

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



**MISSION HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
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Minutes of the
MISSION HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (MHNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Monday, May 11, 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: 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. **Call to Order/Introductions** -- President Jesse Martinez introduced himself and called the Meeting to order at 6:52 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** -- The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
3. **Roll Call** (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken. Eight of the 12 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jose Arevalo, Maribel Carrillo, Raymond Garcia, Christopher Jacobo, Jesse Martinez, Borzou Rahimi, Clint Scott and Mayra Torres. Board Member Richard Tocher arrived later. Three Board Members were absent: Mooshy Ghassedi (not excused), Tom Johnson (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 (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats were vacant: Business Owner and Renter. [To apply, see <http://mhnconline.org/about-mhnc/board.>] Also attending: approximately 11 Stakeholders and Guests.

4. Executive Officers Report.

It was reported that a lot of people attended the successful May 8th Job Fair.

5. Approval of Board Minutes for April 6, 2015 Meeting.

The following correction was requested: in the page three, Item #8 Beautification Committee report the phrase “, including on Brand Blvd” is to be deleted.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Carrillo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 6, 2015 Board of Governors Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED with none opposed; Mr. Garcia abstained.

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 crime has slightly increased.

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

Officer Ruiz explained that Proposition 47 reduced some felonies to misdemeanors; many criminals are being released much sooner from jail – instead of being jailed for a year or more, many are being released within two weeks to two months. Much petty crime is to get money to pay for illegal drugs. He encouraged to, whether on your own or through a Neighborhood Watch, call the Police if you see suspicious activity and let them handle it. A Stakeholder complained that it was difficult for them to reach the Police by phone. Officer Ruiz reported that someone brought a possibly live grenade to the Police Station; the Bomb Squad de-activated and disposed of it. June 6th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Station tours will be available. June 11th at 6:30 p.m. there will be a Town Hall Meeting with Neighborhood Prosecutor Ayelet Feiman (818.374.6837; Ayelet.Feiman@LACity.org; <http://atty.LACity.org/Criminal/NeighborhoodProsecutorProgram/index.htm>) and City Attorney Mike Feuer. Officer Ruiz clarified that people can be cited and fined \$100 for stealing a shopping cart, but will not be jailed. A Task Force is checking street food vendors for Health Permits; they will be cited if they do not have a Permit. A Stakeholder reported that street racers meet on Wednesdays and Sundays behind the Ralph’s Market and the Bowling Alley (probably because the Bowling Alley is permanently closed) before they go somewhere else to race; the property will increase security, including the installation of a fence or chain.

7. Reports/announcements from Public Officials, Community Representatives

L.A. Fire Dept. Chief Jack Wise [<http://lafd.org>] announced an Open House for new Fire Station Seven in Arleta and Van Nuys and Woodman [14630 Plummer St., Los Angeles, CA 91402; 818-892-4807]. He reminded to clear tall grass and brush; a Brush Task Force is checking. It's dry now, two months ahead of usual. There've been daily fires in the hills; if you see any, call 9-1-1. He indicated that a lot of homeless people are starting fires. He noted that some garage conversions are high-density fire traps; if you know of one call the Fire Dept.

* Mayor Eric Garcetti office East Valley Field rep.

No representative was present and there was no report.

* 39th State Assembly District Patty Lopez: Rep for Mission Hills. [*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #24.*] Ricardo Benitez, Field Representative for State 39th District Assemblymember Patty Lopez (818-504-3911; Ricardo.Benitez@asm.ca.gov; <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a39>), presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mr. Martinez and Mr. Arevalo. Mr. Martinez asked Mr. Benitez to arrange a meeting to address cleaning up Freeway ramp areas.

* 29th District Congressman Tony Cardenas Field rep.

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>), reported that the Congressman is supporting legislation (HR2056) to increase funding for computer science education; it is estimated that by 2020 half of all jobs will be in computers.

* CD7 Councilmember Felipe Fuentes Office

Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), encouraged letting her know of City services requests so she can help ensure they are delivered. The Councilman is on the ad hoc Homeless Committee to ensure delivery of services to homeless people.

* Any other Officials or reps that may have been left out

Julio Anleu, Field Deputy for LAUSD Board Member Monica Ratliff (ofc. 818.232.5445; cell 818.935.7049; Julio.Anleu@lausd.net; <http://Ratliff.LASchoolBoard.org>), reported recent news including that there is an investigation of the District's purchase of iPads.

Glenn Bailey, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9953; Glenn@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), encouraged attending the VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) meetings on second Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at Sherman Oaks Hospital. Also, L.A. Neighborhood Councils Coalition (LANCC) meetings are on first Saturdays at 8:45 a.m. at Hollywood City Hall.

