



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Regular Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 20, 2023
New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343
Minutes Approved 5/18/2023

Document copies were available at www.nhwnc.net.

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 to Order and Flag Salute.

President Madlena Minasian called the Meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Seven of the 10 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone (Treasurer), Maggie Elliott (Vice-President), Linda Erdman, Garry Fordyce, Carol Hart and Madlena Minasian (President). Punam Gohel and Kreshell Ramey arrived later. David Hyman was absent. 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 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. Ten of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Three Board Seats were vacant (two General and one Residential); to apply, email Secretary@nhwnc.net. Also attended: 21 Stakeholders and guests.

3. President's Comments, Announcements and Meeting Logistics – Madlena Minasian, President.

[The following list was on the Agenda.]

NHWNC (Region 2) Election Day is June 10, 2023.

Upcoming events: In-person unless otherwise noted.

Ø Saturday, April 22 Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Virtual Event 10am to 11:30am. https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ID6QEsgxS6SRDfIKyvow-w

WN_ID6QEsgxS6SRDfIKyvow-w

Ø Saturday, April 22 S.O.L.I.D. Pancake Breakfast / Open House 8am-11am.

Ø Saturday, April 22 NCEPA Meeting Topic: MegaFlood 10am-Noon Zoom.

- Ø Saturday, April 22 Van Nuys Airport Vision Study 10am-1130am Pre-registration at:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ID6QEsgxS6SRDfIKyvow-w#/registration
- Ø Saturday, April 22 CD7 13520 Van Nuys Bl, Free Tree Program.
- Ø Tuesday, April 25 Coffee with a Cop Starbucks 9420 Reseda Bl.
- Ø Wednesday, April 26 APCUG Mac Computer Workshop Zoom.
- Ø Saturday, May 6 VFW Post 2323 Day of Service 17522 Chatsworth St. 10am-3pm.
- Ø Tuesday, May 16 CERT Battalion 15 Meeting 6:30pm at Fire Station 87 10124 Balboa Bl.

Ms. Minasian noted the above. She explained that there would not be an NHWNC election because there were not enough Candidate applications; the NHWNC “will have an affirmation.” She explained the public comment procedure.

4. Elected Officials, Public Agency Speakers, Field Representatives and Public Service Announcements.

- a. Mayor of Los Angeles Karen Bass / West Valley Representative - Erin Seinfeld
erin.seinfeld@lacity.org <https://mayor.lacity.gov/>.
Ms. Seinfeld [323-552-6730; <https://www.lamayor.org/WestValleyAreaRep>], was not present and there was no report.
- b. Council District 12 John Lee / Field Representative – Lorena Espinal
Lorena.Espinal@lacity.org <https://councildistrict12.lacity.gov/>.
Lorena Espinal, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [818-882-1212], reported that more Police overtime funding was approved. Anti-camping on public land legislation passed. Street crossing guards are being hired; she will email information to the Board.
- c. County Supervisor District 3: Lindsey Horvath.
No representative was present and there was no report.
- d. State Senate District 20: Caroline Menjivar.
Andres Garcia, a District Representative for State 20th District Senator Caroline Menjivar [ofc. 818-901-5588' Andres.Garcia@sen.ca.gov; <https://senate.ca.gov/Menjivar>] was not present and there was no report.
- e. Assembly District 40 – Pilar Schiavo / Field Representative - Gaby Gurrola
gaby.gurrola@asm.ca.gov, <https://a40.asmdc.org/>.
Gaby Gurrola, a Field Representative for State 40th District Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo [661-286-1565], was not present and there was no report.
- f. US Congress District 32: Brad Sherman.
No representative was present and there was no report.
- g. LAUSD School Board District 3: Scott Schmerelson.
No representative was present and there was no report.

