



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 21, 2020
Approved June 18, 2020

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this duly noticed meeting was held entirely online and telephonically.

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.

President Dan Gibson called the Meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and explained procedures. Executive Board elections soon will be held.

2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, and Voting Eligibility.

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven of the 13 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Gil Brenner, Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone, Maggie Elliott, Dan Gibson (President), Punam Gohel, Carol Hart (Vice-President), David Hyman and Carlos Pelaez. Two Board Members were absent: Madlena Minasian (Treasurer) and Kreshell Ramey. 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 at <https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bj3apxsp3?a=q&qid=32&qskip=0&qrppg=1000&dlt=su46~>), so the Board could take such votes. Quorum was announced. All 13 of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seat was vacant. Also attended: 17 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Announcements and Comments – President.

See above Item #1.

4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; Councilmember.Lee@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), reported that he has been meeting weekly with NC Presidents. He is focusing on how to help businesses and individuals recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. He encouraged contacting his Office "if you know someone suffering from food insecurity." "No-interest business loans up to \$25,000" are available to small businesses through the "Small Business Angel Fund."

Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for Councilman Lee (818-882-1212; Matthew.Hernandez@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), reported that sidewalk vendors are responsible to remind customers to wear protective masks. He noted that there has been more vehicle speeding and reminded to obey speed limits. Linda Erdman was concerned regarding homeless people camping in front of residences, and about illegal fireworks.

Michelle Vergara, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (ofc. 818-221-3718; Michelle.Vergara@mail.house.gov; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), reminded that they provide help for small businesses, veterans affairs and other “federal issues,” and getting stimulus checks. The Congressional Art Competition is open to students.

Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reported that DONE provides virtual meeting resources. EmpowerLA.org/evg has meeting guidelines. He encouraged Committee Chairs to contact Mr. Gibson and/or himself to set up meetings. Mr. Galdamez reminded Board Members to be current on Ethics and also Funding Trainings, and the Code of Conduct. He described funding procedures. NC funding of \$10K can be rolled over to the next Fiscal Year. More can be rolled over with City Clerk approval; applications are due by either June 22nd or June 30th; Mr. Galdamez will contact the Board with the exact date.

5. General Public Comment

Glenn Bailey reported that the VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>] Mixer will be rescheduled. Also, VANC will meet virtually on the usual second Thursday, June 11th; the Speaker will be the StreetsLA (formerly the Bureau of Street Services) General Manager.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the February 20, 2020 General Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 20, 2020 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

7. Report from Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey and NHWNC Budget Representative Pat Crone.

Mr. Bailey, a Budget Advocate [www.NCBALA.com], reported that the annual White Paper [of City Budget recommendations] was released in late March and is available; they are “monitoring” the City Budget. Saturday, June 27th from 1:00-2:00 there will be online “breakout sessions.” The annual Budget Day “may be held in three months or so.” Mr. Gibson noted that a position is available to join Ms. Crone as NHWNC Budget Representatives.

8. **Discussion and possible action** to ratify the President's recommended Chair and Member appointments and changes to Standing and Ad Hoc committees as well as NHWNC Liaisons.

There were no appointments or changes at this time.

9. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the February 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report.

A copy of the Report was available at <https://www.nhwnc.net/funding>.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for February 2020.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brenner, Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman and Pelaez); zero opposed; zero abstained.

10. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the March 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report.

A copy of the Report was available at <https://www.nhwnc.net/funding>.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2020.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brenner, Brown, Crone, Elliott, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman and Pelaez); zero opposed; zero abstained.

11. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the April 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report.

Mr. Gibson requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item until next month's Board meeting. Ms. Hart noted that the April Board meeting had been cancelled.

12. **Discussion and possible action** concerning the official process of encumbering NC funds with possible NHWNC support of the process outlined in the Neighborhood Council Presidents/ Chairs' Letter Regarding the Encumbrance of Funds into FY 20-21.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Hart): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will sign on in support of the Neighborhood Council Presidents/Chairs' Letter Regarding the Encumbrance of Funds into FY 20-21.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Galdamez explained the process. Ms. Hart recommend having a Special Board Meeting to discuss this. Mr. Gibson encouraged Board Members to "review the parameters."

MOTION to TABLE (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Brenner): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council TABLES this Item.

