



**NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**General Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, March 18, 2021**  
Minutes Approved 4/15/2021

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](http://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 7:15 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**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. 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) was seven (see the Bylaws link at [www.empowerla.org/nhwnc](http://www.empowerla.org/nhwnc)), so the Board could take such votes. Quorum was announced. 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 21 Stakeholders and guests.

**3. Announcements and Opening Comments – President.**

Ms. Hart reported that LAUSD Board President Kelly Gonez sent information regarding school security; Ms. Hart will forward it.

**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](mailto:John.Darnell@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)], said the NHWNC election will be April 27th, certified by May 12th and that the new Board will meet May 20th. April 20th the Mayor will present the next Fiscal Year [2021-2022] budget.

Michael Menjivar, Deputy Director of Community Engagement for Kelly Gonez, LAUSD District Six Board Member and Board President (cell 818-358-5042; ofc.

213-241-6388; [Michael.Menijivar@lausd.net](mailto:Michael.Menijivar@lausd.net); <http://achieve.lausd.net/gonez>;  
Facebook and Instagram: @KellyForLASchools; Twitter: @Kelly4LASchools;  
Student Advisory Cabinet: [www.bit.ly/bd6studentcabinet](http://www.bit.ly/bd6studentcabinet)), reported on the resumption  
of hybrid school services, including some in-person, so that schools “can re-open  
safely in April”; he described implemented safety measures.

L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212;  
[Councilmember.Lee@LACity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Lee@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://www.CD12.org)), reported that he now is Chair of  
the City Arts, Parks and Neighborhoods Committee; he encouraged input. The West  
Valley Animal Shelter is now open; it “takes in 19,000 animals per year.” He has  
“never been a supporter of taking away local control” of land use issues.

Efren Corral, an LAPD Devonshire Division (east of CSUN) Senior Lead Officer  
[Desk: (818) 832-0746; Cell: 424-339-4079; [35472@LAPD.online](mailto:35472@LAPD.online); [http://  
www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station)], reported that  
Devonshire crime is “down 33.6%” from last year. Regarding homelessness issues,  
“City laws do not enable” the Police “to enforce the laws that are on the books”;  
however, the Police “are doing whatever we can” to help homeless people. He  
emails crime statistics every week to all who request them.

Vicky Magaw [Branch Manager, Mid Valley Regional Library; 818-895-3650; [http://  
www.lapl.org/user/82/contact](http://www.lapl.org/user/82/contact); <http://www.lapl.org/branches/mid-valley>], reported that  
the Library “will be opening soon.”

Vahid Khorsand, West Area Representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti (323-552-6730;  
[Vahid.Khorsand@LACity.org](mailto:Vahid.Khorsand@LACity.org); <http://LAMayor.org>), said that he was available to take  
questions.

[*This report was given after Item #11.*] Cristina Vega, with L.A. County, reported  
regarding the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study  
[[Members@AlisoHealthStudyCAG.org](mailto:Members@AlisoHealthStudyCAG.org); [AlisoHealthStudyCAG.org](http://AlisoHealthStudyCAG.org)] that draft “Goals  
and Priorities Document” input is sought within up to 30 days.  
[alisohealthstudy@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:alisohealthstudy@ph.lacounty.gov)

Direct link to draft Health Study Goals and Priorities document: [http://  
publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-  
review.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf)

Later, Brian Allen reported that the County Department of Public Health and the  
community will meet Monday [March 22<sup>nd</sup>].

Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee  
[818-882-1212; [Matthew.Hernandez@LACity.org](mailto:Matthew.Hernandez@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://www.CD12.org)], reported on “a  
free document shredding event . . . (Saturday) April 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon” at the  
CD12 office at 9207 Oakdale Ave., Chatsworth.

Glenn Bailey, for VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils  
[VANC@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:VANC@EmpowerLA.org); <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>], reported that their April  
speaker will be CD7 Councilmember Monica Rodriguez.

## 5. General Public Comments

[These comments were made after Cristina Vega's Item #4 report.] Resident Anita Goldbaum commented. Resident John Hill commented.

