

**MISSION HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**
PRESIDENT: Jesse Martinez
VICE-PRESIDENT: Borzou Rahimi
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, September 14, 2015**

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

Best Friends Animal Society, 15321 Brand Blvd., 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 6:53 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – A Boy Scout led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call** (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by Mr. Martinez. Seven of the 11 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Raymond Garcia, Christopher Jacobo, Tom Johnson, Jesse Martinez, Borzou Rahimi, Guillermo Salamanca and Richard Tocher. Board Member Mayra Torres arrived later. Three Board Members were absent: Jose Arevalo, Maribel Carrillo and Clint Scott (all 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://mhnconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Mission-Hills-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Eleven of the 14 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment).

Three Board Seats were vacant: Business Owner, Organizational and Renter. [To apply, see <http://mhncnline.org/about-mhnc/board>.]

4. Executive Officers Report.

5. Approval of Board Minutes August 3rd.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.]

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Johnson): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 3, 2015 Board of Governors Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Garcia, Jacobo, Martinez, Rahimi, Salamanca and Tocher); zero opposed; one abstained (Johnson).

6. Report from LAPD Senior Lead Officer, Basic Car 19A43.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] 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, so far this year, “we are . . . up 4% in crime” including “Burglary from Motor Vehicles” especially from “midnight to 6 a.m.” He reminded not to leave valuables in vehicles. Grand Theft Auto has increased, especially around Sepulveda and Lassen. There will be a Business Watch meeting September 24th. He described work on “homeless issues,” including for a veteran who refused help. Officer Ruiz reminded that the Police are not allowed to move homeless persons’ belongings. Mr. Larsen noted that merchants’ response about shopping carts is that “it’s up to the community” to report the carts being off the merchants’ properties. Officer Ruiz distributed reprints of an article linking increased crime with the passage of Proposition 47.

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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #19.]

* Mayor Eric Garcetti office East Valley Field rep. – No representative was present.

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

State 39th District Assemblymember Patty Lopez (818-504-3911; AssemblyMember.Lopez@assembly.ca.gov); <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a39>, reported that she is “working very hard to bring more resources” to the community. She encouraged feedback. She will have another High Speed Rail project Town Hall Meeting this month. Her office will be moving October 1st from Arleta to San Fernando at Brand and Pico Street.

Mr. Martinez presented Ms. Lopez with a Certificate of Appreciation for her and her staffs' work. [Applause.]

* 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>), offered help with federal issues such as veterans' services, healthcare, Social Security and housing. The Post Office will move to the Sepulveda Annex; the Devonshire facility will remain open until the move. The Post Office received five public comments about it. Construction begins around October and "should end by the end of the year."

* 18th District California State Senate Field rep. – No representative was present.

* CD7 Council-member Felipe Fuentes Office

Tania Soto, Deputy District Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), announced a September 26th cleanup. She reported that the Councilman spoke with LAPD Captain Cynthia Lee regarding crime in the Sepulveda corridor. The Councilman is requesting that Stakeholders support the DWP's proposed rate increase while also giving them feedback.

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

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), reported that "we've gotten a lot of . . . complaints about the VA [Veterans Administration facility on Plummer from Woodley to Haskell]. The VA has an alcohol and drug rehab program that is run by a non-profit." He indicated that some, not all, crimes can be attributed to program participants. He said, "right now this is a big issue at the Devonshire Station . . . there's not really a lot we can do" about this due to the VA being on "federal property." He has heard concerns that the program is servicing, in addition to veterans, other homeless people. If there are problems on "private property, you may be able to do something."

Lydia Grant, BONC [L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners] Commissioner [818.470.6629; LydiaJeanGrant@gmail.com; www.EmpowerLA.org], reported that a North Valley group is being formed that will include Neighborhood Council Presidents and Land Use Committee Chairs to work on increasing economic opportunities for the area. The Commission is working on the Code of Conduct and "consequences if people break those rules and it becomes disruptive to the Board." The Commission is also working on . . . changing or re-defining . . . what an ongoing Stakeholder is." She encouraged recording MHNC accomplishments to submit for future consideration for an award.

8. Briefing on Committee activities.

Outreach: Richard Tocher

Mr. Tocher indicated that there was no report at this time.

Zoning and Land Use: Borzou Rahimi

Mr. Rahimi reported that the next Meeting will be September 21st at 6:30 p.m. at Best Friends Animal Society.

Public Safety: Tom Johnson

Mr. Johnson reminded about the October 3rd 10:00 – 2:00 Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair at Fire Station 87.

Beautification: Richard Tocher

Mr. Tocher indicated that there was no report at this time.

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

Approve MHNC August expenditure report.

Mr. Martinez indicated that the Treasurer's report would be given at next month's Board Meeting.

New Business:

10. Discussion and possible board action on nomination of Vice President: The Vice President shall serve in place of the President if the President is unable to serve.

