

NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES



OCTOBER 18, 2012

NEW HORIZONS-SAM'S CAFE 15725 PARTHENIA STREET NORTH HILLS, CA 91343

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Tino Julian called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. OFFICER AND MEMBER ROLL CALL

Secretary Debra Francisco called the roll. Board members present were Marina Adlivankina, Mary Armenteros, Debra Francisco, Janet Gaspard, Anita Goldbaum, David Hyman, Tino Julian, Frank Klein, John McGovern, Deborah Stevens, Jaynee Thorne, Robin Tyler, and Nancy Xander.

3. MOTION TO APPOINT VOLUNTEER PARLIAMENTARIAN

The candidate for parliamentarian was Michael Kabo, an associate dean and faculty member at CSUN. The candidate's qualifications were listed and the candidate spoke, saying that he had no stake in the NHWNC. Mary Armenteros moved that the NHWNC appoint Michael Kabo as a volunteer parliamentarian. David Hyman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The parliamentarian was then seated.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. General Board Meeting 9/20/12

Debra Francisco moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2012 general board meeting. Nancy Xander seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Special Meeting 10/2/12

Mary Armenteros had one change to the minutes of the special meeting on October 2, 2012: the names of the chair and co-chair of the Public Safety Committee need to be switched. Three board members that were not at the meeting recused themselves from voting on approval: Anita Goldbaum, David Hyman, and Jaynee Thorne. Robin Tyler moved to approve the minutes. Nancy Xander seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Special Meeting 10/4/12

Anita Goldbaum recused herself from voting on the minutes because she did not attend the meeting. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

d. Committee Meeting 10/4/12

Robin Tyler moved to approve the minutes. Mary Armenteros seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC SPEAKERS



- a. LAPD Officer Kate Luna was unable to attend.
- b. Councilmember Mitch Englander's representative was unable to attend.
- c. DONE Director of Field Operations Leyla Campos congratulated the board on its election and offered DONE's support. She announced a board training session on Saturday October 20th at the Senior Center in Glassell Park.

6. OFFICER REPORTS

a. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mary Armenteros prepared an expense report for the first quarter of the 2012 - 2013 fiscal year and explained the figures on the spreadsheet. A problem is that the board is encumbered with debt left over from the previous board's term. One debt is \$3,200 owed to the webmaster, who hasn't been paid for work done since May 2011. Another debt is \$9,000 of election expenses. DONE had agreed to let the \$9,000 of election expenses be allocated to unused funds from last fiscal year but this transaction hasn't been processed yet. There was also a Verizon phone bill that wasn't paid for two months. The prior treasurer, Debra Perkins, addressed these issues. She said that she was not aware that the webmaster used to be paid through Paypal, and she received the bills late. The webmaster must be paid through a demand warrant, which DONE will work on. Regarding the Verizon bill, a previous board member used to pay with an American Express card. When that card was terminated, the bills were never forwarded to the treasurer.

Stakeholder Ron Forbes, a previous treasurer, said that many companies were not prompt with their invoices. Stakeholder Michael Lee, an outreach specialist, stated that an election mailer was sent out with the names of the president and outreach committee chair, who were running for election, on it and that the use of public funds for self-promotion was an irregularity which should be investigated. Mary Armenteros countered that generic mailers were sent out advertising the election but listing no candidates, with three board members' names on them including the president and the outreach committee chair.

b. President's Report

President Tino Julian thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He reported that he walked the neighborhood handing out flyers for the election and thought that talking to stakeholders one on one was very useful. He proposed to the Outreach Committee that it should be done again to find out what issues are important to stakeholders.

