



CITY OF
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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

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

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

<https://zoom.us/j/99272551544>

To call in by phone, dial toll-free **833-548-0276**, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: **992 7255 1544#**.

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 and Establish Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of the July 2020 Meeting
3. Comments and Announcements from the Chairs
4. Public Comment
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Stakeholder Shomrei Torah's request for Beautification's input and advice on establishing a community garden or other improvement on the vacant triangle lot on Valley Circle south of the synagogue
6. Discussion and Possible Action on the Future of Community Cleanups (update) and LA City Park Maintenance (update and subcommittee/assignments)
7. Discussion and Possible Action on other Beautification Projects
8. Discussion and Possible Action on R.O.W. Letters.
9. Strike Team Reports
10. Adjournment

The next meeting of this committee will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

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

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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.



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JOINT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE/BOARD ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

DRAFT

Numbers refer to agenda items:

1. Committee Co-Chair Brad Vanderhoof called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Those in attendance: Faye Barta, Tom Booth, Dan Brin, Jessica Fuentes, Heidi Manning, Olivia Naturman, Steve Randall, Tony Scarce, Myrl Schreiberman, Ron Sobel, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof. Absent was Kian Gholibiek. Council member Bonnie Klea also attended. Stakeholders John Mazur and Reeyan Raynes and Elly Langsam were also present. A quorum was established.
2. The June 23, 2020 minutes were approved as amended.
3. Comments from the Chairs: none
4. Public Comment: Stakeholder John Mazur spoke about the dead/dying grass at Lazy J Park and surmised it was mainly due to low/no watering. John also commented on other areas of West Hills which are neglected and looking bad, such as the median on Valley Circle, both between Ingomar and Roscoe and also the weeds between Victory and Vanowen.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on the Future of Community clean-ups: Brad said the future of cleanups is "up in the air", but in the meantime there were activities which could be undertaken, such as small groups of Beautification members could gather to clean up areas as public citizens. Dan reported how he and two members of this committee have already done so. Heidi said that Dan, Brad and Jessica had undertaken some door-knocking on Fallbrook to advise stakeholders of their responsibilities for parkways. Heidi said she herself has called 311 about several bad areas to be cleaned, with good success. Myrl advised the "paper lot" at Keswick and Saticoy has again become a fire hazard. Brad said he has spoken with CD 12 about it and CD 12 is working on it, but there are severe budget problems. Steve asked if CD 12 can have City-hired contractors clean up the messes on Valley Circle. Brad said he will do so. Reeyan advised the City has had problems with the legal status and continuing poor condition of the paper lot, but the contractors who clean up Valley Circle are limited to the areas between the baseball field and Roscoe and the baseball field and Kittridge, but calling 311 might help. Dan also advised he has handed out brochures in other areas. Myrl suggested a marketing campaign to interest stakeholders to do cleanups. For example, make banners to place on street poles reading "Help Keep West Hills Beautiful" and to ask the Communications Committee for financial help to produce the banners. Steve added this idea can be promoted on Facebook. Brad volunteered to prepare a sample copy for Facebook. Dan said he could design a banner. Olivia suggested coupling "Help Keep West Hills Beautiful" with the painting of the utility boxes being undertaken by Streets and Transportation.
6. Discussion and Possible Action on LA City Parks Maintenance: The committee held a lively discussion about various City parks. Myrl expressed that the committee is very impressed with John Mazur's comments and work regarding various parks and asked John if he would give such a report at every month's

meeting. John agreed. John said he would also determine if the irrigation on Valley Circle could be turned on. Heidi advised that 311 features a special category for parks. Tony S. volunteered to give a report on Taxco Park every month. Brad advised Orcutt is not a park but a horticultural center. There was discussion regarding whether or not the parks are officially “open”. Dan volunteered to talk with Bob Baker and find out. Myrl said this committee could organize stakeholders to create a “Friends of West Hills Parks” group. Heidi said perhaps a sub-committee could be created within this committee just for parks. Brad advised this matter will be tabled to the next meeting for review and further planning and proposals.

7. Discussion and Possible Action of requesting historical notice of the significance of the palm trees on March Avenue: Reeyan advised he and Dan co-authored a motion to designate the palm trees on March between Justice and Ingomar as a City landmarking. Discussion was had on the vision for West Hills to be recognized for its unique qualities. The landmarking is for historical significance and has nothing to do with whether or not the palm trees are a species natural to this area. Originally the palm trees were planted on March as a gateway of sorts to the Orcutt Ranch driveway. Brad suggested engaging in public opinion regarding the landmarking of the trees. This item is tabled to obtain public opinion.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Other Beautification Projects: Jessica volunteered to enlist her neighbors to clean Sherman Place near the hospital and will need to use the trash picker-uppers. Olivia volunteered to do the same on the Valley Circle medians and will need trash bags. She will post the cleanup on social media. The co-chairs advised that tools and supplies can be obtained by letting the co-chairs know what is needed and when. Dan will prepare banners to advertize public co-operation. Joan advised there is a really unkempt property at the corner of Capistrano and Chase. Tom volunteered to help Joan with this problem, suggesting the owners may need assistance. Jessica volunteers to prepare an “adopt a street” and Brad will publish it. Bonnie again advised of the burned-out house at 8368 Sausalito. Heidi said she already notified Vector Control, which already visited the property. The City already posted signs that the property had been vacated. Reeyan suggested that because of the Covid situation, all Building and Safety can do is post the property but has no money or time for follow-up.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on ROW letters: Dan said that the sidewalk at Saticoy and Fallbrook is unwalkable. He left fliers on Maynard, the street which backs to that corner, and attempted to contact the realtor for one of the houses. Reeyan indicated that the bad condition of the Sausalito house might be due to family misfortune and it might be better to reach out to the owner. Brad agreed that was better than harassing the owner.

10. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Progress with Removal of Abandoned Newspaper Vending Machines on Sidewalks: Brad said the committee does not have funds to do this at this time. The matter was tabled.

11. Strike Team Reports: Some of these reports were given earlier during the meeting. Heidi said that any dead parkway trees should be reported to 311 for City removal. Jessica said she has seen the City working on dead trees. She will report a dead tree on Sherman Way near the Malibu Winery. She also advised she cleans Royer to the hospital. Stakeholder Elly Langsam advised that she has tried to reach WHNC by sending emails and phone calling, but that no one had ever returned her emails or call messages. Her concern is that off Roscoe on Jonathan and left on Sudan and Royer, the street signs are bleached out and unreadable and need replacing. Dan explained he monitors the WHNC website for emails and forwards them to the appropriate committees. Tony Scarce, chair of Streets and Transportation, volunteered to speak with Ms. Langsam and try to help her with the problem, since the matter is more properly within the purview of Streets and Transportation..

Committee Co-chair Brad Vanderhoof adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

The next meeting of this committee will be held Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 6:00 PM, Online and Telephonically.