## 6. Discussion and possible action to approve the February 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 18, 2021 General Board Meeting as written.

*Board Member Punam Gohel was unavailable to vote at this time, making nine Board Members present online (the NHWNC Board quorum was seven).*

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

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

A slide was shown of the MER.

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

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Gibson explained that MER calculations are made by a DONE-authorized computer program. Mr. Bailey provided further explanation, which was corroborated by Mr. Allen; who said "I don't think there's any issue with this MER." Ms. Hart added that "these are numbers that their program has generated." Later, Mr. Allen noted that the City Clerk had provided an inaccurate MER.

**FUNDING 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 [[www.BudgetAdvocates.org](http://www.BudgetAdvocates.org) or <http://ncbala.com>], provided the link to the Advocates' March 13th report: [https://49dbb8a2-2fe5-4e5c-98cb-3c63bfe6b8e1.filesusr.com/ugd/496e77\\_769943a610c440d3983361705e278c55.pdf](https://49dbb8a2-2fe5-4e5c-98cb-3c63bfe6b8e1.filesusr.com/ugd/496e77_769943a610c440d3983361705e278c55.pdf). The City Clerk NC Funding Program deadline for submitting NPGs and all check requests is June 1st of every year (unless extended as was the case last year due to COVID-19). A \$550-\$600 million budget shortfall is expected. The annual Budget Day will be online on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, the time to be determined.

9. **City Budget Priorities - Discussion and possible action** to designate NHWNC's top priorities for Budget Advocacy.

Ms. Hart urged that infrastructure repair be a top priority. Ms. Crone wanted the Japanese Garden on Woodley re-opened. Ms. Hart noted street tree maintenance is needed. Mr. Brown suggested more funding for homeless services. Ms. Goldbaum wanted food truck monitoring and a pocket park.

10. **PALS Programming Update** – A brief presentation by Millie Jones, Board Member.

Millie Jones, a Board Member of the PALS [Police Activity League Supporters; <https://devonshire-pals.org>], a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides youth services. She will submit a Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) application for \$2,500 in funding. The Grant would help three PALS programs, which she described. Before the COVID pandemic, PALS served 150 children per day; they “continue[s] to serve over 500 meals per day.” It was discussed that NPG documents need to first be presented to the Budget Committee.

11. **Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety Presentation:** Neighborhood Team Program [sign up at [Join.NTP-LA.com](http://Join.NTP-LA.com) that helps prepare neighborhoods for disasters. More info at: [www.ntp-la.org](http://www.ntp-la.org) Patrick Botz-Forbes and Chin Thammasaengsri have been invited to give a brief presentation for our community. The Neighborhood Team Program (NTP) is designed to make it easy for perspective Neighborhood Team Leaders to get started creating their Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams by combining the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) / Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) training programs with step-by-step guides and other short (2-4 pages) and easy to follow documentation.

Mr. Botz-Forbes described the Program and presented with slides. There is a big need for Team leaders, not only participants. He emphasized the seriousness of possible disasters. He described CERT training; videos are at <https://Videos.ntp-la.org>. He reminded that, in a disaster, first responders will not be able to respond to individuals for some time; they will be responding to other, larger needs. Join the Program at <https://Join.ntp-la.org>. Christy Adair, CERT Valley Bureau Coordinator, noted that, worldwide, “95% of rescues are done by fellow victims.” You can email [info@ntp-la.org](mailto:info@ntp-la.org). Mr. Botz-Forbes noted that people who have physical limitations still can be Team leaders.

12. **Motion to Ratify the Board's approval of the S.O.L.I.D. NPG** – This \$3500 Neighborhood Purpose Grant, is to assist with the installation of Plexiglas barriers to protect LAPD Officers at the Devonshire Division from Covid 19 was approved late last year but the funding was held up so it's necessary to ratify or re-approve the NPG for long overdue, expedited NC Funding approval this year.

