

**MISSION HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
PRESIDENT: Jesse Martinez
VICE-PRESIDENT: open
SECRETARY: Mayra Torres
TREASURER: Maribel Carrillo



**MISSION HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
PO Box 7604
Mission Hills, CA 91346
Telephone: 818-902-2361
E-mail: Board@MHNCOnline.org
Website: www.MHNCOnline.org



Minutes of the
MISSION HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (MHNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 2, 2015

LAPD Mission Area Police Station, Timothy M. Falco Community Room
11121 Sepulveda Boulevard, 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: Motion(s) (included as stated at the Meeting, or, if not stated, as written on the Agenda); quotes (words that have quotation marks ("") at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and Agenda wording copied into the Minutes.

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** -- President Jesse Martinez introduced himself and called the Meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** -- Mr. Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Eight of the 13 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jose Arevalo, Maribel Carrillo, Raymond Garcia, Tom Johnson, Jesse Martinez, Borzou Rahimi, Clint Scott and Richard Tocher. Board Members Richard Flores and Guillermo Salamanca arrived later. Three Board Members were absent: Mooshy Ghassedi, Christopher Jacobo and Mayra Torres (all unexcused). 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. Thirteen of the 14 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant: Business Owner. Also attending: 43 Stakeholders and Guests.

4. **Executive Officer Report.** -- Mr. Martinez noted that Speaker Cards are available.

5. **Approval of Board Minutes** January 5, 2015 Meeting.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Rahimi): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 5, 2015 Board of Governors Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all eight Board Members present.

6. **Report from LAPD Senior Lead Officer, 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), reported that local crime is 8% lower than one year ago; he listed statistics. He encouraged trimming foliage to allow more light to shine on properties. Officer Ruiz encouraged reporting suspicious activity through any media.

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

Marco Santana, Field Representative for State 18th District Senator Bob Hertzberg (818-901-5588; Marco.Santana@sen.ca.gov; <http://sd18.senate.ca.gov>), reported that school scholarship and other help and information is available. The proposed Senate Bill 8, the Upward Mobility Act, would modernize the tax code to help fund scholarships and education. Mr. Santana mentioned issues and Committees upon which Senator Hertzberg is working.

* 39th State Assembly District Patty Lopez: Introduction to Field rep for Mission Hills.

Ricardo Benitez and Bill Ulmer, Field Representatives for State 39th District Assemblymember Patty Lopez (818-504-3911; Ricardo.Benitez@asm.ca.gov; William.Ulmer@asm.ca.gov; <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a39>), introduced themselves and reported that their Office is at 9300 Laurel Canyon Blvd., first floor, in Arleta. The Chief of Staff is Lourdes Jimenez. The District Director is Miguel Martinez.

Board Member Guillermo Salamanca arrived at this time, making nine Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

Mr. Benitez encourage contacting him for help. Mr. Martinez relayed that Stakeholder Joe Lozano requested to “clean up the ramp”; Mr. Benitez reported that he already is communicating with Caltrans about it. Mr. Ulmer listed Assemblywoman Lopez’s Committee assignments, noting that “her passions are education” and “jobs” and that she already is working on proposing legislation.

- * Mayor Eric Garcetti office East Valley Field rep.

Amanda Mejia, the Mayor's East Valley Area Representative (213.978.0812; Amanda.Mejia@LACity.org; <http://LAMayor.org>), reported that Mayor's Youth Council applications are available for "10th- and 11th-graders" and are "giving an opportunity to our youth . . . to engage them in civic . . . projects."

- * 29th District Congressman Tony Cardenas Field rep, update on what the congress man currently is working on.

Jacqueline Serrano, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (ofc. 818-781-7407; cell 818-821-4684; Jacqueline.Serrano@mail.house.gov; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), encouraged contacting her for federal-level help with veterans affairs, healthcare, passports and more. Ms. Serrano said "job creation . . . is his number one priority."

[This report was given after Item #11.] U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (office 818-504-0090; <http://cardenas.house.gov/contact>; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), thanked Mr. Arevalo for his veterans work. The Congressman reported that he met with West L.A. V.A. (Veterans Administration) veterans about issues. He described work to get more funding for local projects such as the skate park that Mr. Martinez suggested. The Congressman encouraged requesting his help with project fundraising directly from local organizations and described work to keep and bring jobs to this area.

- * CD7 Felipe Fuentes Office update on new field rep and Medians in Mission Hills and Other action items.

Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), filling in for Ruben Zaragoza, Senior Area Director (office 818-485-0600; Ruben.Zaragoza@LACity.org), introduced Steve Jaramillo, Council Aide; Steve.Jaramillo@LACity.org), and reported that she and Mr. Jaramillo regularly search the area for bulky item trash needing to be picked up and other services to provide. She described how CD7 works with the L.A. Bureau of Street Services on removing illegal dumping and with Graffiti Busters on removing graffiti. Ms. Soto reported that "at the moment the City is not adding street sweeping" routes due to lack of funding.

[This report was given after Item #8.] Melvin Canas, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; 818-374-9953; cell 323-972-7782; Melvin.Canas@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), encouraged signing up at their website for newsletters. The next Neighborhood Council "elections are about a year from now"; they are working to have online voting. "New Boards may be taking over July 1st" even though elections will be

earlier.

Board Member Richard Flores arrived at this time, making ten Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

8. Briefing on Committee activities.

Outreach: Mooshy Ghassedi

Mr. Martinez reported for Ms. Ghassedi that the Committee did not meet.

