

NORTH HOLLYWOOD WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

OFFICERS

Jim Kompare <i>President</i>	Robin Ibrahim <i>Vice-President</i>
Vince Stamboni <i>Secretary</i>	David Hechter <i>Treasurer</i>



BOARD MEMBERS

Nancy Characky	David Hechter
Greg Howie	Robin Ibrahim
Jim Kompare	Sriwong Koziel
Willie Lewis	Lorraine Matza
Roxanne Rock	Vincent Stamboni
Kent Stewart	Dario Svidler

North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council Meeting of the General Board

December 14, 2011

James Madison Middle School Auditorium
13000 Ethel Ave., North Hollywood, CA. 91605

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

President Jim Kompare led neighborhood Council in the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Call to order and roll call.

President Jim Kompare called the meeting to order at 6:50pm

- Board members present during roll call were: Jim Kompare, Lorraine Matza, Kent Stewart, David Hechter, Greg Howie, Robin Ibrahim, Vince Stamboni, and Dario Svidler
- Board members not in attendance at the meeting: Willie Lewis, Sriwong Koziel
- Quorum is seated

3. General public comment on items not listed on today's agenda (3 minutes per speaker).

- Susan Williams spoke on behalf of her 501c.3 non-profit organization, Save A Heart, Save A Mind, which she started in order to inspire and change the conditions in the lives of at-risk youths and young adults. Susan described the humble beginnings and growth of her organization and asked support for her organization from the Neighborhood Council. They can use any form of supplies including furniture and computers. Treasurer David H met with her briefly to discuss with her the way to go about applying for what grant funds might be available through the NoHoWest NC. More information about the non-profit organization can be found on their website at www.saveaheartsaveamind.org
- Ernie Moscoso, President of the neighboring North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council, spoke to the NoHoWest Board in support of partnering between the two NCs for mutual benefit. Suggestions included sharing a DONE-sponsored retreat as well as other activities. Also mentioned was the sharing of ideas on how to increase stakeholder participation and commercial sponsorship.

4. Government officers' reports.

Thomas Soong, area field representative for DONE, spoke in support of a NoHoWest-NoHoNortheast joint retreat. Tom also spoke about additional training that was expected to be made available through DONE and that they were expecting to sponsor about 3 regional training courses per quarter. He also touched on some courses that could be extremely useful in improving the efficiency of NC and Committee functions, such as training on "Running Effective Meetings" and "Funding". Lastly Tom touched on the encouragement of NCs to submit their inputs to the current survey on the NC Election Process.

5. NoHoWest NC President's remarks.

President Jim Kompare commented on a number of topics including the following:

- Jim spoke in support of encouraging our Board members to take advantage of the joint DONE-sponsored retreat that was previously mentioned by Ernie Moscoso and Tom Soong. Jim could

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

anticipate benefits from a retreat helping to better “tune-in” board members to each other now that everyone had a better idea of the types of things that they would be encountering and also in allowing our NC to learn from the more mature NoHoNortheast NC and to better understand their mode of functioning which could facilitate any future endeavors we may undertake with them.

- Jim provided an update on the situation involving the City Council’s activities involving the street and sidewalk repair ordinance (#05-1853). He advised that Councilman Paul Krekorian has come out against many of the provisions of the ordinance as being unfair to property owners and that our NoHoWest NC had prepared a letter that will shortly be sent to Councilman Paul Krekorian, Mayor Villaraigosa, the City Attorney’s office, and the City Council. He also mentioned that another hearing on the ordinance was in the process of being set up at the city level, but that no date had yet been set.
- President Kompare announced that he was tasking each of the standing committees to submit a Mission Statement for their respective committees. It was felt that this might help to better define the central issues that the committees are expected to focus on and assist in providing them more direction. Proposed statements are to be submitted to the Executive Committee for review and direction or re-direction prior to being provided to the Board for final approval.

ACTION: Each Committee chair is to submit a proposed Mission Statement to the Executive Committee for review four calendar days before the next Executive Committee Meeting.

6. Discussion and possible action: Review Candidates’ applications for vacant Board seats and vote on filling vacancies.

Nancy Characky and Roxanne Rock have previously submitted applications to the Board for the two vacant Resident Board seats and were present at the meeting. Current Board members had reviewed both applications. Both candidates were asked to read prepared statements regarding their qualifications and reason(s) for applying for the vacant seats. There were comments from several board members in support of both applicants.

