

**MISSION HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**
PRESIDENT: Ricky Angel
VICE-PRESIDENT: Marsha Soash
SECRETARY: Melissa Serrano
TREASURER: Maribel Carrillo



**MISSION HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
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Minutes of the
MISSION HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (MHNC)
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING Monday, September 18, 2017
at Bermuda Mobile Home Park, 15445 Bermuda St, Mission Hills, CA 91345

MHNC (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: Motions/Resolutions (as stated at the Meeting, which take precedence over versions written on the Agenda, if different); quotes (words that have quotation marks (“”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and other wording from the Agenda such as the first paragraph(s) of some Items. Items are listed in and match the same order as on the Agenda.

1. WELCOMING REMARKS:

A. CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

President Angel introduced himself and called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Angel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by Mr. Angel. Ten of the 11 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dean Anderson, Ricky Angel (President), Jose Arevalo, Maribel Carrillo (Treasurer), Mooshy Ghassedi, Savannah Pinedo, Ed Sentowski, Melissa Serrano (Secretary), Marsha Soash (Vice-President) and Niranjala Tillakaratne. Jose Castillo was absent (excused). The MHNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven (see the Bylaws at <https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bj3apxsp3?a=q&qid=32&qskip=0&qrppg=1000&dlt a=su46~>), so the Board could take such votes. Eleven of the 14 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Three Board Seats were vacant; to apply, see <http://mhnconline.org/about-mhnc/board>. Also attended: 22 Stakeholders and Guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Stakeholder M. C. Lee was opposed to a sports bar, believing that illegal drug use was happening there, that customers were speeding near it and that it “was not legally opened.” Also, that “they should not receive the Permits” for which they’ve applied. Bar Owner Luis Garcia responded that “for sure it’s not open . . . on the 27th

I have a meeting with the Police Commissioner.” Rodney Gonzalez announced an October 28th Mission Hills Christian Church Harvest Festival family event. Another Stakeholder was concerned that Sepulveda traffic lines are faded, creating a hazard.

3. COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. LA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Juan Solorio, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Seven Councilmember Monica Rodriguez (ofc. 818-756-8409; Juan.Solorio@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), encouraged using the MyLA311 app “for any City services.” He is working with Philip Ruiz, LAPD Mission Division Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0519; ofc. 818-838-9843; 31524@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), on a Brand Park homeless encampment.

B. LAPD SENIOR LEADS

Officer Ruiz described his work regarding the Brand Park homeless encampment. He said “we have our Vice Unit monitoring the [sports] bar.” Also, he met with Primestor (888.722.3702; MissionHillsPlaza@Primestor.com; <http://www.primestor.com>) and urged them to increase their security at the new Olivo at Mission Hills shopping center. Target will open on October 22nd; the rest of the stores will open in November.

C. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES

Christina Correa, Field Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (818-504-3911; <https://a39.asmdc.org>), offered help and encouraged contacting her about State issues including Caltrans and legislation.

D. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.*] Kathleen Quinn, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9893; Kathleen.Quinn@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reported that the [September 9th] Congress of Neighborhood Councils was “a really great event.” She requested Board Members to complete a demographic survey.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CENSURE BOARD MEMBER/ZONING AND LAND-USE CHAIR.

Mr. Angel explained details of the issue, saying that Zoning and Land Use Committee Chair Dean Anderson “knowingly violated our Code of Conduct and our Bylaws.” Stakeholders Loku Tillakaratne, Karen Martin and Betsy Eger opposed the censure. Mr. Angel noted that Mr. Anderson “had been warned several times” and was reminded of “the structure of the Committees . . . he knew he was in violation of our Bylaws and the Brown Act and other things . . . we have an ethical responsibility to adhere to the rules”; the violations “undermine[s] the structure of the Board . . . we have a responsibility to remain non-partisan . . . he didn’t do that . . . we’re not supposed to take a stance right away . . . there’s a growing amount of evidence” of a “blanket disregard of the rules . . . he’s opened us up to possible Grievances and liability . . . our Board can be placed in Exhaustive Efforts” and be subject “to a lawsuit.” Ms. Soash said that “each and every one on this Board can be sued.”

