



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 16, 2019
at New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343
Approved 6/20/2019

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 and Pledge of Allegiance.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.*] President Dan Gibson called the Meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org).

2. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members: Jay Beeber, Garry Fordyce, Sam Kwasman.

Mr. Beeber, Mr. Fordyce and Mr. Kwasman were recognized [applause].

3. Seating of New Board Members *NOTE: Names listed above are the current NHWNC Board Members and Officers as of the preparation of this agenda. The City Clerk is scheduled to certify the results of the May 4, 2019 NHWNC Election on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-882-1212; Matt.Hernandez@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>), led the new Board in reading aloud the Oath of Office.

4. Discussion and possible action to appoint Executive Officers of the Board for 2019-2020:

a. President

Ms. Hart nominated Dan Gibson as President, seconded by Ms. Minasian.
PASSED unanimously by a hand vote. Mr. Gibson was declared the President.

b. Vice-President

Ms. Elliott nominated Carol Hart as Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Gohel.
PASSED unanimously by a hand vote. Ms. Hart was declared the Vice-President.

c. Secretary

Mr. Gibson nominated Dave Brown as Secretary, seconded by Ms. Minasian. PASSED unanimously by a hand vote. Mr. Brown was declared the Secretary.

d. Treasurer

Mr. Gibson nominated Madlena Minasian as Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Pelaez. PASSED unanimously by a hand vote. Ms. Minasian was declared the Treasurer.

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

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Twelve of the 13 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Gil Brenner, Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone, Shirley Dabit, Maggie Elliott, Dan Gibson (President), Punam Gohel, Carol Hart (Vice-President), David Hyman, Madlena Minasian (Treasurer), Carlos Pelaez and Kreshell Ramey. Heather Hudson Beeber was absent. Jay Beeber, Garry Fordyce and Sam Kwasman no longer were Board Members. The NHWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven (see the Bylaws at <https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bj3apxsp3?a=q&qid=32&qskip=0&qrppg=1000&dlta=su46~>), so the Board could take such votes. Quorum was announced. Mr. Brown reported that all Board Members were eligible to vote and reviewed Board Members' training statuses. Mr. Gibson introduced new Board Members Gil Brenner and Shirley Dabit [applause]. All 13 of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seats were vacant. Also attended: approximately 38 Stakeholders and guests.

6. Announcements and Comments – President.

Mr. Gibson announced that Mr. Galperin [see below Item #9] had a schedule conflict and will reschedule his presentation. There soon will be a Board Member orientation and training.

7. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-882-1212; Matt.Hernandez@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>), reported that the Rapid Response Team will pick up bulky items; contact them on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Councilman sponsored a Motion to upgrade Police and Fire stations. Mr. Hernandez presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Brown for his community service [applause].

Carolyn Hogikyan, Field Representative for State 46th District Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (818-376-4246; Carolyn.Hogikyan@asm.ca.gov; <https://a46.asmdc.org>), encouraged contacting her if freeway cleaning is needed by Caltrans. She said "SB50 has been . . . pushed back for a year . . . to 2020." AB429 is being considered regarding a seismic inventory of potentially impacted buildings.

Linda Hernandez, Victim Service Coordinator, City Attorney's Victim Assistance Program [818-832-1769; Linda.Hernandez@LACity.org; www.HelpLACrimeVictims.org], said the Program offers support such as a court advocate; connecting with resources such as counseling individuals or families;

crime-related compensation expenses; and relocation assistance. She will email information for the website.

Efren Corral, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 818-634-0579; 35472@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station), reported that he works with residents to solve issues. Devonshire Division's new Captain is Katie Burns. You can request to post community information on their website. Officer Corral encouraged contacting him if you have issues or concerns. He described work regarding homeless issues, for example, every Friday the homeless encampment by the 405 Freeway is cleaned and they "make sure the homeless follow the rules." Mr. Gibson noted that anti-theft steering wheel Clubs are available for attendees "to protect your vehicle."

Mr. Galdamez distributed "10 Things You Should Know" to Board Members regarding "understanding your role as Board Members." He noted upcoming trainings and land use planning workshops. Bylaws amendments can be requested until March 31, 2020. He noted funding deadlines and reminded to read DONE's monthly Profiles.