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

13. **Discussion and possible action** regarding the NHWNC's position on the Mayor's Emergency Order as revised May 13, 2020 requiring all individuals to wear a cloth face covering when outdoors.
<https://www.lamayor.org/sites/g/files/wph446/f/page/file/20200513%20Mayor%20Public%20Order%20SAFER%20AT%20HOME%20ORDER%202020.03.19%20%28REV3%202020.05.13%29X.pdf>.
A copy of the Resolution was available at <https://www.nhwnc.net/agendas/may-21-2020-general-board-meeting-agenda>.

MOTION (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council discussion and possible action regarding the NHWNC's position on the Mayor's Emergency Order as revised May 13, 2020 requiring all individuals to wear a cloth face covering when outdoors.

MOTION WITHDRAWN (by Mr. Gibson).

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Brenner): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council adopts the following Resolution:

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council encourages all stakeholders to exercise personal responsibility to protect the health and welfare of their fellow stakeholders during the Covid-19 pandemic including following reasonable social distancing protocols such as maintaining a six-foot distance from non-household members and wearing a face covering when unable to maintain this six-foot distance, especially when indoors.

However, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council believes that some aspects of Mayor Garcetti's Safer at Home Order are over-broad and do not represent a reasonable approach to reducing the spread of Covid-19. Therefore, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council adopts the following resolution:

Whereas on May 14, 2020 Mayor Garcetti updated his Safer at Home Order requiring all individuals to wear a cloth face covering when outdoors,

And

Whereas there is no medical consensus as to the public health benefits of wearing a mask outdoors when two or more individuals are further than six feet apart,

And

Whereas the LA City Council previously considered and rejected a similar requirement proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz

And

Whereas it can be dangerous for certain individuals to wear a face covering when engaging in exercise,

And

Whereas it is virtually impossible to reasonably enforce this order,

And

Whereas it is ill-advised for a government authority to impose a rule or law that the many of citizens find arbitrary and unnecessary and will require enforcement at the barrel of a gun,

And

Whereas the vast majority of Angelinos are acting responsibly with regard to social distancing protocols recommended by qualified medical personnel to reduce the spread of Covid-19,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Hills West Neighborhood Council urges the Mayor to amend his Safer at Home Order to remove the requirement that all individuals wear a cloth face covering when outdoors, and instead adopt specific protocols calling on individuals wear a cloth face covering when they cannot maintain a six foot distance from non-household members. Be it further resolved that if the Mayor does not amend his Order, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council urges the LA City Council take the legal steps necessary to over-rule this provision of the Mayor's Order.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beeber explained the Motion. There was very extensive discussion opposing (mostly) and supporting wearing a face covering, such as a mask, when outdoors.

Board Member Punam Gohel stepped out of the meeting at this time, making 10 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with six in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brenner, Brown, Gibson and Hart); four opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Crone, Elliott, Hyman and Pelaez); zero abstained.

- 14. Discussion and possible action** regarding the NHWNC's position on the Mayor's indefinite extension of his Safer at Home Order and continued lack of any specific metrics provided to the public as to what conditions must be met before the Order is lifted.

A copy of the Resolution was available at <https://www.nhwnc.net/agendas/may-21-2020-general-board-meeting-agenda>.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Brenner): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council adopts the following resolution:

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council encourages all stakeholders to exercise personal responsibility to protect the health and welfare of their fellow stakeholders during the Covid-19 pandemic including following reasonable social distancing protocols such as maintaining a six-foot distance from non-household members and

wearing a face covering when unable to maintain this six-foot distance, especially when indoors.

On March 19, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Mayor Garcetti issued his Safer at Home Order which requires, subject only to specific exceptions, all persons living within the City of Los Angeles to remain in their homes indefinitely. The Order also shuttered the vast majority of private businesses except those that the Mayor, in his sole discretion, deemed “essential”. Although the Order has been amended to relax some of these restrictions on the personal liberties of Angelinos, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council believes that it is time that the Mayor and City Council provided specific metrics which they believe must be met before the Order can be lifted. Therefore, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council adopts the following resolution:

Whereas on March 19, 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Mayor Garcetti issued his Safer at Home Order which requires, subject only to specific exceptions, all persons living within the City of Los Angeles to remain in their homes indefinitely, and which essentially shuttered the vast majority of private businesses except those that the Mayor, in his sole discretion, deemed “essential”,

And

Whereas this Order is an unprecedented response to the spread of an infectious respiratory disease,

And

Whereas the “lock-down” has resulted in extreme personal and financial hardship for those who live and work in Los Angeles,