Mr. Angel warned Ms. Eger to stop interrupting or that she would be asked to leave. Ms. Soash added that “Dean passed all the stages” of being warned. Mr. Angel noted that “Dean’s actions” caused “everything to be reviewed . . . we’ve received two different letters from the developer’s law firm” citing “misinformation” and “hostility” from Mr. Anderson. Ms. Tillakaratne said “no one has worked as hard as Dean . . . he’s such a dedicated Member.” Mr. Sentowski said “who hasn’t made a mistake?” Mr. Angel added that “it’s not only major; it’s continuous . . . it’s not a one-time occurrence.” Mr. Sentowski said “we’ve all had a problem with this Brown Act business.” Mr. Angel indicated that Mr. Anderson had committed Brown Act violations while the MHNC has been in Exhaustive Efforts. Mr. Anderson indicated there were no written violations of which he was aware. Ms. Carrillo noted that “we could be sued civilly . . . we have to be neutral . . . I would not like to be sued.” Ms. Quinn confirmed that “there are [Board Members] that have been personally liable.” Mr. Angel was concerned that “the potential is pretty bad” of being sued.

Ms. Quinn noted regarding the City Attorney that “when they’re aware of something, they give advice.” Mr. Angel believed that “unless we take action tonight, it’ll look like we let it happen.” Ms. Quinn clarified that a censure “is like a reprimand.” She read the MHNC Bylaws Article V, Section 8, “Censure” paragraph. Mr. Anderson said “the Executive [Committee] was supposed to have a meeting on Tuesday, September 5th, at which they were not able to make quorum.” He “did not find out until September 7th that our Board Meeting [of September 11th] was cancelled.” He indicated that this Meeting was then held Monday, September 18th and that this lack of communication caused mistakes to be made, resulting in him having to go through this removal process. He said “my idea was never to put any of you in harm’s way . . . I am learning this as I go . . . nobody offered to help me.” He cited projects work. He said, “I apologize for that mistake.” Mr. Angel explained that a censure means that “what you did should not be repeated again.” Ms. Quinn further explained that “the Bylaws were violated” and more.

MOTION (by Mr. Angel, seconded by Mr. Arevalo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council censures its Board Member/Zoning and Land Use Committee Chair Dean Anderson.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Anderson, Angel, Arevalo, Carrillo, Ghassedi, Pinedo, Sentowski, Serrano, Soash and Tillakaratne); zero opposed; zero abstained.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO REMOVE THE ZONING AND LAND USE CHAIR FROM THE ZLU COMMITTEE AND REMOVE AS PLANNING LIAISON.

Mr. Gonzalez said that “Dean has done an outstanding job.” Ms. Eger noted that Mr. Anderson has done many hours of Committee work.

Board Member Savannah Pinedo left at this time (8:21), making nine Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

Ms. Carrillo reminded that information from Robert’s Rules of Order was long ago distributed to Board Members. She described previous actions of Mr. Anderson

toward Board Members, including at the July 24th Meeting. Mr. Anderson indicated that the Community Impact Statements (CISs), that were supposed to be considered at the June Board Meeting, were instead Tabled and Agendized for the July 24th Board Meeting. Meanwhile, he had moved on to working on other current land use projects. This caused him some confusion in finding the CIS paperwork so that he could not find it for the July Meeting. He said, "I do not find this issue as a cause for me to be held liable for somebody that can't control his emotions." Ms. Carrillo said "I don't want to be held liable for somebody who can't control his emotions." Mr. Anderson said that "a lot of this has . . . happened because of lack of communication . . . I have . . . control of my emotions." Ms. Soash described the August 4th Zoning and Land Use Committee (ZLU) Meeting as "total chaos; out of control." Mr. Sentowski said "it was getting out of hand . . . Dean was speaking loudly to calm people down . . . I didn't interfere [with] what he was saying." Mr. Anderson indicated that Mr. Sentowski updated him during the August 4th ZLU Meeting that a Stakeholder in the back of the room, who apparently had a hearing challenge and was being disruptive, was causing problems. Ms. Tillakaratne and a Stakeholder spoke in support of Mr. Anderson, Ms. Tillakaratne indicating that people were nervous and excited because there was an adjacent land use project. It was noted that there were approximately 60 Stakeholders at the August 4th ZLU Meeting. Mr. Angel stated that "my concern is that Dean doesn't have the temperament for this."

MOTION (by Ms. Soash, seconded by Mr. Angel): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will remove the Zoning and Land Use Chair from the ZLU Committee and remove as Planning Liaison.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with five in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Angel, Arevalo, Carrillo, Ghassedi and Soash); four opposed (Anderson, Sentowski, Serrano and Tillakaratne); zero abstained.

Board Member Dean Anderson left at this time (8:52), making eight Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES:

A. JUNE, 2016

The following correction was requested: on page four, Item #13, ". . . the appointment of . . . Karen Martin and Jeffrey Portello to the Beautification and Cultural Affairs Committee" should be ". . . the appointment of . . . Karen Martin, Jeffrey Portello, and Loku and Niranjala Tillakaratne to the Beautification and Cultural Affairs Committee."