MOTION: David Hechter moved to appoint both Nancy Characky and Roxanne Rock to the two vacant Resident Board seats. Lorraine Matza seconded and the motion passed: 7 FOR – 0 AGAINST – 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 NO VOTE.

Board President, Jim Kompare inducted Nancy and Roxanne to the NoHoWest NC by having them recite the Neighborhood Council Pledge and the new Board members were welcomed by all Board members present to the Resident Board seats. This brought the **number of NC Board members in attendance to 10 from this point in the meeting forward.**

7. Discussion and possible action: Review and possibly select/approve submitted proposed Neighborhood Council Logos

President Kompare provided copies to the board of one candidate NoHoWest logo. The submission was circular with the name of the council in a circumferential black ring around the logo. Interior of the logo had a series of row-type houses in front of green rolling hills with a blue sunny sky and billowing clouds. Note the representations to the right of this paragraph in both color and grayscale versions. Concerns were expressed regarding the following attributes of the candidate logo:

- The many colors used in the logo would be both difficult and possibly expensive to reproduce on NC purchased items.
- The interior of the logo was quite busy and would likely be difficult to discern from a distance or when shrunk down to apply to NC items.
- The name of the council would be difficult to read from a distance or when the logo is shrunk down to apply to NC items.
- The black circumferential ring was thought to be an ink usage problem for personal printer reproduction.
- Grayscale version of the logo has too many shades of gray and the use of fewer shades would render the interior less recognizable.
- The depiction in the center of the logo is not representative of the NC area.

Board members did not feel that they were willing to accept the single submitted logo and wanted to see other possibilities which took into account some of the above criticisms. The discussion of the logo led to an agreement on the following assigned action:

ACTION: Board members are tasked to submit candidate logos of their own design preferences that



would be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting and possibly voted on at the next Board meeting. Members were cautioned that if they do not submit a logo demonstrating their preferences, they should not attempt to apply those criticisms to logos submitted by other board members.

8. Discussion and possible action: Purchase refrigerator magnets with selected Neighborhood Council Logo for outreach per previously submitted estimates in an amount not to exceed \$150.

Because there was no logo was selected for/by the NC in agenda item 7 above, Item 8 necessarily was tabled until the January 2012 Board meeting.

9. Discussion and possible motion regarding observed changes in the City's recent modification to the Farmers Market ordinance.

David Hechter explained his concern regarding possible observed changes in the Farmers Market ordinance since it was last discussed by NoHoWest NC. When last discussed, it was understood that the ordinance would require a full Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process before a Farmers Market could be staged within a residential area, although there would continue to be exceptions for existing public lots, churches, schools, etc., that happen to be within or near a residential area. When David viewed some of the more recent information on the ordinance, it seemed to indicate that it would only require that prior notification would need to be given to residents within 300 feet of the intended location staging area for a Farmers Market.....making it a nearly AT WILL permissive process. David continues to research this to get clarification as to whether this latter notification requirement would be the sole restriction that would apply or if it is simply a loosening of the CUP notification process requirement. In a worst case scenario, a Farmers Market would be able to operate between 7AM and 7PM plus allow one hour of commercial vehicle access to/through the neighborhood before and after for set up and teardown. No action is needed by the NoHoWest Board at this time or until David's review of the ordinance reveals that the new ordinance totally bypasses the CUP process and its limits (making the new ordinance an almost AT WILL process) rather than just loosening up the standard CUP process as applied to Farmers Markets. David will continue to monitor the processing of the ordinance to check for other possible last minute changes.

BREAK (5 minutes)

10. NoHoWest NC Treasurer's report.

Treasurer David Hechter reported that there has been only one budget expenditure so far and that was for the NoHoWest T-Shirts for the Neighborhood Clean-Up event in November.

David had indicated that he was working on 2 items:

- An expenditure vs. budget report to let us know where we stand financially, once costs start mounting up; and,
- A form for submitting proposed motions/expenditures with required details, including justification and community benefit statements.

11. Discussion and possible action: Authorize NoHoWest NC expenditures of not more than \$35 per General Board meeting for refreshments and related expenses at the President's discretion.