- h. LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (SLO) - Jerome Knopp
37244@lapd.online; <https://www.lapdonline.org/lapd-contact/valley-bureau/devonshire-community-policestation/>.
Jerome Knopp, an LAPD Devonshire Division (east of CSUN) Senior Lead Officer [Desk: (818) 832-0633; Cell: (323) 382-1526], was not present and there was no report.
- i. Mid Valley Regional Library. <https://www.lapl.org/branches/mid-valley>.
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>), encouraged getting a library card and joining the Friends of the Mid Valley Library. The Library has computer classes, and will have Zumba fitness classes starting Saturday, May 6th at 10:30 a.m. for adults and at 11:15 for children. Computers with hot spots “can be checked out for six months,” though currently all are reserved.
- j. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment / NEA - John Darnell
john.darnell@lacity.org; <https://empowerla.org/>.
John Darnell, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551], thanked the Board for their service and confirmed that “there won’t be a Board election; there’ll be an affirmation.”
- k. Report from Region 2 Budget Advocate or Budget Representative. <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>.
Mr. Fordyce, a Budget Advocate [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com], reported that the City budget greatly increased. He commented that “where this money is coming from, nobody knows . . . [the Mayor] is turning down Departments . . . we’re all going to suffer . . . this is my view.”
- l. To find your Elected Representatives, City Agencies, Departments and more, click here: <https://neighborhoodinfo.lacity.org>.
Ms. Minasian noted the above.
- m. Additional neighborhood information at: <https://knowyourcommunity.lacity.org>
Ms. Minasian noted the above.

5. General Public Comment

Guest Glenn Bailey, “speaking as an individual,” said the Mayor proposed that Neighborhood Councils still get \$32,000 per year in funding and be allowed to roll over \$10,000 in funding from the previous Fiscal Year [ending June 30th]. Guest Samantha Trainer and her son asked for funding for the Vintage Magnet Elementary School [<https://www.vintagemagnet.net>] grades three through five Robotics Team. The Team has 120 members; 14 are going to the World Championships. Ms. Minasian explained the need to complete a Neighborhood Purposes Grant application. Resident Debra Francisco welcomed everyone and thanked the Board for their service, as did guest Steve Thomason. Ms. Minasian read aloud an

anonymous email that requested meetings “be focused on community needs,” avoiding “unnecessary complaints.”

Board Members Punam Gohel and Kreshell Ramey arrived at this time (6:51), making nine Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven). The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #7.

6. Guest Speakers and Informational Presentations.

- A. City Of Los Angeles Urban Forestry Division: Stephen Du Prey, Nikki Ezhari, Elias Najar. Presentation regarding available programs and options to get more trees planted faster. North Hills West Neighborhood Council District Street Tree Summary NHW has 3,583 trees (58%), 253 stumps and 2,473 vacant sites (43%)

The presentation was made and questions answered. It was reported that the City plans to trim 1,500 North Hills trees this year. Mr. Najar said “research shows that planting a tree on your property can increase the property value five percent.” Mr. Fordyce questioned that data, saying “are we not to understand the facts?” Mr. Du Prey described benefits of having a tree, including shade and lower cooling costs. He said “we’re a mulch facility, not a compost facility . . . the quality of the mulch is superb” and the City “can drop it off . . . [for] free.” He noted that “a tree should be trimmed every three to five years.” Currently the City is trimming “every 17 years . . . you’re all welcome” to tour their facility. The goal is to replace every tree removed; more City funding is needed. Urban Forestry has “4,000 requests for emergency services”; you can use a licensed contractor to trim trees.

- B. City of Los Angeles L.A. REPAIR Grant Participatory Budgeting: Elliot Kuhn. Voting is open this month and the proposal with the most votes will receive funding. Select your REPAIR Zone to learn how to vote and read the proposals on the ballot: <https://www.nhwnc.net/l-a-repair-participatory-budgeting/>

Mr. Kuhn explained that their Panorama City facility at 8380 Ventura Canyon Avenue is open every Saturday 9:00 a.m. - noon. Shade trees are available “free to the public.” Free mulch is available and they “also run a community composting hub.” They’re working to create community gardens. They also work with high school students, who learn food growing and gardening skills, and the LAPD PALS and other organizations.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the March 16, 2023 Board Meeting Draft Minutes. <https://www.nhwnc.net/minutes/march-16-2023-draft-minutes/>

No corrections or amendments were made.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Erdman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fordyce claimed that the March 16th Item #10 Minutes showed no Motion mover or seconder; it was noted that the Minutes did and do show a mover and a seconder.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Fordyce, Gohel, Hart and Minasian); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Ramey).

