



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
DRAFT General Board Meeting Minutes (to be approved)
Thursday, February 19, 2015
New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills CA 91343

NHWNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

1. Welcome, Flag Salute, Roll Call and announcement of quorum.

Roll call: 10 of 13, quorum is met at 7:06 PM

Present: John McGovern, Dan Gibson, Carol Hart, Patrick Santos, Punam Gohel, David Phelps, David Hyman, Mike Khalid, Dave Brown, Garry Fordyce, Nancy Xander arrived late (11 of 13)

NOTE: There is one residential Board vacancy, applications are being accepted.

President McGovern announced that because of a posting issue, items 4.a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i are postponed until the Thursday March 5th meeting (all number 4 items)

2. Public Speakers

A. Councilman Englander's CD12 Office:

Ron Rubine, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Ron.Rubine@LACity.org), reminded everyone that elections are Tuesday March 5th and that next Wednesday, February 25th, is the Conversations with Councils (CwC) event. It's being held at the state of the art, LAPD Ed Davis Training Center from 4 to 6 PM and will feature Neighborhood Prosecutor Alin Sahagian, LAPD Devonshire Captain Robert Marino, and CD 12 Mitch Englander and staff. Mr. Rubine also announced passage of a new citywide Hit and Run “yellow alert” system, similar to an amber alert, it will aid in tracking and targeting Hit & Run suspects. He reported on the Mayor's earthquake plan, financing mega drought and quake mitigation: ERDIP flexible pipe from Japan (installation demo at Northridge Hospital) to be deployed citywide via Department of Water & Power.

B. LAPD Devonshire Senior Lead Officer Efron Corral (Basic Car 17A95):

Officer Corral reported that Captain Pitcher was promoted to Valley Operation Bureau Chief. The new Devonshire Captain is Robert Marino from Mission Hills Division. Senior Lead Officer promotions to Sargent include Kate Luna (assigned to Van Nuys Division) and Ignacio Mario (to Topanga Division.) He added that Aqueduct street parking will be posted and enforced and that illegal dumping under the 405 at Parthenia & Nordhoff, would be mitigated working in conjunction with Tania from CD 12 Transients [Task Force.] The Devonshire Division now has a dedicated Transient car, as well as Narcotics car. Officer Corral announced that on Wednesday, March 11th the City Attorney would hold a Town Hall at 6:30PM at the Granada Hills Women's Club - 10666 White Oak Ave, Granada Hills. The meeting will feature the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program (NPP), now fully funded in all 15 areas, illegal dumping, the Neighborhood Justice Program, Medical Marijuana dispensaries, and more... He reported that burglaries are up, both residential and from cars.

He offered highest compliments to Neighborhood Watch groups Rob Wilcox, Director of Community Engagement & Outreach for City Attorney Mike Feuer (rob.wilcox@lacity.org)

C. Melvin Cañas, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE):

Mr. Cañas reported that Neighborhood Council number 96 is being formed: Zapata-King NC, he recommended the weekly email newsletter for updates from DONE, he spoke about the Civic University Program, featuring workshops at LAPD downtown and that the website vendor list of 10 vendors for NC's is now available. The next NC Elections will be in March 2016 and forums are now underway, online voting being evaluated. Options include all NC's, 50 NC's, or by telephone, he added that Libraries can be used. Polling locations will still exist, but may include on site - online voting also. Voter self-affirmation aspects are being addressed as well and there's a possibility the new procedures may include pre-registration. He said that a decision anticipated by end of March, funding will originate from last year's DONE funds. Regarding NC funding, Mr. Cañas stated that access to funds will be available until June 30th with the new system. He reported that a new Grievance Review Panel has been approved and is now at the City Council for evaluation, that a new Neighborhood Council subdivision policy is currently being reviewed, and on the Budget Advocates & Neighborhood Council Congress Planning Group. He stated that discussions are underway for splitting the funding into separate accounts and that a City Wide Alliance of NC's oriented towards green issues is now being formed. He reminded everyone of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) mixer at CBS Studios Burbank and said that the April VANC meeting would feature Celina Reynolds, the new manager of Department of Transportation as guest speaker.

