



**CITY OF
LOS ANGELES**
CALIFORNIA



P.O. BOX 4670, WEST HILLS, CA 91308
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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND YOUTH & EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 @ 3:30 P.M.
Pomelo Community Charter School
7633 March Avenue, West Hills, CA 91304

This meeting is open to the public. Doors open 10 minutes before the meeting starts. Those who wish to speak during the meeting may be asked to complete a Speaker Card. 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.

Youth and Education

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| 1. | Call to Order and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aida Abkarians, Co-Chair • Joan Trent, Co-Chair • Sandi Bell, Stephen Bell, Kim Koerber, JanMacQuoid, Saif Mogri, Alejandro Phillips, and Henlie Sakamoto, Members | 5 Minutes |
| 2. | Establish a quorum | 1 Minutes |
| 3. | Review and approval of October 25, 2023 Minutes | 10 Minutes |
| 4. | Comments from the Co-Chair(s) | 5 Minutes |
| 5. | Public Comment | 10 Minutes |
| 6. | Discussion and possible action on coming up with a date for the Educator Awards Ceremony | 10 Minutes |
| 7. | Discussion and possible action on approving \$500.00 Neighborhood Purpose Grant for all our schools | 10 Minutes |
| 8. | Discussion and possible action for a date for our education round table with our educations and public officials | 10 Minutes |
| 9. | Adjournment – Next Meeting TBD | |

Public Health

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| 10. | Call to Order and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandi Bell, Chair • Stephen Bell, Secretary • Aida Abkarians, Kim Koerber, Henlie Sakamoto and Joan Trent, Members | 5 Minutes |
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| 11. | Public Comment | 5 Minutes |
| 12. | Review and approval of October 25, 2023 Minutes | 5 Minutes |
| 13. | Public Comment | 10 Minutes |
| 14. | Discussion on current health issues and Covid 19 report, influenza, and other infectious diseases. Please see attached. | |
| 15. | Information on canine mystery respiratory illness | 10 Minutes |
| 16. | Discussion and possible action on organizing a Town Hall with The West Hills Hospital Board regarding different issues and complaints the public has had for the care they received. | 5 Minutes |
| 17. | Adjournment – Next Meeting TBD | |

Public Input: Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, an issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the committee.

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Public Posting of Agendas - WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Platt Village, on the Southside of Pavilions, closest to Nothing Bundt Cakes at 6534 Platt Avenue, West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, www.westhillsnc.org You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to [L.A. City's Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

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 Section 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 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 our website: www.westhillsnc.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the WHNC’s executive director via email at michelle.ritchie@westhillsnc.org

Reconsideration and Grievance Process - For information on the NC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.westhillsnc.org

Servicios De Traducción: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org

Canine “Mystery” Respiratory Illness: What should you know?

It is hard to turn on the news or any social media platform without getting bombarded with news of a mystery respiratory illness affecting dogs in the US. With the remnant of COVID and the recollection of the 2021 canine influenza outbreak still fresh in our minds, how can we separate reality from overblown media reporting?

Over the last couple of months, several states have reported increased cases of Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (what we loosely call kennel cough). Severity ranges from mild to moderate kennel cough signs to severe pneumonia, often non responsive to antibiotics. Laboratory testing including cultures and PCR have failed to find the causative agent triggering the so called “mystery” organism. It is not due to canine influenza as affected pets have tested negative on PCR. Many states have reported multiple cases including Oregon, Colorado and New Hampshire; officials are

“Is the Recent Nationwide Uptick in Canine Respiratory Illness Truly Due to a Mystery Bug?”

working with state and federal veterinary diagnostic labs to determine the underlying cause.

In addition, a respiratory outbreak at the San Diego Humane Society simultaneously hit the news further muddling the information. That outbreak, however, was found to be caused by a bacteria called *Streptococcus equi zooepidemicus* and was not related to the other reported cases across the nation.

