



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Regular Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 17, 2022
Approved March 17, 2022

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 & Call Meeting to Order.

[First, before the Roll Call, L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; Councilmember.Lee@LACity.org; www.CD12.org) spoke in Item #4. A.] President Carol Hart called the Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Eleven of the 12 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Sam Acosta, Dave Brown (Secretary), Angel Collins, Pat Crone (Vice-President), Maggie Elliott, Garry Fordyce, Dan Gibson (Treasurer), Punam Gohel, Carol Hart (President), David Hyman and Madlena Minasian. Kreshell Ramey arrived later. Carlos Pelaez had resigned. The NHWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) was seven (see the Bylaws link at www.empowerla.org/nhwnc), so the Board could take such votes. Twelve of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant (Residential). Also attended: at least 18 Stakeholders and guests. Quorum was announced. Mr. Brown confirmed that all Board Members' trainings were compliant and they were eligible to vote.

3. Announcements and Opening Comments – Carol N. Hart, President.

A. Update on the proposed Community Partnership between NHWNC & LAHSA – Annual Homeless Count (AHC) in and around the community of North Hills West, with a new date of Tuesday, February 22nd.

Ms. Hart noted the above. Corinne Ho (CHo@lahsa.org), LAHSA [Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 213-225-6562; www.facebook.com/lahsa.org] Coordinator, spoke about the Homeless Count and answered many questions.

- B. Aliso Canyon Community Forum to discuss next steps to ensuring cleaner air date & venue TBA.

Ms. Hart commented.

4. Public Agency Speakers and Announcements.

- A. Elected Officials' Field Representatives.

Councilmember Lee "really appreciated" the NHWNC's letter of support for his redistricting work. Matt Hernandez, Public Safety Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [Matthew.Hernandez@LACity.org], Indicated that he had no report.

- B. City Agencies, including the City of Los Angeles' Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

John Darnell, a Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], reported that "a report on last year's elections" is available. BONC [the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org] probably will vote March 21st on the Digital Communications Policy; he cautioned Board Members to do Neighborhood Council business only at public meetings. Anti-bias training for Board Members is "required . . . but there is no consequence if you don't take it."

5. Guest Speaker Public Service Announcement & Informational Presentations.

- A. North Hills West Resiliency Plan Project - CSUN Urban Studies & Planning Cohort will report on their progress and next steps to be taken, including two Town Halls for the benefit of NHW stakeholders to learn more and offer our own input to the plan. Save the Date: Town Halls February 26th and March 12th!

Daniel Mick, of CSUN, presented the latest and showed slides about their "Resiliency Plan for North Hills."

- B. LADWP Energy Challenge: Jasmine Martinez, from ONEgeneration in Van Nuys will present a program focused on helping Angelenos maximize available resources using LADWP power and energy conservation rebates and programs which help residents save money while improving our environment.

Ms. Hart relayed that Ms. Martinez (818-708-6632) was unable to attend.

6. Report from Budget Advocates – Glenn Bailey and/or NHWNC Budget Representative Pat Crone.

Mr. Bailey, a Budget Advocate [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org], reported that the Mayor's budget will be released April

20th. The Advocates will have a City Controller candidates forum on Sunday, April 10th at 3:00 p.m.

7. General Public Comment

Mr. Darnell said the LADWP “may be able to add more lighting” in some places. Stakeholder Debra Francisco thanked CD12 for helping keep the Sepulveda Blvd./ 405 Freeway area cleaner.

8. “Consent Calendar Recommendations.” Consent calendar items are considered to be non-controversial such as Previous Meeting Minutes and Previous Months’ MERs will be treated as one agenda item. Any Board member or stakeholder may request that an item be removed. There will be no discussion of these items unless an item is removed from the consent calendar, in which case it will go to the end of New Business and be considered as time allows. (Dave Brown, NHWNC Secretary) MOTION: The NHWNC Board approves the use of a ‘Consent Calendar’ for all outstanding items i.e.

