



CITY OF
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CALIFORNIA



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 @ 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, click or 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 September, 2021 Meeting
3. Comments and Announcements from the Chairs
4. Public Comment
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Cleanup Events for October 30, November 20 (Environmental Awareness Day), and December; 2021, and suggestions for locations and dates for 2022.
6. Discussion and Possible Action on creating a community garden; report on progress of “paper street” with Councilman Lee’s office by Brad and Steve; possibility of other locations.
7. Discussion and Possible Action on creating a community garden: Report on progress of “paper street” with Lee’s Office by Brad and Steve; possibility of other locations.
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Creation of a Pocket Park or Parklett – Related to LADOT Livable Streets Projects

A pocket park (also known as a parkette, mini-park, vest-pocket park or vesty park) is a small park accessible to the general public. Pocket parks are frequently created on small, irregular pieces of land, in vacant building lots, along the centers of broad avenues, or even in parking spots. They also may be created as a component of the public space requirement of large building projects.

Examples in LA -- [pocket park la city - Bing images](#)

Bureau of Engineering -- [06 - Parklets | Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering Permit Manuals \(lacity.org\)](#)

9. Discussion and Possible Action on a West Hills Best Garden or Landscaping Contest – Possibly a Photo Contest
10. LA City Park Maintenance Updates -- including reports from members regarding conditions of our local parks
11. Discussion and Possible Action on ROW Letters

12. Strike team Reports
13. Discussion and Possible Action on other Beautification Projects and prior suggested projects:
 - a. Attracting nurseries/garden shops to beautify an area and then get “free publicity” for the cleanup
 - b. Post office update
 - c. Spring Plantings – locations and sponsors –
 - d. Suggestions for dog poop left by careless neighbors
 - e. Any new ideas???
14. Suggestions for the November Agenda

The next meeting of this committee will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 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 DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

Numbers refer to agenda items:

1. Committee Co-Chair Brad Vanderhoof called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. The meeting was recorded. Those in attendance: Faye Barta, Dan Brin, Tariq El-Atrache, Glenn Jennings, Heidi Manning, Steve Randall, Anthony Scarce, Myrl Schreibman, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof. Absent was Kian Gholibeik. Also present was Christina Walsh. A quorum was established.

2. The August 17, 2021 minutes were approved as amended.

3. Comments from the Chairs: Brad said the September 18, 2021 Orcutt Ranch milkweed seed planting event was wonderful. Faye agreed.

4. Public Comment: Christina Walsh said she has more milkweed seeds to be planted and anyone wishing to help plant more seeds at Orcutt Ranch Park can do so on the next two Saturdays to finish the planting. Christina also thanked the WHNC for the opportunity to help her plant the seeds at Orcutt on September 18, 2021.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Beautification Committee Operating Rules to Add an Explanation How Action is Taken and Abstentions are Counted:

Brad read the proposed explanation on the record: *“The Committee shall take official action by a simple majority of yes and no votes cast by the committee members present at a duly noticed regular or special Beautifications Committee meeting, not to include abstentions. There shall be no proxy voting.”*

There were no questions and no comments. Dan moved to add the explanation to the Operating Rules. Steve seconded.

YES: Faye Barta, Dan Brin, Tariq El-Atrache, Glenn Jennings, Heidi Manning, Steve Randall, Anthony Scarce, Joan Trent and Brad Vanderhoof.

NO: Myrl Schreibman.

Abstain: None

Absent: Kian Gholibeik

The motion passed.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Cleanup Events for October, November and December, 2021, and January, 2022 – including possible landscaping support at Orcutt Ranch Park (removal of leaves along Justice Street and March Avenue):

October: Myrl said that Sherman Way west of the winery is very badly overgrown and should be cleaned up by Beautification or the City. Dan said that General Services should clean the area up, since it is a serious fire hazard. Brad reported that Erik Moody said the City is working on getting that area cleaned up because it is so dangerous and everyone should push CD 12 to do so. Brad suggested that Beautification should try to get that area cleaned up on October 16, 2021, without an Event Approval Form. Myrl advised that Beautification needs approval for any such activity because Beautification needs City insurance to do so. Christina said the area has native plants which are sacred to the Chumash people, and so the area should be cleared of weeds and replanted totally with native plants. Faye moved that the October event should be scheduled for October 30, 2021, from 8 AM to 11 AM, to remove leaves at Orcutt Ranch Park along Justice Street and March Avenue. Steve seconded.

YES: Faye Barta, Dan Brin, Tariq El-Atrache, Glenn Jennings, Heidi Manning, Steve Randall, Anthony Scarce, Myrl Schreibman, Joan Trent and Brad Vanderhoof.

NO: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kian Gholibeik

The motion passed.

November: Brad reminded that on November 20, 2021, from 10 AM to 4 PM, an Environment Awareness Day at Chatsworth Train Station will be held, and that there will be many community groups tabling and giving out ideas for helping the environment. Previously this committee voted to take part in this event. Brad suggested Beautification should have a table at that event. Christina advised there will be a booth about the West Hills Monarch butterflies. Brad said he has all the information about the event and will complete the application to table and submit it.