8. General Public Comments

Resident Anita Goldbaum commented regarding SB50 that "we need housing, but not a one-size-fits-all" solution. She believed that a now-former Board Member misrepresented the Board position regarding a land use issue, saying "a member of this Board represented himself as speaking for the Board regard a zoning issue that this Board voted against, but spoke that the Board and the Community was in favor of the zoning. Reading from a letter received requesting help from the Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council, she said: "My name is Wendy and my husband is a Board member of the Greater Valley Glen NC. I need your help please. My Community is fighting against the same owners that opened a 15-bed facility on Chase Street that you voted against. However, one of your Board members has been showing up to our Hearings and representing NHWNC and stated you are in favor, but that's not what the public records show. Could someone kindly contact me?" Ms. Goldbaum continued, "This was an egregious overreaching by a Board member that is not permitted. Please remember that you cannot represent yourself as speaking for the Board." She also was concerned about potholes on Woodley Place. Resident Bonnie Cockerell reported that the DWP is offering \$3 per square foot to replace grass with environmentally-friendly plants.

Valley Glen property owner Wendy Elgin-Silva, reported that a developer wanted, without notice to neighbors, to put a Congregate Living Health Facility there. At a February 11th Zoning Hearing, a now-former NHWNC Board Member addressed himself to the Hearing Commissioner as such and misrepresented the NHWNC Board position as "in full support" of such a Facility in the North Hills West area when it was not; Ms. Elgin noted that the NHWNC "voted it down twice." She wanted an investigation and support at another Hearing. She said, "when [he was] asked "well, how does your neighborhood feel about this?," the response was, "oh, we've done lots of community outreach and they're enthusiastic about it," which simply was false.

There was a lot of what I would call untruths, and I think that there was some misleading information, which actually resulted in my GVGNC [Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council] holding a special [meeting] a week after the initial hearing to bring Sona and Ella into our NC . . . they formally withdrew their support . . . at the Feb 11th hearing for the City Zoning Commissioner, and at the special meeting for our GVGNC one of your Board Members had appeared to both; in fact he's appeared to several and they're the same representatives for Tyrone St. in Van Nuys, Chase St. here in NHW, and then Archwood [St., in Valley Glen] . . . when he came to these meetings at the City Hearing for which, is public knowledge, he addressed himself as an NHW Board Member and then went into about how wonderful this facility was, what an asset to your community and really kind of made us believe that this NC was in support of it. Additionally, he went to the special hearing a week later and he also mentioned there, in front of my Board, he started talking about the Brown Act, but he went on to say that he was a Member of the NHW Board and that you guys were in full support of this and basically again misled us into thinking that you were in support of this . . . I pulled up the Public Hearing of the NHW hearing for Chase St. and lo and behold, to my surprise you did not support this expansion; in fact, you voted it down twice . . . you have a Board Member that represents the NHW Board and, as a Board Member, doesn't he have an obligation to say "I individually support this, but, by the way, my Board and the community do not?" . . . I'm looking for an investigation . . . I would like very much to ask for this community's support [at] the May 23rd hearing . . . together . . . we can pull up some misleading facts and maybe we can get the City to push the pause button on these expansions."

Valley Glen resident Bart Canestra reported that a previous NHWNC Board Member "misrepresented the facts" regarding whether the NHWNC Board supported a Congregate Living Health Facility. Mr. Canestra noted that the developer wants CEQA exemptions. He encouraged for Valley Glen and the NHWNC to work together and "to police our own Members." He said, "I found it personally very upsetting and disappointing that one of your previous Members had come to our meetings and misrepresented the facts, and I found that to be very disturbing. But Wendy went over the facts of what happened in terms of our Board had a second meeting and then rescinded their approval . . . please, we all need to police our own Members that they don't misrepresent the positions of the Board."

