



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Regular Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, January 18, 2024
New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343
Minutes Approved 2/15/2024

Document copies were available at <https://www.nhwnc.net/agendas/january-18/>

NHWNC Meeting Minutes are a summary, not a 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. Call to order, Welcome, and Roll Call

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m. by the President, Madlena Minasian
- b. The President welcomed everyone.
- c. Roll Call was taken - Seven of the eight Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dave Brown (Secretary), Maggie Elliott (Vice-President), Linda Erdman (Treasurer), Garry Fordyce, Madlena Minasian (President), Kreshell Ramey and Pat Crone. Punam Gohel arrived at 6:22 pm, making all eight current Board members present. The NHWNC Board quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) normally is seven (see the Bylaws link at www.empowerla.org/nhwnc).

2. Pledge of Allegiance, Voting Eligibility Report, and call for agenda item(s) recusals.

- a. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
- b. Mr. Brown confirmed that all Board Members' training were compliant and they were eligible to vote. 19 new stakeholders and guests also attended.
- c. There were no Board member recusals regarding any of the agenda items.

2. President's Announcements/Comments:

- a. President spoke about meeting rules, decorum, and time allocations.
- b. Board vacancies: 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; and two (2) General Board Members, Seat terms expiring 2027 and how to apply and the process was stated.

- c. Bylaws change deadline of 4/1/2024.
- d. The LA City Charter 910 monitoring of city services. "Neighborhood Councils shall monitor the delivery of City Services in their respective areas," if anyone is having issues, to let her know.
- e. Greater LA Homeless Count January 23-25, 2024, and a link to register was provided.
- f. VNY-related interest, but we will not discuss it because it may become a future agenda item. CD12 is granted two seats on the VNY Citizens Advisory Council (VNY CAC). These seats are appointed at the pleasure of our Councilmember Lee to ensure CD12 voices are represented on the impact VNY airport has over our community. The advisory council's purpose is to hear VNY issues from land development to operations and reach a consensus to provide the Mayor, Board of Airport Commissioners, and City Council recommendations based on the community's needs and impact. LAWA is compelled to present land use changes and other critical VNY business to this body, so our first line of defense is to ensure and protect our collective quality of life. Meetings are held once a month at the Van Nuys City Hall. also, if anyone is interested, email the President.
- g. On a sad note, it was announced that our Minute Writer, David Levine, will no longer work with us. He has carried this Neighborhood Council through many difficult times with his credible, professional, and impeccably thorough work and has provided a solid foundation for the Board to rely upon. Those will be some big shoes to fill!

4. Discussion and possible action to approve November 16, 2023, GBM Minutes: Mr. Brown requested the honor of the Motion to approve Mr. Levine's recent final Draft Minutes; Ms. Erdman seconded the motion amidst a flurry of seconds. Motion passed with six (6) yes and one (1) no. (6-1-0)

5. Discussion and possible action to approve November 2023 MER: Linda Erdman moved to approve the November MER, seconded by Maggie Elliott. Motion passed with six (6) yes and one (1) no. (6-1-0)

5. Discussion and possible action to approve December 2023 MER: Linda Erdman moved to approve the November MER, seconded by Maggie Elliott. Motion passed with six (6) yes and one (1) no. (6-1-0)

Summary of current balances: \$4293.49 expenses to date. Expenses outstanding \$716.76. Remaining available balance \$36,408.97

6. Elected Officials, Public Agency Speakers, Field Representatives, and Public Service Announcements. Up to three (3) minutes per speaker. Stakeholders are

allotted one minute each for a question for each Agendized public official who visits. Questions do not count against public comment time totals.

LAFD Battalion 10 Firefighters, based in Van Nuys, described coverage area and related the General Safety Mission starting this month, in conjunction with the anniversary of the Northridge Quake. With rain thru this weekend, sandbags are available at all Stations and self-service sand at Fire Station 88, west side of Sepulveda Blvd., south of Oxnard St. There was no indication that LAFD is getting criticism by the City Controller regarding LAFD helicopter use-age compared to LAPD air operations.

Regarding illegal fireworks, the LAFD puts out the resulting fires, but it's up to the City Attorney to provide guidance to the LAPD, which is tasked with enforcement.