Stakeholder Peggy Burgess requested that agendas be mailed out, which had been done in the past. David Hyman said that agendas were only mailed to people who had provided their addresses, a list of 400 to 500 names, not to the whole neighborhood. The cost of mailing agendas can be prohibitive.

c. Vice President's Report/City Attorney Liaison



Vice President Robin Tyler recommended that whenever the board is looking to hire a person or a company for any kind of work, three bids should be solicited because that is an ethical way of doing it. Former treasurer Debra Perkins said that work should be solicited from within the community before looking outside it. Stakeholder Michael Lee said that only businesses which have registered with the City of Los Angeles and have a Business Tax Registration Certificate (BTRC) should be used. DONE Director of Field Operations Leyla Campos agreed that all businesses contracted with need to have a BTRC because it is necessary for payment, and payment can be delayed while applying for one.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Valley Alliance Council member Glen Bailey announced that on November 8th there will be a planning forum for valley NCs attended by the Director of City Planning, which will have workshops covering topics such as CUP's, variances, and green planning. It will be held at CBS Studios and attendees must RSVP in advance. He urged board members to attend. He is also administrator for Facebook group for NCs. There are two groups: one is a city-wide group for NC board members and one for San Fernando Valley board members.

Stakeholder Kay Winkler requested agendization of the upcoming Monroe Wellness Community Center project on the corner of Haskell and Nordhoff for the next meeting. Board members replied that the Land Use & Planning Committee is aware of this project and will be taking it up.

Stakeholder Punam Gohel requested agendization of the City's plan to privatize trash collection for the next meeting. Tino Julian said that this matter will be taken up by the Land Use & Planning Committee.

8. PRESENTATIONS

a. Enci Box's presentation will be given at a future meeting.

b. Veterans representatives Larry Van Kuran of the American Legion, Nick Guest of Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Ernie Hilger of Disabled American Veterans each spoke on behalf of some 300,000 California veterans about what is going on at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration. These three groups are all in agreement about enhanced use leases which were signed in December 2007. 75 year enhanced use leases have been given out for Buildings 4 and 5 on the VA campus, which are being turned into apartments. These leases are for very low rent and allow for a lease transfer or subletting of the property, which puts the property in jeopardy. During the term of the lease the VA head has the power to transfer the property to anyone with no approval required. The property is being renovated with HUD money, which means the McKinney Act applies. Veterans are not a protected class so this opens the VA up to a lawsuit by any non-veteran, which could force the property to open to non-veterans. U.S. Code Title 38 lays out rules for the VA on how to deal with these issues, and they were not followed. The signing, editing, and renewal of leases were all done behind closed doors without anyone knowing. The Freedom of Information Act had to be used to get copies of the leases. Seven and a half acres were leased out for \$1/year for 75 years. VA representatives were supposed to meet with veteran's service organizations and neighborhood groups but they never did. These leases are to the detriment of veterans, and pressure needs to be put on government representatives to get the leases canceled. Nick Guest visited Washington D.C. recently and was able to meet with Senator Barbara Boxer, who didn't know about this. He also met with all California



representatives. Ernie Hilger asked the NHWNC board to reaffirm the positions taken by past boards since 2004 to support the veterans' position in opposition to the enhanced use leases, which were issued in violation of federal statutes. He also requested action through neighborhood councils and political networks.

Robin Tyler said that NHWNC will help escalate this into a national story.

Stakeholder Peggy Burgess reminded everyone that NHWNC was in the forefront of opposing the VA leases since 2007 and got 17 other NCs involved. She supports the position of the veterans.

c. Community Care Facilities Ordinance (CCFO)

Maria Fisk gave a visual presentation on the proposed CCFO. She noted that she was not allowed to speak about this issue by the previous board. Her presentation detailed some of the abuses currently going on in Los Angeles, and went over what the ordinance would and wouldn't do. She highlighted the volume of calls to both LAPD and LAFD, arrests, overcrowding, and other problems these homes generate. The proposed CCFO does not discriminate but it wouldn't allow big businesses like these to operate in single family home neighborhoods. Because other cities have regulated these homes, operators locate them in Los Angeles where there are currently no regulations. She spoke with City Attorney Jane Usher, who agrees that nuisance abatement laws are not a means to regulate these homes. Copies of a letter from LAPD Chief Charlie Beck were passed out, in which Chief Beck supported the ordinance and said that regulation should be more stringent because of public safety issues. Maria urged the board to support the CCFO along with Chief Beck and 40 neighborhood organizations. Support for the CCFO was also urged by stakeholders Peggy Burgess and Jim Summers.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS--PLANNING & LAND USE MEETING 10/4/12

a. Rescind all former actions that oppose regulating Community Care Facilities Ordinance (CCFO) and issue confirming Community Impact Statement (CIS) to City Clerk

Tino Julian announced that because these motions came out of committee, they don't need to be seconded before voting.