Mr. Gibson noted that this already was approved last June by the Board.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council ratifies the Board's previous approval of a \$3,500 Neighborhood Purpose Grant to assist with the installation of Plexiglas barriers to protect LAPD Officers at the Devonshire Division from COVID-19.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Allen believed that no re-vote was needed. Mr. Gibson noted that, since it's been more than 45 days since the original vote, ratification is needed.

*Board Members Carlos Pelaez and Kreshell Ramey were unavailable to vote at this time, making eight Board Members present online (the NHWNC Board quorum was seven).*

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

- 13. CF 21-0002-S18** Housing Development Ministerial Approval / Duplex and Parcel Map Division / Environmental Review Exemption Resolution (Koretz - Krekorian) relative to including in the City's 2021-22 State Legislative Program its position on SB 9 (Atkins), which would require cities and counties, including charter cities, to provide for the ministerial approval of a housing development containing two residential units (a duplex), and a parcel map dividing a lot into two equal parts, for residential use; and exempts environmental review. See City Clerk Connect CMS - [http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0002-S18\\_reso\\_12-15-2020.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0002-S18_reso_12-15-2020.pdf).

Ms. Hart requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. She and Ms. Goldbaum encouraged individuals to submit comments. No Motion was made or vote taken.

- 14. CF 21-0002-S21** Midrise, Medium-Density Housing / Public Transportation / Jobs-Rich neighborhoods Resolution (Koretz - Krekorian) relative to including in the City's 2021-22 State Legislative Program its position on SB 10 (Wiener), which requires that cities allow midrise, medium-density housing on sites that are either within one-half mile of high-quality public transportation, or within a jobs-rich, high-opportunity neighborhood close to key job centers, without affordability requirements or sensitivity to the character of existing neighborhoods. See City Clerk Connect CMS - [http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0002-S21\\_reso\\_12-15-2020.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0002-S21_reso_12-15-2020.pdf).

Ms. Hart requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. She and Ms. Goldbaum encouraged individuals to submit comments. No Motion was made or vote taken.

- 15. Discussion & possible motion** approving \$80.00 for Leadership & Stress Management and Adobe Design Course.

Ms. Hart requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. No Motion was made or vote taken.

- 16. Motion** to authorize NCSA Liaison to represent support of recommended 2500' set-back from Oil Drilling sites.

Ms. Hart explained the issue and requested feedback.

17. **Motion** to authorize NCSA Liaison to represent support of proposed plan for 100% renewable energy by 2030.

Mr. Brown thought it is an “unrealistic goal.”

18. **Committee & Liaison Reports**

Mr. Brown reported that he and others recently attended a meeting that Mr. Gohel facilitated in which they discussed with CD7 Councilmember Rodriguez the problem of illegal fireworks; after that, Rodriguez introduced a Motion to City Council that requests

- increased minimum penalties;
- reports from the Department of Animal Services (DAS) to the City Council on the increased shelter intake numbers during periods of increased illegal fireworks usage;
- reports from the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) to the City Council on the increased number of dead pets recovered by LASAN during periods of increased illegal fireworks usage;
- expanding access to the online illegal fireworks reporting system;
- potentially increasing the capacity of MyLA311 by allowing year-round reporting under the service request feature;
- creation of a reward program to encourage individuals to report major suppliers of illegal fireworks in the City; and
- a fireworks buyback program similar to the gun buyback program.

While not part of Rodriguez’ Motion, it was noted that many California cities are now making the property owner of record, from where illegal fireworks are fired, equally liable for penalties. Police Officers would not need to witness the person igniting the fireworks, just verify the address of origin. This would represent a significant increase in enforcement ability. See <https://www.pe.com/2021/02/25/hemet-oks-1000-fine-for-illegal-fireworks>.

19. **Board Member announcements and requests for future agenda items.**

There were no announcements or requests at this time.

20. **Motion to adjourn**

Ms. Hart **ADJOURNED** the Meeting with no opposition at 10:08 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 Board Meeting Minutes page is <http://www.nhwnc.net/agendas-minutes/minutes-and-agendas>.