Valley Glen resident Luanne Pino said that former NHWNC Board Member Garry Fordyce twice misrepresented that the NHWNC Board unanimously supported a Congregate Living Health Facility. She said that "this gentleman Garry came to the hearing and represented you guys, sat there and lied to us and said you guys were all for this beautiful property on Chase, and then came to the next hearing on February 18th and said it to the [Greater Valley Glen] Neighborhood Council that you were all for this beautiful property on Chase Street. And now we have an 18-bed facility that just got approved on Tyrone and Vanowen. And now on my street, which is Archwood Street, there's barely, there's no parking on most of the streets, they have a 6 bed facility. They could have opened it months ago. They're so, you know

they want patients, they care about patients supposedly, they could have had patients in it, but no, they want 12 beds . . . If I would have known you guys needed help I would have been there for your Chase property. To have 12 beds, 18 beds, it takes away from our residence, this is a residential neighborhood not a hospice . . . if you guys can please come and help us and then, please, investigate the person that misrepresented you, Garry, who was at the meetings saying that all of you guys approved the Chase Street, it's really sad, thank you."

Valley Glen resident Helena Mera said that Mr. Fordyce twice indicated that the NHWNC Board supported a Congregate Living Health Facility; "at no time did he mention that the [NHWNC] Board was opposed." She added that Mr. Fordyce attended two such Hearings on February 11th. She said that "on February 11th, 2019, Garry Fordyce attended a Hearing regarding an 18-bed Congregate Living Health Facility on Tyrone Ave. in Van Nuys which, incidentally, which have the same owners as the 15-bed Chase St., North Hills facility and the proposed 12-bed facility on Archwood St. in Valley Glen. At the Hearing, Mr. Fordyce again represented himself as a Member of the North Hills West Neighborhood Council, and again alluded that the North Hills West Neighborhood was in support of the 18-bed Tyrone St. facility. At no time did he mention at the Hearing that the North Hills West Neighborhood Council was actually opposed. This is a gross violation of a Board position. I feel if Mr. Fordyce had announced that he was personally for the 18-bed facility, but that the North Hills West Neighborhood Council was opposed, this could have swayed the Hearing Officer to have opposed the 18-bed facility rather than approve it. Lastly, I find it interesting that Mr. Fordyce attended two Hearings in Van Nuys, on February 11th, 2019, to support projects in neighborhoods that he does not even live in."

Mr. Fordyce challenged the qualifications of newly-elected Board Member Shirley Dabit, saying "I ponder whether you have been poorly advised, misinformed . . ." Wayne Spindler said, "Yes, me, Mr. Billy Goat and my friend here . . . There's a good friend of mine named Richard Alarcon; he had some minor paper mistakes and it took him six years and a loss of a couple hundred thousand dollars to finally get his criminal charges dropped after all these years. So again, we have another friend of mine; his name's Jose, and his last name is Weezy Huizar and he also has some problems with some minor paperwork. Then there's another guy, Curren Price, there's another friend of mine, he's got some problems with some paperwork . . . So a hundred thousand dollar settlement later and a divorce last year later and 240 thousand in legal fees later and an FBI probe, now he's trying to figure out what his middle name is. So let this be a lesson, if there's any doubt, that this person can't serve, learn from my good friends . . . the FBI's everywhere, they follow us everywhere we go; they're here in the room right now, stand up agents, stand up. So that's why, they're here, the Feds are here, the Department of Justice is here, the CIA is even present . . . We only worship Satan in the City of L.A., so again, pack it in, leave while you can; move to Santa Clarita."

9. **Power point presentation** from City Controller Ron Galperin.
See above Item #6.

10. **Discussion and possible action** to select NC Funding Program Financial Officers for 2019-21.

a. Second Signer – must be a Board member other than the Treasurer

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council continues Dan Gibson as its Second Signer and Bank Card Holder.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brenner, Brown, Crone, Dabit, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

b. NC Bank Cardholder
See above Item #10. a.

11. **Discussion and possible action** to appoint the NHWNC 2019-2021 Standing Committee chairs by the President with Board confirmation:

- a. Budget and Finance
- b. Events, Marketing and Outreach
- c. Planning and Land Use Management
- d. Beautification & Infrastructure
- e. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- f. Technical
- g. Rules & Elections

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Madlena Minasian as Budget and Finance Chair; Carol Hart as Events, Marketing and Outreach Chair; Heather Beeber as Planning and Land Use Management Chair; Carols Pelaez as Beautification & Infrastructure Chair; Dave Brown as Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Chair; and Punam Gohel as Rules & Elections Chair for NHWNC 2019-2021 Standing Committees.