Land Use & Planning Committee Chair John McGovern read the motion. John McGovern called for the question, with a second by Jaynee Thorne. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Support Community Care Facilities Ordinance (CCFO) council file CF-11-0262 and immediately issue a Community Impact Statement and letter

John McGovern read the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Oppose Requested Zone Change by Restaurant Depot from RA-1 Residential to Commercial

Board members Debra Francisco, Anita Goldbaum, Frank Klein, Deborah Stevens, Jaynee Thorne, and Nancy Xander recused themselves from the vote, according to the California Code of Regulations section 18702.4(b)(1)(A). Each board member spoke as a member of the public, on advice from the Office of the City Attorney, before leaving the room. Jaynee Thorne opposed the zoning change because it will bring



noise, traffic, bugs and rats, and because no commercial zone should be in a residential area. Nancy Xander opposed the zoning change because it would be an 83,000 square foot facility and would add noise and air pollution. Debra Francisco opposed the zoning change because it would triple traffic and accidents, and would send trucks onto side streets. Deborah Stevens opposed the zoning change because there is already enough traffic. Anita Goldbaum opposed the zoning change because a restaurant supply house doesn't belong in the neighborhood, the property was originally supposed to be used for parking instead of a business, and she opposes disturbing 27,000 residents in order to create 15 or 20 new jobs.

After the recused board members left the room, President Tino Julian counted the remaining board members to see if there was a quorum. Seven members remained so a quorum was present.

Robin Tyler commented that she joined and visited Restaurant Depot, where she saw food on the floor, a filthy place, and diesel trucks fouling the air. A huge business like that should not move into the neighborhood and the NHWNC will do anything in its power to stop it.

Stakeholder Paul Wolpa said that he agreed with Robin Tyler but thought the matter was being handled in the wrong way. He said he toured Restaurant Depot and thought it was clean, but the way they operate was not so clean. He saw hundreds of cars going in and out. He has done some research and has documents he will turn over.

Stakeholder Amal Shahin opposed the zoning change. She said that a traffic analysis made public shows there would be an increase not just in trucks but in cars, in the amount of 978 cars daily if Restaurant Depot is allowed to move in. Restaurant Depot plans on enlarging so that is just the initial traffic increase. There is no benefit to Restaurant Depot moving into the neighborhood and it is a wholesaler so it will not generate any sales tax revenue.

Robin Tyler called for the question, seconded by David Hyman. The motion passed. John McGovern read the motion to oppose the zoning change, which passed unanimously.

d. Oppose Jetro Cash & Carry/Restaurant Depot Case No. CPC-2012-GPA-ZC-SPR project at 16062 Chase St. and attendant Environmental Report including DOT Traffic Assessment ENV-2012-1215-EAF

Robin Tyler read the motion and David Hyman seconded it.

Stakeholder Jim Cockerel stated he was opposed to the project because it would lower property values. Any business moving in there would lower property values so the property should stay zoned for residential.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

e. Approve and refer to full board with recommendation to approve draft letter of opposition to City Planning Commission regarding Jetro Cash & Carry/Restaurant Depot

Case No. CPC-2012-GPA-ZC-SPR and attendant Environmental Report ENV-2012-1215-EAF including DOT Traffic Assessment

John McGovern read the motion, which was seconded by Robin Tyler.



Stakeholder Paul Wolpa said that the property should only be used for a school or residence. He asked that it be made explicit in the letter.

Robin Tyler called for the question, seconded by Marina Adlivankina. The motion passed.

John McGovern read the motion, seconded by Marina Adlivankina. The motion passed unanimously.

