



NORTH HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SPECIAL BOARD DISCUSSION NOTES*, Thursday, August 17, 2023
New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, CA 91343
Discussion Notes Approved 10/19/2023

* Note: this event did not have a quorum; the City Attorney designated such events as “discussions,” not “Meetings” and the record of them as “notes,” not “Minutes.”

1. Call to order and Welcome by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

John Darnell, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE; 213-978-1551; John.Darnell@LACity.org; <https://empowerla.org>], started the discussion at 5:41.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

The Pledge was led by Mr. Darnell. Five Board Members were present at the beginning of the discussion, which is not a quorum: Dave Brown (Secretary), Pat Crone (Treasurer), Maggie Elliott (Vice-President), Garry Fordyce and Madlena Minasian (President). Kreshell Ramey was absent. Returning Board Member Linda Erdman was re-appointed during Item #3. iii. a. Carol Hart and David Hyman had resigned and Punam Gohel was not on the Board at this time. 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), so at this time the Board could only take public comments, could not have any official discussions, and could not make any Motions or take any votes. Six of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Seven Board Seats were vacant; to apply, email Secretary@nhwnc.net. Also attended: 12 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Selections for open Board positions for the North Hills West Neighborhood Council. Bylaws Arrival V NHWNC BYLAWS; ARTICLE V GOVERNING BOARD P. 6: “The Board shall consist of thirteen (13) Stakeholders elected by their peers (Stakeholders) and/or selected or appointed by the Board. The NHWNC values the diversity of its Stakeholders. This diversity shall be reflected in the election, selection, and appointment process. Currently, the NHWNC does not have the ability to achieve quorum. There are currently six board members, and per the NHWNC Bylaws, seven is required for quorum of a Board meeting. This meeting is a special board meeting happening to satisfy the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners’s (BONC) Loss of Quorum Policy. The meeting will be run by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. The composition of the Board shall be as follows:

- i. Residential Stakeholder Board Members (7) - Open to Stakeholders eighteen (18) years of age or older who live in a residence, either as a homeowner or a renter, within the boundaries of the NHWNC and must provide proof of residency.
- ii. General Stakeholder Board Members (5) - Open to Stakeholders eighteen (18) years of age or older who own a business or property, or work within the boundaries of NHWNC and provide proof of such. These positions are also open to Stakeholders who participate in a community organization such as but not limited to religious institution, educational institution, community based organization, non-profit organization, neighborhood association, school/parent group, faith based group, senior group, youth group, arts association, service organization, boys or girls club, cultural group, or environmental group within the NHWNC boundaries and provide proof of consistent, active membership of said group.
- iii. Community Interest Stakeholder (1) – Open to Stakeholders eighteen (18) years of age or older who declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder, defined as a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation with a community organization that has continuously maintained a physical street address for not less than one year, and that performs ongoing and verifiable activities and operations that benefit the neighborhood, and is located within the NC's boundaries. A for-profit entity shall not qualify as a Community Organization.
 - a. Discussion and possible action to appoint one stakeholder to fill one of the vacancies on the North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC) Board. Per the Loss of Quorum Policy, from the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, only one seat shall be filled at this meeting. This is because according to the NHWNC Bylaws, appointing a stakeholder to one vacant seat will raise the seats filled on the NHWNC Board from six to seven, therefore allowing the NHWNC Board to make quorum for future Board meetings. The NHWNC is currently seeking one (1) Residential Board Member, Seat term expiring 2025; one (1) General Board Member, Seat term expiring 2025; two (2) Residential Board Members, Seat term expiring 2027; two (2) General Board Members, Seat terms expiring 2027; and one (1) Community Board Member, Seat expiring 2027.
 - a. Each stakeholder must verify their stakeholder status through documentation. See "2023 Neighborhood Council Elections Documentation Guide" for more information on how to qualify for a seat on the Board. Also, see NHWNC Bylaws for information on Board seats and more about the NHWNC Board.
 - b. The Board will vote on who they believe to be the best candidate, and the candidate with the most votes will win.

- c. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) will confirm their selection.

Mr. Darnell explained the procedure [see above Item #3].

MOTION (by Ms. Minasian, seconded by Ms. Elliott): The North Hills West Neighborhood Council appoints Linda Erdman to the Residential Board Seat for the term ending in 2027.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Erdman spoke of her community and previous Board service. Mr. Fordyce wanted to know “why she just sauntered in” to be a candidate. Ms. Minasian reported that Ms. Erdman already had submitted an application. At this time Ms. Erdman showed Mr. Darnell her Driver’s License to verify that she was who she said she was; Mr. Darnell confirmed that “it matches.” Mr. Darnell confirmed that Ms. Erdman’s application was valid. She was willing to show the application to anyone “if the address [was] redacted.”

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

Returning Board Member Linda Erdman was Seated at this time, making six Board Members present (the NHWNC quorum is seven).

4. Adjournment

Mr. Darnell declared the discussion ended at 5:53 p.m.

What was to have been the above Special Board Meeting was immediately followed by what was to have been a General Board Meeting, for which there also was no quorum. [See separate General Board discussion notes.]

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

North Hills West NC SBM Vote Count Summary 8/17/2023

Special Board Meeting 8/17/23 AGENDA ITEM # cap 5:30PM	2. Roll Call	3a. 2027 Residential Seat					
Dave Brown	X	X					
Pat Crone	X	X					
Maggie Elloitt	X	X					
Garry Fordyce	X	N					
Madlena Minasian	X	X					
Kreshell Ramey	O	O					
Vacant General	2025						
Vacant General	2027						
Vacant General	2027						
Vacant Residential	2025						
Vacant Residential	2027						
Vacant Residential	2027						
Vacant Community	2027						
Maker, 2nd by:		MM/ME					
TOTAL: Quorum is 7	5	4 Y, 1 N					
Agenda item description X=Yes, N=No, AB=Abstain, R=Recuse, O=Absent I=Ineligible		Linda Erdman					