

**MISSION HILLS  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**  
PRESIDENT: Brad Klimovitch  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Jesse Martinez  
SECRETARY: Richard Flores  
TREASURER: Maribel Carrillo



**MISSION HILLS  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
PO Box 7604  
Mission Hills, CA 91346  
Telephone: 818-639-2071  
E-mail: Board@MHNCOnline.org  
Website: www.MHNCOnline.org



Minutes of the  
**MISSION HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (MHNC)  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
Monday, June 2, 2014**

at the LAPD Mission Area Police Station, Timothy M. Falco Community Room  
11121 Sepulveda Boulevard, Mission Hills, CA 91345

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

President Brad Klimovitch introduced himself and called the Meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice-President Jesse Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Seven of the 12 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jose Arevalo, Maribel Carrillo, Richard Flores, Raymond Garcia, Brad Klimovitch, Jesse Martinez and Clint Scott. Board Members Tom Johnson and Richard Tocher arrived later. Three Board Members were absent: Mooshy Ghassedi (excused), Borzou Rahimi (excused) and Guillermo Salamanca (excused). The MHNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Mission-Hills-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Twelve of the 14 Board Seats were filled. Two Board Seats were vacant: At Large and Youth. Also attending: 28 Stakeholders and Guests.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Klimovitch, seconded by Mr. Martinez): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 5, 2014 Board of Governors Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Arevalo, Carrillo, Flores, Garcia, Klimovitch, Martinez and Scott).

**5. Executive Officer Report(s).**

Mr. Klimovitch announced that he is resigning after 4 ½ years to pursue other interests. The Business Owner Board Seat will be vacant; he encouraged Stakeholders to apply. He still will be available “to help mentor.” He reminded that June 7<sup>th</sup> at Brand Park officials and Stakeholders will meet to knock on doors to remind people that fireworks are illegal in Los Angeles. Also June 7<sup>th</sup>, at Sepulveda and Brand the MHNC and community stakeholders will “dedicate the ‘Welcome to Mission Hills’ sign”. The Movie in the Park event will feature the Disney film “Frozen” at the Andre Pico Adobe Park with gates opening at 6pm. He requested to have a General Stakeholder Board Meeting June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to set the MHNC 2014/2015 fiscal budget, create a “specific community plan”, and set an “outreach plan” for submission to EmpowerLA. Meeting location to be announced and posted at least 72 hours prior to this meeting.

**6. Briefing on Budget & Finance and other operational/administrative matters.**

Approve MHNC May expenditure report. Set MHNC Board/ Budget and Finance Committee meeting for June 2014 to set fiscal year budget July 2014 through June 2015. Jesse Martinez & Maribel Carrillo

Copies of the MHNC Budget and the May 2014 Monthly Expenditure Report were distributed. Ms. Carrillo reviewed expenses. The balance is \$24,573.36. Mr. Martinez lauded Ms. Carrillo for her “hard work” and help. [Applause.]

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Klimovitch, seconded by Mr. Martinez): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves its May 2014 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Carrillo, Flores, Garcia, Klimovitch, Martinez and Scott).

**7. Reports/announcements from Public Officials, Community Representatives.**

Monica Rodriguez, Vice-President, L.A. City Board of Public Works (BPW; <http://bpw.lacity.org>) encouraged contacting them if you have questions or concerns. The BPW “oversees all contracting” for the Bureaus of Street Services and Street Lighting, and more. Pamela Matsumoto, Judicial Candidate, encouraged voting tomorrow. Kevin Suscavage, State Assembly Candidate, described his community interests.

Ruben Zaragoza, Senior Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (office 818- 485-0600; [Ruben.Zaragoza@LACity.org](mailto:Ruben.Zaragoza@LACity.org)), reported that “four out of the five” tree-trimming locations that Mr. Martinez requested six months ago were “added to the list”; some areas of Brand Blvd. already were trimmed. The Councilman is sponsoring a Fourth of July Police party car. Many of the clothing donation boxes being installed are not from charities, they’re from for-profit companies; the City is considering creating a permit process. He said “the maintenance of them is not happening.” Mr. Zaragoza said the Youth Policy Institute has jobs for youth.

