

NORTH HOLLYWOOD WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Jim Kompare Robin Ibrahim
President *Vice-President*
Greg Howie David Hechter
Secretary *Treasurer*



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Isabel Charleston Dario Svidler
David Hechter Greg Howie
Robin Ibrahim Jim Kompare
Sriwong Koziel Willie Lewis
Lorraine Matza David Rouze
Vincent Stamboni Kent Stewart
Donna Miller-Hackney

**North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council
Meeting of the General Board
June 22, 2011
Saticoy Elementary School Auditorium
7850 Ethel Avenue, North Hollywood, CA. 91605
MINUTES**

Item 1: Roll Call:

The following were present during Roll Call: David Hechter, Greg Howie, Robin Ibrahim, Jim Kompare, Lorraine Matza, David Rouze, Vince Stamboni, Willie Lewis, Isabel Charleston, Donna Miller-Hackney, Dario Svidler

Not Present: Kent Stewart and Sriwong Koziel

Item 2: Approval of Minutes of NoHoWest NC last monthly meeting, May 25, 2011.

The minutes were unavailable from the installation meeting of May 25

Motion: David Hechter made a motion to table the approval of the minutes. Robin Ibrahim seconded the motion. The motion passed: 13 For – 0 Against – 0 Abstaining.

Item 3: General public comment on items not listed on today's agenda.

Darlene Green, a resident since 1963 brought up an issue regarding a stray/feral cat with 3 kittens. She was seeking help and advice on what to do about trying to preserve their lives without separating them. She had approached the animal shelter and was told they charged a \$50.00 deposit and \$5.00 per day to rent a cage in order to trap them for a TSR (trap, spay, and release) effort... But this was beyond her capability as a senior citizen living on her own. She stated that our property taxes must be paying for the animal shelter to be rounding up the stray animals and wondered why she was asked to do it herself. She did not know how to trap them and get them over to the shelter.

Jim asked Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Carol Sawamura to provide a community update. Carol requested to be added to future agendas and she would make every effort to attend meetings.

- Officer Sawamura reported that numerous vehicles had their windows smashed in the northern neighborhoods. Fortunately, a neighbor in the vicinity called 911 after seeing someone acting suspiciously and the individual was later arrested. He had gotten into an argument with a girlfriend and, in his anger, started breaking car windows at the Cantara/Fulton/Nagel area and continued for about two miles southward to Bellaire and Saticoy. There were 27 vehicles known to be damaged, at this time. Meeting attendees were advised to contact Detective Derrick Wallace with any relevant information on such

NoHoWest NC MISSION STATEMENT

The North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council of the City of Los Angeles is dedicated to serve as a voice in the best interest of the community quality of life within the City's decision-making process and to provide an open forum in which stakeholders may discuss and resolve community issues

occurrences that have been observed. Each act of vandalism is recorded as a separate count and he has 27 counts against him, so far.

- The number one crime in the NoHoWest area is street racing. Officer Sawamura warned that she is targeting hours during late Saturday night and early Sunday morning on Saticoy St. Those caught racing can have their cars confiscated.
- A complaint about debris in the alley on Alcove identified the items as left by an area resident. 311 has been notified and, if the debris has not been picked up by Sunday, the resident was advised that she will have to put it back on her property.

Item 4: Approve NoHoWest participation in Paul Krekorian’s inauguration celebration on July 2, 2011 at VNSO (Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park)

Motion: Isabel Charleston made the motion to participate at Paul Krekorian’s inaugural celebration with a NoHoWest NC booth. Lorraine Matza seconded the motion. The motion passed: 13 For – 0 Against – 0 Abstaining.

Item 5: Approve council participation in the “National Night Out” event, August 2, 2011.

This is a big fair-type event sponsored by the LAPD. It is a chance to get to know the various civic-minded groups that will be participating. It is also a chance to get to know your Senior Lead Officer(s) and other affiliated officials from the LAPD.