- Discussion/ Motion to approve the January 2022 Monthly Expenditure Reports (MERs)
- Discussion/Motion to approve the November 2021 & January 20th General Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Darnell advised that “funding items” such as MERs [Monthly Expenditure Reports] must be separately voted upon. No Consent Motion was made.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gibson): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2022.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hart agreed to Agendize approval of the November 2021 MER.

Board Members Sam Acosta and Angel Collins were unavailable to vote at this time, making nine Board Members present online (the NHWNC Board quorum was seven).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott,, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman and Minasian); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fordyce); zero abstained.

The following correction and amendment to the November 18, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes were requested: page one, Item #1: move all wording after the first sentence to the beginning of Item #2; and change “General” Board Meeting to “Regular” Board Meeting.

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Crone): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 18, 2021 Regular Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman and Minasian); zero opposed; zero abstained.

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Crone): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 20, 2022 Regular Board Meeting as written.

DISCUSSION: Guest Steve Thomason was concerned about continued certain comments from a Board Member, believing the comments to be unnecessary, divisive and time-wasting, and recommended the removal of that Member.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman and Minasian); zero opposed; zero abstained.

9. **Call for Nominations:** Discussion and possible action (Roll Call Vote) to appoint new Board Treasurer.

Ms. Hart noted that Mr. Gibson is resigning. She nominated Sam Acosta; it was seconded by Mr. Gohel.

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves the nomination of Sam Acosta as the Board Treasurer effective February 18, 2022.

Board Member Kreshell Ramey arrived online at 9:23, 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 all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

10. **Call for New Board Member Nominations** (*Stakeholders may nominate themselves or others.) Two Board Seats, are vacant. We will accept applications for new Board Members until both seats are filled by appointment after nomination acceptance, nominee statement of qualifications, board discussion, and a majority vote. Please submit completed applications to: secretary@nhwnc.net Application: [https://clerk.lacity.org/sites/g/files/wph1491/files/2021-04/ENG_2021_NC_Candidate_Filing_Application_with_Board_Affirmation%20\(1\).pdf](https://clerk.lacity.org/sites/g/files/wph1491/files/2021-04/ENG_2021_NC_Candidate_Filing_Application_with_Board_Affirmation%20(1).pdf) Neighborhood Purposes Grant Applications to be considered (if any):

Ms. Hart nominated Debra Francisco for the Residential Seat; it was seconded by Ms. Crone. Ms. Francisco will consider it. Ms. Minasian nominated Anita Goldbaum, who declined the nomination. Ms. Hart encouraged more nominations.

[This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.] NPG Applications and Support documents available on our website at: www.nhwnc.net. Final amounts, if any, will be determined by board vote. - NONE AT THIS TIME –

11. Nomination of Committee Chairs, Members, and various NC Liaisons -

Discussion & possible action Stakeholders are welcome to nominate themselves or others. This includes but is not limited to: Data Liaison Appointments: (Carol Hart & Dave Brown have volunteered. We still need 1 additional person who will be granted both access and the authority to compile reports using available city-curated data.)

There were no nominations.

12. Discussion and possible motion to include "The Pledge of Allegiance" prior starting the NHWNC meeting (right after Roll call.). A virtual display of the US and California flags could be screen shared in lieu of doing so in person. It can be recited by one board member or all board members in unison. As citizens of this nation, "The pledge of Alliance" reminds us that we must be one nation, working united, committed to liberty, and equality for all citizens; in our community, our State and our country." (Sam Acosta)

Ms. Hart skipped the above Item.

