

# NORTH HOLLYWOOD WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Kent Stewart        Dario Svidler

## Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 3, 2012  
6:30 p.m.

Valley Plaza Branch Library (of LAPL)  
12311 Vanowen Street, North Hollywood, CA 91605

### 1. Call to order and roll call.

- Chair Nancy Characky called the meeting to order at 6:37pm
- Members Present: Nancy Characky, George Characky, Irma Garber, Willie Lewis, Claudia Nelson, Roxie Rock.
- Members Absent: Greg Howie
- Quorum was is seated.
- Guests in attendance: Jim Kompare, NoHoWest President (non-voting)

### 2. General public comment on items not listed on today's agenda (3 minutes per speaker). None

### 3. Review and approve Minutes from December 6, 2011.

A correction was made to Item 7 of the December 6 DRAFT meeting minutes

**MOTION:** Irma Garber motioned to approve, with correction (to Item 7) the Tuesday, December 6, 2011, meeting minutes. Willie Lewis seconded. Motion approved. FOR – 6; AGAINST – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

### 4. Discuss modify, and possible motion on proposed committee Mission Statement:

“To enhance and restore the beauty of the NoHoWest community and to promote and implement improvements to and for the common good of the NoHoWest community through community improvements and beautification projects, including but not limited to median plantings, monument signs, and public parks as well as facilitate grants to help support these goals and improve the community's public landscape. The Committee will further endeavor to educate and engage stakeholders in beautification projects and clean-up activities to benefit the community and work together in “Bringing back the PRIDE” to NoHoWEST, making us “SHINE ...one street at a time.”

- After some discussion the missions statement was modified to read:

“To restore and enhance the beauty of the NoHoWest community and to promote and implement improvements to and for the common good of the NoHoWest neighborhood through community improvements and beautification projects, as well as facilitate grants to help support and improve the community's public landscape. The Committee will further endeavor to educate and engage stakeholders in beautification projects and clean-up activities to benefit the community and work together in “bringing back the PRIDE” to NoHoWEST, making us “SHINE ...one street at a time.”

**MOTION:** George Characky motioned to accept the proposed committee Mission Statement as modified above. Claudia Nelson seconded. Motion approved. FOR – 6; AGAINST – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

5. **Discuss and possible motion on changing name of “Beautification Committee” to “Beautification and Community Improvement”.**  
**MOTION:** George Irma Garber motioned to change the name to “Beautification and Community Improvement Committee”. George Characky seconded. Motion approved. FOR – 6; AGAINST – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.
6. **Review and discuss Hollywood/Los Angeles Beautification Team’s Permission to Plant or Care for a Street Tree and the requirements (“Adopt a tree”).**  
It was suggested that this request form should be available via a link on Carol Sawamura’s website (“My Family”), as well as the NHWestNC website.
7. **Review and discuss a sample “SPRUCE UP YOUR BUSINESS” entry form.**  
Reviewed form and acknowledged that this is an Outreach issue, as well.
8. **Review and discuss a sample “NOMINATE YOUR NEIGHBOR FOR YARD OF THE MONTH” and any “prize” or certificate to be presented.**  
Reviewed form and acknowledged that this is an Outreach issue, as well. It was thought that a yard sign might be an appropriate prize.
9. **Discuss getting the west side of Saticoy at Bellaire designated as NO PARKING from 10PM to 5AM like the east side due to the overnight camper parking. (The rest of Saticoy to Woodman is already designated as NO OVERNIGHT PARKING.)**  
According to Mshak Ghazarian, Field Deputy for Councilmember Paul Krekorian, the appropriate entity is DOT. He is checking on the issue. It was suggested by the committee members that an issue to have it designated as No Parking during nighttime hours may be the fact that there are three homes in that area.
10. **Discuss requesting approval by the Board to contact the Movie Car Rental place on Saticoy dead end to report graffiti more often, as it is on their property that it is happening.**  
The discussion revolved around the issue as to what authority the Committee has to act on its own. There is a meeting to be held with the Executive Committee to include the chairpersons of the other committees to clarify authority issues.
11. **Discuss having an application process (sample to be reviewed which needs to be amended to fit our purpose) that stakeholders have to fill out to get approval from the Board for funding for beautification projects, etc.**  
Sample shown to committee members. The goal is to reduce the sample to a more manageable process. More discussions to be held.
12. **Discuss locating and contacting the proper City entity to see about an ordinance to limit the size and type of SIGNS posted for businesses along Sherman Way within our boundary to present to the Board as a possible project... to either grandfather in or make it applicable to new business as they start up.**  
Discussion around what the CRA with Community Service was able to accomplish in Canoga Park. It was mentioned that even when the CRA offered funds for business improvements, very few applied for them. Other areas, including Valley Glen have strict regulations. We need to find out what the current city ordinance is and find out how to amend it to improve the area along Sherman Way.
13. **Discuss types of outreach to our local businesses along the Sherman Way corridor to let them know about us and to request their assistance with making Sherman Way more pleasing to the eye, signage, shrubbery, clean up.**  
It was acknowledged that this is an Outreach issue as well.
14. **Discuss the LAPD Christmas Toy Drive success.**  
The Toy Drive was a great success – 2,196 toys. George and Nancy Characky gave credit where credit was due in a comment on Patch.com – “George and Nancy Characky would like to express many

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Minutes (cont.)**

thanks to North Hollywood LAPD with a very successful TOY DRIVE!! Many thanks to Principal Anait Vardoumian and Irene Chacon, School Administrative Assistant, all faculty, students and families at Saticoy Elementary School for donating about 150 toys!!! Many thanks to the North Hollywood WEST Neighborhood Council members and stakeholders for donating toys and many thanks to my own neighbors for contributing and making deserving families have a better Christmas!! All in all we had about 200 toys when collected! THAT’S AWESOME!!!”

**15. Discuss future projects.**

Nancy Characky discussed importance of having a Newsletter as part of the website with each committee having an area to post information, tips, etc. Jim Kompare mentioned that we still need to keep Whitsett between Sherman Way and Saticoy as well as James Madison Middle School improvement projects in mind.

**16. Discuss the email from Sulma Hernandez, rep for Cardenas, re the abandoned shopping cart problems and developing ordinance. (This seems to only involve new stores and stores undergoing major renovations – not existing stores).**

As it appears that this will not affect existing stores, we will still be expected to call in for cart pick up. It was suggested that Paul Krekorian’s office be contacted to see what they are doing regarding this issue.

**17. Discuss asking the board for approval to contact existing local markets for their assistance in cart retrieval systems or locking carts suggestions.**

This is another issue where the committee needs guidance from the board as to what authority we have to contact the stores that service our neighborhood. It was suggested that we find out how many cart services there are in our area. This type of contact information is something we can post on the website.

**18. Committee member comments on non-agenda items.**

- Several committee members made comments relating to stolen trash bins.
- Roxie Rock provided some follow-up to an issue brought up at the December 6, 2011 meeting regarding cell towers [re: LA Times article 12/15/11, “Cell Towers Are Going Up High and Low, Burbank ACTION (Against Cell Towers In Our Neighborhood)”] and a printout from the “AntennaSearch.com” website showing that we are surrounded by antennas and towers, so there might not be much that can be done about the cell antenna at the Wat Thai Temple.

**19. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

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*Please be advised that the bylaws of the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council provide a process for reconsideration of actions as well as a grievance procedure. For your convenience, the bylaws are available during every meeting. In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Committee in advance of a meeting, may be obtained from the NoHoWest NC’s Executive Committee.*

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