Mr. Martinez announced that "July will be [his] last Board Meeting as President." Mr. Martinez nominated Board Member Borzou Rahimi as Vice-President.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Tocher): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council appoints Board Member Borzou Rahimi as Vice-President.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Garcia, Jacobo, Johnson, Martinez, Rahimi, Salamanca and Tocher); zero opposed ("No" or "Nay"); zero abstained.

Mr. Martinez declared Mr. Rahimi as the new MHNC Vice-President. [Applause.]

Board Member Mayra Torres arrived before the following Item, making eight Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

11. Discussion and possible board action on appointing a Public Works Liaison: Liaison will serve as the primary point of contact within Neighborhood Councils on the Clean Streets Initiative, which was announced by Mayor Eric Garcetti on April 23, 2015.

Mr. Martinez explained the Motion. Ms. Torres volunteered to be the Liaison. Mr. Tocher volunteered to be an Alternate Liaison.

MOTION (by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Rahimi): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council appoints Board Member Mayra Torres as its Public Works Liaison.

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

- 12. Discussion and possible board action** on choosing a voting location for the upcoming 2016 NC elections: Board must choose a location so we can reserve date of election.

Mr. Martinez announced that the election probably will be in April 2016 for four hours. The election has been held at the Bermuda Mobile Home Park. Other locations suggested included the Police Station; the Recreation Center at Brand Park; and Andre Pico Adobe Park.

- 13. Discussion and possible board action** on appointing a chair and co-chair persons for 2016 NC Elections: Will be responsible for election planning and coordinating.

Mr. Martinez explained the need. Ms. Grant encouraged asking a former Board Member(s) if they would Chair the Committee, and not asking a current Board Member so that the perception of a conflict of interest may be avoided.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Garcia): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council appoints Board Member Borzou Rahimi as its 2016 Election Committee Chair.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Rahimi): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council appoints Board Member Mayra Torres as its 2016 Election Committee Co-Chair.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 14. Discussion and possible board action** on the Zoning & Land Use Committee’s recommendation for approval and support of MHNC Board on an application for modification to an existing CUP for a religious facility at 11019 Arleta Avenue, Mission Hills, 91345: Update on the project from the ZLU committee.

The Committee supported the project. Mr. Garcia described the facility’s activities.

A representative gave more details and explained conditions of the current CUP [Conditional Use Permit]. She said “we’re just going back to what the Code will allow.” Mr. Martinez noted that the Police indicated “there was nothing on the books” about the facility.

Board Member Board Member Borzou Rahimi recused himself and Guillermo Salamanca also left the room at this time, making six Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

MOTION (by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Tocher): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council accepts its Zoning & Land Use Committee’s recommendation for approval and support of an application for modification to an existing CUP for a religious facility at 11019 Arleta Avenue, Mission Hills, 91345

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Garcia, Jacobo, Johnson, Martinez, Tocher and Torres); zero opposed; zero abstained; one recused (Salamanca).

Board Members Borzou Rahimi and Guillermo Salamanca returned to the room at this time, making eight Board Members present (the MHNC quorum is seven).

15. Discussion and possible board action on [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Johnson and seconded): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council allocates \$1,500.00 for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to Chapel of The Cross to cover expenses in sponsoring CERT training, Outreach & Beautification Committee meetings and many other events.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Tocher described the church’s support of and cooperation with the MHNC and the community. The Pastor described an upcoming Health Fair at the church.

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

16. Discussion and possible board action on a Board retreat: EmpowerLA encourages board retreats for training and brain storming sessions.

Mr. Martinez explained the need.

MOTION (by Mr. Martinez and seconded): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will have a Board retreat.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

17. Discussion and possible board action on funding board retreat \$750.00: Board retreat will come at a cost and should be paid through MHNC funding.

Mr. Martinez reported that other Neighborhood Councils allocate around \$500 - \$700 for Board retreats.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Garcia): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will fund a Board retreat with up to \$750, the funding to be allocated from Line Item Budget Category 200 Outreach.

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

Old Business -- There was no old business at this time.

18. Housekeeping/Council Business

Mr. Martinez noted that, at the next MHNC Board Meeting [November 2nd] an LAPD Officer will report on issues regarding homeless people; Mr. Tocher wanted a Town Hall Meeting to be held regarding that.

19. General Public Comments

Stakeholder Irene Tovar reported that she discussed Fire Station 75 with the Fire Chief. She noted that some Prop F funding is “not committed.” Stakeholder Pamela Cardello thanked Assemblymember Patty Lopez and her staff for helping to get Freeway ramps and nearby areas cleaned. She reported that Caltrans will be cleaning the Devonshire St. Freeway on- and off-ramps.

20. Adjournment

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

MOTION PASSED without any opposition

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by MHNC. *The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda.* The MHNC Minutes page is <http://mhnconline.org/agendas-minutes>.