr. Gohel, Chair of the NHWNC Rules & Election Committee, noted that, since Board Members will not be elected, they will be selected. Mr. Bailey believed that one Board Seat is contested because the City showed two candidates for that Seat; Ms. Hart said that "the City's count is wrong; I have notified them of that." No Motion was made or vote taken.

14. Committee & Liaison Reports

Mr. Brown reported that vehicle break-ins "are at epidemic proportions across the City . . . don't leave anything in your car" and lock it even at home. Mr. Pelaez reported regarding Haskell Ave. parking issues that the Police indicated that "the process is now 100% completed" and "will now be sent over to the Council for their approval"; he will update the Board.

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

Ms. Hart responded to a youth interested in joining the Board that the NHWNC does not currently have a youth Seat; Mr. Gohel indicated that the Rules & Election Committee will discuss it. He announced that there is a meeting every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom regarding the LAPD "to support the Police Department." Mr. Brown suggested Agendizing a presentation regarding the Neighborhood Team Program [sign up at Join.NTP-LA.com] that helps prepare neighborhoods for disasters. Ms. Hart relayed from Hannah Kelley, District Representative for State 18th District Senator Bob Hertzberg [818-901-5588; Hannah.Kelley@sen.ca.gov; <http://senate.ca.gov/hertzberg>), that Sen. Hertzberg announced that the State has COVID-19 pandemic financial relief funds available.

16. Motion to adjourn

Ms. Hart **ADJOURNED** the Meeting with no opposition at 9:50 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>.