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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BYLAWS AD HOC COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING DRAFT MINUTES May 26, 2021, Telephonic and Online

Numbers refer to Agenda Items.

1. Committee Co-chair Bob Brostoff called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. A quorum was established.
Attendance: Aida Abkarians, Faye Barta, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Bob Brostoff, Carolyn Greenwood, Bonnie Klea, Saif Mogri, Steve Randall, Charlene Rothstein, Anthony Scarce, Myrl Schreibman, Joan Trent, Alec Uzemeck, Brad Vanderhoof.
Absent: Thomas Booth, Marie Javdani, Daniel Osztreicher, Christina Walsh.
Guests: Clarice Chavira, Sriya Datla, Glenn Jennings, Vinura Kotuwelle, Mark Neudorff.
 2. The February 2021 minutes were approved as amended to show that the September 2020 minutes were approved as amended AND to add Myrl Schreibman, Marie Javdani and Daniel Ostreicher in attendance for the February 25, 2021 meeting.
- Bob advised that tonight's Agenda is long – 11 items to consider – and asked that each person who wishes to speak on any item speak only once, and then, after all who wish to speak have spoken, a person may speak a second time. Bob also asked all present to be polite and to please do not cross-talk.
3. Possible Action to Add Committee Members with New Members Eligible to Vote Immediately: Bob said there were three recently elected Board members present –Clarice, Mark and Glenn, and a member of the public, Sriya, who could be new committee members. Brad said new members should be asked if they want to join this committee. Steve said members of this committee first need Board experience to understand rules and procedures. Steve also said that the size of this committee makes Agenda items difficult to discuss and, as a result, there are very few issues coming out of this committee. Brad commented that the issues would create a long committee meeting or a long Board meeting. Carolyn had no problem accepting Board “newbies”, but agreed that the size of this committee is a problem. Myrl thanked the committee for voting him in as a member in February but added that the new Board members have not been sworn in yet, so could join this committee only as stakeholders and that the meetings usually run too long. Bob commented that anyone can join. Aida said there should be a yearly class to teach Bylaws. Dan commented that teaching Bylaws is not a Board project and that the Council welcomes participation. Bob asked if any of the new members or Sriya wanted to join right now. None did.
 4. Comments from the Chairs: None.
 5. Public Comment: None.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Standing Rules for Vacancy Committee Selection: Brad said that maybe the committee should take another item first, since this item could prove to be time-consuming. Steve said this item should be skipped in order to fix the errors in the items – for example, President is incorrect, it should be Committee Co-Chairs, Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee should be Vacancy Committee and also Election Committee is wrong. Char agreed with Steve that corrections need to be made, but felt the corrections could be done right now and that would be easier. Bob said item #6 should be skipped and we should move on to item #13. Myrl made a motion to table item 6, but withdrew the motion after Bob explained that the Chairs can take items out of order.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Creating a Youth Seat by Election or by Appointment as either a Board Seat or Chair of an Advisory Committee: Brad advised that this will be a long process, either to create a 26th member seat OR convert one of the existing 25 seats to a youth seat OR appoint a student advisory committee, the chair of which will be a panelist on the Board. Char said she preferred a chair of an advisory committee but was unsure whether or not the chair required a committee. Steve said the concept is to create a place for a regular youth seat, but can the Board do that? Brad said the idea of having a youth as the chair of a youth advisory committee was an idea from Glenn Bailey, because it solves other problems. Char and Carolyn supported the special position of a youth chair of an advisory committee. Dan and Sandi favored an elected position for youth because an elected position could increase the meeting turnout by youth. Anthony and Brad agreed that we can do both ... an advisory youth seat. Brad advised that the DONE definition of youth seat is that the seat can be voted on only by youth and only for that seat. Steve thinks a vote by youths could turn into a popularity contest, and so it would be better if the youth chair were selected and chosen by the Board members. Saif reminded us that when we had a couple youth “seats” before, their attendance was at best sporadic, so he is in favor of an advisory youth position. Joan advised youth do not have as much understanding about how a Board works as adults do. Char inquired as to the age for a youth seat. Brad answered that since this seat is a non-voting seat, anyone 18 or older does not qualify. So the age group would be 14 TO 18. Carolyn felt the youth seat should not be a Board member, since attendance and co-operation of a Board member plus school work is too much for a student to handle. Syria agreed the youth seat should not be voted on, since that would promote voting for popularity reasons only, not on ability and commitment. Because all in attendance approved of the concept of approving the creation of a youth chair, discussion was had on the wording of such a motion. Dan Brin moved to amend the Board's standing rules to establish a chair of a youth advisory committee appointed by the Board composed of stakeholders under the age of 18 to advise the Board on matters concerning the youth of West Hills. Steve Randall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The youth seat issue will be added to the Board’s June Agenda.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Using Robert’s Rules of Parliamentary Procedure:

Brad advised he is opposed to using Robert’s, because although those rules work if all is going well, during difficult times Roberts can be used as a weapon, and there are different versions of Robert’s, which could be confusing. Bob agreed with Brad. Steve said he thought DONE had ruled against using Robert’s. Brad said no, using Robert’s was still an option. Myrl asked where he could find Rosenberg’s. Brad said Robert’s is not in the public domain, but Rosenberg’s is. Dan and Carolyn believe Rosenberg is OK and why change what’s OK? Char believes Robert’s is cumbersome. Bob said Rosenberg follows Robert’s and really there is no need to change, so this item is tabled without a date (so it’s continued into eternity).

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Standing Rules Concerning Operation Procedures in the Event of a Natural Disaster or other Emergency:

Brad said he thought this item was already tabled. Bob said Done told us to “do something”, but we don’t need to do anything. This item is tabled by the chairs without a date.

17. Adjournment: Anthony moved to adjourn this meeting. Dan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.