



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Regular Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, November 16, 2023
New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343

DRAFT Minutes [to be replaced by "Approved _[Month]_ _[date]_, 202_[year]_"]

Document copies were available at <https://www.nhwnc.net/agendas/november-16/>.

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1. Call to order and Welcome.

President Madlena Minasian called the Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Seven of the eight Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone, Maggie Elliott (Vice-President), Linda Erdman (Treasurer), Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel and Madlena Minasian (President). Kreshell Ramey arrived later. No Board Member was absent. The NHWNC Board 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. Eight of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Five Board Seats were vacant; to apply, email Secretary@nhwnc.net. Also attended: 13 Stakeholders and guests.

3. President announcements and comments.

- a. Moment of silence for LAPD Officer Darrel Cunningham.

Ms. Minasian led the above.

- b. If you would like to address the board on any items on the agenda tonight, please complete a speaker card from the Public Information Table, hand it to me, and

clearly mark which item you wish to comment on. If you choose to comment on several agenda items, have a separate speaker card for each item.

Ms. Minasian noted the above.

- c. Vacancies: The NHWNC is currently seeking one (1) Residential Board Member, Seat term expiring 2025; one (1) General Board Member, Seat term expiring 2025; one (1) Residential Board Member, Seat term expiring 2027; one (1) Community Interest Stakeholder Board Member, seat term expiring 2027; and, two (2) General Board Members, Seat terms expiring 2027.

Ms. Minasian noted the above.

- d. Bylaw Amendment Deadline 4/1/2024

Ms. Minasian noted the above.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the October 2023 MER.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by consent with six in favor (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel and Minasian); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

Mr. Fordyce believed that there should be a roll call vote. Ms. Minasian reminded him that, “several meetings ago” (May 18, 2023), John Darnell, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551], said that no roll call vote was needed.

5. Discussion and possible action to approve the October 19, 2023 GBM Minutes.

No corrections or amendments were made.

MOTION (by Ms. Erdman, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by consent with six in favor (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel and Minasian); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

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

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 that the City Council is considering complying with SB 411. There'll be a December 14th CD12 holiday party. She will report back about street light outages. CD12 hasn't received any complaints about Motel 6 having homeless people.

Board Member Kreshell Ramey arrived at this time (6:22), making all eight Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

Ms. Espinal will report back on the number of homeless people.

After Item #11, Mr. Darnell again admitted that “the only reason you’re in Exhaustive Efforts is because” of DONE actions. He also stated that “soon after this meeting” the NHWNC would receive “a letter telling you that you’re out of Exhaustive Efforts.” Ms. Minasian requested and Mr. Darnell agreed that DONE will provide outreach help. He indicated that DONE has more staff now and they can assist with outreach. She specifically asked and Mr. Darnell agreed to get back to her regarding whether the NHWNC can have two bus bench advertisements to let Stakeholders know about the NHWNC.

7. Guest Speakers and Informational Presentations.

There were no speakers or announcements.

8. Discussion and possible action to reallocate the \$9,293.49 rollover funds into the 2023-2024 Budget. <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/NCFundPortal/Dashboard.html>

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Erdman, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will reallocate the \$9,293.49 rollover funds into the 2023-2024 Budget.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Minasian said “the budget has been posted on the website.” Mr. Fordyce claimed that “there is no information whatsoever in those pages.” Mr. Brown said it “pulled up good” for him at this time and “it’s been there for three days.” Ms. Minasian said the Budget was signed by herself, Ms. Elliott and Ms. Erdman, and noted that a paper copy of the Budget was on this meeting’s literature table. Stakeholder Steve Thomason showed the Budget as it appeared on his phone. Ms. Minasian asked Mr. Fordyce why he didn’t notify her that he couldn’t see it; he did not answer.

MOTION PASSED by consent with seven in favor (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian and Ramey); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

9. **Discussion and possible action** to appoint up to two Budget Representatives. Mr. Brown nominated Punam Gohel to be a Budget Representative and Ms. Elliott nominated Dave Brown. Mr. Gohel and Mr. Brown accepted their nominations. Mr. Gohel nominated Linda Erdman. Mr. Brown withdrew his acceptance.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Punam Gohel and Linda Erdman as NHWNC Budget Representatives.

MOTION PASSED by consent with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Fordyce).

10. **Discussion and possible action** on whether to have a GBM on December 21, 2023, due to the upcoming Holidays.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will not have a December 21, 2023 Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Brown noted that a lot of groups aren’t meeting in December.

MOTION PASSED by consent with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Fordyce).

11. **General Public Comment** on Non-Agenda items within the jurisdiction of the NHWNC.

