

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council
 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
 10 March 2021 7:00 pm
 Location: Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call -

Time: 7:01

Committee Member	Present	Not Present
Caroline Aguirre		x
Duncan Gregory	x	
Mary Allison	x	
Boo Caban		x
Brendan Cronshaw	x	
Steve Crouch	x	
Emily Spokes	x	
MaryLeigh Roohan	x	
Total:	6	

2. Discussion and motion to approve agenda

Public Comment:

Emily moves to approve the agenda. Duncan 2nd

	For	Against	Abstain	Recused	Ineligible	Absent
Caroline Aguirre						x
Duncan Gregory	x					
Mary Allison			x			

Boo Caban						x
Brendan Cronshaw	x					
Steve Crouch	x					
Emily Spokes	x					
MaryLeigh Roohan	x					
Total:	5					

3. Discussion and motion to approve minutes from Public Safety’s Special Meeting on February (2 min)

Public Comment: none.

Emily moves to approve the minutes. Duncan 2nd

	For	Against	Abstain	Recused	Ineligible	Absent
Caroline Aguirre						
Duncan Gregory	x					
Mary Allison	x					
Boo Caban						
Brendan Cronshaw	x					
Steve Crouch	x					
Emily Spokes	x					
MaryLeigh Roohan	x					
Total:	6					

4. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items—Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction (Limited to 10 min, max 2 min per speaker)

Public Comment:

Tim - Sealed buses. Resent letter about sealed bus letters and haven't heard.

Rosa - Question and comment regarding homeless issues. When there is a homeless group in the community and they sell drugs, you report it to LAPD and contact other places. The response was they can not do anything about this. How is this okay? Especially to the kids in our community. Do you have a suggestion? Still trying to get a response.

Emily: Maybe send us an email and we can send one to us.

Rosa: My worst fear is when the kids go back to school and passing drug dealers on this route. It's frustrating.

Gemma: Agree with Emily Spokes regarding making a brief statement when folks are voicing concerns.

Steve: Had to leave before item of arming the park rangers. Agree with Duncan on having a park ranger speak. Our parks are in danger of fire. We need to do something about homeless people living in the brush.

Duncan: Would love to include a park ranger to get them more involved in the community. More of a bigger picture comment that I made. Park Rangers provide public assistance, first aide and search and rescue.

Tim: Officer Chang on deck and we can defer to him.

5. Report: Senior Lead Officer Allen and Senior Lead Officer Chang from LAPD Northeast (5 min)
Not in Attendance.

6. COVID-19 Vaccination Updates and Q&A with LA County Supervisor Field Deputy Hoang Nguyen (10 minutes)

MaryLeigh: Joining us tonight to field stakeholder questions is Hoang Ngyuen from LA County to offer answers to stakeholder questions regarding vaccination distribution.

Hoang Nguyen - representative from Solis' office. I'm here to answer any questions regarding the vaccine roll out. Even though LAPD has a lot of the day-to-day jurisdiction, here at the county office we deal with a lot of Public Safety activity regarding gang intervention, etc. There's a lot of funding regarding this regional issue. There's a vaccine pop-up in your area and a lot of the pop-ups and city run sites are being coordinated by the city but the county allocates vaccine distribution.

Public Comment:

Gemma - Is supervisor Hilda Solis advocating for our most vulnerable?

There are people who can't wear masks due to disabilities and have been hostages in their home. Why have these individuals not been vaccinated? Has Solis involved regional centers to distribute vaccines?

Hoang - Community with disabilities is an important part of the community who is vulnerable. Eligibility is determined by the state. We are contending with a lot of changes regarding eligibility as the state changes. In terms of advocacy, I can bring that back and advocate for it.

Gemma - When leaders demand action, things happen. Why isn't she doing anything about the disabled community.

Hoang - I understand your frustration and I can take that back to the office.

MaryLeigh - comment

Emily - If you know someone in need, stop by a pop-up because sometimes they have leftovers. In the coming weeks there will be no restrictions. We are seriously nearing the end of this difficult time.