3. Officer Reports

Secretary's Report: In response to stakeholder request for advocacy, Ms. Hart researched the controversial graphic novel "Maus", its purchase and use at Valley Arts Academy Of Sciences. Stakeholder questions the legitimacy of public funds being used to pay for alleged "hate literature". Ms. Hart spoke of the limited NC power to influence LAUSD policies but added that if the community (stakeholders and board members showed interest an Ad Hoc committee could be formed for discussion and possible action possibly to include crafting of a recommendation that could be sent to the Board/Department of Education Officers for their consideration. Ms. Hart reported on the Urban Beekeeping Ordinance (CF 12-0785) requesting discussion and possible action by the Board in the form of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to be submitted to the Los Angeles City Council. She also reported (as DWP-MOU Representative) on the One Water LA program and a FREE Smart Gardening Workshop to be held at Sylmar High School, Room 88, on Borden Avenue, in Sylmar on Saturday, February 21st, at 9 am. Ms. Hart also reported on the upcoming Spring Expo, April 30th 8:30am – 2pm, at the Metropolitan Water District 700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Treasurer's Update: Training underway, Monthly Expense Reports will be presented for review at next meeting.

4. New Business (Items were forwarded due to posting issues, as noted above.)

5. Committee reports

A. **PLUM** - Planning & Land Use Management: Chair, Punam Gohel reported that a pre-existing cell tower is being modified at Nordhoff & Woodley, that there is an effort underway to meet with all 15 City Council Members. Discussion topics will include illegal dumping, and quality of life issues throughout the City. The report will be submitted to Mayor Garcetti on March 7th. He stated that there are various considerations regarding beekeeping in residential areas.

B. **Outreach** (Events, Marketing, and Outreach) - Chair, Nancy Xander reported on her participation in the City of Los Angeles Homeless Count stating that the City of Los Angeles was awarded a record-sized grant from HUD. The program's purpose is to conduct the count annually. Ms. Xander also reported that the 2015 Easter Egg Hunt at Mid-Valley Library must be cancelled due to timing and other constraints. She requested stakeholder input for future events.

C. **Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety** - Chair, Dave Brown reported on a FREE Workshop for the Map Your Neighborhood presentation Sat Feb 21 1 to 3 PM at SOS 15705 Strathern Street. He directed stakeholders to visit: www.sosproducts.com for additional classes and information. Mr. Brown concluded with news that installation of the completed Neighborhood Watch signs pending DONE payment to the contractor.

D. **Budget and Finance** - Chair, Patrick Henry Santos (NHWNC Treasurer) reported that he and John McGovern, as second signatory, will meet with DONE within the week to complete the necessary paperwork for issuance of a new bank card for payment of NC expenses and funding requests.

E. **Rules & Elections** - Chair, Dave Brown

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting held a workshop regarding the upcoming NC Elections Review of NC bylaws is upon us

Particularly the definition of Factual Basis Stakeholders

Any bylaws revisions or changes has a deadline of May 1st

F. **Technical Committee** – Chair Adrian Diaz reported that all North Hills West Neighborhood Council websites are now programmed to redirect any traffic to the primary address*. Mr. Diaz will report further progress at our next meeting and will agendize going back to the NC web site + ENS + one physical location posting mode. *Currently, the primary NHWNC website is: <http://northhillswestnc.empowerla.org/> courtesy of DONE.

G. **Beautification & Infrastructure** – Current activity suspended due to resignation of past chair (Maya) This committee has vacancies requiring appointment of Board Members and any new volunteers who come forward. There is a budget and several projects awaiting member direction and participation.

6. **Board Member Comments:** Board Member David Hyman reported that the wrap up Citrus Sunday will be Sunday, May 17 from 9 AM to 1 PM @ Fire Station 87 on Balboa, more info to follow

7. General Public Comment

Mr. McGovern explained that comments would be limited to two minutes each.

Ann Porter with the organization **Move to Amend**, a national coalition working towards a Constitutional amendment addressing the suitability or not of Corporations being considered equivalent to people in the eyes of the law. She passed out cards directing people to their YouTube video, "A Question of Personhood".

Glenn Bailey, (Candidate) spoke of the March 3rd Election LA Community College Board of Trustee's race Largest District in the country, 880+ square miles in coverage, 400 square miles larger than the City of LA There are no spending limits in this category, unlike other races.

Lee Albers, Stakeholder, expressed displeasure at the accomplishments of the current Board

Donald Jacob, Stakeholder, questioned the NC posting procedure(s).

Ernie Hilger, Stakeholder, reported that a grievance was submitted regarding a Brown Act violation.

Sam Kwasman, Stakeholder, grievance reiteration, regarding bylaws change request.

Ivan Spiegel, Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be on Sept 26 at City Hall downtown
A survey will be sent out shortly, Volunteers are welcome to participate in preparing for the event

Jay Handal, representing DONE, informed all present that the MER's will need to be reviewed, July to present, Jay will assist in the process with the designated persons.

8. Motion to adjourn, 8:51 PM