



**NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Regular Board Meeting Draft Minutes**, Thursday, May 16, 2024

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/may-16-regular-board-meeting/>

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. The following Minutes items follow the agenda order and nomenclature. The numbering of the draft minutes follows the numbering of the respective agenda item.

**1. Call to order and Welcome.**

President Madlena Minasian called the Meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Roll Call was taken. All 8 of the 8 current Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone, Maggie Elliott (Vice-President/Treasurer), Linda Erdman, Garry Fordyce, Punam Gohel, Madlena Minasian (President), and Kreshell Ramey. 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](http://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 that they were eligible to vote. No recusals on any agenda item were stated. Board Seats were vacant; to apply, email [Secretary@nhwnc.net](mailto:Secretary@nhwnc.net). Also attended: 13 Stakeholders and guests.

**3. President's Announcements/ Comments.**

- Ms. Minasian, President - overview of the NC meeting rules was read out loud for public and Board member participation and welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- A binder is on the information table at every meeting that contains all documents relating to this meeting. All information is also available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the NC website: <https://www.nhwnc.net>
- Call for new Board Members: We currently have five open seats and seeking Applicants.
- We are constantly updating our website with information and events. Please visit the NHWNC website main calendar for all upcoming events.

- Granada Hills has started a Farmers Market, and it's the same day/time as the Grubfest. Friday evenings from 6-9 PM at Chatsworth St and Yarmouth Ave.
- CD 12 presented Dave Brown with a certificate of appreciation for outstanding citizenship and for enhancing community betterment. The board had voted to recognize Mr. Brown during the May general board meeting.
- 25 Street Pole Banners were installed, and positive feedback has been received. This was one of NC's outreach projects to raise awareness about NC.
- Ms. Minasian noted that she had received an email the day of the Board meeting, May 16, 2024, at approximately 4:30 pm from NEA/Darnell regarding a complaint filed with DONE and the City Attorney's office. The complaint was about the NC's agenda, which was a physical location posting for this meeting. The individual had requested the *meeting be canceled* because it was 14 inches from the window, and the glare from the sun and car headlights made it difficult to read the agenda. Therefore, NEA/Darnell visited the site around 3:30 pm the day of the meeting, and based on his observation, he noted that pages 1-4 were clearly visible, but pages 5-7 were partially blocked by a tube or pipe; therefore, it was his recommendation to table items 24-34 be postponed until the next meeting. Ms. Minasian stated that she also stopped by the location before the meeting to see the situation and saw an electrical cord hanging in front of some of the pages. However, it did not necessarily fully obstruct the view. If anyone were willing to shift slightly to the left or right, they would have been able to see the wording on the agenda; nevertheless, DONE recommended that we not speak on agenda items 24-33; therefore, we will not be updating the community on those agenda items. President suggested that if anyone wishes for a different agenda posting location to be considered to let her know for her to agendize the topic for discussion.

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

- Ms. Minasian had invited Mayor Bass's representative for West San Fernando Valley, David Bright, to attend the NHWNCs meetings. He noted that he started about a month ago and spoke about public safety and homelessness as a primary component of the City's new Budget. He covers Council Districts 3 and 12 and can be contacted at [David.Bright@lacity.org](mailto:David.Bright@lacity.org).
- State Assembly District 40 – Pilar Schiavo / Field Representative - Gaby Gurrola, Field Representative for State 40th District Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo [661-286-1565; [gaby.gurrola@asm.ca.gov](mailto:gaby.gurrola@asm.ca.gov), <https://a40.asmdc.org/>], She reported on upcoming events and described challenges providing services to homeless people who don't want them. A "Tacos & Taxes" tax preparation service was recently offered, and two Job Fairs were held in the North Hills area. Numerous Assembly Bills are in motion that could benefit the Community.
- Senator Caroline Menjivar representative Andreas Garcia reported on Senate Bills 1124 Veterans benefits and SB 1193 banning leaded aviation fuel and

encouraged contacting him regarding issues with Caltrans and DMV. The Senator is working to minimize the negative impacts of coming budget cuts to the community.

- City Council District 12 John Lee - CD12 / Field Representative – Lorena Espinal. 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 on upcoming events and described service work. She noted that Ben Pak is the new CD12 Public Safety Deputy. Conversations with Councils is scheduled for Monday, May 20, with County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath. On Sunday, May 18th, CD12 will facilitate the AAPI Community Day of Service. Thanks, were expressed from residents for eventually getting several derelict RVs removed from local streets, as well as enhancing stop sign safety measures.
- L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment / NEA - John Darnell  
John Darnell, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551; [john.darnell@lacity.org](mailto:john.darnell@lacity.org); <https://empowerla.org>], Mr. Darnell congratulated the installation of Street Pole Banners as Outreach efforts and thanked Ms. Minasian for leading that effort which took a lot of effort on her part to get it done and hope it will help the Board and thanked the Board for approving the Outreach project. The EmpowerLA Budget Town Hall will be held at City Hall downtown on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am. With the Homeless Liaison meeting date approaching May 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm the Board can nominate 2 participants who can be Stakeholders. Budget 101 for NCs will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.
- To find your elected representatives, City agencies, departments, etc.: Neighborhood Info at: <https://neighborhoodinfo.lacity.gov>

