



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Regular Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, September 15, 2022
Approved October 20, 2022

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 and Flag Salute.

President Madlena Minasian called the Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, and Voting Eligibility Report and call for agenda item(s) recusals.

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Ten of the 11 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone (Treasurer), Maggie Elliott, Linda Erdman, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Carol Hart (Vice-President), David Hyman, Madlena Minasian (President) and Kreshell Ramey. Angel Collins arrived later. 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. Eleven of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats were vacant (one General and one Residential); to apply, email Secretary@nhwnc.net. Also attended: at least 28 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Opening Comments – Madlena Minasian, President. Note: we're currently seeking applicants for 2 Vacant Board Seats: 1 Residential & 1 General (see below).

<https://www.nhwnc.net/board-vacancies-seeking-new-board-member-nominees/>

Congress of Neighborhoods:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-los-angeles-congress-of-neighborhoods-tickets-405969193787>

Ms. Minasian and other Board Members memorialized the passing of resident and long-time NHWNC supporter Helen Donovan.

Ms. Minasian noted the above Board service opportunities. The Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be September 24th and include a workshop on Digital Communications Policy to which Board Members need to adhere. She requested that Board Members who leave a meeting early to notify her. She received an email regarding an Open House at 15243 Chase St. on September 29th at 10:00 a.m., RSVP is requested. She requested everyone to be mindful of the speaker timer. She noted that this meeting will not be recorded. Mr. Fordyce asked “who gave you the authority to make this decision?”

4. Discussion and possible action to approve August 18, 2022 General Board Meeting Draft Minutes.

<https://www.nhwnc.net/minutes/august-18-2022-general-board-meeting-draft-minutes/>

The following correction was requested: page five, Item #13 discussion: “determined to be mute” should be “determined to be moot.”

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting as corrected.

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

5. Discussion and possible action to approve August 2022 Monthly Expense Report.
<https://www.nhwnc.net/reports/august-2022-monthly-expense-report/>

Ms. Crone reported that the only transaction was a payment to Webmaster Wendy Moore.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Erdman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for August 2022.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce claimed that “last month you approved an MER [Monthly Expenditure Report] without any documentation . . . what is bizarre is that the invoices and details on the MER itself . . . [are exactly the same as July].” Ms. Crone explained that items “were only paid once.” When Mr. Fordyce attempted to continue commenting, Ms. Minasian indicated that she reviewed the MER, found it to be accurate, and explained to him that he “went over” his time. Mr. Fordyce objected to being told that his comment time was over and threatened “I’ll take it downtown.”

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

Guest and Budget Advocate Brian Allen stated regarding the online invoices and MERs that “this looks to be absolutely appropriate.” Ms. Crone confirmed that all invoices are attached to the MERs.

6. General Public Comment. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU ARE A PAID LOBBYIST, THANK YOU.

Resident Jeff Bankston spoke about a legal matter and said that Mr. Fordyce obtained emails that Mr. Bankston had sent only to Ms. Hart. Guest Glenn Bailey, “speaking as an individual,” noted that Council File 22-1070 is regarding the future of Neighborhood Council meetings, including in-person, online and hybrid. Resident Anita Goldbaum requested to Agendize Council File 20-1536 regarding bus shelter advertising and encouraged requesting City Councilmember Lee to oppose it.

Board Member Angel Collins arrived online at 6:43, making all 11 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

7. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

a. Elected offices representatives.

Lorena Espinal, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [818-882-1212; Lorena.Espinal@LACity.org; <https://CouncilDistrict12.LACity.gov>], reported.

Lilly Sarafian, a Field Representative for State 46th District Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian [818-376-4246; Lilly.Sarafian@asm.ca.gov; <http://asmcd.org/members/a46>], reported on legislation the Assemblymember sponsored, and on self-defense classes to be held October 1st and 2nd at 10:00 a.m., and October 22nd and 23rd at 1:30 p.m. at the North Hollywood Recreation Center, 11430 Chandler Blvd. There will be a domestic violence discussion October 15th, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the State Building Auditorium at 6150 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys.

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

John Darnell, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], reported that legislative updates are available.

8. Guest Speakers, Public Service Announcements & Informational Presentations.

A. 15701 Roscoe Blvd: Development of former site of Coco’s then Furniture Barn, site now bare. Proposed use mini-market / fuel stop, presented by Ariel Gutierrez.