Motion: Vince Stamboni made the motion to participate in the local National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 with a booth staffed by NoHoWest NC. Dario Svidler seconded the motion. The motion passed: 13 For – 0 Against – 0 Abstaining.

Item 6: Thank Saticoy principal Roger Avila for all his efforts and accomplishments at Saticoy School.

Isabel Charleston and Cara Alson designed a beautiful certificate to recognize Principal Avila for all his effort and support over the years on behalf of NoHoWest NC which is to be presented to him.

Motion: David Hechter moved that NoHoWest NC recognize Principal Avila with this certificate of our appreciation. Robin Ibrahim seconded the motion. The motion passed: 12 For – 0 Against – 1 Abstaining (due to a conflict of interest).

Item 7: Establish a selection process to fill two vacant council seats: Community Based Organization (CBO) and Youth.

President Jim Kompare explained the process that might be used to fill the empty seats. Applications for those seats will be available at our meetings. Discussion ensued regarding filling the seats and changing the bylaws to decrease the size of the board and that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) would be consulted on some of the questions. Jim then asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

Motion: Greg Howie made the motion to establish a timeline and election process to fill the two vacancies on the board and to accept applications from prospective candidates for the Youth seat and the CBO seat. David Hechter seconded the motion.

Lorraine Matza raised the question of the timeline and indicated that it should either be included as part of the motion or the authority to establish the timeline should be delegated in the motion. Discussion ensued that resulted in the following Amended Motion:

Amended Motion: David Hechter amended the previous motion to include a start date of “today” for application submittal and that the appointment be done at the next regular monthly meeting of the NoHoWest NC on the 20th of July.

The amended motion was not seconded. Instead, discussion continued regarding what would happen if no applications were received, alternative methods that might be considered for filling the vacancies, and why a timeline needed to be established. It was explained that we were constrained to follow an application process outlined in the bylaws and that a timeline was required to avoid someone claiming that they wanted to apply but did not know that there was a time limit for applications.

The question was then raised as to having the Outreach Committee handle the recruitment process, but it was indicated that the bylaws do not delegate the responsibility to the/an "Outreach Committee" at this time.

The question was then raised as to how someone would get an application. President Kompare indicated that those interested in obtaining an application contact him and that the applications were to be made available again.

The question was raised regarding the lack of specificity of the submission deadline. It was suggested that submission should be up to the start of the meeting on July 20. Issue was taken that this was not a good practice because an application for something as important as a board seat might wind up being reviewed within minutes of being submitted by a totally unknown person without any capability of verifying that the person would be qualified for the selected position and then approved or disapproved minutes later. It was suggested that the submission deadline be capped at 2 days prior to the meeting.

David Hechter withdrew his non-seconded Amended Motion, and another Amendment was made to the original motion as follows:

Amended Motion (1): Dario Svidler amended the original Greg Howie motion to establish an election process to fill the two vacancies on the board and to accept applications from prospective candidates for the Youth seat and the CBO seat with a start date of "today" for application submittal, a deadline of 2 days prior to July 20, 2011, and that the appointment be done at the next regular monthly meeting of NoHoWest NC on the 20th of July. David Hechter seconded the amended motion. The motion passed: 13 For – 0 Against – 0 Abstaining, without need for further discussion

Item 8: Adopt the practice of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of monthly meetings.

It was mentioned that other NCs often begin their meetings by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and that it would be appropriate to do that at our General Board meetings of the NoHoWest NC. The question was raised that perhaps it would not be appropriate to recite the pledge when a flag was not present. It was suggested that if the location that the meeting was being held at did not have a flag present, one or more of the council members might remember to bring one with them to the meeting until such time as the council might decide and be able to purchase one for future use.