**5. General Public Comments** on Non-Agenda items within the NHWNC subject matter jurisdiction.

Comments, questions, and observations were provided::

- **Fran P** commented she is working with CD 6 and has a petition from Fume Fighters for anyone who lives in the vicinity of Van Nuys Airport. The group is seeking a resolution with LAWA. Fume Fighters have raised concerns about potential hazardous emissions and noise from the airport's ongoing operations, and they are trying to raise awareness about these issues in hopes of finding a solution with LAWA.
- **Mindy** commented on concerns regarding negative traffic implications from the proposed Miracle Mile project along Sepulveda Blvd, which is especially negatively impacting emergency vehicle response times.
- **Tatiana, I** commented on concerns about reports of an absentee owner of a residential rental property on Swinton St between Tupper St and Woodley Ave with CSUN students holding large parties with a negative neighborhood impact. Contact information provided for Senior Lead Officer Jerome Knopp, [37244@lapd.omline](mailto:37244@lapd.omline)

- **Lionel M** commented: on Tuesday that the City Council voted on Ethics Charter Reform and that it was watered down. Two amendments from two council members were proposed; however, it passed. As you may know, Carmen Chang is the new GM, and she will start her new job next month. The white paper has been uploaded and if you are interested, take a look.
- **Steve T** commented: He expressed concerns about the March 21st meeting, in which an attendee named Glenn Bailey discreetly video-recorded the meeting without giving notice to those who did not want to be recorded. Bailey was also disrespectful, yelled at NC President and insulted the board, showing a lack of decorum and respect, especially considering he is the president of another board. He also noted that some board members have issues that may need removal. Additionally, a positive comment about the Street Pole Banners said they look great.
- **Anita G** commented on basic arithmetic was adroitly demonstrated to the receptive satisfaction of all regarding the agenda by dividing the typical meeting length (3 hours) into the number of agenda items (34, less 11 of issue = 23), resulting in a new per-item time allocation of 10 minutes per item. She asked what the Board Accomplished this fiscal year and how the Board members connected with the members of the community. Thanked a small number of Board members who have contributed by doing all the work, and a question was posed as to what the non-contributors are achieving with their presence because she has not seen any effort from non-contributors to help the NC or its community and asked why not.
- **Debra F** commented that she was addressing the Board about some Board members' inappropriate conduct at the monthly meetings. She expressed concern about some members' lack of respect, including yelling and screaming at Ms. Minasian. Debra emphasized Ms. Minasian's hard work and dedication to the NC and the community as a volunteer and found the disrespectful behavior towards her uncalled for. She noted that she had attended almost all the meetings, with only a few exceptions. She noted that because of some Board member's conduct, she will not continue attending due to what she's been observing and the lack of respect for the President and the community members during meetings. Debra suggested that some Board members need to get themselves together, show respect, and remember that they are there to serve the community's interest, not their own.

## **6. Guest Speakers and Informational Presentation - Sepulveda Transit Corridor (STC)**

Zenia Chamorro, Senior Planner, Sustainable Transportation, UCLA Transportation Mobility Planning & Traffic Systems presented about STC4All. This concerns the choice from six options of a new Metro route from SFV to Westside, either UCLA, the 4th largest employer in the County, with an average of 84K passengers per day, or to the Veterans Administration on Westwood as a main station stop, with dedicated bus service between the two. A variety of Neighborhood Councils have voted their

support and engagement. Detailed information at:  
<https://ucla.box.com/s/4cuxm1ma6auvcn8gh8yyr9q9l1jke57q>

**7. Guest Speakers and Informational Presentation - Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)**

No presentation due to the presenter being ill and couldn't make the meeting.

- 8. Discussion and possible action** to approve the March 21, 2024 Draft GBM Minutes: <https://www.nhwnc.net/agendas/may-16-regular-board-meeting/>  
No corrections or amendments were made.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the eight eligible voters present with six in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, and Minasian); one opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Fordyce); one abstained (Ramey).  
(The NHWNC does not count absences as votes.) (6-1-1)

- 9. Discussion and possible action** to approve the March 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report: <https://www.nhwnc.net/reports/march-2024/>

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Brown): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2024.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the 8 eligible voters present with five in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gohel, and Minasian); two opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Erdman and Fordyce); one abstained; (Ramey)  
(the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (5-2-1)

- 10. Discussion and possible action** to approve the April 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report: <https://www.nhwnc.net/reports/april-2024/>

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Elliott, seconded by Ms. Crone): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for April 2024.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the 8 eligible voters present with five in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gohel, and Minasian); two opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Erdman and Fordyce); one abstained; (Ramey)  
(the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (5-2-1)