Owner representative Mr. Gutierrez said that the site became a homeless encampment. It's now "ready for construction" with better lighting and more. They are requesting for Case #ZA-2022-3143-CUP a Conditional Use Permit for 24-hour operation. Ms. Minasian explained that need to present to the NHWNC Land Use Committee, which will make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Fordyce said that "he did not identify himself as a lobbyist"; Mr. Gutierrez explained that "I am not a lobbyist, I am a representative of the owner."

9. Budget Advocates & Neighborhood Council Budget Representative Report.
<https://www.budgetadvocates.org>

Mr. Fordyce reported that the Budget Advocates [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org] have discussed restructuring. All their meetings are open to the public.

10. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Neighborhood Purposes Grant, (NPG) Not to exceed (NTE) \$2,500 for YMCA 2022 Thanksgiving Dinner Food Drive.

North Valley YMCA Executive Director David Hartmire presented. The YMCA for almost 20 years has provided meals to families throughout the San Fernando Valley who are identified through many schools, including in the North Hills area. More than 500 volunteers distribute the meals in November. The Budget & Finance Committee will contact Mr. Hartmire to present to them. No Motion was made or vote taken.

11. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Neighborhood Purposes Grant, (NPG) 4th Annual Westside Safety Fair, Saturday, November 13, 2022. Recommendation from Budget & Finance Committee NTE \$500.

Ms. Crone reported that the Fair asked for \$4,000. The event will be at Exposition Park. She explained the \$500 recommendation.

FUNDING MOTION (by Budget & Finance Committee): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will allocate \$500 to the Greater Los Angeles Safety and Preparedness Fair to be held on Sunday, November 13, 2022 from 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION: Event representative Cynthia Saffir confirmed the Motion information. Mr. Fordyce claimed that "Leonard Shaffer has a Emergency Preparedness Alliance . . . everyone in attendance was absolutely opposed to this because it's too far away, does not serve the Valley, nobody's gonna wanna drive that far . . . This 501(c)3 . . . serves the West L.A. Neighborhood Council and numerous other entities and they actually take off of the money that we would provide as part of their service. So all the money does not go to the event; it goes to this 501(c)3 that is a conglomerate . . ." Ms. Saffir stated that "some of the funds" will prepay for renting the parking space and said that emergency preparedness supplies will be given

away. She said that the NCEPA [a citywide Neighborhood Councils Alliance] response to the event “was quite positive.”

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

- 12. Discussion possible motion:** to appoint up to three (3) board members to attend Civic U 1.0. Presented by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Office of Mayor Garcetti. Civic U 1.0 presented by Dr. Raphael J. Sonenshein, Ph.D. Executive Director, Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs, California State University, Los Angeles. Dates are October 6th, October 13th and October 27th. Appointed board members must attend all three sessions.

Ms. Minasian clarified that this is for NHWNC Board Members who haven’t yet attended any Civic University sessions. Ms. Erdman, Ms. Collins and Ms. Minasian requested to attend. Ms. Minasian will submit Ms. Crone as an alternate if it is allowed. Mr. Fordyce requested to attend again, stating that “this is contradictory . . . Angel Collins “blew it last year” by not attending after she was registered; “why does she get a second chance and I don’t?”

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Board Members Linda Erdman, Angel Collins and Madlena Minasian to attend Civic U 1.0.

Board Member Kreshell Ramey was unavailable to vote at this time (8:12), making 10 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum was seven).

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

- 13. Discussion possible motion:** Approve CIS in support of CF 22-0002-S101, AB 1740 (Muratsuchi) / AB 2407 (ODonnell) / SB 1087 (Gonzalez) / Used Catalytic Converter Sales: Introduced on July 14, 2022 and referred to Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Resolution is requesting that the City of Los Angeles Includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1740, AB 2407 and SB 1087, which would seek to strengthen the laws governing the sale of used catalytic converters, thereby assisting law enforcement in reducing thefts and discouraging the commission of the crime. <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/>

Board Member Kreshell Ramey returned to the meeting at this time (8:16), making 11 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum was seven).

Mr. Brown explained the issue.