And

Whereas when the Order was imposed, the public was told that the purpose of the lock-down was to “flatten the curve” and not overwhelm our healthcare system, and provide time to get the necessary medical supplies and personnel in place to deal with the expected surge in hospitalizations due to the disease,

And

Whereas the curve has now been flattened and our healthcare system is in no way in danger of being overwhelmed,

And

Whereas the number of daily deaths due to Covid-19 peaked around April 23rd, the curve has remained flat since that time averaging less than 45 per day and may be beginning to show a decline,

And

Whereas the rationale for maintaining the Safer at Home Order now seems to have shifted to an attempt to generally reduce transmission of the disease and prevent new cases,

And

Whereas the vast majority of deaths have occurred to those in nursing homes, the very elderly, and those with underlying health conditions,

And

Whereas we now have sufficient information as to how we can control the spread of the virus through proper social distancing and personal hygiene procedures and protect our most vulnerable population,

And

Whereas the current Order broadly covers every person regardless of age or medical condition,

And

Whereas other states and countries with health outcomes similar to LA and California have begun to relax their most onerous lock-down orders and have not seen an overwhelming surge in deaths or an overwhelming of their healthcare systems,

And

Whereas deaths unrelated to Covid-19 are occurring specifically due to the continued lock-down,

And

Whereas the vast majority of Angelinos are capable of acting responsibly with regard to social distancing protocols recommended by qualified medical personnel to reduce the spread of Covid-19,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Hills West Neighborhood Council urges the Mayor and City Council to immediately:

1. Publicly state the specific rationale for continuing the Safer at Home Order.
2. Provide specific metrics that must be met before the Order can be lifted, including but not limited to, the average number of daily deaths and new cases reported, amount of testing capacity currently available and needed, and medical capacity currently available and needed.
3. A time estimate as to when these metrics are expected to be reached.
4. Disclosure as to what specific steps the City and County are taking to achieve these metrics.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beeber explained the Motion. There was very extensive discussion about the Motion.

Board Member Punam Gohel returned to the meeting at this time, making 11 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brenner, Brown, Gibson and Hart); four opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Crone, Gohel, Hyman and Pelaez); one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Elliott).

15. **Discussion and possible action** regarding the NHWNC’s position on the County’s and City’s restrictions on outdoor activities, including the requirement that beach visitors are required to be engaged in some sort of activity in order to be on the sand, such as walking, swimming and surfing. <https://beaches.lacounty.gov/la-county-beach-rules/>.

A copy of the Resolution was available at <https://www.nhwnc.net/agendas/may-21-2020-general-board-meeting-agenda>.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Brenner): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council adopts the following resolution:

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council encourages all stakeholders to exercise personal responsibility to protect the health and welfare of their fellow stakeholders during the Covid-19 pandemic including following reasonable social distancing protocols such as maintaining a six-foot distance from non-household members and wearing a face covering when unable to maintain this six-foot distance, especially when indoors.

However, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council believes that some aspects of LA County's re-opening rules for County Beaches are over-broad and do not represent a reasonable approach to reducing the spread of Covid-19. Therefore, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council adopts the following resolution:

Whereas on May 13, 2020 LA County issued re-opening rules for LA County Beaches that disallows sunbathing or sitting or lying on sand, picnicking, biking, fishing and use of chairs, canopies or coolers, and whereas Mayor Garcetti's Safer at Home Order also requires all individuals visiting beaches to comply with these orders,

And

Whereas the medical consensus is that transmission of Covid-19 is highly unlikely in an outdoor environment when individuals maintain a minimum six feet distance,

And

Whereas the medical consensus is that UV rays from sunlight rapidly kill Sars-cov-2 on surfaces,

And

Whereas it is virtually impossible to reasonably enforce this order without police intervention,

And

Whereas it is ill-advised for a government authority to impose a rule or law that many citizens find arbitrary and unnecessary and will require enforcement at the barrel of a gun,

And

Whereas the vast majority of Angelinos are capable of acting responsibly with regard to social distancing protocols recommended by qualified medical personnel to reduce the spread of Covid-19,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Hills West Neighborhood Council urges the L.A. Mayor and City Council to urge the LA County Board of Supervisors to amend the beach re-opening rules to allow the public reasonable use of beaches including sunbathing, picnicking, biking, fishing, and the use of chairs, canopies or coolers while maintaining a six foot distance from non-household members.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beeber explained the Motion. There was very extensive discussion. It was reminded that NCs are advisory to the City of L.A. Mr. Gohel believed the Motion to be beyond the NHWNC's expertise.