Motion: David Hechter, moved that, if a flag is present at any general board meeting of the NoHoWest NC, the Pledge of Allegiance to the US flag will be recited at the beginning of the meeting. Robin Ibrahim seconded the motion. Jim called for the vote. The motion passed: 12 For – 0 Against – 1 Abstaining

Item 9. Begin sending zoning and planning requests to the Zoning and Planning Committee

NoHoWest NC has already received two planning and zoning requests and David Hechter and Dario Svidler, Planning and Zoning Committee members, wanted to make sure that any requests were sent to the Planning and Zoning Committee in the future. The information often initiates with the City and then the City usually provides it to them and then they continue on with the process.

The question was raised whether the requests being referred to included liquor licenses and usage permits, which can also fall under the category of Public Safety. Since it was acknowledged that they definitely would, Vince Stamboni of the Public Safety Committee then volunteered to be on the P&Z Committee to be sure that the Public Safety aspects were being considered in such instances.

Motion: David Hechter moved that all issues that come before the Los Angeles planning or zoning offices that would fall under the purview of NoHoWest NC to be immediately routed to the Planning and Zoning Committee for review, and investigation prior to presentation and/or recommendation to the full board. Robin Ibrahim seconded the motion. The motion passed: 13 For – 0 Against – 0 Abstaining

[NoHoWest NC President Kompare inserted some time into the agenda at this point in the meeting for comments from Council District 2 area representative, Mshak Ghazarian, due to an oversight in preparing the original agenda]

Mshak Ghazarian spoke about the National Night Out event taking place on 8-2-2011 at North Hollywood Park and about Paul Krekorian's Inauguration Celebration BBQ at Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park on Saturday, July 2. Mshak will be manning the BBQ grill, and there will be a snow cone machine. There will also be a couple of bands playing live music, and the event will be very kid friendly with free food!

Item 10: Discuss Neighborhood Council Logo Process and assign development to the Outreach Committee.

Isabel Charleston has drawn up several logo designs for the NoHoWest NC. There has also been some talk over the several past months about having some of the school children coming up with designs by having a contest and possibly soliciting input from the stakeholders, as well. With so many ideas on the table, NoHoWest President Kompare indicated that he would like the Outreach Committee to discuss the various inputs and propose a single strategy to the general board at the next meeting. There was general agreement among board members to assign this task to the Outreach Committee

Action: Outreach Committee will discuss the various ideas regarding a strategy for designing a logo and will propose/recommend that strategy at the next general board meeting.

Item 11: Assign website research and development to the Outreach Committee.

The Outreach Committee will be playing some very important roles which will include the design of the logo and now the web site. Additional roles that are being considered might include sending out e-mails as to who does what and perhaps setting up e-mail addresses and phone number(s) for communication purposes.

Action: Outreach Committee will discuss and recommend/propose where and how the NoHoWest NC should create and maintain its website and present that information at the next general board meeting.

Item 12: Discuss Councilman Paul Krekorian's proposed changes to the Neighborhood Council System.

David Hechter asked Mshak Ghazarian a few questions about Councilman Paul Krekorian's proposed changes.

- David indicated that he would like to see the proposal include some sort of language that NCs not be held responsible for the inability to complete certain tasks when the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) doesn't provide the NCs the tools to be able to perform those tasks. For instance, there is a requirement to post certain items in a particular way, yet NCs are currently locked out of that system. This could create a situation where NCs could have their funding held up because they didn't fulfill that certain requirement. There needs to be language included where both halves/sides have to fulfill the contract, not just one of the two entities involved.
- Another item in the proposal is the elimination of rollover funds from prior funding years, which was supposed to be a temporary thing because the city needed money. David indicated that he would like to propose that at least a small percentage of a prior year's funding be allowed to rollover. For example, if a maximum of 10% were allowed to roll over, this would only be about 4,050 dollars maximum. The current proposal (no rollover) would seem to encourage NCs to spend just for the sake of spending and, although this might be unintentional, it is nonetheless more likely when rollover funding is completely eliminated.