DISCUSSION: The Technical Committee Chairpersonship is available. Mr. Gibson noted that Ms. Beeber had agreed to Chair the PLUM Committee; all other Chairs agreed at this Meeting. He noted that, according to the Bylaws, the President appoints Committee Chairs.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

12. **Discussion and possible action** to appoint the NHWNC 2019-2021 Ad-Hoc Committee chairs by the President with Board confirmation:

a. Haskell/Aqueduct Parking

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Carlos Pelaez as ad hoc Haskell/Aqueduct Parking Chair; and Dan Gibson as ad hoc Executive Chair for NHWNC 2019-2021 Ad-Hoc Committees.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Pelaez and Mr. Gibson agreed to Chair those Committees.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

b. Executive

See above Item #12. a.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve the April 25, 2019 General Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE approval of the Minutes.

14. Discussion and possible action to approve the April 2019 Monthly Expenditure Report. (available on NC Funding System online portal: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/NCFundPortal/Dashboard.html>)

Copies were distributed of the April "Monthly Expenditure Report," and a receipt(s), statement(s) and/or invoice(s).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for April 2019.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Crone, Dabit, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

Board Member Kreshell Ramey left at this time, making 11 Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

15. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of an invoice.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the expenditure of \$327.75 for Invoice #0501 to Moore Business Results for communications services.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Dabit, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

16. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the expenditure of up to \$400.00 to Moore Business Results for May communications services dated June 1, 2019.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Dabit, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian, Pelaez and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

17. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of an invoice.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the payment of Invoice # 33240 for the amount of \$122.10 to Partners in Diversity for minute taking services SBM April 25, 2019.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Spindler believed he was coerced and threatened.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Dabit, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Pelaez; zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

18. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Pelaez): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the payment of up to \$200.00 to Partners in Diversity for minute taking services for the May 16, 2019 NHWNC General Board Meeting.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Dabit, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Pelaez; zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

19. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of a receipt.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves board member reimbursement of election picnic food and supply expenses to Dan Gibson in the amount of \$304.04. This Costco expense was approved by the Board at the April 25, 2019 SBM.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gibson noted that “Costco does not take MasterCard”; the debit card “wasn’t working,” so he paid with his own credit card.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Dabit, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Pelaez; zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

20. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of an invoice.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Pelaez): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the payment of \$662.24 to AM Direct for additional postage costs for election mailings.

DISCUSSION: AM Direct’s Mike Khalid explained the additional costs. Mr. Galdamez noted that the budget already was set. Mr. Gibson noted that he and the City Clerk understood the previously-mentioned amounts to be estimates. Budget Advocate Brian Allen noted that “the postage was a question in doubt . . . you guys did the best you could.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Dabit, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Pelaez; zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

21. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of a completed Neighborhood Purposes Grant application by the Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Library.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Library for the “Hot Off the Press” program for up to the requested amount of \$1,500.00.

DISCUSSION: 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>), thanked the NHWNC for its six-year “partnership with the Neighborhood

Council”; the allocation would allow the Library to purchase “12 titles per month of best-selling titles . . . that the Library could purchase.” Mr. Gibson noted that the Library displays NHWNC support in the Library lobby. Ms. Elliott noted that NHWNC stickers are placed in the books.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Dabit, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Pelaez; zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Brenner).

22. Committee Reports

Mr. Gibson explained that Committees can have no more than three Board Members per Committee and the Chair must be a Board Member. He encouraged Chairs to contact him regarding Agendizing appointing Committee Members. Mr. Brown reported that a Community Emergency Plan draft is on the website; volunteers are needed. He is working with the North Hills East NC on parking issues. Mr. Pelaez looked forward to Beautification work. Ms. Hart noted that more Outreach materials will need to be ordered and she looked forward to events. Mr. Gohel will work on Bylaws changes.

23. Adjournment

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

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:05 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 NHWNC. The NHWNC Minutes page is <http://www.nhwnc.net/agendas-minutes/minutes-and-agendas>.