8. Briefing on Committee activities.

Outreach: Mooshy Ghassedi

Ms. Ghassedi was not present and there was no report at this time. See below Item #'s 10 and 11.

Zoning and Land Use: Borzou Rahimi

See below Item #12.

Public Safety: Tom Johnson

See below Item #15.

Beautification: Richard Tocher

Mr. Tocher reported about beautification.

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

Approve MHNC February & March expenditure report.

Treasurer Ms. Carrillo reviewed recent financial transactions; the balance is \$29,826.96.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Arevalo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves its February 2015 and April 2015 Monthly Expenditure Reports as presented.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Arevalo, Carrillo, Garcia, Jacobo, Martinez, Rahimi, Scott, Tocher and Torres); zero opposed; zero abstained.

New Business:

10. Discussion and possible action by the Board to reconsider outreach Chair Position: Outreach is considered to be a permanent and on-going function of the MHNC. The Outreach Committee shall meet at least once a quarter. "That has not been met". <http://mhnconline.org/committees/outreach>

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Garcia): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council removes Mooshy Ghassedi as its Outreach Committee Chair.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote.

11. **Discussion and possible action** by Board to appoint an Outreach chairperson: Outreach is considered to be a permanent and on-going function of the MHNC.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Rahimi): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves the appointment of Richard Tocher as its Outreach Committee Chair.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote.

12. **Discussion and possible action** by Board on future of PSG Ad-Hoc Committee: Ad-Hoc update on progress done with PSG project.

Mr. Rahimi reported that Committee Members resigned. There was discussion of including the ad hoc Committee's work into the existing Zoning and Land Use Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Garcia): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council disbands its ad hoc Pacoima Spreading Grounds Subcommittee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote.

13. **Discussion and possible action** on the Zoning and Land Use Committee Structure: Purpose is to insure ZLU Committee has a quorum and is able to take care of ZLU issues.

Mr. Rahimi reported that the Committee has trouble making a quorum to hold Meetings because of Members not attending.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Carrillo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will reduce the number of its Zoning and Land Use Committee Members to three, consisting of Board Members Ray Garcia, Borzou Rahimi and Clint Scott, with the quorum being two.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion regarding whether this could be done.

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Arevalo, Carrillo, Garcia, Jacobo, Martinez, Rahimi, Scott and Torres); zero opposed; zero abstained.

14. **Discussion and possible action** by Board on California State University Impaction Plan: purpose is for the Board to be provided information on the Plan and take a vote.

Irena believed that the Plan will cause people to be dependent rather than self-sufficient and favors out-of-state and foreign students over local students.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Carrillo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will write a letter to the Governor opposing the CSU Impaction Plan, as it excludes so many local students, unfairly favoring foreign and out of state students.

Board Member Richard Tocher returned to the room around this time, making nine Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

A straw [unofficial] pole of Stakeholders at the Meeting indicated that they were in favor of sending the letter.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Mr. Martinez requested and Mr. Castillo agreed to write the letter.

- 15. Discussion and possible action** by Board on funding for Fire Station 75: Ice machine at fire station 75 (Mission Hills) is not working and beyond repair.

L.A. Fire Dept. Captain Morris reported on the above regarding Fire Station 75 [15345 San Fernando Mission Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 91345; 818-756-8675]. Mr. Martinez conducted a straw (unofficial) poll of Stakeholders; they supported the funding. Captain Morris indicated that he has an invoice for an ice machine costing \$3,259.40. There was discussion about reallocating half of the funding originally set aside for tree trimming and instead using it to purchase an ice machine and new refrigerator for FS.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Carrillo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council allocates \$3,259.40 for an ice machine for Fire Station 75 in Mission Hills at 15345 San Fernando Mission Rd.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Carrillo, Garcia, Jacobo, Martinez, Rahimi, Scott, Tocher and Torres); zero opposed; zero abstained.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Carrillo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will re-allocate \$7,000 from its Budget Category 300 FROM TRIMMING TO CI Community Improvements to Budget Category [MC/JM CONFIRM: ___].

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Carrillo, Garcia, Jacobo, Martinez, Rahimi, Scott, Tocher and Torres); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 16. Discussion and possible action** by Board to approve funding for Marketing / Branding products: Purpose is to have material available for events as a way of outreach. Examples “but not limited to” are Grocery Bags, Flash lights, Pens, Mouse pads, Magnets, brochures , Water Bottles, ETC, all with our logo and info printed on them.

Mr. Martinez received quotes from High Tech Signs (\$3,089) and Innovative Marketing (\$1,454).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Scott): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council allocates up to \$3,089 to purchase materials such as grocery bags, flashlights, pens, mousepads, magnets, brochures, water bottles, flying discs, etc., all with the MHNC logo and information printed on them, to have material available for events as a way of outreach.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of the costs and merits of each vendor.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Jacobo, Martinez, Rahimi, Scott, Tocher and Torres); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Carrillo); one abstained (Garcia).