Board members discussed at length the intention of the proposed expenditure which included not only extending hospitality to the meeting stakeholder attendees, but also providing some degree of refreshment for those who come to the meeting directly from work without a chance to stop for something to eat. The question was raised as to how far \$35 could actually go toward meeting these objectives. When it was suggested that it might be able to cover the cost of 3 pizzas, the amount was thought to be somewhat limiting, especially if there are guest speakers at a meeting. Comments regarding who would be responsible to obtain the refreshments prior to the meeting were tabled for a future agenda given the fullness of the current agenda.

MOTION: Lorraine Matza moved that an expenditure in an amount not-to-exceed \$50 per meeting be authorized for refreshments and related expenditures, at the Board President's discretion, for future meetings of the General Board. Greg H seconded the motion. The motion carried: 9 FOR – 0 AGAINST – 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 NO VOTE.

12. Discussion and possible action: Rent a mailbox/address for NoHoWest Neighborhood Council correspondence....Maximum expenditure \$300 per year.

All board members appeared to be in agreement that a NoHoWest mailing address was a major business need. Jim Kompare who had been researching what might be done, advised the Council that after repeated attempts to find an available address within the NoHoWest NC area, one could not be found and that there was not even a mailbox address that could be found within the entire 91605 zip code. With this understood, the following motion was considered:

MOTION: Lorraine Matza moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$300 per year to rent a mailbox/address for NoHoWest NC correspondence purposes. Dario S seconded the motion.

Additional discussion ensued during which it was indicated that the only viable available locations were the USPS Post Office location(s) on Laurel Canyon, the UPS Store on Victory at Morse, and S & H Computer Services on Victory near Goodland. Due to the pricing differences among the locations, it was felt that Victory/Goodland location was the preference of all board members. It was felt that this preference should be reflected in the motion.

AMENDED MOTION: David Hechter amended the prior motion to authorize an expenditure of up to \$300 per year to rent a mailbox/address at S & H Computer Services for NoHoWest NC correspondence purposes. Robin I seconded the amendment. The amended motion carried: 9 FOR – 0 AGAINST – 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 NO VOTE. With the approval of the amended motion the original motion was voided.

13. Discussion and possible action: Change the name of the Zoning and Planning Committee to Land Use Committee.

The question was raised as to what was the reason or need for the name change of the committee. David Hechter, Committee Chair, explained that the committee doesn't really deal with any aspect of city "planning" and deals with the process of "zoning" only to a limited degree. Instead most of the committee's actions have so far dealt with providing community input on how and for what purpose property may be used....mostly (zoning) Variances and Conditional Use Permits. This is why it was felt that "Land Use" might be a more definitive name for the committee. The "Land Use" name would also be indicative of the committee's broader scope with regard to more general property activities including those that might be considered city-wide (such as Farmer's Market ordinances, defining area Q Conditions, etc.).

MOTION: Dario Svidler moved to change the name of the Zoning and Planning Committee to "Land Use Committee". Nancy C seconded the motion. The motion passed: 9 FOR – 0 AGAINST – 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 NO VOTE.

14. Discussion and Action/Response regarding proposed changes to Neighborhood Council election process.

The history of the NC election process saw responsibilities for the process being transferred between and/or shared among the NCs, DONE, and finally, most recently, the City Clerk's Office. After recent budget cuts, the City Clerk's office has indicated that they do not have sufficient budget to administrate the originally planned 2012 NC elections and as a result have declined to "run" any NC elections until at least 2014, when they are hoping to have their budget restored. The City Council then instructed the City Clerk to conduct a survey on alternative ways of conducting NC elections. The intention is to have each of the 95+ NCs provide their preferences and to collect input any other stakeholders, as well. All surveys are required to be completed by January 6, 2012, so NoHoWest would have to complete the survey at this 12/14/2011 Board Meeting if we are going to provide an input, since this is the last scheduled meeting for the Board prior to the January 6 deadline. Consensus of the Board was to complete the 6-part survey at this meeting and here are the survey inputs that were agreed upon to provide (answers in **BOLD**):

Part 1: Is your NC willing to postpone elections until 2014, as determined by the City's 2011-2012 Budget and Administrative Code restrictions placed on the City Clerk? **YES** (skip to Part 3)

Part 2: **N/A**

Part 3: Who would your NC Board prefer to administer your elections in the future? Please rank the options below in the order your NC would most prefer.