After this vote, the recused board members returned to the room.

f. Send letter to Congressman Brad Sherman, requesting copies of all amendments to New Directions: A Community of Friends (ACOF) Sepulveda VA leases by and between the VA/New Directions and A Community of Friends (PRA) and

g. Approve and send letter to Congressman Brad Sherman and refer to full board for final approval

If, after the election, Congressman Brad Sherman is no longer the representative, the letter will be sent to the new representative.

John McGovern read the motion, seconded by Robin Tyler. The motion passed unanimously.

h. Motion to Rescind 8/30/12 Action to join Home for Good Action Plan

John McGovern read the motion, seconded by Anita Goldbaum.

The motion passed with a vote of Yes: 12 and No: 1.

10. OLD BUSINESS

David Hyman is planning a mayoral candidate forum featuring candidates Eric Garcetti, Wendy Gruel, Kevin James, and Jan Perry in the last week of January 2013 in conjunction with other North Valley NCs and the North Valley Chamber of Commerce. No money is expected to be spent on the forum.

DONE D.F.O. Leyla Campos said that NHWNC should work with the Offices of the City Attorney and City Clerk to arrange the forum because they have information on the rules and parameters of candidate forums.

Stakeholder Glen Bailey said that this issue came up in another NC and the advice letter they got said that all city candidates must be invited because the name of the NC is used whether they spend money on it or not. He recommended looking at the advice letter.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. PRA request from Mr. Richard Hopp of the Van Nuys NC to provide him with NHWNC webmaster information

Debra Francisco reported that Mr. Hopp used PRA and sent this request to all NCs though he shouldn't have. The reason he wanted the information is because the Van Nuys NC is looking for a new webmaster.

b. Donate to San Fernando Veterans Day Parade up to \$1,000

Debra Francisco spoke with David from the San Fernando North Council. They would like a \$1,000 donation to pay for supervisory security for ramp closures for the parade. She told him that she had to bring it up at the board meeting so the board could discuss it.

David Hyman introduced Daniel Rosales from Councilmember Alarcon's office. He is a member of the Veterans Day Committee and thanked NHWNC for its past support. The committee wants the parade to be valley-wide and historical. Since 2007 they have had to ask for donations. The freeway closure is the biggest expense, which averages \$7,500 to \$9,000. Any organization which donates will have its logo on the T-shirts that will be given away to veterans, and will get a booth at the event. Treasurer Mary Armenteros noted that this request falls under outreach, but because of the fact that the outreach budget has less money in it than necessary for monthly expenses she is not sure if the NHWNC has the money to donate. Robin Tyler stated that the NHWNC would like to help out but can't commit to a donation at this meeting. Daniel Rosales will return next month.

Stakeholder Peggy Burgess asked since there is \$7,500 in the Neighborhood Purpose Grant budget, could this be counted under NPG instead of outreach? The previous board put \$7,500 in the NPG budget so it may be possible to use money from there, but it must be transferred into the outreach budget and approved by DONE. David Hyman requested agendaization of the transfer of \$1,000 into outreach for the Veterans Day Parade for the next meeting.

Robin Tyler moved that this item be tabled until the next meeting, seconded by Debra Francisco. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Obtain Sgt. at Arms/Security to be present at all meetings

Debra Francisco reported that NHWNC is getting volunteer help from the police and others. Right now there is no need to pay for it. A permanent volunteer needs to be found.

d. Find more appropriate areas to post Agendas

Debra Francisco reported that there are two posting locations that stakeholders don't like.

One is Party Pantry Liquor Shop and the other is a cigarette shop. It was agreed that two more locations should be added.

e. Obtain 2 additional Agenda posting locations

Debra Francisco said that there should be seven posting locations by law and one of them must be open 24/7. She suggested Ralphs. Robin Tyler suggested the Chinese supermarket.

John McGovern moved that each board member should supply two possible posting locations at the next board meeting. Nancy Xander seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

f. Funding Friends of the Library (FOL) January Newsletter

Debra Francisco explained that FOL runs the bookstore in the library and prints a newsletter. They are asking for a donation up to \$356 to print 200 copies of the newsletter. Currently FOL only has one



printer so more bids should be solicited. Robin Tyler said that she saw the newsletter and it was expensively done so she is in favor of getting more bids also.