Scott - This morning the vaccine site was shut down but the community wasn't informed. Trying to target essential workers but these sites aren't available at equitable hours. Can we maintain equity.

Hoang - Equity is the main priority of the office right now. CAL State was obtained through direct advocacy with PResident Biden's office, more sites and distribution that meets people where they are. Solis proposed a motion to revise hours and make vaccination more accessible. We want to be able to have overnight vaccinations - folks in the food industry, or other people who have irregular working hours can go on the nights or weekends. They

aren't currently available to those who need it the work. Transportation barriers - the county is partnering with Uber and Lyft to provide free rides to major pod sites and free TAP cards for people who don't drive. Mobile vaccinations have been doing extremely well. We did 2000 in one week at one mobile site. The state's system is hard to navigate and we have been manually registering people. We have expressed our issues in the state partnering with Blue Shield to continue to provide decentralized and equitable access to the vaccine.

Scott: Do you have information on Uber and Lyft, Tap available on your website? How can we let people know?

Hoang: We are still finalizing the agreement with Lyft and Uber but TAP cards are being given out at community events. That's not a set program, but we are distributing them through the community.

Gemma: Many of these people with disabilities cannot wait in line. Downey is the best - 30 minutes in and out. Highland Park did a fantastic job. I waited over four and a half hours at a site. I hope when these individuals with disabilities are eligible, preference in treatment should be given.

Duncan: Who runs your social media account and can we have their contact? It would be great to get an email about what's being posted and when so we can relay information in an efficient time.

Hoang: I help with that - so you can email me hnguyen@bos.lacounty.gov We do post a lot of resources and understand that it gets buried.

Emily: What you're sharing about the extra doses - is there public knowledge that you'd like to share? Mobile vaccine sites, you may have interaction with people who give you the greenlight for special cases like parents of children with special needs.

Hoang: Extra doses, in the beginning there was a lot of attention paid to clinics throwing away extra doses. Clinics have been advised NOT to throw away doses. Guidelines now are to get the vaccine into people's arms and it's up to the provider how they distribute the extras.

Mary: Any parent whose child receives service from a regional center is eligible for the vaccine.

Gemma: I was told at a meeting from regional center that they would discontinue that.

Hoang: Maybe they were qualified under childcare providers. Feel free to email me with anything you need.

Alice Roth: alice.roth@lacity.org and i'm constantly receiving emails and questions. Now we are going into the second dose the week of the 22nd and everyone will be getting a notification via text, call or email. We'll take more first dose scheduling that same week at Highland Park Police Museum. If you have any feedback or people with special needs, please let me know.

Emily: You're amazing Alice. Everyone I've forwarded the information to was successful and had no issues. Thank you.

Gemma: I take my dog walking and on the corner of meridian and ave 55 - there's an elderly woman who lives there. I struck up a conversation with her and she had not been vaccinated. She was not willing to get vaccinated because she had to do it twice. How can we make sure they do not get overlooked? Maybe mail carriers? Can we create jobs to canvas for them? What can we do to help these kinds of individuals?

Alice: If you give me that address, I will go out there and make sure she gets vaccinated. Neighborhood watch captains are really good at this.

Tim: Canvassing is a great idea. People hesitant to get the vaccine, is there a special way to do a study and offer those people the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

Rosa: Thank you to everybody putting this together. Everyone from our community was very happy and were able to get vaccinated. Everyone was very thankful to have snacks and water. Thank you!

Alice: Caroline Aguirre pulled that all together. She was very helpful. I'll reach out to the department of aging and if you know anyone who is a shut in who could use the vaccine?

Duncan: Where do you think the communication break was for that person, Gemma?

Gemma: I think she is up there in age and doesn't have a vehicle. She doesn't have any close relatives.

7. Discuss last month's public safety meeting - pros and cons - and plan for future Town Hall (15)

Public Comment:

Gemma: Over the years - introductions need to be concise because meetings don't get to the point. We need to hear actionable plans from the people and I'd like for them to come with real solutions. Until you bring numbers does anyone really get done. Neighborhood Captains - when we call a meeting, there's a different tone and we get more policing. What are the stats and what are you doing with the data? We have to work together. Do these captains coordinate? Etc.