- **1st – Your NC (using a Town Hall Selection Process)**
- **2nd – Independent Election Administrator (supervised by city clerk or DONE)**
- **3rd – DONE**

Part 4: Which method does your NC Board prefer for electing board members? **Hybrid Method: At-Poll Elections with Vote-By-Mail (VBM) Absentee Ballots**

Part 5: As an alternative to the methods above, would your NC Board prefer a Town Hall Election or Town Hall Selection? **Town Hall Selection (Open or Public Ballot)**

Part 6: Please include specific comments from your stakeholders or Board Members that you feel would be valuable as part of this survey: **(None provided)**

ACTION: Jim Kompare accepted the task to fill out the official survey form, sign and date it as approved by the NoHoWest Board and to return it to the City Clerk Election Division before the January 6, 2012 deadline. All Board members were encouraged to submit personal stakeholder surveys reflecting their own preferences for holding any future elections.

15. Discussion: Join with North Hollywood East NC to participate in DONE-organized retreat.

The retreat, which was touched upon earlier in the meeting, was originally planned to be scheduled for a mid-February date, but will need to be rescheduled because the DONE field representative who was tasked to organize/conduct it will not be available in that timeframe. As a result, although there appeared to be general agreement among Board members that it would be an excellent idea to participate in the joint retreat, any decision/motion to do so had to be tabled until a date has been chosen for the event. Board members did indicate, however, it was their preference to have the retreat scheduled after, rather than before, its original mid-February date.

16. Discussion and possible action: Authorize purchase/lease (registration and mapping of) domain name of NoHoWest.com or NoHoWest.org for current NHWNC.wordpress.com website in order to correct the present inaccurate site moniker including continued old site URL access.... amount not to exceed \$50/year.

All Board members agreed that it was long overdue to finally have the NoHoWest NC website identity permanently disjoined from the North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC). It was offered that the preferred website domain should be in the .org realm even though the current website is in the .com realm because most organizations of our type are in the .org realm while .com is usually preferred for more commercial entities.

MOTION: Lorraine Matza moved to authorize an amount not-to-exceed \$50 per year for the purchase/lease of the domain name of "nohowest.org" for use with our NC website while continuing access through the existing URL for current users. Kent S seconded the motion. The motion passed: 9 FOR – 0 AGAINST – 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 NO VOTE. The action to accomplish this was accepted by Vince Stamboni.

17. Approve previously submitted/reviewed final draft minutes for NoHoWest NC General Board meetings of May 25, June 22, July 12, and July 27.

All Board members had previously submitted corrections to the coordination copies and draft meeting minutes for these first 4 NoHoWest Board meetings and those changes have been incorporated into the current drafts that have been made available for everyone to review. Table copies were also available that the meeting for audience stakeholders to review, as needed.

MOTION: Dario Svidler moved to approve the current submitted and reviewed final draft minutes for NoHoWest NC General Board meetings of May 25, June 22, July 12, and July 27. Robin I seconded the motion. The motion passed: 7 FOR – 0 AGAINST – 2 ABSTAINING, and 1 NO VOTE.

18. NoHoWest Neighborhood Council Committee chairpersons reports.

The following Committee report summaries were provided:

- **Beautification Committee** – Chair Nancy Characky indicated that the main focus of the most recent committee meetings were approval of meeting minutes for several of the committee's prior meetings, follow-up on the status of city shopping cart controls, and ideas for future committee projects. She indicated that they have been talking about the possibility of providing some sort of reward each month, like a \$25 gift certificate, for special community effort. The committee has also been looking into changes that have occurred near the Wat Thai Temple area. They have learned that the Temple has recently acquired the adjacent eyesore gas station property and are planning how to best use the property. Across Coldwater from the Temple and (now former) gas station, the ethnic market there has purchased the unused adjacent property. The committee will keep tabs on those properties for community interest purposes.
- **Public Safety Committee** – Chair Robin Ibrahim reported that a quorum was not present at the last committee meeting, although it was otherwise well-attended. Officer Perry reported on crime