Ms. Lorena Espinal, for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [818-882-1212; Lorena.Espinal@LACity.org; <https://councildistrict12.LACity.gov>], Wished everyone a warm New Year and provided information that CD12 has partnered with an organization for an entrepreneur training program that's offered on a continual basis, six weeks per session. Information is about how to start a business and is free of cost to participate. She completed the program and highly recommends it. CD 12 office will be a Homeless Count location for the January 23rd through January 25th Count. CD 12 Joshua Geiger is now in charge of parking enforcement issues. Chronic NHW locations include Haskell between Rayen St. and Parthenia St., as well as the growing encampment at Haskell and Roscoe. The next Conversations with Councils will be on February 5. Questions regarding Motel 6 on Roscoe, west of 405, being converted into a homeless shelter, planning, and land use questions for CD 12 representative Dan Rosales were discussed.

Andres Garcia representing State Senator Caroline Edgewater, Senate District 20, It is based at the Van Nuys district office on Van Nuys Blvd and covers health care and veterans. Described Senate Bills 223 and 457 and co-authored SB 411, the teleconferencing option for Neighborhood Councils. A flaw with the bill was described regarding the vote by an NC to approve using the option. The bill does not detail, and the City Attorney has opined that the vote of 2/3 is of all possible Board seats instead of present and voting members. This is a fatal flaw prohibiting the use of the option by NCs that have vacant seats exceeding the 2/3 Total seat threshold defeats the purpose of the bill for many NCs. There will be an upcoming Town Hall on Friday, January 26th at 6 pm, co-hosted with Assemblywoman Luiz Rivas, the topic being Caltrans, focuses on I-5. A new internship program has started, and applicants Are welcome. Questions were asked about the vacant former Little League location of the VA Plummer property and if any developments are being planned.

President announced that NEA, John Darnell, had emailed her to let her know he was not going to be attending the meeting. .

7. Guest Speakers and Informational Presentations.

There were none at this time.

8. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda items within the NHWNC jurisdiction

Mr. Chris Ahuja, Candidate for Congressional District 32, Primary election date March 5th. Member of Tarzana NC, Chair of the Sustainability Alliance, and member of the California Biodiversity Working Group explained his reasons for joining the race. These include Veterans issues, innovative mass transit and car congestion relief, and responsiveness to local interests. Additional information at: https://ballotpedia.org/Christopher_Ahuja

Mr. David Levine, former Minutes Writer for the North Hills West Neighborhood Council

thanked the Board for the opportunity to have served and worked with them. He noted the challenges the Board faces while fulfilling its mission to be a liaison between stakeholders and the City.

Mr. Bailey recognized the need to reach out to other Legislators regarding Senate Bill 411

There is work being conducted to resume the annual NC Anniversary Mixer, traditionally on the second Thursday in March, formerly held at CBS Studios Carla's Cafe, which was sold.

Ms. Goldbaum suggested Stakeholders introduce themselves at the start of the meetings.

And expressed concern about the lack of information regarding the proposed adaptive reuse of Motel 6 on Roscoe into a homeless shelter. Particularly with the advent of new construction for a 7-11 on Roscoe in immediate proximity. She questioned if anybody had heard from CD 12 Candidate Serena Oberhiem or a representative.

Ms. Katherine from Chatsworth NC announced a CD 12 Candidates forum tentatively scheduled for February 20th via Zoom, hosted by the Sustainability Alliance for CD 10 and CD 12 Candidates.

Bob Bells reported increasing issues related to smaller prop planes using VNY. He uses Flight Tracker to log the worst offenders and has discovered that most are flight schools. That do repeated touch and goes with abbreviated take-offs/finals that go over his house instead of following the standard flight paths for departures & landings like the jets do. The result is an increased negative impact on the area's quality of life.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding Board meeting time and place in 2024

Motion by Ms. Minasian to maintain the current GBM meeting schedule of 3rd

Thursday at 6 pm at New Horizons, seconded by Ms. Elliott. Motion passed with (7) yes, (1) no (7-1-0)

10. Discussion and Possible Action to File Community Impact Statement (CIS) CF 23-1339 to support.

Motion to approve CIS for CF 23-1339 by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Gohel. CIS wording was amended to include the full Neighborhood Council name, not initials, and add CD 12 John Lee to the geographic descriptor. Brown/Elliott second. Full CIS wording at: https://www.nhwnc.net/community_letters/cf-23-1339-van-nuys-airport-supporting-january-18-2024/
Motion passed with (6) yes, (2) no (6-2-0)

11. Discussion and possible action: requesting CM Lee CD12 to assist with a Welcome to NHW sign project.

Ms. Minasian moves, and Ms. Ramey seconds a motion to request CD 12 John Lee to assist with a welcome to North Hills West sign installation similar to what other NCs have done. Possible property entities include the City of LA, LAWA, and Caltrans. Requests for locations and designs are requested for next meeting. It was noted that we are a predominantly residential community with at times significant vehicle traffic so incorporating a safety message could be appropriate.
Motion passed (6) yes, (1) no, (1) abstain (6-1-1)

12. Discussion and possible action to approve obtaining various costs associated with a mailer to stakeholders, i.e., content creation, printing, mailing.