MaryLeigh: Maybe we could get neighborhood watch captains to help facilitate the next town hall.

Gemma: Worries about anonymity of the neighborhood watch would be jeopardized.

Rosa: I want to back what Gemma said - It's important that we get the truth. The mayor's office should be involved when we have a town hall with LAPD. Gang unit, etc. All the identities in the Northeast should be there to address issues in the community.

Emily: You did such a great job in a very difficult scenario. For what it was it was perfect. To round it out in the future, what if we did something more educational? How do we use what we have and invite other organizations to the table? Can we forge relationships and alliances with our police officers, the community members they know and the organizations that are doing the hardest work? How can we do this together?

Duncan: I totally agree with having the Mayor's office there. Mental Health services would be great to invite. When it feels like you don't get the answers to your questions, we should know where to go next.

Gemma: A lot of people think I am being critical. I'm just trying to find efficiency. I am not trying to be mean spirited. I am coming from a place of good.

Rosa: I'm glad we're having this conversation here. I would like to see whoever runs the mayor's office in our Town Hall.

Steve: We could join with the Housing, Renters and Homelessness Community and go into all the details about homelessness.

8. Discuss and possible motion for unused infrastructure in our neighborhood: security cameras and WiFi antennas. (10 minutes)

Emily: Holy crap! How is this not something everyone knows? This is a travesty. Can we work with Recs and Parks on this?

Gemma: Captains changed. They are a useful tool. We looked at a lot of data and research to make this decision. We needed WiFi and cooperation. It would be nice to use these.

Emily: For the York Park project, we made a task force to have one special meeting to make sure these were thoroughly handled. Let's dive into this really deeply. Can we form a group that's willing to do a special meeting and dig in a little deeper. Maybe Karen and her friends would be willing to join us.

Duncan: This is wild. Most important thing we can do right now is, is know how these work and what the time commitment would be to a fully operable system. And do they work?

Rosa: For a while Northeast was managing them, they were also given TVs to monitor the cameras. When a new captain comes in, they change how things are done. Best bet would be you and the captain sit down and say this is what the community wants.

Emily: Or you could take a poll. Get them real data. If we parse this out as a subcommittee.

Scott: Something like this needs to be a general meeting topic given the sensitivity of the subject. We need more input from the community. Is there an avenue to sell these and use the funds for other things?

Tim: This is something you should direct over to the land use committee. It's safety and land use. Are these cameras that are stationary? Could they be moved?

9. Discuss and motion to approve Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention subsidies. (10 minutes)

MaryLeigh: There has been an increase in catalytic converter theft in the northeast and LAPD and LASD recommend etching your license plate number or last 5 digits of your vehicle VIN number to defer theft and resale. A stakeholder proposed that perhaps Highland Park NC could partner with a nonprofit to subsidize the cost of etching at local auto body shops.

Emily: I see this everyday on Nextdoor. This sounds like an interesting and proactive way to address this. How much would this cost? I know we need to work with a nonprofit to distribute funds, but could one of the council districts help with this as well?

Gemma: We do see this quite a bit, but I'm concerned about the subsidies and how they NC would be partnering. My concern is fairness. Approach this cautiously - people who have a the cost of this vehicle are of a certain class.

Scott: I just saw a need and wanted to help the community. I don't mind doing some outreach to find out how much this would cost.

Steve: Don't want to miss details.

Emily: Just want to know the cost.

Rosa: They normally come back and take it again. Three times my neighbors

10. New Business

Rosa: Unhoused people selling drugs. I would like to bring that up and I would like to hear someone from an organization that can help with this. We need to do something.

Steve: I will follow up with Park Ranger.

11. Adjournment

Emily motions to adjourn the meeting. Mary A 2nd

	For	Against	Abstain	Recused	Ineligible	Absent
Caroline Aguirre						
Duncan Gregory						
Mary Allison	x					
Boo Caban						
Brendan Cronshaw	x					
Steve Crouch	x					
Emily Spokes	x					
MaryLeigh Roohan	x					
Total:						