Board Member Carlos Pelaez left the meeting by this time, making 10 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with six in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brenner, Brown, Gibson and Hart); three opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Crone, Gohel and Hyman); one abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Elliott).

- 16. Discussion and possible action** regarding the NHWNC's position on the City's indefinite commandeering of CD12 parks and rec centers to house the homeless.
<https://www.laparks.org/covid-19/shelter>
A copy of the Resolution was available at <https://www.nhwnc.net/agendas/may-21-2020-general-board-meeting-agenda>.

MOTION (by Mr. Beeber, seconded by Mr. Brenner): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council adopts the following resolution:

Whereas on March 18, 2020 Mayor Garcetti announced plans to turn 42 recreation centers into temporary housing for the homeless,

And

Whereas the recreation center homeless program has now been in place for two months with no end date announced,

And

Whereas the persons placed in these centers have not been properly screened for criminal history or mental illness,

And

Whereas many of these new homeless centers are immediately adjacent to residential neighborhoods where the public, especially young children, live and recreate,

And

Whereas this policy is imposing an undue burden on the stakeholders living adjacent to these centers, including reports of increased crime, trash, public drug use and intoxication, public urination, and similar unsafe activity.

And

Whereas the stakeholders affected by this commandeering of local parks and rec centers were not consulted prior to implementation and have had no reasonable ability make their concerns known to the Mayor and City Council,

And

Whereas this program does not seem to have reduced the number of homeless on our streets and has potentially attracted additional homeless individuals to the area,

And

Whereas this program would likely never have been approved by the public under normal circumstances,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Hills West Neighborhood Council urges the Mayor and City Council to announce an end date to this program no later June 30, 2020, and to develop plans in consultation with local residents and other stakeholders to re-house the homeless in appropriate venues.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beeber explained the Motion. There was very extensive discussion.

Board Member David Hyman had stepped out of the meeting by this time, making nine Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with seven in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Ms. Beeber, Mr. Beeber, Brenner, Brown, Gibson, Gohel and Hart); zero opposed; two abstained (the NHWNC does not count abstentions as votes) (Crone and Elliott).

Board Member David Hyman returned to the meeting by this time, making 10 Board Members present online (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

- 17. Discussion and possible action** to approve adjustments to the 2019-2020 NHWNC Budget and Administrative Packet.
Mr. Gibson indicated that there were no adjustments.

- 18. Committee and Liaison Reports.**
There were no reports at this time. Mr. Gibson encouraged Committees to meet.

- 19. Board Member announcements and requests for future agenda items.**
There were no announcements or requests at this time.

20. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Gibson, Ms. Hart).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 11:04 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 NHWNC. The NHWNC Minutes page is <http://www.nhwnc.net/agendas-minutes/minutes-and-agendas>.

North Hills West NC GBM Board Vote Count Summary , MAY 21, 2020

AGENDA ITEM #	2 Roll Call	6 passed	8 passed	9 passed	10 passed	11 Table	12 Table	13 passed	14 passed	15 passed	16 passed	17 Tabled
Dan Gibson	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	
Madlena Minasian	Absent											
Dave Brown	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	
Carol Hart	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	
Heather Beeber	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	
Jay Beeber	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	
Gil Brenner	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	
Pat Crone	X	X		X	X			N	N	N	Abstain	
Maggie Elliott	X	X		X	X			N	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	
Punam Gohel	X	X		X	X			Absent	N	N	X	
David Hyman	X	X		X	X			N	N	N	Absent	
Carlos Peleaz	X	X		X	X			N	N	Absent	Absent	
Kreshell Ramey	Absent											
Maker, 2nd by:		DG/PG		DG/ME	DG/CH			JB/GB	JB/GB	JB/GB	JB/GB	
TOTAL: Quorum is 7	11	11	None	11	11			6 Yes 4 No	6 Yes 4 No	6 Yes 3 No	7 Yes 0 No	
Agenda item description	Roll Call	FEB 20, 2020 Minutes Approved	Approve NC Committee & Liaison changes	Approve February 2020 Monthly Expense Report	Approve March 2020 Monthly Expense Report	Approve April 2020 Monthly Expense Report	Encumbering funds	Mayors Emergency Order re: masks	Mayors Safer at Home Order	RE: City & County outdoor activities restrictions	City commandeering parks & rec centers to house homeless	2019-2020 budget adjustments