- There is also an item being proposed about funding the NCs through grants. This has always been a difficult process to utilize, as anyone who has had to deal with this knows. Grant requests are difficult to prepare and time consuming to write. There are City personnel including Councilmembers who get paid as much as 200,000 dollars to do this kind of work while NC members are volunteers and would be expected to do this for free. Consider that if the City intends to unfairly burden its volunteers like this, they are more likely to lose those volunteers. David strongly suggested that this method of funding not be implemented.
Action: David Hechter to put these concerns in writing in some form and provide them to Mshak or Paul's CD2 Office in order to ensure that the concerns/suggestions are conveyed properly.

Item 13: Discuss creating a Beautification Committee.

It has been repeatedly discussed that there are many things that can be done to make the NoHoWest NC area much better, in terms of public property land and park land that our NC should consider getting involved with. An example that was given was the area along Whitsett between the railroad tracks and Saticoy. Since there are many things our NC could be doing of this type, it has been proposed that we should have a committee to orchestrate these efforts.

A discussion ensued regarding the practice of naming committees and not documenting their primary tasks or reason for existence through a charter or mission/vision statement(s). The lead-in to this discussion specified "public property land" and "park land"....that would technically exclude beautification associated with buildings (for example, artwork or other building enhancements). It was stated that for our committees there would be no need for a charter since we have our standing rules which can be adopted by a simple majority vote. Beyond that the President would be the one if there is no objection to say what goes to which committee.

Motion: Vince Stamboni moved to establish a Beautification Committee. David Hechter seconded the motion. The motion passed: 13 For – 0 Against – 0 Abstaining.

Item 14: Add the word "communication" to the Outreach Committee title.

Due to the broad expectations for the Outreach Committee (see Items 10 and 11 above) it was proposed that its name be changed to Communication and Outreach Committee. Although the issued was opened for discussion no one felt that discussion was needed.

Motion: Lorraine Matza moved that the Outreach Committee name be changed to the Communication and Outreach Committee. David Hechter seconded the motion. The motion passed: 13 For – 0 Against – 0 Abstaining.

Item 15: Board member comments on subject matter within the board's jurisdiction: a. Comments on board members' own activities/brief announcements; b. Brief response to questions posed or statements made by persons exercising their general right to public comment; c. Introduce new issues for consideration by the board at its next meeting.

- David Rouze: Two things I observed that we might consider: 1 - out of politeness when somebody is speaking, we should not talk among ourselves. I think this should be a rule. And 2 - we all need to speak up... use our "loud voice".
- Lorraine Matza: I would like us to consider having some sort of parliamentarian appointed so that a stakeholder would have some sort of idea of what the rules are by which we operate. There should be someone in charge of this other than the President because he really needs to focus on running the meeting.
ACTION: Jim Kompare took the action to route this question to the Executive Board.
- Greg Howie: I would like any proposed agenda items submitted in writing no later than 5:00pm Monday one week before the meeting.
ACTION: David Hechter took the action to bring this question to the Executive Board for finalization, but indicated that the public is encouraged to supply topics for the board to place on the agenda at any time.
- Lorraine Matza: Proposed that a future agenda should consider having a discussion for formulating a process for grouping similar/like City services complaints (example given was Bureau of Street Services and pothole

repair) so that a City department could send a crew out on one particular day for repairs over a larger area, rather than sending out a large crew for each separate service request.

- Lorraine Matza: Suggested that more stakeholders would attend our NC meetings if they felt their needs would be addressed. She also suggested that in order to be responsive we would need a better vehicle for them to express their views and obtain a remedy or at least a good contact. Lorraine was concerned that if someone leaves a meeting feeling that we would not address their issue, they will not likely return. David Rouse reaffirmed Lorraine's concern.

ACTION: Jim Kompare indicated that he felt that this was a procedural issue and that it needed to be addressed starting with the Executive Board. He acknowledged that they would have to determine a best practice for this and in the future be sure to get contact information from any speaker who might be expecting a response.

Item 16: Adjournment

After a motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded, NoHoWest NC President Jim Kompare adjourned the meeting, and thanked everyone for attending.

Approved 12/14/11