statistics for the northernmost part of the NoHoWest NC area that is under his jurisdiction, warning attendees to take the proper additional precautions for the holidays to prevent becoming holiday theft victims. He also touched on the subject of house number painting on curbs. He believed that there is a requirement for houses to have address numbers clearly exhibited for emergency purposes, however, there is no requirement to have this number on the curb. He indicated that most emergency vehicles are looking for the number on the house itself or on or near the mailbox because the curb is often obscured by parked vehicles. He warned that most curb painters, although enterprising, are not generally permitted to do this as required by the City and that if anything other than the number is painted on the curb it would probably not have been authorized by the City and might lead to additional difficulty for the property owner. Guest Speaker Officer Troy Boswell of LA Animal Services from the East Valley Animal Shelter attended the meeting and answered questions and concerns from meeting attendees. In addition to providing information about the general activities of LA Animal Services, he informed everyone about the new Dog Barking ordinance that is to go into effect after the first of the New Year. Although there are still questions that need to be sorted out regarding where the responsibilities will rest for enforcement, he recommended that all dog owners need to become familiar with the new ordinance in order to avoid any surprise fines, which can be expensive.

- Land Use Committee (formerly Zoning & Planning Committee) – Chair David Hechter indicated that he was following up on the letter from NoHoWest protesting a number of the provisions of the current version of the Street & Sidewalk Repair Ordinance. He expects that it will be sent out in the next day or so. He also followed up on the Bellaire Garage Variance issue and indicated that there is still no hearing date assigned by the City regarding the Variance. He emphasized that he wants to attend the hearing to emphasize that support for the variance is contingent totally on NO employees coming to and departing from the property with any degree of regularity to pick up company vehicles for work and that NO industrial materials would be stored in the structure....either of these activities would represent a Commercial Use of the property which NoHoWest has NOT agreed to support. There is also the issue of the revised structure design and property landscaping that he would like to make sure gets into city records.
- Bylaws Committee – Chair Lorraine Matza indicated that, after trying several times, she believes that she now has the correct contact name to talk to about the proper method/process/requirements for modifying NC bylaws. She hopes to get things going after the holidays.
- Website & E-mail Ad Hoc Committee – Chair Dario Svidler indicated that he had been waiting for our NC funding to become available in order to start working his committee activities and now that it is clear that funding is accessible, he is ready to move out.

19. Board member comments on subject matter within the board's jurisdiction.

a. Comments on board members' own activities/brief announcements.

Vince Stamboni raised the question that since we had a status about the letters that are being prepared in opposition to items in the Street & Sidewalk Ordinance, what was the status of the Community Impact Statement and the Petition that we had previously discussed on the same subject.

- Jim Kompare responded that although initial feedback indicated that the Board could circulate a petition among the stakeholders, he has since been led to believe from information from the recent Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) meeting that the process may be more involved or possibly prohibited. He is waiting for additional feedback through that body before determining whether we can proceed with a petition.
- Jim also indicated that before a Community Impact Statement could be submitted, names of 4 Board members were required to be submitted to act as authoritative interfaces before the submittal process could be initiated. According to Brown Act provision 54954.2. (b) (2), it was proposed that the selection of the 4 Board members in question be added to the agenda in order to take care of the selection process as soon as possible.

MOTION: David Hechter moved to add to the agenda the selection of four (4) Board members required for Community Impact Statement authority. Lorraine M seconded the motion which carried: 9 FOR – 0 AGAINST – 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 NO VOTE.

MOTION: Dario Svidler moved to select the four (4) Board officers as those members required for Community Impact Statement authority. Robin I seconded the motion which carried: 9 FOR – 0 AGAINST – 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 NO VOTE.

Nancy Characky indicated that the promotional support that NoHoWest had offered for the NHLAPD toy drive was doing very well. The two large cartons at her house were nearly filled and the Saticoy Elementary School Student Council had already collected approximately 121 toys. This coming Friday night the school was sponsoring a Movie Night, and it is likely that contributions of toys during that event would drive the school's total higher.

- b. Brief response to questions posed or statements made by persons exercising their general right to public comment.

No responses to public comments were provided.

- c. Introduce new issues for consideration by the board at its next meeting.

No new issues were introduced.

20. Adjournment.

President Jim Kompare responded to a motion from Greg Howie to close the meeting that was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Approved 1/25/12