8. **Discussion and possible action** to approve March 2023 Monthly Expenditure Report. <https://www.nhwnc.net/reports/march-2023-monthly-expense-report/>

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Erdman, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2023.

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

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #6. A.

9. **Discussion and possible action** to approve a Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) for \$1,729.50 for Mid-Valley Regional Library for a video projector.

Ms. Magaw presented on behalf of the Friends of the Library. She said the projector “will be available for the NHWNC when they need it” and confirmed that the NHWNC can take it off-site. The \$1,729.50 is “the total amount that we were quoted by the vendor.” Mr. Fordyce stated that addressing this Item is “a violation of the Brown Act. We were told we couldn’t ask questions at meetings” and this Item “was not Agendized.” In reply to Ms. Minasian noting that it was Agendized, Mr. Fordyce said “that is not relevant.” She confirmed that this Item was Agendized for the [April 17th] Budget & Finance Committee meeting; he still claimed otherwise. He insisted that the application needed to list Friends of the Library Members; it was confirmed that there was no need to list Friends of the Library Members on the application. Then Mr. Fordyce challenged and wanted to discuss Ms. Hart’s eligibility to be a Board Member. Ms. Hart again explained her multiple qualifications and noted that discussion of her eligibility is not Agendized. Mr. Darnell confirmed that “if it’s not on the Agenda, it can’t be discussed.” Ms. Minasian requested of Mr. Darnell and he agreed that he will report back to her whether it was a Brown Act violation for Mr. Fordyce to discuss at this time the unagendized topic of Ms. Hart’s Board member qualifications. Mr. Brown noted that, at the Budget & Finance Committee meeting, “there were copies” available of all information, including the Agenda, and that it was “his [Mr. Fordyce’s] option not to” look at it. Ms. Francisco noted that “the Library is in our District . . . that money goes for all of us . . . it has nothing to do with conflict of interest . . . interferencing from other people to our Council should not be made.” Mr. Fordyce wanted the NPG application to show that the item number eight answer is “no” and item number 11 is blank.

FUNDING MOTION (by the Budget and Finance Committee): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) for \$1,729.50 for Mid-Valley Regional Library for a video projector . . . with corrections on the NPG that the line eight answer is “no” and that line 11. B. will be blank.

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

- 10. Update regarding the status Volunteers Cleaning Communities NPG** for \$1500 for Tools and Supplies. Agendized and approved on April 21, 2022 General Board Meeting.

Ms. Minasian asked Ms. Hart about the location and status of the tools and supplies. Ms. Hart stated that she “was told they were purchased; I don’t know where they’re stored.” Ms. Hart said that she explained to Jill Mather [Founder of “Volunteers Cleaning Communities,” VCC; JillMather@earthlink.net], the need “for a follow-up report,” but Ms. Mather hasn’t answered. Ms. Elliott reported the same. Mr. Brown reported that nothing has yet been purchased. There was discussion about funding allocated by the City but the NHWNC not getting any information from VCC. Ms. Ramey said she “will talk with” Ms. Mather and notify the Board. Mr. Fordyce said he “never heard about any” cleanups; other Board Members noted that multiple cleanups have been posted on the NHWNC website. Mr. Fordyce questioned why funding was allocated since the City can provide free equipment. Ms. Minasian explained to him that “this is an update.” No Motion was made or vote taken.

