



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 15, 2021
Minutes Approved 8/19/2021

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.

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.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #4. A.

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

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Ten of the 13 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Dave Brown (Secretary), Angel Collins, Pat Crone (Vice-President), Maggie Elliott, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Carol Hart (President), David Hyman, Carlos Pelaez and Kreshell Ramey. Madlena Minasian arrived later. Sam Acosta and Dan Gibson (Treasurer) 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. 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 Seat was vacant. Also attended: at least 16 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Opening Comments – Carol N. Hart, President.

A. In Memoriam: Bill Hopkins, Linda Pruet, and Frank Borden – each one an Emergency Preparedness Leader.

Mr. Brown noted that Mr. Borden, "the father of CERT" [Community Emergency Response Team; 818-756-9674; www.cert-la.com; lafdcert@LACity.org]; Mr. Hopkins, the founder of the SCPF [Southern California Emergency Preparedness Foundation; <http://SoCalPrep.us>]; and Ms. Pruet, "the grandmother of EP," (emergency preparedness) all recently passed away.

- B. Recent Redistricting Commission Hearing held for CD12. Discussion & possible action: Criteria used for determining where to draw district lines, how does ours compare to other CD12 communities? Motion: Shall NHWNC take a position and issue an official statement to the effect that for all of the reasons discussed and the testimony given, we are and should remain, a cohesive part of City Council District 12?

Ms. Hart reported that several Board Members attended; all agreed that North Hills West “wants to remain a part of City Council District 12.”

Board Member Madlena Minasian arrived online by 7:44, making 11 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

[The following is exactly the Motion that was made.]

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council shall NHWNC take a position and issue an official statement to the effect that for all of the reasons discussed and the testimony given, we are and should remain, a cohesive part of City Council District 12?

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce stated that “You’re asking to pass a motion that’s a blank check that has no actual content to it . . . many, many years ago this community voted very clearly to literally divorce North Hills East; we wanted to separate from them. It was virtually a divorce . . . right now we have a lot of fear, we have no real basis other than concern that the way the Commission speaks, they want equity, inclusiveness, mingle the socioeconomic classes together, but the fact is, we separated from them and, if we were to be thrown back into that community, and have one foot over here and then we . . . I thought you might take interest in the fact that we actually voted to separate.”

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Fordyce, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

A. Elected Officials’ Field Representatives

U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (ofc. 818-221-3718; <http://cardenas.house.gov/contact>; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), reported that “another redistricting process . . . will culminate at the end of this year”; boundaries may “slightly” change as determined by a commission, not be elected officials. Due to population loss, California will lose one Congressional Seat, going from 53 to 52 Congresspersons. He got \$12.5 million to fund 10 projects. An IRS “tax credit for families with children,” which he explained, is available. His Field Representative Osvaldo Ramirez [ofc. 818-221-3718; cell 818-388-0685; Osvaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov] can help. Spanish/English information fliers are available, and in other languages. He provided COVID-19 Coronavirus

vaccination information and encouraged everyone to be vaccinated. He offered to help get funding for North Valley Caring Services to buy a working forklift. Congressman Cardenas spoke about veterans' services.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #2.

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 City Municipal Codes 56.11 and 41.18 are being considered by the City Council "to provide [Police] Officers with another tool" regarding people sleeping and tenting on sidewalks. He encouraged contacting their office for "conducting a cleanup" and offering services. He reported on anti-street racing enforcement and arrests. National Night Out will be August 3rd at the PALS Service Center [8721 Wilbur Ave., Northridge; 818-885-6433; <https://www.devonshire-pals.org>].

B. City Agencies, including the City of Los Angeles' Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Vanessa Serrano, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9889; Vanessa.Serrano@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reported that Board Member trainings (September 9th, 23rd and 30th) and Civics University workshops are available. Up to three Board Members can attend Civics U. Bylaws amendments can be submitted to DONE through April 15th.

a. Elected offices representatives.

Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee [818-882-1212; Matthew.Hernandez@LACity.org; www.CD12.org], was not present and there was no report.

Vahid Khorsand, West Area Representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti (323-552-6730; Vahid.Khorsand@LACity.org; <http://LAMayor.org>), was not present and there was no report.

b. Government agencies, including the City of Los Angeles' Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

John Darnell, a Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], was not present and there was no report.

Efren Corral, an LAPD Devonshire Division (east of CSUN) Senior Lead Officer [Desk: (818) 832-0746; Cell: 424-339-4079; 35472@LAPD.online; http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station], was not present and there was no report.

5. **General Public Comment:** Comments from the public on non-agenda items - within the Board's jurisdiction. Our scope is limited to City & occasionally County Issues.

Stakeholder John Hales reported that the City Council is considering legislation (Council File 12-0460-S4) that "will limit or remove the input of Neighborhood Councils and community members on zoning and PLUM issues." Stakeholder Anita Goldbaum relayed that DONE General Manager Raquel Beltran "declared the Budget Advocates . . . an illegitimate organization . . . because they are not in the City Charter." [See <http://ncbala.com>.]

6. **Discussion and possible action: Motion to approve the June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes.**

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 17, 2021 Board Meeting as written.

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

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

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Collins, Crone, Elliott, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); one opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Fordyce); zero abstained.

8. **Treasurer's Report: Discussion and possible action: Administrative Packet (Budget) for Fiscal Year 2021-22 10.**

There was discussion and adjustments were made to the Packet.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Fordyce): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the annual Administrative Packet as amended to equal no more than \$32,000.

