



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 15, 2021
Minutes Approved 5/20/2121

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 7:04 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. 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), 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 – These may include but are not limited to:

- a. Join the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates for their annual Budget Day event! Everyone interested in learning more about how the City spends its money - and how to create influence regarding spending decisions in Los Angeles are welcome to attend. [Save the date Flier to be posted soon].

Ms. Hart noted the above.

- b. By popular demand we'll request an ongoing update of the West Valley Animal Shelter (After last month's announcement about re-opening, additional study and

oversight has been requested by concerned citizens. Discussion and possible action later in tonight's meeting. Please stay with us to participate. [Possible motion].

It was reported that the Shelter had a March 15th "soft opening." VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>] meets second Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

- c. Notice of one additional Board Seat vacancy – residential stakeholders are encouraged to apply. Residential seat will be filled by confirmation after the April 27th election is certified.

Ms. Hart noted the above. Ms. Crone made a recommendation regarding filling the Seat.

- d. Empower LA's General Manager, Raquel Beltran, has recommended that all newly elected Board Members take the oath of office and begin their service at the first meeting of the new FY. This would be July 15th, 2021.

Ms. Hart explained the above.

4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

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.Menjivar@lausd.net; <http://achieve.lausd.net/gonez>; Facebook and Instagram: @KellyForLASchools; Twitter: @Kelly4LASchools; Student Advisory Cabinet: www.bit.ly/bd6studentcabinet), indicated that he is available to answer questions.

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>), reported on a FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Program; information is at 844-684-6333. For veterans affairs help, contact Field Representative Osvaldo Ramirez [ofc. 818-221-3718; cell 818-388-0685; Osvaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov; <http://cardenas.house.gov>].

John Darnell, a Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], said that the April 27th NHWNC election would be certified by May 12th. He updated about the data project; see Data@EmpowerLA.org.

Kelly Gonez, LAUSD District Six Board Member (ofc. 213-241-6388; Kelly.Gonez@lausd.net; <http://achieve.lausd.net/gonez>), described schools'

preparation for and re-opening of in-person education, including health and safety measures for COVID-19 virus protection. She answered many questions.

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 upcoming events.

Vicky Magaw, Branch Manager, Mid Valley Regional Library (818-895-3650; <http://www.lapl.org/user/82/contact>; <http://www.lapl.org/branches/mid-valley>), reported that, starting May 3rd, the Library “will be a library-to-go branch”; books and materials can be ordered and picked up at either the door or inside. Library computer use is only being allowed at this time at the Canoga Park branch.

5. **General Public Comments**

Resident Anita Goldbaum wanted Board candidates to say why they want to be Board Members, and to know why an ex-Board Member who was “rebuked” and “removed from the Board” is being allowed to be a candidate. Angel Collins, NHWNC Board candidate, described her background and service interest. Glenn Bailey, a Budget Advocate [www.BudgetAdvocates.org or <http://ncbala.com>], reported that Budget Day will be Saturday, August 21st.

6. **Discussion and possible action:** Motion to approve the March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

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.

Board Member Punam Gohel was again available to vote by this time, making 10 Board Members present online (the NHWNC Board quorum was seven).

7. **Discussion and possible action:** Motion to approve the MER (Monthly Expenditure Report) for March 2021.

FUNDING MOTION (by M. Hart, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the MER (Monthly Expenditure Report) for March 2021.

DISCUSSION: Resident Garry Fordyce noted inaccuracies, again believed that the NHWNC was “not being accountable,” and insisted that the MER was not on the NHWNC website. Mr. Gibson noted that he is “working with the City Clerk’s Office” to get numbers corrected that City-supplied software is not appropriately showing. Mr. Bailey noted that “this is not about” and “not unique to North Hills West” and that there is a City Clerk software “glitch” that is affecting a number of Neighborhood Councils; “it’s for the City Clerk to straighten out.” Mr. Brown noted that the MER “remains . . . on the website”; he described and demonstrated at this time on everyone’s screen how to find years of reports that have been posted on the website.

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 Advocates – Glenn Bailey and/or NHWNC Budget Representative Pat Crone.

Mr. Bailey, a Budget Advocate [<http://ncbala.com>], reported that the Mayor will release his annual proposed budget on or before April 20th.

9. City Budget Priorities – Discussion as needed: Recommendations have been completed and their annual White Paper has been submitted but the Budget Advocates welcome additional budget priority suggestions all year long!