Is there a new mysterious organism? Is there really an outbreak? The first thing to understand is that these outbreaks are quite sporadic and not affecting everyone in the nation. Although some veterinarians in the San Fernando Valley have reported similar cases to



The Media is Recently Flooded with a “Mystery” Respiratory Illness Affecting Dogs

the LA Dept. Of Veterinary Public Health, we, at VCA McClave Animal Hospital, have not seen an increase in respiratory diseases in dogs to date and have not needed to sound any

alarm. As for the mystery “bug” researchers have pointed out that being unable to find a causative agent to an illness is not that uncommon and does not necessarily point out to a new unrecognized organism.

What can you do to protect your dogs? **Above all, do not panic** and refer to your veterinarian and not to social media for updated information. Furthermore, make sure that all dogs who board, attend doggy day care and local parks are up-to-date on the Bordetella and Influenza vaccines and report any respiratory symptoms to your veterinarian.

Hoodoo’s Diary: A Peace Offering

It is that time of year when I find myself calm and content. While pondering on the sad state of the world lately, I decided to set a good example and extend a peace offering to my feline brother Cinder, the Devil... I mean the Cherub...

Ahem, 25 days until Christmas and Santa is watching. I can do it.

On the first day of Christmas, I received a scant few dry kibbles for breakfast in a metal bowl; Cinder received this succulent Pâté in a nice ceramic bowl. I started to object, as usual, then remembered world peace...sigh...

On the second day of Christmas, I noticed that Cinder requested out of the house and Momma obliged. Two minutes later, he requested in. Momma obliged.

Three minutes later, he requested out. Momma obliged. I, on the other hand, am tethered to this green leash if I ever set foot outside the home parameters. And, I must be accompanied outdoors in the evening in case of coyotes, or so I am told. The inequities in this household are tough to fathom...

On the third day of Christmas, I got disciplined for picking up a fight with an ugly opossum. Little cherub brings birds as gifts with no consequences. I can do it. I am just going to quietly hum “Silent Night” as motivation. Siiiiilent Night, Hoooooooly night, AAAAIIII is calm... I can do it.

On the fourth day of Christmas, I found little cherub peacefully asleep in my crate and curled in my blanket, my turf, my sanctuary. Silent Night not cutting it. I am summoning

all the gods in the world. 21 more days...

On the fifth day of Christmas, Little Cherub got too close to my Dingo treat... I beat the crap out of him, prepared my stockings for a lump of coal and called it a year!

May your patience be more virtuous than mine this December. May your month be merry and bright and may peace descend on this holiday season and on a Happy New Year.





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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Youth and Education Committee Minutes
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Present: Aida Abkarians, Joan Trent, Co-Chairs, Steve Randall, Zoom Specialist
Sandi Bell, Stephen Bell, Kim Koerber, Jan MacQuoid, Rosi Mariconda, Members
Brad Vanderhoof Board Member

1. Meeting called to order at 3:35pm
2. A Quorum was established.
3. September meeting Minutes were approved.
4. No Comments from the Co-Chairs.
5. There was no Public Comment.
6. Neighborhood Purpose Grants applications are in all the schools. since all the schools did not participate we will devide the grant money allocated to those schools equally to the participating schools.
7. NPG applications should be distributed to all the schools. Joan suggested to distribute them at our education round table, committee approved.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.



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Public Health Committee Minutes

October 25, 2023

Present: Sandi Bell, Chair, Stephen Bell, Aida Abkarians, Joan Trent, Steve Randall, Zoom Specialist, Kim Koerber, Jan MacQuoid, Rosi Mariconda, Members, Brad Vanderhoof, Board Member

1. Meeting started at 4:20 pm.
2. A Quorum was established.
3. Comments from the Chair, the Chair Sandi Bell, informed the committee about some complains about West Hills Hospital. Sandi suggested that next meeting we should discuss on having a TownHall with the hospital Board and our constituents.
4. Public Comment, none.
5. Current Health Issues, the Chair Sandi Bell, informed the committee that there are different flues going around and some are respiratory.
6. Sandi suggested that everyone should check with their doctor and get flu vaccination.
7. Covid-19 vaccinations are still on and Sandi suggested for everyone to be vaccinated.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 5:05.
9. Next Public Health Committee meeting TBD

Teachers/Educator Award Program

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Praise and recognition are two important components in giving awards to teachers. These awards are the most important way of recognizing the value of a great educator or a multi talented, innovative staff members who are instrumental in educating our children.

