

Woodland Hills - Warner Center Neighborhood Council  
Homeless and Social Justice Advocacy Committee

Minutes  
8/27/3024

I- Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

II- Meeting rules read by new Committee Chairperson Jayce Baron.

IIb-Roll Call. Present were:

Jayce Baron

Aaron Quantz

Reina McCaughey

Masha Dowell

Harry Sherman

Dean Mathew arrived at 7:00pm

Two Stakeholders attended:

John (?)

Lekenya Lawrence

III- No announcements from public officials.

IV- No Public Comment.

V- The minutes from the May 24, 2024 meeting were approved 2-yes, 1-abstain. 1-absent.

Item No. 1- Holiday Hope Box:

Masha suggested that we work with a partner (to be named later) to put together 'Holiday Hope Boxes' for local Homeless folks and donate them. Jayce suggested About My Father's Business for distribution to encampments and streets. The boxes would contain items such as socks, hand sanitizer, toiletries, water bottles, and lip balm. The committee will work on finding a partner, such as a religious organization, to collect the donations.

Item No. 2- Changes and updates to the committee's official webpage:

Reina suggested that we update the names of the Committee Members because last year's names were still there. Harry suggested a slight change in the Mission Statement. A motion was made by Reina and seconded by Dean, to make these corrections and updates. The changes were voted on and passed unanimously. Marsha volunteered to facilitate these changes on the webpage.

Item No. 3- Clarification of the rules regarding NPGs.

Last year a number of NPGs requested by this committee and approved by the full board were not approved by Empower LA and the LA City Clerk. Harry asked for some clarification of the rules. Several committee members voiced that it's a waste of the candidate organization's time to go through the arduous application and advocacy process if they are not eligible due to the strict rules. The West Valley Food Pantry NPG was among those that were declined. They have asked the Mayor's Office for help with the matter. Reina has spent a lot of time looking into this and found that any approvals from previous years are not valid for subsequent years. She believes that any organization affiliated in some way with a faith organization would have better luck if they get their own 501c3, separate from the faith organization, along with an IRS letter confirming that.

Item No. 4- Stakeholder involvement:

We would like to get more stakeholders involved in our meetings. Jayce made some suggestions: As a committee, we can get more involved in community events to spread the word, We can post our accomplishments on social media, and we can connect to other homelessness liaisons. Dean suggested that we offer volunteer opportunities with service providers such as the New Friends Homeless Center in Woodlands Hills.

Item No. 5- Harry suggested having some in-person meetings this year, perhaps quarterly. He made a motion to do so at Jayce's discretion. That motion was passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.