City Council Candidate Evy Arocho [818-415-6799; Evy4CD12@gmail.com] introduced herself. She’s a retired LAPD Sergeant whose emphasis is on traffic, youth/vocational education, and crime. CD12 Candidate and GHSNC President Mike Benedetto said he “will restore the Neighborhood Council system to what it once was,” including \$50,000 per year each in City funding. Mr. Thomason was concerned about residents and/or guests at 9436 Haskell near Plummer. Resident Debra Francisco reported about a Roscoe station that “it passed” and, she believed, that no one’s happy about it. Guest Glenn Bailey reported that the Northridge East NC will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Northridge earthquake, at the Northridge Women’s Club at 18401 Lassen St. by Reseda.

The next item addressed (again) was Item #6.

12. **Senate Bill 411 (SB411) Open meetings**: teleconferences: Neighborhood Councils was signed by the Governor on 10/8/23 and has been Chaptered by the Secretary of State (Chapter 605, Statutes of 2023). It provides, in part, “...an eligible legislative body may elect to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section if two-thirds of the eligible legislative body votes to do so. The eligible legislative body shall notify the

City council if it elects to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section and its justification for doing so.” An implementing Resolution was introduced in the City Council on 11/1/23 as Council File 23-1114, as well as a related motion regarding technology, support, and other resources (CF 23-1113). Discussion and Possible Action to File Community Impact Statement (CIS) and/or Board Resolution CIS and/or Board Resolution CF 23-1114 via the CIS portal. LACityClerk Connect_CF 23-1114 and also submit it to BONC and DONE.

Mr. Brown read aloud the above. There was discussion of the Board vote procedure regarding virtual meetings. Mr. Darnell said that 2/3 of the Board Seats must vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) and/or Board Resolution CIS and/or Board Resolution CF 23-1114 via the CIS portal LACityClerk Connect_CF 23-1114 and also submit it to BONC and DONE.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bailey said that State Senator Anthony Portantino (the author of SB 411), at the Hollywood United NC meeting this week, expressed that his (the Senator’s) intent was two-thirds of a legislative body; that nowhere is it written that two-thirds of Board Seats need to vote; that he (Senator Portantino) had gotten calls from the City Attorney’s office; and that the Senator recommended contacting the City Attorney. Ms. Minasian reported that when she reached out to the Senator’s office, Declan Floyd, District Representative for Senator Portantino (818-409-0400; Declan.Floyd@sen.ca.gov; <https://sd25.senate.ca.gov>), confirmed that the Senator’s intent was two-thirds of a legislative body. Ms. Espinal said they “await the City Attorney decision.” Ms. Minasian stated reasons for the NHWNC to support SB 411.

MOTION PASSED by consent with seven in favor (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian and Ramey); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

Ms. Minasian reported that she’d emailed Mr. Darnell, and DONE’s Lorenzo Briceno and Gibson Nyambura, about “updating CIS Filers” and requesting access; so far, they haven’t replied. She again emailed them “a couple of days ago.” Ms. Erdman volunteered and Ms. Minasian said “Linda will file this month’s CISs.”

- 13. Standing Rule(s)** nhwnc.net/bylaws/standing-rules. Discussion and possible motion to approve a new Standing Rule and identical Bylaws Change Request. “See text below for specific wording and presented options.” Additions are underlined. Deletions are strike-thru’d. NHWNC current Bylaws approved 6/7/2022

ARTICLE V GOVERNING BOARD, Section 8: Censure, The Board shall use the following procedure when censuring a Board member:

(Option 1) 1A. A motion to censure a Board member may be initiated by any ~~three~~ (3) Board members. Board member or Stakeholder. ~~Those Board members shall not~~

~~constitute a majority of the quorum of any Neighborhood Council body, such as a committee.~~ The motion shall be delivered to any officer of the Board or a specific officer or member of the Board as may be specified in the bylaws or standing rules of the Neighborhood Council. The motion shall be in writing and provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed censure including the date(s) and specific conduct relied upon for the motion. The motion shall not be based upon conclusions, e.g., “for alleged violations of the Code of Conduct” but shall contain factual statements that describe conduct only and is not intended to embarrass or humiliate the board member.

(Option 2) 1B. A motion to censure a Board member may be initiated by any three (3) Board mem-bers or Stakeholder(s). ~~Those Board members shall not constitute a majority of the quorum of any Neighborhood Council body, such as a committee.~~ The motion shall be delivered to any officer of the Board or a specific officer or member of the Board as may be specified in the bylaws or standing rules of the Neighborhood Council. The motion shall be in writing and provide the specific facts and grounds for the pro-posed censure including the date(s) and specific conduct relied upon for the motion. The motion shall not be based upon conclusions, e.g., “for alleged violations of the Code of Conduct” but shall contain factual statements that describe conduct only and is not intended to embarrass or humiliate the board member.