Mr. Bailey will email a copy of the White Paper and encouraged budget ideas input.

[*This is copied from the Agenda.*] Items 10 – 15 are recommendations for approval forwarded from the Budget & Finance Committee (No 2nd needed).

10. Discussion and possible action: Motion to approve payment of \$1,959.81 to the LAPD for monthly meeting security services provided by off-duty LAPD officers from July – December of 2019. (See Attached sheets). Note: Expenditure of “up to \$350 monthly” for Board meeting security was authorized at the June 20th, 2019 General Board Meeting. An invoice in the total amount of \$1,959.81 was submitted to DONE in April of 2020 and forwarded to NHWNC in September of 2020, in the following Fiscal Year 2020-2021 with its own separate budget.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves payment of \$1,959.81 to the LAPD for monthly meeting security services provided by off-duty LAPD officers from July – December of 2019. (See Attached sheets).

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hart explained the above.

Board Member Carlos Pelaez left by this time, making nine Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

FUNDING 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, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 11. Discussion and possible action:** Motion to approve a ‘Friends of the Mid-Valley Library’ Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to \$1,497.99. Funding of this grant is requested to assist with the purchase of a laminator for use in producing durable signage for classes, workshops, and special community events. (See Attached sheets.)

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Hyman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves a ‘Friends of the Mid-Valley Library’ Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to \$1,497.99. Funding of this grant is requested to assist with the purchase of a laminator for use in producing durable signage for classes, workshops, and special community events. (See Attached sheets.)

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hart explained the Motion and that the laminator will be available for free use by the NHWNC. Mr. Gibson described previous Committee approval and practicality of the laminator for community use.

FUNDING 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, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 12. Discussion and possible action:** Motion to approve ‘Devonshire is S.O.L.I.D.’ Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to the requested amount of \$5000. Note: This is in lieu of their previous NPG request. Funding of this grant is requested to assist with the costs of a gym renovation at LAPD’s Devonshire Division. It is for the purpose of maintaining officers’ physical fitness training, which is vital for the overall physical and mental health needed in the performance of their duties. In addition to improvements to the room itself, some of the gym equipment will be refurbished and additional equipment will be installed. The closure of public gyms has necessitated these crucial improvement plans. (Full details attached with NPG & Tax Docs.)

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves ‘Devonshire is S.O.L.I.D.’ Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to the requested amount of \$5,000.

DISCUSSION: The NPG application was shown online. Ms. Hart explained the above and that a previous NPG application could not be processed, so this is the first funding request this year by S.O.L.I.D. of the NHWNC. Mr. Gibson explained that the Committee recommended \$3,500 in funding. Tapio Cartiala, SOLID Treasurer, showed slides and noted that they are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. He described their purpose in support of the LAPD’s Devonshire Division. The total cost would be \$37,739; he described previous donors.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Crone): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council amends the funding amount to \$3,500.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING 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, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman and Minasian); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Ramey); zero abstained.

- 13. Discussion and possible action:** Motion to approve ‘LAPD Devonshire P.A.L.S.’ Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to the requested amount of \$2,500. Funding of this grant is requested to assist with the purchase of supplies for PALS Youth Center agricultural (\$500), robotics (\$1000), and auto shop programs (\$1000) for a total grant request in the amount of \$2,500. (Full details attached with NPG & Tax Docs). Community Disaster Preparedness Foundation.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves ‘LAPD Devonshire P.A.L.S.’ Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to the requested amount of \$2,500.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gibson explained the Motion. Long-time P.A.L.S. representative Millie Jones spoke, noting that they have “served over 300,000 meals” to low-income Valley youth. Stakeholder Brian Allen spoke in support.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gibson): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council amends the funding amount to the exact amount of \$2,500.

Board Member Madlena Minasian stepped out of the meeting at this time, making eight Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

AMENDED 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 Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #16.

- 14. Discussion and possible action:** to approve Motion to approve ‘Neighborhood Purpose Grant not to exceed, \$2680 to purchase a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Staging Area Kit to be placed within the North Hills West NC boundaries. (Full details attached with NPG & Tax Docs.)

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves a 'Neighborhood Purpose Grant of \$2,680 to purchase a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Staging Area Kit to be placed within the North Hills West NC boundaries. The CERT Staging Area is the location where trained volunteer community responders and members of the Neighborhood Emergency Team will go after a disaster such as an earthquake. CERT Liaison Teams will establish two-way radio communications with the CERT Staging Areas and the LAFD response.