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

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #10.

9. FYE Report on Neighborhood Purposes Grant Applications submitted and pending updates.

- A. Southern California Preparedness Foundation – NC Approved 1/11 Amount: \$1,500 Status: Work completed, see: www.valleydisasterfair.com
- B. SOLID – NC Approved 4/20 Amount: \$3,500 Status: Work completed *Present Video (posted).
- C. Friends of the Mid-Valley Library: \$1497.99 – NC Approved 4/20 Status: Funded.
- D. PALS – NC Approved 4/22 Amount: \$2,500 Status: Work completed *Present Photos or Videos.
- E. Community Disaster Preparedness Foundation – NC Approved 4/20 Status: Funded.
- F. New Horizons – NC Approved 5/20 Amount: \$5,000 Status: Work completed *Present Photos or Videos.
- G. City of LA Congress of Neighborhoods – NC Approved 5/20 Amount: \$3,000 Status: Funded.
- H. North Valley Caring Services – NC Approved 5/20 Amount: \$5,000 Status: NC Funding Denied.
 - 1. Applicant's goal to request enough funding from other NCs [for the purchase of forklift to be used in their Food Pantry Warehouse] couldn't be met by June 1st for FY 20-21 funds. This applicant may reapply.

It was noted that no reports have been submitted.

10. Discussion & possible action to nominate Committee Chairs, Members, and various NC Liaisons.

Ms. Hart announced that Carlos Pelaez resigned as Chair of the Beautification Committee; she nominated Maggie Elliott as Chair. Ms. Hart volunteered to be a Member.

Ms. Hart nominated Dan Gibson, Madlena Minasian and Anita Goldbaum to be Members of the Budget & Finance Committee.

Mr. Brown nominated Maggie Elliott as Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Ms. Hart nominated Kreshell Ramey, Jim and Bonnie Cockerell, and Jill Akahoshi as Members.

Ms. Hart nominated April Collins as Chair of the Outreach Committee, and herself, David Hyman and Anita Goldbaum as Members.

Ms. Hart nominated Pat Crone as Chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, and April Collins and Anita Goldbaum as Members. Ms. Goldbaum, Ms. Elliott and Mr. Brown spoke in opposition to Mr. Fordyce being a Member of the Committee; Mr. Brown noted that full "transcripts" are available of public comments made by Mr. Fordyce. Mr. Fordyce believed that he "was the only one in

compliance” with the law and referred to a U.S. Supreme Court decision; a U.S. Department of Justice interpretation; Presidential Order 13217; the California Health & Safety Code; claimed that others’ comments were “slanderous” and also stated “we’ll see where that goes.”

Ms. Hart nominated Punam Gohel as Chair of the Rules & Elections Committee; Dave Brown, Pat Crone and Garry Fordyce volunteered. Punam Gohel, Pat Crone and Dave Brown were confirmed by a unanimous voice vote; a majority voice vote opposed Garry Fordyce being a Member.

Ms. Hart said that there was no need for a “Technical Support Committee . . . it should be taken off the books.” She confirmed that the Executive Committee is composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Ms. Hart nominated Kreshell Ramey as Chair of the ad hoc Homeless Committee.

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

Mr. Bailey, a Budget Advocate [<http://ncbala.com>], reported that he now is one of the Budget Advocate Co-Chairs. Budget Day will be online Saturday, August 21st. The Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be September 25th and have 30 workshops.

12. Report on the Illegal Fireworks “Buy-Back” program in the days leading up to July 4th - Dave Brown.

A. July 4th stats and incidents reported involving property damage, bodily injury, and death.

Ms. Hart requested and Mr. Brown agreed to TABLE this to the next Board Meeting.

[*This was on the Agenda.*] Proposals for additional legislation Additional information: <https://www.nhwnc.net/comprehensive-plan-to-address-illegal-fireworks>.

13. COVID-19 Delta Variant - update (vaccinations and reopenings) LA County DPH Representative (invited).

Community Impact Statement Proposals:

Ms. Hart reported that vaccinated people fare better than unvaccinated people.

14. Discussion and possible motion to approve generation of a Community Impact Statement on CF 21-0352 LA100 / Strategic Long Term Resource Plan / 2035 100% Carbon-Free Energy / Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Krekorian & O'Farrell; Martinez) https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0352_misc_03-31-21.pdf. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y3dnD0kwMHqz3I2niK4MmGlefufEuSDZBPgwbBhGpJo/edit#heading=h.772aeuzavv9q>

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

- 15. Discussion and possible motion to approve generation of a Community Impact Statement** on CF 20-1225 LAs Green New Deal/Healthy Soil Strategy/Urban Agriculture/Carbon Sequestration/Water Capture/Composting and Mulching Operations/Development (Koretz/Bonin) Requires the LA Department of Sanitation to report back on grant and employment opportunities regarding composting, healthy soil, urban agriculture, and regenerative land management—directly mentions working with NCSA. https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2020/20-1225_mot_09-23-2020.pdf.

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

- 16. Discussion and possible motion regarding future NC “Hybrid” meetings: combination in-person with online component.**

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

- 17. Committee & Liaison Reports** (if any). Discussion and possible action on the formation of new Ad Hoc Legislative Tracking Committee, changes to Standing and Ad Hoc committees as well as NHWNC Liaisons.

Ms. Ramey indicated that there was no Homeless Committee report.

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

Mr. Brown announced an upcoming NCEPA [Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance] event.

- 19. Motion to adjourn**

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

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:45 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>.