- 11. Discussion and possible action** to re-approve \$991.30 to replace damaged or missing Neighborhood Watch signs. Contractor High Tech Signs & Banners. It was originally submitted as a payment request, and City Clerk asked it be resubmitted as a CIP, Community Improvement Project vs Outreach. <https://www.nhwnc.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NHW-Neighborhood-Council-062223-Inv-23-06-036B-pdf-1.jpg>

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Erdman, seconded by Ms. Crone): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council re-approves an expenditure of \$991.30 to replace damaged or missing Neighborhood Watch signs within the NC boundaries.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the 8 eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian) and Ramey); one opposed (Fordyce); zero abstained. (7-1-0)

- 12. Discussion and possible action** to approve a contribution of up to \$500 to Budget Advocated for Budget Day on June 15, 2024.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the contribution of \$500 for EmpowerLA Budget Day on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the 8 eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Erdman, Fordyce, Gohel, and Minasian); zero opposed (“No” or “Nay”); one abstained; (Elliott) (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (7-0-1)

- 13. Discussion and possible action** to approve one of two choices for the final design of the new NHWNC Outreach Brochure mailer. The round logo item was selected, and the next steps will be printing and mailing.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Ramey, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the presented choice of the round logo option for the new Outreach mailer.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the 7 eligible voters present with five in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gohel, and Minasian); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); one abstained; (Erdman) one absent (Ramey) (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (5-1-1-0)

- 14. Discussion and possible action** to approve NHWNC participation in the National Night Out event at Northridge Park on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves participation in the National Night Out event at Northridge Park on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the 7 eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, and Minasian); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained; one absent; (Ramey) (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (6-1-0)

- 15. Discussion and possible action** to remove Linda Erdman as a CIS filer for misrepresenting the Boar’s official position to the City Council and requiring her to return

the NHWNC Laptop assigned to her as a CIS filer.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Ramey, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves Linda Erdman's removal as a CIS filer and the return of the NC laptop.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the 8 eligible voters present with four in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Elliott, Gohel, and Minasian); three opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Crone, Erdman, Fordyce); one abstained; (Ramey) (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (4-3-1)

16. **Discussion** regarding the violation of several Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Board Oath by Linda Erdman during January 18, 2024, GBM, in reference to a Van Nuys Airport CIS agenda item.  
Item tabled.
17. **Discussion** regarding the appointment of the permanent General Manager of EmpowerLA of Carmen Chang. Council File: CF 24-0465  
Of note was that the Neighborhood Councils were effectively out of the loop regarding input during the process.
18. **Discussion and possible action** regarding additional mandatory training(s) for both Board members and Stakeholders on NC and Committees. See City Council Ordinance No. 1874803 and Council File CF 20-0990. The general sentiment was that the current trainings, Ethics, Financial, and Code of Conduct, is sufficient for any rational individual to be a contributing participant in a Neighborhood Council system as a volunteer.
19. **Discussion and possible** action to send a letter to Councilmember Lee requesting that City Council re-visit the additional mandatory training Ordinance No. 187803 as redundant since there is already language in the NC Bylaws "Article II PURPOSE, B POLICY" for NC unpaid volunteer members; this is an unfair and burdensome new requirement. Also, we request that the San Fernando Valley secede from the City of Los Angeles, dismantle the NC system, and save tremendous taxpayer funds.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Erdman, seconded by Ms. Ramey)

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the 8 eligible voters present with seven in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Erdman, Gohel, Minasian, and Ramey); one opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Fordyce); zero abstained (7-1-0)

20. **UPDATE/COMPLETED**: The Street Pole Banner Outreach project was accomplished. The 25 Street Pole Banners were installed on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Ms. Minasian thanked Councilman Lee for getting the motion to the City Council's agenda quickly for approval. Ms. Minasian also noted that she had sent the Board an email seeking input on where to hang the Banners, and only a few people emailed her back and thanked those who helped with identifying locations.

**21. PENDING:** Censure/Grievance #385. NHWNC submitted its response to DONE on 4/1/23 and again on 5/11/23. As of date, no grievance hearing has been scheduled. NEA/Darnell noted that the grievance scheduled for April 23, 2024, was canceled the day before because an ADA request was made at the last minute, and they were not able to accommodate. They will let us know when the next hearing will be.

**22. Pending Business Update** regarding VCC NPG \$1500.

NEA/Darnell stated that initially, the City Funding had said that once you give funds to 501c3, it's their money. However, Ms. Minasian reminded me that she had sent me a Zoom recording of that meeting, and he needs to reach out to City Funding again and let them know that there is a recording of the meeting where Ms. Mather stated the items the NC will receive so that the NC can do their own cleanups.

**Agenda items 24-33** were Tabled as a result of a complaint received by DONE regarding the physical location agenda posting irregularity.

**34. Adjournment:** All 8 of the 8 current Board Members were present at the end of the meeting. Ms. Minasian thanked all participants for their attendance and declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:03 p.m.