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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee will be conducted online via Zoom Webinar and telephonically. All are invited to attend and participate.

To attend online via Zoom Webinar: Click or paste the following link into your browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/91106636778>

To call in by phone, dial **(669) 900-6833**, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: **911 0663 6778**, then press #.

This meeting is open to the public. Comments on matters not on the agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Those who wish to speak on an agenda item will be heard when the item is considered.

1. Call to Order
2. Establish a quorum
3. Review and approval of minutes from February 8, 2021 meeting
4. Comments from the Co-Chairs
5. Report from Homeless Liaison, Marie Javdani, WHNC
6. Public Comment
7. Discussion and possible action for budget allocation for \$350 for New Friends Homeless Center.
8. Discussion and possible action for budget allocation for \$350 for ONEgeneration.
9. Discussion and possible action for budget allocation for \$100 for Bundles of Kindness.
10. Discussion and possible action for budget allocation for \$350 for West Valley Food Pantry.
11. Discussion and possible action for budget allocation for \$350 for FISH Food Pantry
12. Discussion and presentation on recuperative care. - Marie
13. Discussion and possible action and presentation on food waste and feeding those in need. – Brian Begun
14. Discussion on Bylaws change of changing the name of the committee, i.e., “Homelessness & Housing” or “Homelessness & Poverty”
15. Discussion on access to COVID inoculations for our unhoused stakeholders
16. Updates on West Hills NC Task Force to assist unhoused West Hills stakeholders with shelter, housing or Safe Parking options, Shadow Ranch Park

17. Update, discussion and possible action on Supportive Housing, Bridge Housing and alternative housing options, West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness, Olivia, Tom, Aida
18. Call for future agenda items
19. Adjourn - Next meeting is Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm on Zoom Virtual Mtg

Public input at Neighborhood Council meetings: When prompted by the presiding officer, members of the public may address the committee on any agenda item before the committee takes an action on the item by punching in *9 (if calling in by phone) or by clicking on the “raise hand” button (if participating online through Zoom) and waiting to be recognized. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of said committee.

Notice to Paid Representatives - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, city law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

Public Posting of Agendas: WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Shadow Ranch Park, 22633 Vanowen St., West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, www.westhillsnc.org. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to the City of Los Angeles Early Notification System at www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.

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Public Access of Records: In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the meeting where such writing was considered or by contacting the WHNC’s executive director via email at Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org Requests can be made for a copy of a record related to an item on the agenda.

Reconsideration and Grievance Process: For information on the WHNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the WHNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website, www.WestHillsNC.org.



WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2021

Telephonic and Web Meeting

Revised February 9, 2021

Attendance: Aida Abkarians, Thomas Booth, Olivia Naturman, Brain Begun, Marie Javdani, Saif Mogri, Olivia Naturman, Daniel Ostreicher, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Myrl Schreiber, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof

Public Attendance: Gina J., Steven, Analisa Ugolini, JFuentes, Sarah V, Call-in-user 1

Committee Co-chair Thomas Booth called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was established.

Chair Comments: Thomas reported there was a no-notice sweep along the LA River today. Individuals camped along the river lost belongings including work tools. He said he looks forward to a day when society and law enforcement stop criminalizing homelessness. When asked Thomas said he has not heard an overall plan to vaccinate the homeless against Covid19.

The January meeting minutes were approved.

Numbers refer to agenda items.

5. Report from Homeless Liaison Marie Javdani: The liaisons have not met and there is no update.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Budget Allocations for Current Fiscal Year: Olivia explained that some planned projects, like the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, are cancelled, and the committee needs new spending proposals. Brian said he is familiar with an east coast non-profit that collects unused food from restaurants and asked if the WHNC can promote a similar effort. Aida said there have been problems with lawsuits when this has been attempted. Joan asked if funds could be used to increase vaccine availability. Olivia replied that unfortunately vaccine availability is limited by supply and not funding.. Aida suggested supplying bedding and other household items for tiny home projects. Thomas suggested donations of \$600 each for the West Valley Food Pantry and Fish of the valley food pantry. Analisa Ugolini asked if there is a list of charities for homeless causes. Olivia replied there is a list on the WHNC webpage, Homelessness Committee page. Daniel asked if gift cards for local restaurants could be purchased and handed out. Brian reported he found AB 1219 Chapter 619, passes into law, that states in part – restaurants are not liable for damage or injury from consuming donated food unless there is negligence or willful action involved. Olivia said next month the Committee will vote on budget requests to submit to the Budget Committee and the Board.