*Board Member Richard Tocher arrived at this time, making eight Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).*

Bill Larsen, L.A. City Deputy Attorney, Nuisance Abatement Division (213.393.5561; 213.978.8100; William.Larsen@LACity.org; [http://www.atty.LACity.org/our\\_office/CriminalDivision/CNAP/index.htm](http://www.atty.LACity.org/our_office/CriminalDivision/CNAP/index.htm)), reported that he focuses on illegal home uses. Just south of Holy Cross Hospital an illegal sober living home was “re-opening”; there are “about eight, nine, ten people in there.” If someone is putting a clothing donation box on private property without authorization “they’re trespassing.” He encouraged advising him if either happens. Mr. Larsen said it’s important to know whether the proposed Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission at 11134 Sepulveda Blvd. will be State-licensed and has a City-issued Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Franklin Ochoa, Field Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (818-504-3911; Franklin.Ochoa@asm.ca.gov; <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a39>), announced that their “Junior Legislators” program starts again in August. He reported that AB1839, the Film Tax Credit Program, gives a “tax break to film live in California.”

**8. Report from LAPD Senior Lead Officer, Phil Ruiz, Basic Car 19A43.**

Philip Ruiz, LAPD Mission Division Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0519; office 818-838-9843; 31524@LAPD.LACity.org; [http://www.LAPDonline.org/Mission\\_Community\\_Police\\_Station](http://www.LAPDonline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station)), reported that, year-to-date, crime is down 5.8% and violent crime is “down 25%.” He reminded to “close your garage . . . lock your valuables up.” Banks are supposed to maintain vacant properties.

**9. Briefing on Committee activities.**

Outreach: Jose Arevalo -- Mr. Arevalo encouraged attending the June 7th Movie in the Park.

Zoning and Land Use: Ray Garcia -- Mr. Garcia reported that Verizon proposed to install a 60-foot-tall cell tower at Woodman and Devonshire in the back of the parking lot.

Public Safety: Betty Ley & Tom Johnson -- Ms. Ley announced that Providence Hospital is sponsoring a blood drive here Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) Neighborhood Watch Summit Workshop on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00-12:00 here. Mr. Klimovitch will talk with SLO Ruiz about forming “a Business Watch.”

**New Business**

**10. Motion** [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Klimovitch, seconded by Mr. Scott): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council appoints Board Member Jesse Martinez as Interim Treasurer through June 30, 2014 to prevent interruption in P-Card usage per Empower LA Funding Department Analyst Betty Wong and GM Grayce Liu.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Carrillo, Flores, Garcia, Klimovitch,

Martinez, Scott and Tocher).

**11. Motion** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Martinez explained the Motion.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Garcia): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council allocates \$308.00 from Line 55 Neighborhood Improvement Projects to purchase ground cover mulch and screen to beautify area in front of the “Welcome to Mission Hills” monument sign.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Zaragoza offered to try to get free mulch. Mr. Klimovitch explained the need to allocate all funding before the [June 30<sup>th</sup>] end of this Fiscal Year or the remaining funding will be returned to the City.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Carrillo, Flores, Garcia, Klimovitch, Martinez, Scott and Tocher).

**12. Presentation** by Tim Fremaux and Steve Gaur from LADOT on the Devonshire Bike Lane Project.

Mr. Fremaux and Mr. Gaur were not present. Glenn Bailey, Chair, City of Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee (818-453-3407; GlennBaileySFV@yahoo.com), explained that the L.A. Bicycle Plan was adopted by the City Council in March 2011 and that Devonshire is “a backbone street.” He described “a gap” in the Plan that this project would remedy on Devonshire between Haskell and Sepulveda. He said “the goal is to have safe accommodations for cyclists.” Mr. Zaragoza requested that Mr. Fremaux and Mr. Gaur be Agendized to present at the MHNC July 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

*Board Member Tom Johnson arrived at this time, making nine Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).*

**13. Presentation** by David Downs from Complete Wireless on the proposed Verizon Cell Phone Tower located at 14800 Devonshire St. Mission Hills.

Mr. Klimovitch described effort to communicate with the contractor. He requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

**14. Motion** [see the below Motion].

**MOTION** (by Mr. Klimovitch, seconded by Mr. Tocher): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council opposes the installation of the proposed Verizon Cell Phone Tower located at 14800 Devonshire St. Mission Hills until further community outreach can be completed by August 5, 2014.