Mr. Brown explained the need; the sentence “Those Board members shall not constitute a majority of the quorum of any Neighborhood Council body, such as a committee” would be deleted. He and Ms. Ramey preferred Option 2; Mr. Gohel preferred Option 1.

Board Member Pat Crone left at this time (7:24), making seven Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

Mr. Brown explained the need for a “redress procedure.” Mr. Darnell confirmed that Neighborhood Councils can file CISOs about BONC [L.A. City Board of Neighborhood Commissioners] policies without there being a Council File number. Mr. Brown re-explained the options.

MOTION (by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves a new Standing Rule and identical Bylaws change request as follows: 1A. A motion to censure a Board member may be initiated by any three (3) Board members. Board member or Stakeholder. ~~Those Board members shall not constitute a majority of the quorum of any Neighborhood Council body, such as a committee.~~ The motion shall be delivered to any officer of the Board or a specific officer or member of the Board as may be specified in the bylaws or standing rules of the Neighborhood Council. The motion shall be in writing and provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed censure including the date(s) and specific conduct relied upon for the motion. The motion shall not be based upon conclusions, e.g., “for alleged violations of the Code of Conduct” but

shall contain factual statements that describe conduct only and is not intended to embarrass or humiliate the board member.

MOTION PASSED by consent with six in favor (Brown, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian and Ramey); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

- 14. Bylaws Change Request.** [nhwnc.net/bylaws/standing rules](http://nhwnc.net/bylaws/standing%20rules). Discussion and possible motion to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Brown explained this.

MOTION (by Ms. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Brown): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves two (2) new Standing Rules and identical Bylaws change requests as follows: Section 9: Removal of Governing Board Members. The Board shall use the following procedure when removing a Board member:

1. A motion to remove a Board member may be initiated by any three (3) Board members. ~~Those Board members shall not constitute a majority of the quorum of any Neighborhood Council body, such as a committee.~~ The proposed motion shall be delivered to any officer of the Board or a specific officer or member of the Board as may be specified in the bylaws or standing rules of the Neighborhood Council. The motion shall be in writing and provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed removal action, including the date(s) and specific conduct relied upon for the motion. The motion shall not be based upon conclusions, e.g., “for alleged violations of the Code of Conduct” but shall contain factual statements that describes conduct only and is not intended to embarrass or humiliate the board member. The motion to remove shall also include a copy of the prior censure motion and the date it was passed.
5. The Board shall decide whether or not the Board member should be removed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of ~~the currently sitting Board members.~~ those present and voting whether or not the Board member should be removed. The Board member who is the subject of the removal motion shall not be allowed to vote and shall not be counted when determining the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. For the purpose of the removal motion, abstentions shall not be counted as votes.

MOTION PASSED by consent with six in favor (Brown, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian and Ramey); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

- 15. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement CIS to oppose rezoning proposed under the City’s Housing Element. LACityClerk.lacity.org/CF_21-1230
Ø Brief background: NHW Housing Element Map
Ø Key Facts: The State Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) target for the periods 2021-2029 mandates that LA must zone for 486,379 housing units. Current

zoning provides for 230,964 housing units. Rezoning must allow for an additional 255,000 housing units by 2029. The current Housing Element has provided for rezoning for 1,400,000 housing units – OVER 5 TIMES THE MANDATE. For more about the City of LA Housing Element Rezoning Program, use the following link:
Ø For more about the City of LA Housing Element Rezoning Program, use the following link: <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/housing-element-rezoning-program#strategies>

Ms. Minasian asked, who are these extra proposed units for? Local homeless? Out of state? Migrants? She said that nowhere is there any mention of infrastructure upgrading or even enhanced maintenance, putting the future financial burden on taxpayers, not current developers. She believed that higher-density builds should have an associated infrastructure fee, appropriate to the impact; available commercial corridors would likely be least impacted; lack of any vehicle parking provision will severely impact all built areas; and this would be most severe in single-family neighborhoods, as evidenced by ADU's and resulting full streets of cars. She asked Ms. Espinal to tell Councilmember Lee "we don't want single-family residential neighborhoods destroyed."

Mr. Fordyce noted that some of the slides in the presentation showed reference to an October 14th VANC Town Hall hosted by the Lake Balboa NC. Ms. Minasian noted that the Town Hall had already happened and the slides were part of the basic information provided. Mr. Fordyce expressed consternation regarding some of the information containing the Town Hall date as well as the current meeting date (November 16th). Ms. Minasian noted that this agenda topic under discussion was about an NHWNC CIS for the Housing Element, and had nothing to do with the Town Hall.