DISCUSSION: Patrick Botz-Forbes, from Community Disaster Foundation, CERT [Community Emergency Response Team; 818-756-9674; www.cert-la.com; lafdcert@LACity.org] and Neighborhood Team Program coordinator representative, described the above and promised that the Kit will stay "in the North Hills West area."

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council amends the funding amount to the exact amount of \$2,680.

Board Member Madlena Minasian was unavailable to vote at this time, making eight Board Members present online (the NHWNC Board quorum was seven).

AMENDED 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 Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

15. Discussion and possible action: Motion to approve a NHWNC Expenditure of \$4,974.00 for a 20' one-trip shipping container, for storage of the CERT Staging Area Kit as detailed in item 14, above. This includes taxes plus Shipping & Handling. (Full details attached with NPG & Tax Docs.)

It was agreed to TABLE this Item to next month's Board Meeting.

Board Member Madlena Minasian had returned before Item #16 was addressed, making nine Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

16. Discussion and possible action: Motion to approve adjustments to the 2020-2021 NHWNC Budget and Administrative Packet. (See revised Budget & Administrative Packet submitted for Board approval attached.)

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will transfer \$5,000 from the General and Operational funding category and \$3,000 from the Community Improvement category to the Neighborhood Purposes Grant category.

FUNDING 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, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #14.

17. Discussion and possible action: Motion to support Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety Committee recommendations for City Council ACTION as regards Illegal Fireworks – Proposed City Ordinances CF 21-0318. Motion (Rodriguez – Koretz) relative to the Los Angeles Fire Department and Los Angeles Police Department examining the feasibility of implementing new programs to curtail fireworks usage, including the creation of a reward program to encourage individuals to report major suppliers of illegal fireworks in the City, and a fireworks buyback program based on the City’s Gun Buyback Program. http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0318_mot_03-17-21.pdf

Mr. Brown showed the City Council Motion online, explained it and noted that Mr. Gohel facilitated a meeting with City Councilmember Monica Rodriguez that prompted the City Council Motion.

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety Committee recommendations for City Council ACTION as regards Illegal Fireworks – Proposed City Ordinances CF 21-0318 as motioned, and would suggest exploring additional illegal fireworks mitigation:

While the NHWNC supports CF 21-0318 and applauds it as an important initial step in the critical mitigation of illegal fireworks so pervasive in Los Angeles, we suggest that it is not possible to only enforce the way clear to a solution. We suggest education, interdiction, enforcement and alternatives.

We specifically suggest consideration of the following:

1. Establish and make it possible to enforce and prosecute a Minimum base fine appropriate to the neighborhood wide-area negative subjugation experienced by residents. Many cities are going to \$1,000 initial / first penalty, with escalating amounts for repeat offenders.
2. Establish same penalty structure for property owners of record where illegal fireworks are shot from. This would dramatically enhance Law Enforcement ability to cite offenders without the current futile regulation to witness the actual shooter(s). Several California cities are in process to implement this, notably Hemet, CA. Unpaid citations could be added to the annual property tax invoice.
3. Provide the legal means for Law Enforcement to confiscate illegal fireworks when being shot off in the street(s) or other non-address locations. Also ability

to impound vehicles discovered to be transporting illegal fireworks without proof present of legal authority to do so.

4. Engage online retail platforms to aid in the mitigation of illegal fireworks sales to Calif addresses.
5. Engage social media with Public Service Announcements educating public about the dangers, penalties and alternatives to illegal fireworks and how to report them.
6. Advocate for increased illegal fireworks interdiction at California border entry locations.
7. Advocate for increased illegal fireworks container interdiction at Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Sub-average annual rainfalls, especially the most recent years, have significantly increased the peril of illegal fireworks contributing to wind-driven massive firestorm conflagrations. Enhanced illegal fireworks mitigation is critically needed in those heightened hazard areas.

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, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); one absent (Peleaz); zero abstained.

18. **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. <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/m.clerkconnect/#CFIResult&ui-state=dialog>

This Item was not addressed.

19. **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. <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/m.clerkconnect/#CFIResult&ui-state=dialog>

This Item was not addressed.

20. Committee & Liaison Reports

There were no reports at this time.

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

Earlier, Mr. Brown described a way to make Agenda-setting easier. Ms. Hart requested that the phrase "Agenda item request" be typed into the email subject line of every such request. Ms. Minasian suggested agendaizing monthly emergency preparation information.

22. Motion to adjourn

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:45 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>.