Zoning and Land Use: Borzou Rahimi

Mr. Rahimi reported that the ad hoc Pacoima Spreading Grounds Subcommittee will meet here on February 9th. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared for the proposed Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission [11134 Sepulveda Blvd.]; it may be completed by Summer. He relayed that Senator Hertzberg's Office offers meeting space.

Public Safety: Tom Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that there will be CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) (818-756-9674; www.cert-la.com, lafdcert@LACity.org) training "sometime in March or April" on "three consecutive Saturdays." The next Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair will be in October.

Beautification: Richard Tocher

Mr. Tocher reported that the Committee will meet February 11th.

**9. Briefing on Budget & Finance and other operational/administrative matters.
Approve MHNC January expenditure report.**

Ms. Carrillo reviewed expenses; \$2,059.10 in funding was spent last month.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carrillo, seconded by Mr. Johnson): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves its January 2015 Monthly Expenditure Report as presented.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the ten eligible voters present with all ten in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Arevalo, Carrillo, Flores, Garcia, Johnson, Martinez, Rahimi, Salamanca, Scott and Tocher); 0 opposed ("No" or "Nay"); 0 abstained.

10. PRIMESTOR Reps to update on Mission Hills Plaza: Purpose is to update the stakeholders on survey and other updates from the Mission Hills Plaza.

Vanessa Delgado, Primestor representative (888.722.3702; MissionHillsPlaza@Primestor.com; <http://www.primestor.com>), introduced their staff Yvette Gonzalez, Travis Ermell and Jimmy Kim. Ms. Delgado said that surveys still

are being accepted [see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/missionhillsplaza>]. She said they've already received 700 surveys and "the majority are residents." She described survey results; the most common request is for a discount store. She will report the final survey results as soon as possible. She reported that "we have instituted 24-hour security." They want to "unveil the model in the next two months." She announced that "we terminated the recycling center . . . last month." [Applause.] She stated that "we're trying to increase the communication with the Police Department and the City Council Office."

Ms. Delgado said "we'll take into consideration" to include a community meeting room in the remodel. She reported that "Ralph's [Market] told us they don't want to stay" and "only a few tenants have a longer-term" lease. She described efforts to deal with homeless people and trash on the property. They will work on issues at the Blackhawk and Columbus intersection. Ms. Soto said "the fruit truck is on the street side"; CD7 is working on it. Ms. Delgado clarified that "we would be responsible for everything; we own the property." They are working on improving landscaping and more. Ms. Delgado stated "we're not going to build any housing."

- 11. Discussion and possible action** on the community improvement projects as identified by the Beautification Committee: The Board to take a vote to authorize and fund the commencement of The Community Improvement Projects as identified by The Beatification Committee. The Board further authorizes The Beatification Committee to prioritize projects until work is completed or the available funds become depleted.

Mr. Tocher reported that the Committee met twice in the last month and that Agendas were posted as needed. The Committee is requesting feedback about possible projects; you can call the MHNC at (818) 639-2071 with ideas and concerns. He reported that the Facebook "post reached 2,044 people in Mission Hills" and that "we received 25 suggestions" for community projects, including tree trimming, graffiti removal, recreational events and sidewalk repair; the Committee prioritized tree trimming. He encouraged using the "MyLA311" phone application to report City services needs such as bulky item pickup, street repair and more. The Committee will next meet February 11th. He described Committee plans and priorities, noting security and safety concerns with untrimmed trees. Ms. Soto indicated that CD7 will help deal with overgrown and rotted trees on Bevis Ave. Mr. Tocher reminded that the Committee reports to the Board and that the City does the tree trimming work. A straw (unofficial) poll of Stakeholders at the Meeting indicated that they overwhelmingly support tree trimming work. There was discussion about crafting the below Motion and whether it was specific enough.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Tocher, seconded by Mr. Scott): the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council Beautification Committee recommends to the MHNC Board to allocate up to \$12,000 from Budget Category 300 Community Improvements for tree trimming by the L.A. City Bureau of Street Services as follows: up to \$6,000 for tree trimming on Bevis Ave. between Septo St. and Mayall St. and up to \$6,000 for tree

trimming on the south/residential side of Brand Blvd. between Memory Gardens and Noble Ave.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the ten eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Garcia, Martinez, Rahimi, Salamanca, Scott and Tocher); 0 opposed (“No” or “Nay”); three abstained (Carrillo, Flores and Johnson).

[There was no Agenda Item #12.]

Old Business

- 13. Housekeeping/Council Business:** Introduce new issues for consideration by the Council at its next Meeting for placement on the next Board/Stakeholders Meeting agenda.

Mr. Martinez encouraged maintenance of the Mission Hills monument area [at Sepulveda and Brand] and requested the Beautification Committee to work on it. He encouraged everyone to help with outreach. Mr. Tocher will request \$300 in funding for three month’s targeted, focused social media outreach for beautification projects. Mr. Rahimi will request funding for Zoning and Land Use Committee and for ad hoc Pacoima Spreading Grounds Subcommittee outreach.

14. General Public Comments

Stakeholder Alexander Perez requested help with an issue on Chamberlin behind his home; Ms. Soto indicated that CD7 is working on it.

15. Adjournment

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Flores): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:18 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by MHNC. *The first paragraph of some Items is directly from the Agenda.*