- 11. Board Member announcements and comments.**

Mr. Fordyce requested to adjourn in memory of former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan, who passed away the day before. Mr. Brown recommended attending an active shooter presentation. Ms. Erdman commented on the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Committee meeting she attended; the next will be May 2nd. Ms. Hart commented that CD12 can help getting free trees.

- 12. Discussion and possible action** on NHWNC/Committee/Liaison/CIS filers appointments to add/remove.

There were no appointments or changes at this time.

- 13. Committee, Liaison and CIS filer Reports.**

Committees

a) Beautification & Infrastructure

There was no report.

b) Budget & Finance

There was no report.

c) Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety

Mr. Brown reported that the City is considering offering a three-part program of a CERT class, a “Stop the Bleed” class, and an active shooter drill.

d) Outreach/Events/Marketing

Ms. Hart noted a recruiting flier. It was noted that Ms. Elliott, Mr. Brown, Ms. Ramey and Ms. Hart did outreach.

e) Planning & Land Use Management

There was no report.

f) Rules & Elections

Mr. Gohel had no report.

g) Ad hoc Board Retreat Committee

Mr. Gohel reported that the Retreat will be in July and open to the public.

h) Ad hoc Executive Committee

There was no report.

i) Ad hoc Homeless Liaison

Ms. Ramey indicated that there was no report.

j) Ad hoc Legislative Committee

There was no report.

k) Ad hoc Parking Committee

There was no report.

Liaisons

a) DWP Advocacy and MOU Oversight Committee. <https://empowerla.org/DWPMOU/>

Ms. Erdman reported.

b) Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC). <https://empowerla.org/commission/policies-and-meetings/>

Ms. Minasian reported that the April 4th meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. The April 17th meeting was a hybrid of in-person and virtual attendance. A verbal update was given by the City Clerk Funding Unit regarding citywide NC funding; the \$4 million annual NCs budget was reported by categories. BONC will update the NCs Code of Conduct. A joint presentation was made by the City Clerk Election Division and DONE regarding 2023 NC elections. They’ve received 1,585 NC Board Candidate applications; 1,305 were so far certified. One-third of NCs will have affirmations, not elections. The BONC meeting ended because they lost quorum.

c) Budget Advocates <https://www.budgetadvocates.org>.

See above Item #4. k.

- d) Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) <http://www.lancc.org/>
Ms. Minasian reported that LANCC is requesting ideas of what to include in a Neighborhood Council Bill of Rights.
- e) Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance (NCEPA). <https://www.ncsa.la>
There was no report.
- f) Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance <https://www.ncsa.la>
Ms. Hart reported that the Friends of the L.A. River presented about “reclaiming parts of the L.A. River.”
- g) Plan Check Neighborhood Councils <https://empowerla.org/planchecknc/>
There was no report.
- h) Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) <https://vanc34.org/>.
Ms. Minasian reported that Ethics Commission President Jeffery Daar and City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto spoke. Ms. Minasian encouraged to listen to the very informative VANC meeting recording. In a discussion regarding Board Meeting recordings, Ms. Feldstein Soto said that Neighborhood Councils are not required to record meetings. Mr. Bailey described Senate Bill 411, which would allow NCs to have hybrid [teleconference] meetings.
- i) West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness (WVNAH). <https://wvnah.org/>
There was no report.
- j) 2022 Congress of Neighborhood Councils Videos. <https://www.neighborhoodcongress.la/>
There was no report.

14. Requests for Future Agenda Items. Send to: President@nhwnc.net minimum 10 days before desired meeting date, with AGENDA REQUEST in the subject line. Please attach documents, along with sufficient information, and links to support adequate description for discussion.

Ms. Minasian noted the above.

15. Finishing Roll Call & Adjournment.

Nine of the 10 Board Members were present at the Finishing Roll Call: Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone (Treasurer), Maggie Elliott (Vice-President), Linda Erdman, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Carol Hart, Madlena Minasian (President) and Kreshell Ramey.

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

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:41 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>.