In addition to basic NC Outreach, a mailer could include a Stakeholder survey. Ms. Minasian moved, and Ms. Ramey seconded a motion to initiate obtaining quotes regarding the discussed aspects of a mailing to Stakeholders.
Motion passed (8) yes (8-0-0)

13. Discussion and possible action to request EmpowerLA to put PSA information about NHWNC General Board Meetings to the public on bus benches and/or bus shelter(s). Motion by Ms. Elliott, seconded by Ms. Crone, to establish a cost (printing) and to obtain submission documents. It was noted the NC has a Canva account for artwork and that a QR code could be included. Ms. Erdman left at this time, 8:03 pm, resulting in (7) Board members present, which is the minimum number needed to maintain quorum. Mr. Fordyce noted a paucity of bus stops in our area, and Ms. Minasian requested he conduct an inventory of locations. A cost amount for discussion will be agendaized for the next meeting.
Motion passed (6) yes, (1) no (6-1-0)

14. Discussion and possible action on whether to celebrate NHWNC's 21st Anniversary.

Ms. Ramey moved, and Ms. Elliott seconded a motion to enhance next month's

GBM on Thursday, February 15, 6:00 pm to include a recognition/celebration of North Hills West Neighborhood Council's 21st Anniversary at the beginning of the meeting. Discussion included invitation details, refreshments, and inviting prior board members and stakeholders, noting the recent 20th anniversary that occurred during COVID restrictions. The agenda would be abbreviated to accommodate the schedule. NHWNC currently has approximately 1,600 Constant Contact direct subscribers and 1,800 Nextdoor agency account email addresses to send to. Motion passed (7) yes (7-0-0)

15. Discussion and possible action on NHWNC/Committee/Alliance/Liaison/CIS filers appointments to add/remove and Report outs for up to two (2) minutes each (if applicable)

Ms. Minasian stated there are no appointments at this time, and due to time constraints, all information is being provided on the agenda via links, dates/times, and she encouraged everyone to look it up and listen to the recordings of BONC, LANCC, VANC, PlanCheckncla, etc.

16. Discussion and Possible Action: Volunteers Cleaning Communities (VCC) \$1500 NPG

On April 21, 2022, NHWNC approved an NPG from VCC in the amount of \$1,500. This, in part, would pay for tools & equipment for local community cleanups.

On June 16, 2023, the NHWNC approved Liaisons to work with VCC and take responsibility for the tools & equipment. This was communicated to VCC.

Before that time and continuing to present, the NHWNC folks doing local cleanups have been using their personal tools & equipment and have not received any tools & equipment from VCC, per the details of the NPG. VCC needs to either provide the desired specified product(s) or return the NPG funds to the City, as a Neighborhood Council cannot process a return of funds. Discussion included contacting CD12 and the City Attorney for guidance. Additionally, NHWNC has had a working Adopt-a-Block program in place for almost 20 years, with fluctuating levels of participation as folks move or die, kids leave for college, and new folks move in.

Motion by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Elliott, to request from VCC either the tools or a refund to the City.

Motion passed (7) yes (7-0-0)

17. Discussion and Possible Action: Censure/Grievance #385.

Following the NHWNC Censure of a Board member on October 20, 2022, NHWNC received Grievance #385 logged on 11-17-2022 against the Censure. A NHWNC Voted Response to the Grievance was submitted on April 1, 2023. Following notification of non-receipt, the Response was re-submitted on May 11, 2023. The Grievance database shows a recent Grievance # 421 closed on 01-11-2024. No other NC has an unresolved Grievance pending older than that except NHWNC. Ms. Espinal, CD 12, indicated a Grievance Panel Hearing may be scheduled for February.

18. Board member announcements.

There were none at that time.

19. Upcoming events/volunteer opportunities →

Ms. Minasian encouraged checking the website, which is continually updated.

20. Requests for Future Agenda Item(s):

Ms. Minasian requested emailing her with Agenda requests, with the Agenda Request in the email subject line.

21. Finishing Roll Call & Adjournment.

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

Ms. Minasian declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:52 p.m.

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. The NHWNC Board Meeting Minutes page is <http://www.nhwnc.net/agendas-minutes/minutes-and-agendas>.