13. Budget Expenditure Recommendation for Additional Outreach Materials –

Discussion and possible motion to set aside up to \$1000 for the purchase of promotional outreach items. List of recommended items includes updated brochures, committee outreach fliers, possible promotional materials with NC Logo - pot holders, bottle openers, textured lid-opening pads, 2022 calendars, "what to do/ who to contact in an emergency" refrigerator magnets, notepads, boxed water, small snacks (pre-packaged cookies, pretzels, candy, protein bars.) Also recommend purchase of two large banners with grommets to be hung from canopy or truck sides, during clean-ups neighborhood beautification projects to promote more stakeholder engagement. Promotional items are intended strictly for NHWNC co-sponsoring events/community outreach items. This will enable quick response for a "pop-up" outreach table at community events/activities, invitation working days, etc. in addition to calendared events. We recommend the purchase of small more practical items that are both durable and useful - likely to be retained by stakeholders so our logo & website will continue to attract more attention.

Ms. Hart requested and it was agreed to POSTPONE the above Item.

14. Budget Expenditure Recommendation for Additional Outreach Materials –

Discussion and possible motion to set aside up to \$300 for the purchase of small to medium "grab and go" storage totes for rapid deployment of outreach volunteers at community events. Totes would hold the aforementioned promotional outreach items.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gohel): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council allocates \$300 for [related to the above].

The above Motion was not voted upon.

- 15. Californians for Community Planning Initiative** - Discussion and possible motion to approve generation of an Open Community Impact Statement - asking City Council [and other elected officials] to support putting this initiative on next November's Ballot. The following PLUM Committee motion [for Board recommendation] passed unanimously on December 2, 2021: MOTION (by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Cockerell): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council recommends that the Board support the Californians for Community Planning Initiative to be on the November 2022 ballot. Board Motion: The North Hills West Neighborhood Council will submit an OPEN CIS requesting City Council and other elected officials support placing the Californians for Community Planning Initiative on the November 2022 ballot. Rules & Elections Committee Recommendations (to be presented monthly on an "as available" basis): Community Impact Statement Proposals: CFMS = Council File Management System (LA City Clerk) Discussion and possible motion to approve generation of a Community Impact Statement on:

Ms. Hart explained the Initiative.

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Minasian): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approves generation of an Open Community Impact Statement - asking City Council [and other elected officials] to support putting the Californians for Community Planning Initiative on next November's Ballot.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Brown, Crone, Elliott, Fordyce, Gibson, Gohel, Hart, Hyman, Minasian and Ramey); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 16. Council File 19-0603 - Expansion of Fire District 1 Feasibility Study** – Discussion and possible action: (previously postponed). We may choose to approve or oppose this file as it is, or oppose unless amended to include conditions.
- A. Motion: NHWNC will issue a CIS approving the expansion of Fire District 1.
 - B. Motion: NHWNC will issue a CIS opposing the expansion of Fire District 1.
 - C. Motion: NHWNC will issue a CIS - opposing unless amended - the expansion of Fire District 1. NOTE: The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance voted unanimously to oppose expansion. Some feel that this would be a boon to developers opening the door to the use of more climate-damaging concrete and steel construction used in the building of higher density structures in what are currently low-density residential neighborhoods. The study is already complete. A 47-page report was generated by the Department of Building & Safety: https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2019/19-0603_rpt_dbs_%205-27-21.pdf A 2-page Public Safety Committee Report: <https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/>

[2019/19-0603_rpt_ps_6-2-21.pdf https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-21/california-burning-is-it-time-to-rethink-forest-management](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-21/california-burning-is-it-time-to-rethink-forest-management) .

Ms. Hart postponed Item #'s 16 and 17.

- 17. Council File 20-0668-S7 Discussion and possible motion** to approve generation of a Community Impact Statement on Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission / City of Los Angeles / Council Districts / Recommended Map: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0668-S7>.

Ms. Hart postponed Item #'s 16 and 17.

- 18. Committee & Liaison Reports** (if any). Discussion and possible action on the formation of new Ad Hoc Legislative Tracking Committee, changes to Standing and Ad Hoc committees as well as NHWNC Liaisons.

Mr. Brown reported on recent crime statistics.

- 19. Board Member Announcements and Requests for Future Agenda Items.**

Ms. Hart requested that such items be sent to her.

- 20. Motion to adjourn**

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Minasian).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:13 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>.