8. Community Impact Statement (CIS) to SUPPORT CF 20-1376: Thomas reviewed the status of the CIS and council file. A CIS was approved by the WHNC Board but needs to have a vote on approving the substitute motion proposed by 11th District Council Member Bonin. The City Council has sent the motion back to committee.

Vote to add the substitute motion to the CIS:

Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The amended CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board.

9. Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0031: Marie said Assembly Member Bonin tested implemented this in Venice and it was successful.

Vote on the CIS:

Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board

10. Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0032: Saif asked if cabin communities are established with HHH funds. Olivia said no, they are largely funded by donations and run by organizations like Hope of the Valley.

Vote on the CIS:

Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board

11. Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0063:

Vote on the CIS:

Yes – 5, No – 1, Abstain – 1, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board

12. Discussion and possible action on Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0113: Steve said he is concerned about the reference to ‘commandeer’ properties. Aida asked if we could ask for an explanation of what the term means.

Brad moved to add language to the CIS to say; The WHNC has reservations concerning the word ‘commandeer’ and would like further explanation. Thomas seconded.

Vote on the CIS:

Yes – 6, No – 1, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board

13. West Hills NC Task Force on Shelter, Housing and Safe Parking: Olivia said there are available safe parking spots open in the valley. Thomas said he spoke to a man named Errol who lives in and RV. Errol told him Shadow Ranch Park is closed to overnight sleeping and homeless encampments are lined up along a nearby side street. Saif said there are individuals camped at Shadow Ranch Park.

14. Supportive Housing, Bridge Housing and Alternative Housing Options, West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness: Thomas said The Willows development opened recently but at reduced occupancy due to Covid19 concerns. This is the first bridge housing facility with housing for couples and allows pets. Thomas said there is a waiting list of three times occupancy.

15. Future Agenda Items: Olivia said Covid19 vaccines for individuals experiencing homelessness will be included on the March agenda. Brian asked for an item to discuss possible private / public partnership for wasted food distribution from restaurants. Marie has suggested renaming the committee.

Thomas moved to recommend a CIS in opposition to the WHNC Board. Marie seconded.

Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 2, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The motion carries.

Committee Co-chair Olivia adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is on Monday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Webinar and telephonic.

Recuperative Care

Recuperative Care

Recuperative care is a (usually) non-profit program that offers hospitals a safe place to discharge homeless patients when they no longer need to be hospitalized, but need time to recover from an illness or injury.

Recuperative care facilities provide:

- A clean, safe place for a person to recover
- Meals, along with care and supervision for those needing help with activities of daily living
- Direct communication with the hospital provider for guidance on post-discharge recovery
- Homeless services, including career counseling, substance abuse programs, vocational therapy, mental health services, and housing placement services

Recuperative Care

These programs are a response to the high readmission rates of unhoused patients who exit the hospital with nowhere to rest and recover. These people can include those with broken limbs, who have had surgery, or who have given birth.

Because they lack health insurance, homeless patients are likely to receive less treatment and be discharged earlier than patients with health insurance. Those hospitals that attempt to extend the stays of homeless patients do so at great risk and cost.

Recuperative Care

Homeless patients are also more likely to be readmitted within 30 days for preventable complications, such as infection in a surgical site, or because they cannot access the medications or medical supplies they need to recover. It can also be difficult for providers to follow up with patients experiencing homelessness, which also detracts from aftercare.

Ultimately, hospitals pay a high price for readmissions, both because of the cost of additional services rendered, and because the government funding and insurance received by hospitals is often affected negatively by readmissions.

Benefits of Recuperative Care

For hospitals, benefits of coordinating with recuperative care programs include:

Cost Effectiveness – Lower daily cost of care for homeless patients by almost 90%.