Mr. Brown noted that Mr. Fordyce successfully accessed NHWNC website information. Mr. Brown encouraged others to do so as well, noting that some links can provide significantly enhanced map details, including in color. He offered help with any of the specifics. Ms. Ramey requested that "City of Los Angeles" be added to the Housing Element descriptor.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves submitting a Community Impact Statement to OPPOSE proposed re-zoning proposed under the City of Los Angeles Housing Element. CIS text: NHWNC at its November 16, 2023 General Board Meeting and duly posted by the Brown Act voted to Oppose as follows: Whereas the Housing Element and Community Plan updates have plenty of zoning opportunities in commercial corridors and public lands and through adaptive reuse to meet State mandates. There is no need to rezone thru overlays or other zoning devices R1 zones or sensitive rentals stabilized multi-family housing. The NHWNC Opposes the Housing Element proposed rezoning and densification of R1 and multi-family neighborhoods beyond what SB 9 and AFU laws allow.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Francisco supported the Motion.

MOTION PASSED by consent with six in favor (Brown, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian and Ramey); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

- 16. Discussion and possible motion** to send a letter to Mayor Bass, Councilman Lee, Councilman Krekorian, and the PLUM Committee regarding the City’s Housing Element. mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

Ms. Minasian explained this.

MOTION (by Ms. Elliott, seconded by Ms. Ramey): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will send a letter to Mayor Bass, Councilman Lee, Councilman Krekorian, and the PLUM Committee regarding the City’s Housing Element.

MOTION PASSED by consent with six in favor (Brown, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian and Ramey); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

- 17. Discussion and possible action** to appoint/remove Board Members and Stakeholders to Committees/AdHoc, Liaisons and Alliances.
a. Budget & Finance

Ms. Minasian explained the below Motion.

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Erdman): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council removes Linda Erdman from the Budget & Finance Committee and appoints Madlena Minasian as Budget & Finance Committee Chair, and removes Ms. Minasian as Rules & Elections Committee Chair and appoints Punam Gohel as Rules & Elections Committee Chair.

MOTION PASSED by consent with six in favor (Brown, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian and Ramey); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

- b. Rules and Election

See above Item #17. a.

- 18. Report outs.**

- a. NHWNC Committees, Ad-hoc’s, NHWNC.net

Ms. Minasian reported that no Committees met.

b. Alliances and Coalitions: EmpoweLA/Alliances

Mr. Brown had no report.

c. BONG: BONG Commission Website New BONG Code of Conduct Policy approved on 11/7/23 (with minor edits and enforcement date is unknown currently.)

Ms. Minasian encouraged listening to the BONG Meeting recording. BONG approved a new Code of Conduct policy, which she explained. Committee Members also will be required to sign the Code of Conduct. She described BONG's discussions.

d. CIS filer(s) NHWNC Community Impact Statements (CIS) & Letters

See above Item #12.

e. Liaisons: LANCC / VANC

Ms. Minasian reported that a Deputy District Attorney spoke about crime. Ms. Minasian described other topics addressed, including digital billboards. She reported that LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson (ofc. 818-654-3785; Scott.Schmerelson@lausd.net; <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>) helped create a process for NCs to meet at schools. LANCC met on the usual first Saturday. She described the NC Bill of Rights and SB 411. She noted that 18 Valley NCs had affirmations, not elections.

e. Budget Advocates: Budgetadvocates.org
[This was the second Item #18. e. on the Agenda.]

Mr. Fordyce mentioned that the Budget Advocates meet twice per month; Committees are forming and folks are welcome to participate. When asked about items of interest, he stated "Ok, this is going to be very difficult for you to follow, this has way too many numbers . . . Would you like to hear it?" Varied responses indicated that attendees believed that Mr. Fordyce believed they weren't smart enough to understand the report. He asked and commented, "If you can keep track of these multiple very large numbers and changes in the subjects . . . I'm not pleased with the format of this myself." He reported on various City budget matters, including that, to balance the General Fund budget, the City may need to rely on the reserve fund, which only is for emergency use and operating expenses; the Budget Advocates don't approve of any raiding of the reserve fund. Mr. Fordyce also said, "now, if anybody can track this last part . . . it needs to be in a whole different format."

19. Board member announcements/announcements.

There were none.

20. Upcoming events/volunteer opportunities → NHWNC Calendar.

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Ms. Minasian noted the above.

21. Requests for Future Agenda Items. Send to President@nhwnc.net at least 10 days before the meeting date, with “AGENDA REQUEST” in the subject line. Please attach documents with sufficient information and links to support adequate descriptions for discussion. December 11th is the deadline to submit agenda requests for December 21st GBM.

Ms. Minasian noted the above.

22. Adjournment.

Seven of the eight Board Members were present at adjournment: Dave Brown (Secretary), Maggie Elliott (Vice-President), Linda Erdman (Treasurer), Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Madlena Minasian (President) and Kreshell Ramey. Pat Crone was absent.

Ms. Minasian **ADJOURNED** the Meeting with no opposition at 8:56 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>.