MOTION (by Mr. Angel, seconded by Ms. Ghassedi): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 6, 2016 Board of Governors Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. MAY 24, 2017

MOTION (by Ms. Soash, seconded by Mr. Angel): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 24, 2017 Board of Governors Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

C. JULY 10, 2017

MOTION (by Ms. Soash, seconded by Mr. Angel): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 10, 2017 Board of Governors Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

D. JULY 24, 2017

MOTION (by Ms. Soash, seconded by Mr. Angel): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 24, 2017 Board of Governors Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

7. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION** TO MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORTS:

A. JULY

Ms. Serrano reviewed expenses. The Fiscal Year started with \$42,000 in funding. In July \$537.50 was spent; outstanding expenses were \$295.34.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Angel, seconded by Ms. Soash): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves its July 2017 Monthly Expenditure Report as presented with a note that Paypal Beezprint was paid in July instead of June due to a clerical error.

Board Member Ed Sentowsky stepped out at this time, making seven Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Angel, Arevalo, Carrillo, Ghassedi, Serrano, Soash and Tillakaratne); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Board Member Ed Sentowsky returned at this time, making eight Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

B. AUGUST

Ms. Serrano and Mr. Angel reviewed the Report. Mr. Angel explained that the \$178.39 GoDaddy expense is for three years.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Angel, seconded by Ms. Soash): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves its August 2017 Monthly Expenditure Report as presented.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Angel, Arevalo, Carrillo, Ghassedi, Sentowski, Serrano, Soash and Tillakaratne); zero opposed; zero abstained.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR FOOD FOR RETREAT HELD ON APRIL 29TH FOR \$356.86 TO MARIBEL CARILLO.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Soash, seconded by Ms. Carrillo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves reimbursement for food for retreat held on April 29th for \$356.86 to Maribel Carrillo.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Angel, Arevalo, Carrillo, Ghassedi, Sentowski, Serrano, Soash and Tillakaratne); zero opposed; zero abstained.

9. PRESENTATION BY THE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATE FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR JOHN DIGREGORIO.

Mr. DiGregorio (JohnDPCNC@gmail.com) introduced himself and encouraged feedback about the City budget. He said the Budget Advocates [www.ncbala.com] will weekly update the Board.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE UP TO \$50 PER MONTH FOR REFRESHMENTS.

This Agenda Item was not addressed.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SPONSORING THE MISSION AREA FOOT PURSUIT FOR UP TO \$500.

Mr. Angel explained that the Police helped organize the event, which will benefit the Cadet program. Board Members noted that Cadets help at community events.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Soash, seconded by Ms. Ghassedi): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will sponsor the Mission area Foot Pursuit for up to \$500.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Angel, Arevalo, Carrillo, Ghassedi, Serrano, Soash and Tillakaratne); one opposed (Sentowski); zero abstained.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SELECTING TWO ALTERNATES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Mr. Angel explained the need. Ms. Quinn confirmed that “it wouldn’t change your quorum at all.”

MOTION to TABLE (by Mr. Angel, seconded by Ms. Soash): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council TABLES Agenda Item #12.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Board Member Maribel Carrillo left at this time (9:36), making seven Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CHANGING THE REGULARLY MONTHLY BOARD MEETING LOCATION TO BERMUDA MOBILE HOME RECREATION.

There was discussion of the feasibility of this.

MOTION (by Mr. Sentowski, seconded by Ms. Tillakaratne): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will change the regularly monthly Board meeting location to Bermuda Mobile Home recreation through the end of December 2017.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Angel, Arevalo, Ghassedi, Sentowski, Serrano, Soash and Tillakaratne); zero opposed; zero abstained.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
- B. ZONING AND LAND-USE
- C. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
- D. BEAUTIFICATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
- E. OUTREACH COMMITTEE

No reports were made at this time.

15. LIAISON REPORTS

A. HOMELESSNESS LIAISON — LAURA RATHBONE

Ms. Rathbone reported that the County will reimburse landlords renting to any of the more than 400 homeless veterans in the San Fernando Valley.

B. PLANNING LIAISON — DEAN ANDERSON

Mr. Anderson was not present and there was no report.

ADJOURN

MOTION (by Mr. Angel, seconded by Ms. Soash): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:43 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 MHNC. The MHNC Minutes page is <http://mhnconline.org/agendas-minutes>.