Efficiency – Easy referral process and quick-response turnaround time, typically within 2-3 hours, 7 days a week.

Collaboration – Direct communication with the service provider allows improved care coordination between hospital and recuperative care staff.

Responsibility – Research show that recuperative care reduces readmission of homeless patients by 50%.

Illumination Foundation – Recuperative Care Programs.
<https://ifrecuperativecare.com/program-benefits/>

Benefits of Recuperative Care

For hospitals, benefits of coordinating with recuperative care programs include:

Compassion – Continuous advocacy for patients with connections to medical care, social services, and housing options.

Thoroughness – Hospitals receive a patient outcome summary for every discharged patient

In fact, the benefits to hospitals of recuperative care programs are so great that some hospitals permanently book beds in recuperative care facilities for direct discharge of homeless patients.

Benefits of Recuperative Care

For patients, benefits of coordinating with recuperative care programs include:

- A safe, stable, and supportive atmosphere to recover
- Medical coordination to vital primary care and other necessary medical specialists when appropriate
- Intensive case management with connections to social services and housing options
- Connections to mental health services
- Financial literacy training
- Health education and medical care management education
- Job readiness training
- Community re-engagement

Benefits of Recuperative Care

For the local community, benefits can include:

- Reduced utilization of local hospital resources
- Reduced number of patients discharged within neighborhood
- Reduced calls for local law enforcement to manage medical and psychiatric emergencies, as well as 'nuisance' violations
- Private admissions—no walk-ins

Ways Forward

Possible next steps for WHNC:

- **Short term:** Venues for additional stakeholder input - Homelessness Committee meetings dedicated to further discussion of recuperative care; town-hall events featuring experienced experts; public stakeholder surveys to measure interest;
- **Medium term:** Advocacy - Communication with local actors—City Councilmember, City Council, County Department of Mental Health;
- **Long term:** Research community partner organizations and grant-funding opportunities;

Food Waste

What can we do to reduce food waste and feed those in need?





How much food is wasted in California? And why is that important?

We waste over 5.5 million tons of food per year. Besides the obvious environmental problems this poses, at the same time an increasing portion of our State's population is experiencing food insecurity, which includes the homeless and poor, under served communities.



What is the goal?

To save as much food waste as possible from being dumped into landfills and instead get it to those who need it most.



Terms to consider

The best way to describe those groups who need food (to include all stakeholders) is to use the term **food Insecure**. This will help us use a broad brush to cover all groups who could benefit from a program that is best defined by the term **food recovery**.



Requirements/Barriers to a Food Recovery Programs - Part 1

- Costs
 - Transportation and Handling
- Infrastructure
 - Some sort of program to manage resources, partners and stakeholders (Food Insecure)
 - Registration of businesses
 - Registration of non-profits
 - Distribution Channels
 - From food businesses to non-profits to stakeholders
 - non-profits to stakeholders
 - Potential food storage needs
 - To hold food between food businesses and non-profits



Requirements/Barriers to a Food Recovery Programs- Part 2

- Partners
 - Government Support
 - Private Business Support
 - Non-Profit Support
 - Celebrity Representatives
- Incentives?
 - Tax Credits
 - Environment
 - Emotional (Feeding the hungry)



What would a Food Recovery program look like?

- Food Recovery Website
 - Food Business registration
 - Non-Profit registration
 - Website connects two resources together
- Full Recovery Program
 - Support from City
 - Support from Private industry (possibly something like rethinkfood.org)
 - Intermediary that re-packages prepared food or prepares meals with raw produce
 - A location where Food Insecure could go to eat meals
 - Non-prepared food could be delivered directly to non-profits
 - Direct delivery between food restaurants and food insecure
 - Another idea: City partnering with ride sharing/delivery services to deliver prepared food from restaurants directly to Food Insecure?



What could a Neighborhood Council do? What would be a first step?

Can Southern California Non-Profit food collection entities handle increased load of incoming food from businesses?

If so, this is an easier problem to solve. Why?

If not, intermediary storage solutions between food providers and distribution would be a prerequisite before a program can be established.