FOL newsletter editor Deirdre Rosato said the newsletter is printed for FOL members and library patrons. FOL has gotten two bids and the current printer's price is half the price of the newer bid they got. Their current printer is the same printer that NHWNC uses. It is the same price whether it is printed on cheap or expensive paper.

Nancy Xander moved that this issue be postponed until the next meeting. Jaynee Thorne seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

g. Appoint two board members to prepare Community Impact Statements (CIS) as required. DONE will register said appointees.

Debra Francisco explained that two people on the board are needed to submit the CIS. As secretary, she will be one of them and there needs to be a second person for backup. Debra Francisco explained that the CIS is used to make a statement that goes into the City's files on issues that impact the neighborhood. DONE D.F.O. Leyla Campos added that the CIS is a tool of the NC to use to make an impact on your community. She recommended signing up for the City Council's early notification system for agendas in order to know what the City Council is working on. A submitted CIS becomes part of the agenda and will be read at the meeting. Robin Tyler volunteered to be the second CIS submitter.

Robin Tyler moved that the NHWNC appoint Debra Francisco to submit its Community Impact Statements. Jaynee Thorne seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jaynee Thorne moved that the NHWNC appoint Robin Tyler to submit its Community Impact Statements. Mary Armenteros seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

h. Approve emergency expenditures for John McGovern

Mary Armenteros said that the phone was turned off because the phone bill was two months overdue. John McGovern paid the bill out of his own pocket so the phone could be turned back on because Mary doesn't have a P-card yet (and won't for another two weeks).

Mary moved that the NHWNC reimburse John McGovern up to \$300 for emergency expenses already incurred. Frank Klein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

i. Valley Academy of Arts & Sciences request for \$1,652 for parts for the Robotics Program

Tino Julian said that Anthony spoke about this topic at the last board meeting, and he has received four differing opinions from stakeholders about this request. The school in question is in Granada Hills South NC district so Anthony was referred to that NC. One opinion was that since a percentage of students there are former Monroe H.S. students, they are North Hills residents and therefore stakeholders. Where stakeholder interests lie outside the NC border, they may be funded. A second opinion was that because the school is outside the NC borders, it can't be funded. A third opinion was that this is something that is funded by city taxes so the purpose of the NC should be to fund other items. A fourth opinion was that most of NHWNC's money should go to outreach or operating expenses. Tino recommended that since the



school serves students from four NCs, the donation should be allocated to the NCs based on their percentage of students attending the school.

Anthony said that the program encourages students in science, technology, engineering, and math fields. This in turn helps to make successful students. The \$1,652 is to make one robotic device, and the parts can be reused. The robotics program builds a robot and enters it into a competition,, which are held year round. There are 17 students in the program and six of them came from Monroe H.S.

Robin Tyler said it is a good project but NHWNC can't commit money to this before meeting with DONE and figuring out the budget. This should be filed for as a NPG request.

John McGovern moved that the matter be referred to the Budget & Finance Committee, who will coordinate with the other NCs and figure out how to allocate funding. Debra Francisco seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of Yes: 12 and Abstain: 1.

j. Appoint residents/stakeholders to various committees

Debra Francisco moved to postpone committee appointments to a special meeting. Jaynee Thorne seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12. BOARD COMMENTS

Debra Francisco announced that the website may be down for 30 to 45 days. Email updates will be sent out to those whose email addresses NHWNC has.

Anita Goldbaum requested agendization at the next meeting of Northridge Hospital Foundation's request to NHWNC to sponsor a Christmas tree for their holiday festival.

Nancy Xander announced that Councilmember Englander's liaison Eric Richardson is getting married and she would like board members to sign a card for him.

David Hyman announced that there is a pasta dinner at the Greek church on Friday from 5 to 7:30 p.m., and the cost is \$8 per person. It is in aid of the Devonshire Division Police Support.

David also received a call from the VA about the storage unit. John McGovern wanted to know whether NHWNC owns the storage container, which it does. He will take care of removing the storage container from the VA property.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Deborah Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting and Debra Francisco seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.