**DISCUSSION:** It was indicated that the contractor did not want to present. Stakeholder Pamela Goldfinger encouraged amending the Motion “to do more outreach,” not to support or oppose the project. Mr. Klimovitch noted that “they’ve already applied for [a] Conditional Use Permit.” Ms. Goldfinger encouraged contacting Claudia Rodriguez, Planning Deputy for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Claudia.Rodriguez@LACity.org;

<http://CD7.LACity.org>), to report that the contractor did not want to present and reminded that the City Zoning Administrator must hold a Hearing.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote of the nine eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Carrillo, Garcia, Klimovitch, Martinez, Scott and Tocher); two abstained (Flores and Johnson).

**15. Presentation** by Borzou Rahimi on the Los Angeles Street Vendor Ordinance Council File 13-1493.

Mr. Klimovitch reported that Mr. Rahimi was unable to attend and that the City basically voted to allow street vendors.

**16. Motion** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Flores described the Motion and was concerned that many youth wearing a hoodie and carrying a backpack, etc. are perceived as taggers but are not. He showed photos of youth dressed that way at various local schools and a father and son receiving an award. He “feels” the posting and flier are “discriminatory” and that “it’s stereotyping our young people.” There was extensive discussion of the issue and the merits of the Motion. Mr. Klimovitch clarified that the flier “picture and description came from the L.A. County Sheriff website . . . not by anybody on the Board.” Mr. Martinez said that this work should’ve first been done in the Outreach Committee. Mr. Klimovitch requested and a straw poll (unofficial vote) was taken of Stakeholders about whether they want the MHNC to distribute such a flier again. Mr. Tocher was concerned that there were few youth at this Meeting. The straw poll indicated six Stakeholders in favor of removing the flier from the website.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Flores, seconded by Ms. Carrillo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will remove the “Is Your Child A Tagger” posting dated Nov. 18, 2013 from the MHNC website and future outreach fliers depicting this image from being printed and distributed in the community.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with five in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”).

**17. Motion** [see the below Motion].

**MOTION** (by Mr. Flores, seconded by Ms. Carrillo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council proposes that the City of Los Angeles install bike lanes to be painted on Sepulveda Blvd. between Devonshire and Chatsworth St. to connect the bike lanes already in place on Devonshire west of Sepulveda Blvd.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Bailey explained that the Bicycle Plan indicates that that roadway is “already a priority one” and that the Plan was approved but has not yet been implemented. However, he said that the MHNC and others can help “push forward” implementation. Mr. Johnson was concerned that the bike lanes could greatly restrict vehicle traffic and encouraged consulting with the City Bureau of Engineering.

**MOTION FAILED** by a hand vote with four in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”); five opposed (“No” or “Nay”).

Mr. Klimovitch recommended bringing the issue to a Committee. Mr. Bailey encouraged the Committee to consult with the LADOT's Mr. Fremaux and Mr. Gaur.

**18. Motion** [see the below Motion].

Copies of recent email communications with and regarding the Webmaster were distributed. Mr. Klimovitch said "we're putting this out for competitive bids" and had consulted with the City Attorney. He explained challenges dealing with the current Webmaster. Ms. Goldfinger encouraged seeking bids within Mission Hills. Concerns were expressed by Stakeholders about the Webmaster's communications. Lydia Grant, BONC [L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners] Commissioner [213.978.1551; Lydia.Grant@LACity.org; Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], reported that BONC soon will address this issue; other Neighborhood Councils have had a similar problem of "Webmasters holding . . . NCs hostage." Mr. Tocher encouraged ensuring that the MHNC owns its website, not the Webmaster. Mr. Klimovitch relayed that the Webmaster "promised today that he would" release website control to the MHNC. Mr. Bailey reported that DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] will be issuing a Request for Proposals "to vet prospective web hosts" and reminded that contracts must be serviced through DONE.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Arevalo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will seek competitive bids for Webmaster services.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Arevalo, Carrillo, Flores, Garcia, Johnson, Klimovitch, Martinez, Scott and Tocher).

**Old Business**

**19. Housekeeping/Council Business.**

Mr. Klimovitch explained the above.

**20. General Public Comments**

Mr. Klimovitch urged that the June 11<sup>th</sup> Budget Committee Meeting is "important to attend . . . including Stakeholders." Mr. Bailey announced that "every Board Member is invited to attend" VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils] Meetings on second Thursday nights. The Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be September 20<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. Ms. Grant noted that BONC Meetings are listed at www.EmpowerLA.org and that BONC is seeking input about mandatory Board Member trainings.

**21. Adjournment**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Klimovitch, seconded by Mr. Garcia): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objection.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:44 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.