MOTION (by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council supports Council File 22-0002-S101 in advocating for stronger State laws governing the sale of used catalytic converters.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce stated that “they’re not specific; we don’t know what laws . . . this is not telling us anything . . . there’s no CIS that we can read and approve and you’re asking us to approve a blank check; God knows what you’ll write and we’ll never see it because this never happens at this Board. You’ll just write it, it’ll disappear and you’ll hold us responsible for researching and looking for it, trying to find it downtown.” Mr. Brown repeated the Motion and that the objective is to reduce the quantity of theft of catalytic converters. Ms. Minasian recommended preparing a Community Impact Statement [CIS]; she will Agendize this for the next Board meeting. Ms. Minasian requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. No vote was taken.

- 14. Motion to a send letter** to Council Member Lee, CD 12, Chief Moore and Capt Burns Devonshire Division requesting expedited filling the position of Senior Lead Officer for our area, 17A95.

Mr. Brown showed a slide of and read aloud a draft letter that would be sent from the NHWNC to Councilmember Lee, Chief Moore and Captain Burns.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will send a letter to Council Member Lee, Council District 12, Chief Moore and Captain Burns of the Devonshire Division requesting expedited filling of the position of Senior Lead Officer for our area, 17A95.

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, Erdman, Fordyce, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero.

- 15. Motion to a send letter** to Council Member Lee, CD12, requesting the resumption of in-person Neighborhood Council meetings on a Hybrid basis. (In-person and simultaneous Zoom participation).

Mr. Brown showed a slide of and read aloud a letter from the NHWNC to Councilmember Lee and regarding City Council File #22-1070.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Erdman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will send a letter to Council Member Lee, CD12, requesting the resumption of in-person Neighborhood Council meetings on a Hybrid basis.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce stated during discussion of the Motion that “you literally ram this down our throat without any discussion whatsoever.” Ms. Minasian will Agendize for the next Board meeting for the Board to consider submitting a Community Impact Statement instead of a letter. No vote taken.

16. Motion to a send letter to LA Dept of Water & Power General Manager Martin Adams.

Mr. Brown showed a slide of and read aloud a letter that would be sent from the NHWNC regarding City Council File #21-0352. He noted that the Mayor moved an energy-saving goal ahead 10 years.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will submit an email to L.A. Department of Water & Power General Manager Martin Adams, the DWP SLTRP Team, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, and City Council District 12 Councilmember Lee regarding the LA100 Study validating possible tripling of rates by 2035 needs more analysis.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Minasian noted that VANC [the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>] supported asking the City to not move forward and that the email can be revised to include Councilmember John Lee.

Board Member Kreshell Ramey left by this time (9:00), making 10 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum was seven).

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

Mr. Fordyce stated “I withdraw my “yes” vote; my vote is now “no.”” Ms. Minasian ruled that the vote had been called.

17. Committee Member & Board Liaison Reports.

- Beautification & Infrastructure
- Budget & Finance
- Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety
- Outreach/Events/Marketing
- Planning & Land Use Management
- Rules & Elections
- Ad hoc Board Retreat Committee
- Ad hoc Executive Committee
- Ad hoc Homelessness Committee
- Ad hoc Legislative Committee
- Ad hoc Parking Committee
- DWP Advocacy and MOU Oversight Committee
<https://empowerla.org/DWPMOU/>
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC)
<https://empowerla.org/lancc/>
- Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance (NCEPA)
<https://empowerla.org/ncepa/>

- Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance
<https://www.ncsa.la>
- Plan Check Neighborhood Councils
<https://empowerla.org/planchecknc/>
- Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC)
<https://empowerla.org/vanc-2/>

Ms. Minasian requested that Committees post Agendas at least 72 hours in advance of meetings.

18. Committee Member, Liaison, CIS filers: update to Add/Remove as needed.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Linda Erdman as the DWP advocate and MOU Oversight Committee Liaison.

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

When Mr. Fordyce’s name was called to vote, he asked if a vote was being taken and stated that “somehow you ended up with a vote when you were talking about Committees.”

19. Review of recent received complaints & communications against NHW Neighborhood Council.

A. Grievances.

[*This paragraph was on the Agenda.*] Listed following the agenda, along with all other documents received by meeting time at: <https://www.nhwnc.net/agendas/september-15-2022-general-board-meeting-agenda/>

Mr. Fordyce stated that “you have the complaint, it’s been plastered all over everywhere . . . what gave you the authority to unilaterally make decisions in violation of the Bylaws?” He quoted DONE’s John Darnell as saying “Bylaws have no merit . . . they have no validity” and asked Ms. Minasian, “you want me to work with you privately in a back room?” Ms. Minasian pointed out that Mr. Fordyce filed a Grievance against the Board without attempting to resolve it with her [the President], and that the Grievance contained false information. He then asked her, “are you gonna filibuster me?”