It is important to recognize educators who go above and beyond the call of duty to inspire their students to great heights and help them become exceptional citizens.

The criteria for the West Hills Neighborhood Council's Educator awards is as follows:

1. We will have a total of 4 awards. The awards will be given by the Education Committee of the Neighborhood Council. The educators will be recognized by their colleagues.
2. A questioner will be provided and presented to the whole staff. The staff will need to complete the questioner and present it to the Neighborhood Council by the due date indicated on the form.
3. Every month one staff member and one teacher will be awarded at the WHNC.
4. Participating Schools could name their awards after retired, respected educators. The WHNC Education Committee can come up with different recommendations for the titles.

List of Public Schools in West Hills

Justice Street Academy Charter

Education Committee Rep: Steve Randall

Principal: Cynthis Hernandez Morrison

818 346-4388, clh2104@lausd.net

23350 Justice St., West Hills, Ca. 91304

Hamlin Charter for Enriched Studies

Education Committee Rep:

Principal: Laura Singer

Sandi and Stephen Bell

laurasinger@lausd.net, 818 348-4741

22627 Hamlin St., West Hills, Ca. 91407

Enadia Technology Enrichment School

Education Committee Rep:

Principal: Heather Jeanne

Sandi and Stephen Bell

818 595-3900, haj7773@lausd.net

22944 Enadia Way, West Hills, Ca. 91307

Capistrano Ave. Elementary School

Eduaction Committee Rep:

Principal: Sonja Cao Garcia

Joan Trent

Garcia@lausd.net, 818 883-8981

8118 CaP,istrano Ave. West Hills. Ca. 91304

Nevada Ave. Elementary School

Education Committee Rep: Steve Randall

Principal: Tanya Knott

ttn8206@lausd.net, 818 348-2742

22120 Chase Street., Canoga Park, Ca. 91304

Welby Way Elementary School Education Committee Rep: Aida Abkarians

Welby Way Charter Elementary School and gifted high ability magnet

Principal: Susie Darcorsi

818 447-8128, helen.h.kim@lausd.net

23456 Welby Way ,West Hills, Ca. 91307

Pomelo Community Charter Education Committee Rep:Aida Abkarins

Principal: Janice E. Greenberg

818 887-9700, andrea.ferber@lausd.net

7633 March Aye. West Hills. ca. 91304

Haynes Charter for Enriched Studies Education Committee Rep:

Principal: Barbara Meade

818716-7310,bmeade@lausd.net

6624 Lockhurst Dr.i West Hills, Ca. 91307

El Camino Real Charter High School Education Committee Rep: Aida Abkarians

West Hills Chapter

Principal Mr. David Hussey

818 595-7500, d.hussey@ecrhs.net

Attached please find the forms for the Neighborhood Purpose Grant.
if you would like to participate please feel in the following documents
accordingly.

the Neighborhood Council has assigned one member to each school who
Would be responsible to collect the documents.

Grant amount: \$500.00

Completion Date:

The Grant should serve all the student for programs such as Garden Program,

Computers or devices for Student improvement, Books, Murals or anything that can help enhance education and cannot be used to pay a salary.

Thank you very much for your hard work and devotion in helping our students with their education.

Have a wonderful Day,

Aida Abkarians

Joan Trent

Youth and Education Co-Chairs

West **Hills** Neighborhood Council