[__UE HE RESOLVE #’S 16, 21 AND 24.]

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Carrillo): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will re-allocate \$__ [MC/JM CONFIRM: __ SOMETHING ABOUT “its Budget Category __ Outreach __].

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Carrillo, Garcia, Jacobo, Martinez, Rahimi, Scott, Tocher and Torres); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 17. Motion** to approve \$600.00 for the use of Chapel of the Cross facilities: The funding was already approved by Board for cert training that happened in March.

Mr. Martinez requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item until more information is available.

- 18. Motion** to appoint Volunteer for Budget day Scheduled for June 27th 2015 at City Hall: Board Members and Stakeholders are welcome to Volunteer.

Mr. Arevalo and Ms. Carrillo volunteered to be the MHNC Budget Representatives.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Garcia): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council appoints Board Members Jose Arevalo and Maribel Carrillo as its Budget Representatives to attend the Mayor’s Budget Day June 27, 2015 at

City Hall.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

- 19. Discussion and possible Board action** on funding the MHNC website migration: The cost of moving website to an approved vendor will need funding.

There was discussion that the Outreach Committee will work to establish tasks and recommend one of the City-approved vendors/Webmasters for the Board to consider selecting; the current Webmaster is un-approved. The limit of acceptable expenditures was set at \$5,000. Mr. Bailey noted that this cannot be funded by the June 30th end of this Fiscal Year. Mr. Martinez requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

- 20. Discussion and possible action** on hiring temp staff for administrative purposes: Purpose would be “but not limited to” keeping the Board up to date with the constantly changing rules empowerLA has put into effect, gathering proper paper work to insure funding goes smoothly, helping with 3 quotes situations, training certificates up to date etc.

Mr. Martinez explained that this would be for through the June 30th end of this Fiscal Year; he would like for the Board to allocate up to \$200 per month for these services. It was agreed to TABLE this Item to a Special Board Meeting.

- 21. Discussion and possible Board action** on The Administrative and 2016 Elections stipulations worksheet: The stipulations worksheet asks the Board to make decisions as to the Board's position on policies and procedures recently implemented by the City Council, Board of Neighborhoods Commission, and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, including, but not limited to, online and telephone voting for the 2016 Board elections, installation of new Boards after the 2016 Board elections, selecting a representative for the regional Neighborhood Council grievance review panels, definition of how Board official actions are taken, agenda posting locations, and Board Member training compliance.”

There was discussion of options and choices by the Board for the Neighborhood Council Administrative and 2016 Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet.

MOTION (by [JM/MT/MC CONFIRM: ___] M_. __, seconded by M_. __): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves its Neighborhood Council Administrative and 2016 Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet as noted and decided by the Board at this May 11, 2015 General Board Meeting.

MOTION [JM/MT/MC CONFIRM: ___] **PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with ___ in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Arevalo, Carrillo, Garcia, Jacobo, Martinez, Rahimi, Scott, Tocher and Torres); ___ opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (___ and ___); ___ abstained (___ and ___).

22. Discussion and possible Board action on the MHNC contributing to the Congress of Neighborhoods/ Budget Advocates: Since Neighborhood Councils are not allowed to roll over unused funds, our Department created accounts where NCs can contribute monies for the Congress of Neighborhoods or Budget Advocates. This way, your unused funds will be allocated at least for Neighborhood Council purposes and not swept back into the general fund.

It was agreed to TABLE this Item to the next Board Meeting.

Old Business:

23. Housekeeping/Council Business: Introduce new issues for consideration by the Council at its next meeting for placement on the next Board/Stakeholders meeting agenda.

Requests were made to Agendize Certificates for Crossing Guards; discussing Proposition F; and allocating funding for a refrigerator for Fire Station 75 and for the Budget Advocates and the Congress of Neighborhood Councils.

24. General Public Comments

A woman named Irena [JM/MT CONFIRM: __ NOT IRENE TOVAR OR IRENE HAND; WHAT IS IRENE'S LAST NAME?] said that Mission Hills did not get Proposition Q funding for a Fire Station; she asked the MHNC request some of the funding from Proposition F for that.

Stakeholder Joe Lozano disliked that City employees are well-paid with a pension while he believed that it is harder to get City services. Pamela Cardillo encouraged using the "MyLA311" phone application to get City services such as cutting weeds in medians, street cleaning and illegal dumping pickup.

25. Adjournment

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:25 p.m.

Minutes written by DL based upon notes by CH, possibly edited by MHNC. *The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda.*