Ms. Erdman asked Mr. Fordyce if the matter had been resolved to his satisfaction. He then accused Ms. Minasian of being arrogant and violating the Bylaws. Resident Steve Thomason said, “Garry . . . you really need to step down, get away . . . you’re scaring Stakeholders . . . you just put ‘em down.” Mr. Brown, referring to “a bad apple,” said, “we’ve lost Board Members, we’ve lost Stakeholders, repeatedly. We need to recognize we’ve got a problem; we need to fix it. If we don’t fix it, we’re never going to dig ourselves out of this hole.”

Ms. Minasian reported that Mr. Fordyce is “. . . not bringing things to my attention . . . all I have asked for is a common courtesy to bring it to my attention, when that is consistently being ignored and going over my head against this Board and against the community, and forgetting the mission and the purpose of this Neighborhood Council . . . this is what this Board and the community have a problem with.” Mr. Allen said “I yell at [Garry] a lot . . . he tries to be as right as he possibly can.” Mr. Bailey reported that “I have told [Garry] he should always check with the President.” Ms. Minasian reminded that “we need to be cordial, civil and respectful.”

20. Discussion regarding disruptive Board member actions and behavior.

Mr. Gohel said “We have a pattern by one Member who repeatedly disturbs our meeting . . . We have been repeatedly . . . disturbed . . . by one person . . . never being contributive . . . is always disruptive . . . We have a lot of complaints about it.”

Ms. Elliott stated that she has “never seen any participation ever [by Garry] . . . [he] seems to always disrupt our meeting. I don’t feel the person is an asset at all.”

Ms. Crone, Mr. Brown and Ms. Hart agreed with Mr. Gohel’s statement.

Ms. Collins noted Mr. Fordyce’s knowledge is “. . . drowned out by the argumentative nature that always comes along with it . . . I think it’s so disrespectful . . . I haven’t gotten as involved as I want to because of these types of behaviors . . .”

Ms. Erdman also agreed with Mr. Gohel’s statement, adding that “meetings are becoming much too contentious . . . I’ve seen it in the past . . . [as] a Stakeholder . . . we’re wasting a lot of time . . . What I’m seeing [Garry] doing now is working against us.”

Mr. Hyman stated that “a certain individual has antagonized Stakeholders from wanting to be a member of this group . . . this has gone on too long.”

Mr. Bailey indicated that many times he has “always advised [Mr. Fordyce] . . . ‘please contact the President’ . . . I’ve been consistent with that advice.”

Ms. Minasian also agreed with Mr. Gohel’s statement, noting that Mr. Fordyce is “very disruptive . . . really not contributing. . . [or] helping our Stakeholders . . . does not even get involved in any of our Committees . . . When Stakeholders have wanted to be a part of [a Committee that Garry chaired] he had alienated them . . . All the complaints that I have gotten . . . [from] Stakeholders . . . Board Members . . . letters . . . phone calls . . . Whether you’re a Stakeholder or a Board Member, I do hear you; this is why we are where we are . . .”

Mr. Fordyce stated “What could you possibly want me to say? You’ve expressed tangential, evasive tactical arguments.” He claimed that an improper decision was

made. “You want to keep changing to other tangential smoke screens and now you have your court and you want me to think that I can communicate with you or anybody else? This is what’s wrong all the time. You’re all self-righteous but you don’t follow the rules. Perhaps Goat Puppet had some excellent comments to make: make your own rules, do as you damn well please and avoid what’s right.”

21. General Board member comments and announcements on non-agenda items.

Mr. Brown reported about the upcoming Granada Hills Street Fair and the American Heroes Air Show at Hanson Dam. He encouraged helping the Northridge East NC develop their Resiliency Plan. Ms. Hart noted that the Resiliency Plan was created by CSUN and that the NHWNC Beautification and Infrastructure Committee wants non-Board Member volunteers. Ms. Erdman requested that commenters not swear.

22. Requests for Future Agenda Items.

Send to: President@nhwnc.net by 10 days before desired meeting date, with AGENDA REQUEST in the subject line. Please include sufficient information or provide links that enable an adequate description for discussion.

There were no such requests at this time.

23. Adjournment

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

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

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED with eight in favor; one opposed (Hyman); zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:18 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>.