

# NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 17, 2013 / Taken by Debby Wagger

NEW HORIZONS-SAM'S CAFE 15725 PARTHENIA STREET NORTH HILLS, CA 91343

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Robin Tyler called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 2. OFFICER AND MEMBER ROLL CALL

Secretary Debra Francisco called the roll. Board members present were Marina Adlivankina, Mary Armenteros, Debra Francisco, Anita Goldbaum, Frank Klein, Deborah Stevens, Jaynee Thorne, Robin Tyler, and Nancy Xander. Tino Julian was not present at roll call, but arrived at 8 p.m.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Debra Francisco moved to approve the November 15, 2012 general board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## 4. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

There were no public speakers.

## 5. PRESENTATIONS

a. Stakeholder Kathy Graber, a teacher and the mock trial team coach at Monroe High School, announced that Monroe's mock trial team had won its competition this year and will be moving on to the state competition in Riverside. Kathy introduced Paul Graber (no relation), a teacher at Monroe's Law & Government Magnet, who also spoke on behalf of the mock trial team. Several students from the team were also introduced. Kathy explained that the state competition costs \$75 per student and there are 14 students on the team. She requested a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) in the amount of \$1,050 to enable all students to attend. Anita Goldbaum volunteered to help Kathy with the necessary paperwork.

b. Erik Richardson, Councilmember Mitch Englander's field representative, announced that the City Planning Commission has recommended denying the zone change sought by Restaurant Depot, and said that the Councilmember usually follows the department's recommendation so he will not be supporting it. The final hearing will be on January 24th.

An effort is being made to schedule the Community Care Facilities Ordinance to come before the City Council on January 29th or 30th.

The street repair bond measure that was to be placed on the upcoming ballot was tabled because of outreach concerns and referred back to the Public Works Commission. There is a link on [cd12.org](http://cd12.org) to more information on the issue.

Haskell Avenue will be closed from Superior to Nordhoff from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday January 19th and Sunday January 20th in order to reconstruct the street. Stakeholder Amal Shahin asked about putting in a mid-block crosswalk there for high school students. Erik replied that the Bureau of Engineering would have to do a traffic study and putting in a crosswalk would require a signal or stop sign to be installed. A proposal to look at a possible mid-block crosswalk should be made to the Councilmember's office.

A Conversations with Councils meeting is being planned for late February or early March. Councilmember Englander will be attending NHWNC's next meeting in February.

Councilmember Englander voted against placing the half cent sales tax increase on the March ballot, and is also against the clean water parcel tax.

## 6. OFFICER REPORTS

a. Treasurer Mary Armenteros said there were outreach expenses in the amount of \$8,129.39. \$27,000 is still available in the budget which is a concern because it is halfway through the fiscal year. Mary attended a meeting with Anita Goldbaum where they found out that demand warrants must be submitted by April 15, 2013 in order to be paid in this fiscal year. All charts and financial information will be posted on the website.

b. President Tino Julian had not arrived yet.

c. Vice President Robin Tyler had no report.

d. Secretary Debra Francisco had no report.

## 7. MAYOR'S BUDGET REPORT

Budget Advocate Tom Johnson said that the Mayor's budget survey will be sent out in the coming week, and it is important that everyone fill it out. The aim is to try and set goals for two to five years out.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Stakeholder Vicky Magaw, librarian at the Mid-Valley Regional Library, announced that citizenship classes will be starting at the library on January 19th at 10 a.m. and continuing through March 30th. The library will be partnering with CSUN for tax preparation help for low-income people from February 26th through April 2nd. No appointment is necessary.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Anita Goldbaum moved that NHWNC provide funding up to \$386 for Friends of the Library's January 2013 newsletter through a Neighborhood Purpose Grant. Debra Francisco seconded the motion. Nancy Xander then amended the motion to provide funding up to \$800 for two issues and in exchange NHWNC will get a half or quarter page space in the newsletter. Deborah Stevens seconded the amended motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Debra Francisco said that the mayoral candidate forum at Valley College has not been canceled and is being held on February 23, 2013. Mary Armenteros announced that a Valley Vote meet and greet with the candidates for Mayor, City Controller, and City Attorney will be held at Galpin Ford next Monday January 21st from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.. The cost is \$10 per person and RSVPs are required.

c. Debra Francisco moved that NHWNC continue with the free volunteer website-hosting provided by stakeholders Yey and Roy for the rest of the board's term. The only cost would then be the site registration fee. Robin Tyler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. This issue was tabled until Tino Julian arrived.

#### 10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Debra Francisco moved that NHWNC copyright its logo, which is a free process. Deborah Stevens seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Robin Tyler moved that she be appointed to the Rules & Elections Committee. Debra Francisco seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Robin Tyler moved that Debra Francisco, Anita Goldbaum, and Robin Tyler be appointed to represent NHWNC at Councilmember Englander's meetings. Debra Francisco seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Measure A, the half cent sales tax increase to be on the March ballot, was discussed. The sales tax would all go to the City, not to Sacramento. It would raise the sales tax in Los Angeles to 9.5%.

Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) board member Glenn Bailey made the point that there are two issues: process and merits. The process on this issue has failed because it was waived out of committee straight to the City Council by Council President Herb Wesson and did not have a public hearing. People may support a temporary tax measure but this sales tax hike would be permanent. Another stakeholder said that many small businesses are having trouble and a sales tax hike would kill them. Robin Tyler announced that there is a forum on the proposed sales tax hike at Cleveland High School in Reseda on February 19, 2013. The board did not take a vote on the sales tax increase.

e. Robin Tyler moved that NHWNC donate \$300 to the Valley Alliance Neighborhood Council. for the 10th anniversary. Anita Goldbaum seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9 d. President Tino Julian arrived and the board returned to the business under agenda item 9 d., committee appointments. Tino Julian moved and Jaynee Thorne seconded the appointment of stakeholder Garry Fordyce to the Beautification Committee, which he declined. Tino moved that the motion be withdrawn, seconded by Debra Francisco. The motion passed unanimously.

Tino moved that Mike Majors be appointed to the Beautification Committee, seconded by Robin Tyler. The motion passed unanimously.

## 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Robin Tyler urged all stakeholders to attend the Restaurant Depot hearing on January 24th because although the neighborhood has won the first round, it is not over yet. Tino Julian added that the hearing is only the second of four steps in the process. Robin introduced a motion to send a letter to the City Planning Commission, which she then read. Jaynee Thorne seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Robin Tyler said that she has met with representatives from Monroe Wellness Center and they have been very good about following up and calling, so she thinks NHWNC will have input.
- c. The Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUC) voted to support Tofu House Korean Restaurant's application for a beer & wine license. Robin Tyler moved that NHWNC support the application, seconded by Deborah Stevens. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. PLUC opposed the installation of an AGF cell tower on Vintage Street. Robin Tyler moved that NHWNC oppose the cell tower, seconded by Debra Francisco. Robin then moved to table the motion until February because Peggy Burgess has information on the cell tower but she was not present. Debra Francisco seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- e. There has been no information found on or contact from the developer of 8 to 11 houses supposed to be built near Monroe High School.
- f. The \$3 billion street repair bond measure sponsored by Councilmember Englander that was going to be placed on the May ballot but then was withdrawn by the City Council was discussed.  
  
VANC board member Glenn Bailey said that even though the bond measure was withdrawn from the May ballot, the City Attorney has been instructed to draft the wording to place it on another ballot in the future, without taking into account other points of view. He also made the point that bonds have interest so \$3 billion could mean \$4.5 billion, and that needs to be clarified. Another issue is that there should be neighborhood council representation on the City's Citizen Oversight Committee for this bond. Currently the oversight committee has two City government officials and a mayoral appointee.  
  
Robin Tyler moved to table the board's motion on support or opposition until February's meeting when Councilmember Englander will be attending and giving his viewpoint. Tino Julian seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- g. PLUC opposed the Storm Water Drain Parcel Tax. Deborah Stevens mentioned that environmental groups oppose it because it contains no specifics. Robin Tyler moved that NHWNC oppose the parcel tax and Anita Goldbaum seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- h. Robin Tyler said that someone subdivided a house in an area which was not zoned for that, but it turned out that it is legal under AB 1866 Second Housing Unit Legislation, a California state law passed in 2003.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS/12-10-12 & 1-14-13--BEAUTIFICATION

- a. Jaynee Thorne has received no bids on monthly service from local gardeners yet and asked for any recommendations.
- b. Jaynee said that target areas that she has heard about are at Hayvenhurst & Plummer and Roscoe & Woodley. She said that the committee relies on stakeholder reports to know what areas to target. She passed around a clipboard for suggestions and volunteers to sign up for the Beautification Committee.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS/12-10-12--PUBLIC SAFETY

- a. Deborah Stevens announced that the committee had its first meeting. The committee would like to sponsor a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class and also have speakers on topics related to public safety and emergency preparedness. Dave Brown is on the committee and will help with speakers. Stakeholder Paul Wolpa bought Neighborhood Watch placards that can be placed in vehicles.
- b. Deborah said that Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (EP) are two separate communities under the bylaws, but committee members feel that EP should be under the umbrella of Public Safety. The committee will be working on a bylaw change proposal to be brought to a future board meeting. Several people mentioned that NHWNC's meetings conflict with the Neighborhood Watch meetings, which are also on Thursday nights. Anita Goldbaum requested a cost amount for any plans or proposals from Deborah Stevens.

Debra Francisco asked Jaynee Thorne for a cost amount for Beautification Committee projects so she can agendaize it for the next meeting.

9 d. The board returned again to the issue of committee appointments. Tino Julian asked stakeholder Garry Fordyce if he was interested in being on the Rules & Elections Committee, but Garry declined. He said that the three committees he was interested in serving on have all been staffed without consulting him. He expressed interest four months ago and never heard back about those committees so he withdrew his name from all committee considerations. He stated that he believed the board had stacked things in its own favor and stakeholders don't have a voice.

14. BOARD COMMENTS

Anita Goldbaum reported on the holiday potluck held on December 20, 2012. The hall was decorated, Dave Brown provided music, the Council office donated paper goods, people brought donations for Toys for Tots, and between 65 and 75 people attended.

Anita Goldbaum announced that Paul Dumont had written a letter which was published in the Daily News on January 2, 2013 in which he was identified as the chairman of NHWNC. Anita wrote to the Daily News that that was incorrect, and the Daily News printed a retraction.

Mary Armenteros announced that there was an upcoming hearing on the CCFO scheduled for March 20, 2013 at 2:30 p.m., and that it was important for people to attend. She recommended contacting or giving a letter to Councilmember Englander, or signing an online petition.

Mary Armenteros said she will recommend a half day board retreat at the February meeting. She believes it will be beneficial, there is money for it in the budget, and she will research it with DONE. Marina Adlivankina said she has arranged such retreats before and believes they are helpful.

#### 15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

President Tino Julian adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.