



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



P.O. BOX 4670, WEST HILLS, CA 91308
WWW.WESTHILLSNC.ORG
MAIL@WESTHILLSNC.ORG

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, September 22, 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 August 2020 Meeting
3. Comments and Announcements from the Chairs
4. Public Comment
5. Discussion and Possible Action on the Future of Community Cleanups (update) and LA City Park Maintenance (update and subcommittee/assignments)
 - a. Report from Faye re helping Parks & Rec on an informal basis
 - b. Report from Anthony Scarce re condition of Taxco and Lazy J parks' grass conditions and gopher invasion
6. Discussion and Possible Action on other Beautification Projects
7. Discussion and Possible Action on R.O.W. Letters.
 - a. Report on ROW letters to 7619 and 7625 Maynard
 - b. Any new ROW letter requests?
8. Strike Team Reports
9. Adjournment

The next meeting of this committee will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 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

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.



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE/BOARD ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 @ 6:00 PM
Revised August 26, 2020

Committee Co-Chair Faye Barta called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

Those in attendance: Faye Barta, Brad Vanderhoof, Tom Booth, Dan Brin, Kian Gholibeik, Heidi Manning, Olivia Naturman, Steve Randall, Anthony Scarce, Myrl Schreibman (arrive 6:35 PM), and Joan Trent

A quorum was established.

The July 2020 minutes were approved as amended.

Numbers refer to agenda items:

3. Comments and Announcements from the Chairs: Faye thinks these meetings are good news in trying times and provide some interaction with the stay at home order. Faye also said she has heard reports of dead crows that may be due to West Nile virus. LA County will be spraying in West Hills to control mosquitoes.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Shomrei Torah's request for Beautification Committee Input and Advice on Establishing a Community Garden or other Improvement on the Vacant Triangle Lot on Valley Circle South of the Synagogue: Gil Solomon spoke desire for a garden. Judy's iPad has approached Shomrei Torah and they would like something other than a vacant lot. She has tried and made no progress getting LADWP to say what it would take to get water to the property. She said they own the lot. Reeyan Raynes said the issue came up many years ago when he was co-chair of this committee and he remembers the parcel is owned by a utility company. Gil said the part of the parcel is right of way for Valley Circle. The right of way is extremely wide and crosses the sidewalk. Shomrei Torah does own the rest and it used to be contiguous with their main property. This was before the Castle Peak Estates and Indian Hills Lane construction. There is a utility right of way through the center of the property giving them right of usage but not ownership. Dan suggested using a hose to water. Heidi suggested rainwater capture and asked if the project could incorporate a mural. Faye suggested an overflow parking lot instead of a garden. Faye also said the garden may be restricted to non-edible plants due to possible contamination from the SSFL cleanup. Judy said Shomrei Torah's goal is to grow produce for local food banks. Reeyan said the City's Office of Community Beautification has a program called Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone (UAIZ) to promote food production on underutilized parcels. Gil will investigate the program. Dan said the SSFL cleanup truck route has not yet been determined. Reeyan said the parcel does qualify for UAIZ.

6. Future of Community Cleanups (update) and LA City Park Maintenance (update and subcommittee/assignments): Dan said he spoke with Mike Castro, Department of Recreation and Parks, who is overwhelmed with only 20 staff members to do the work of 200. Myrl asked if we could help on a limited basis. Brad answered yes but we cannot advertise as the WHNC or invite a large group, as that would require an event permit and violate the stay at home order. Joan said a while ago she and Thomas went to a house on Capistrano and left our brochure and her phone number. The homeowner called her and has now done the needed maintenance on the property. Everyone thanked Joan and Thomas for there extra effort to reach out to a stakeholder. Faye will contact Mike Castro about the possibility of volunteering at parks. Reeyan said Scott Harmon is a good contact for problems with parkway trees. Gil said he reported a dead tree and it took 9-12 months before the City removed it. Anthony said Taxco Trails Park looks pretty good, but Lazy J Park is in terrible shape with parched grass and numerous gopher holes. Normally the sprinklers come on Saturday morning at Taxco Trails but this last Saturday they did not and it is beginning o dry out. Heidi said John, who attended the July Beautification Committee meeting, is still writing to CD12 to get water restored to Lazy J and street medians.

7. Other Beautification Projects: Heidi explained the information she has learned about the Adopt a Median program. Steve said we need to focus on stakeholder participation. Brad, Reeyan, and Olivia all discussed the contract in perpetuity clause in many of these city programs and the incredible difficulty it poses for NCs to participate.

8. R.O.W. Letters: Dan said there is still no activity along Fallbrook at the houses on Maynard (7619, 7625).

Brad moved to send R.O.W. letters. Dan seconded.

Yes – 8, No – 2, Abstain – 0, Absent – 2

The motion passes.

R.O.W. letters will be sent.

9. Strike Team Reports: None. Brad commented lately it has been awfully hot for most activities.

Committee Co-chair Faye Barta adjourned the meeting at 7:16 PM.

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