December: At the last meeting, a hydrant painting event was approved for December. Steve said having a December cleanup event is difficult in December, and it may be more difficult this year since Special Events will be hosting a December event. Glenn moved to not hold a December hydrant painting event. Joan seconded. Dan said perhaps it would be better to just not plan a December event and one could be scheduled later, if possible. Steve agreed and also advised that hydrant paint for the planned December hydrant painting could be ordered or cancelled or changed later. Brad said hydrant painting can be cancelled or changed later. The December event for hydrant painting was left as scheduled for now.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on Spending Requests:

- Leaf Blowers
- Tools – Brooms, etc.
- Hydrant Paint and Supplies
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – gloves, masks, etc.
- Covid and Hygiene – Hand Sanitizer station, Disinfectant for tools, etc.

Glenn said he believes we really need a leaf blower and volunteered to price blowers and give cost information at our next meeting. Dan believes there is almost no transmission by hand but agrees maybe new gloves are needed. Brad volunteers to price hydrant paint and supplies and give that information at our next meeting. Steve said we need vests and masks and work gloves. Faye said the vests are OK but need washing and agrees the work gloves are in sad shape. Heidi said we need hand sanitizer. Dan said we do not need masks outside but we need hedge trimmers and clippers. Brad volunteered to clean and sharpen our existing hedge trimmers and clippers. Faye volunteered donate masks, if needed. Steve moved that Beautification purchase new gloves for up to \$100. Glenn seconded.

YES: Faye Barta, Dan Brin, Glenn Jennings, Heidi Manning, Steve Randall, Anthony Scarce, Joan Trent and Brad Vanderhoof.

NO: None.

Abstain: Tariq El-Atrache, Myrl Schreibman.

Absent: Kian Gholibeik

The motion passed.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Murals:

Steve said that since Streets and Transportation is handling murals now, Beautification and Streets should work together on this project. Anthony advised that presently there is an advisory group for new images, and feels it is a little too soon to bring the project to Beautification. And a Beautification member, Tariq, is chair of the advisory group, Brad is a member of the advisory group, as is Dan, so there is already Beautification representation on the advisory group. Anthony therefore feels it is too early to bring the mural issue to Beautification. Brad agrees and advises Beautification could do a small mural at a school or somewhere else. Steve feels there should be a Beautification representative at the Streets advisory group and Dan could be that representative. Myrl asked if Streets is creating an image for the mural. Anthony said artists are collaborating, the theme is Chumash and the tribe is funding the project. Local artists will come up with ideas. Myrl asked if the City has negotiated with the Chumash for rights to the images. Anthony explained the Chumash have the right to paint the mural, then send to DCA. Dan advised one issue is the number of members of the advisory committee and it cannot operate as a sub-committee, and this needs to be discussed with Char. Dan suggested perhaps this should technically be an ad hoc committee. Anthony advised this is an advisory committee only. The neighborhood council cannot adopt the wall, it is in perpetuity. Therefore he is looking out for the best interests of WHNC and he said it is in a curious position right now. Dan said Beautification should be part of the advisory group. Anthony advised that the full Board vote approved Streets and Transportation to handle the mural project and that WHNC will NOT be able to adopt the wall. Further, Anthony stated the project could be hurt by certain demands and he is walking a tightrope now and needs a little leeway.

Myrl advised he already has approval for a wall from its owner (one person). Brad advised WHNC can NOT fund a private wall mural. Myrl advised perhaps another money source would be available.

Christina asked whether Dan recommended a wall on Platt next to McDonalds.

The concurrence was that Beautification will work with Streets & Transportation on mural projects.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Poop Bag Holders:

Myrl advised he has obtained a donor for two poop bag holder stands and is also waiting to hear back from Parks and Recs concerning the installation of the poop bag holders. Myrl advised we must identify

the parks at which we want the poop bag holders to be placed. Several members mentioned Taxco, Lazy J, Mae Boyer and Sean Brown Park. Steve moved to name Lazy J and Taxco for the installation of the poop bag holders. Glenn seconded.

Yes – Faye Barta, Dan Brin, Tariq El-Atrache, Glenn Jennings, Heidi Manning, Steve Randall, Anthonj Searce, Myrl Schreibman, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof.

No – none.

Abstain – none.

Absent – Kian Gholibeik

The motion passed.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Planning the WHNC Presence at Environmental Awareness Day, November 20, 2021, at the Chatsworth Train Station:

This committee voted in July, 2021, to participate in this event. Suggestions were made about items we could give away at our WHNC table that day. Suggestions were shopping bags, pens, mugs, and folders. Faye advised that these items are stored at the Montessori shed.

11. Discussion on Creating a Community Garden:

A general discussion of places members have thought about for a community garden ensued. Christina mentioned the triangular lot on Satcoy at Keswick. Brad advised that lot is a “paper street” ... it was originally planned to extend it into that neighborhood in order to build more homes there, but that never happened. Heidi reminded us that she had talked with both Don Larson, and the Biology teacher at Chaminade High School and the neighbor whose property abuts the paper street, but there were no real answers or plans. Brad said he will follow up on that. Steve advised he has previously followed up with Ron Rubine, but there was no information yet, but that he will follow up. Heidi mentioned another location, near the temple on Valley Circle. Brad commented that there was a problem with that location, in that the water main could not be metered and any garden would not have a source of water. The northwest corner of Marlin and Sale was mentioned by Heidi. Dan advised that at this request General Services cleaned up that corner, which is across the street from Carolyn’s home.

During the discussion it was noted by Brad that time was running out for this meeting.

Agenda items 10 through 16 were tabled.

Brad adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM.

The next Beautification committee meeting will be held on October 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM on ZOOM.