



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, January 5, 2023  
DRAFT Minutes [to be replaced by "Approved \_[Month]\_ \_[date]\_, 202\_[year]\_"]

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this duly noticed meeting was held entirely online and telephonically.

Document copies were available at <https://ghsnc.org>.

GHSNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary; Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript or comprehensive record of what was said at a Meeting. Exceptions: Motions/Resolutions (as stated at the Meeting, which take precedence over versions written on the Agenda, if different); quotes (words that have quotation marks ("") at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and other wording from the Agenda such as the first paragraph(s) of some Items. Items are listed in and match the same order as on the Agenda.

**I. Call to order, Flag Salute**

President Mike Benedetto called the Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Launa Bogartz' daughter.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Ten of the 15 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto (President), Launa Bogartz, Michael Jordan, George Karam, Christine LaMonica (Secretary), Abbey Ronquillo, Carolyn Sanderson, Brad Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). John Horn and Sally Kolstad arrived later. Cheri Norum Derohanian (excused), Chavon Smith (un/excused) and Christina Wallis (Treasurer) (excused) were absent. George Karam resigned and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and was thanked for his service. The GHSNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is nine (see the Bylaws link at [www.empowerla.org/ghsnc](http://www.empowerla.org/ghsnc)), so the Board could take such votes. Fifteen of the 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats were vacant [both At Large]; to apply, see [www.ghsnc.org](http://www.ghsnc.org). Also attended: at least 13 Stakeholders and Guests.

**III. Public Comment:** Community and Public Comment on non-agenda items.

There was no public comment at this time.

**IV. Community Speakers**

A. LAUSD District 3 (Tara Vahdani/Tammy Ramirez, Scott Schmerlson).

Tara Vahdani, Deputy Director of Community Engagement for LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerlson [ofc. 818-654-3785; [Tara.Vahdani@lausd.net](mailto:Tara.Vahdani@lausd.net); <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>], was not present and there was no report.

- B. County Supervisor's Office Lindsay Horvath reps?  
Myrna Gutierrez, a Caseworker for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (213-440-0927 or 818-901-3831; [MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov); <https://lindseyhorvath.lacounty.gov>), was not present and there was no report.
- C. Senator Caroline Menjivar District 3.  
No Representative for State 3rd District Senator Caroline Menjivar [ofc. (818) 901-5588; <https://senate.ca.gov/Menjivar>], was present and there was no report.
- D. Congressional District 25 -Congressmen Mike Garcia's office (Garrett Henry).  
Garrett Henry, Field Representative for U.S. 25th District of California Congressman Mike Garcia [ofc. 661-568-4855; [Garrett.Henry@mail.house.gov](mailto:Garrett.Henry@mail.house.gov); <https://mikegarcia.house.gov>], was not present and there was no report.
- E. Assembly District 40 – Pilar Schiavo rep  
Andrea Rosenthal, District Director for State 40th District Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo [ofc. (661) 286-1565; <https://a40.asmdc.org>], introduced Gabby, a Field Representative, who indicated that she'll be reporting.
- F. Council District 12 (John Lee)  
Colin Crews, District Director for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; [Colin.Crews@LACity.org](mailto:Colin.Crews@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://www.CD12.org)], reported.
- G. Mayor's Office -- Karen Bass (Erin Seinfeld)  
Erin Seinfeld, West Area Representative for Mayor Karen Bass (323-552-6730; [Erin.Seinfeld@LACity.org](mailto:Erin.Seinfeld@LACity.org); <https://www.lamayor.org/WestValleyAreaRep>), was not present and there was no report.

*Board Member John Horn arrived online at this time (6:59), making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

- H. DONE, (NEA Marilu Guesvara).  
Marilu Guevara, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE; 818-374-9890; [Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org](mailto:Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)], reminded Board Members of the conflict of interest procedure. She reported that, as of February, "Neighborhood Councils will no longer be able to have virtual meetings . . . [they] must in-person starting in February . . . unless it qualifies under current State guidelines . . . If the City creates another guideline, it may change," for example, if the City allows hybrid meetings.

*Board Member Sally Kolstad arrived online at this time (7:11), then Launa Bogartz left at 7:15, keeping 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

- I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).  
Mr. Allen, a Budget Advocate [[LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com](mailto:LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com);  
[www.BudgetAdvocates.org](http://www.BudgetAdvocates.org)], was not present and there was no report.
- J. Congressional District 29 (Osvaldo Ramirez).  
Osvaldo Ramirez, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California  
Congressman Tony Cardenas [ofc. 818-221-3718; cell 818-388-0685;  
[Osvaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov](mailto:Osvaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov); <http://cardenas.house.gov>], was not present  
and there was no report.
- K. Congressional District 30 (Kimberly Caseres).  
Kimberly Caseres, a Field Deputy for U.S. 30th District of California  
Congressman Brad Sherman [818-501-9200;  
[Kimberly.Caseres@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Caseres@mail.house.gov); <https://sherman.house.gov>], was not present  
and there was no report.
- L. LAPD Senior Lead Officer or alternate representative.  
John Parker, a Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer for the north side (north  
of Chatsworth St.) of Granada Hills [mobile/text phone 424-364-9377; office 818-  
832-0633; [36560@LAPD.online](mailto:36560@LAPD.online); <https://www.lapdonline.org/lapd-contact/valley-bureau/devonshire-community-police-station>], reported that crime increased last  
year; he noted that crews of three to four burglars are targeting homes, especially  
“north of Rinaldi.” If you see anything suspicious, document information, such as  
license plate numbers, and call the Police non-emergency number 1-877-ASK-  
LAPD [275-5273]. “Repeat offenders [are] coming back into the area,” some  
even while wearing an ankle bracelet. A gang “that is . . . near . . . Petit Park”  
may be responsible for tagging and graffiti at the Park; the Police are doing what  
they can.

## **V. Approval of Minutes**

- A. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its Dec 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

No corrections or amendments were made.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

## **VI. Appointment of Board, Committee Members & Swearing-in.**

NONE

## **VII. Budget Issues**

- A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) Aug., Sept., Oct. and Nov. 2022.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for August 2022.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for September 2022.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for October 2022.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for November 2022.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

## **VIII. Board Issues**

- A. Presentation by Shawna P. Dungo (elections administrator) 7-minute presentation followed by up to 14 minutes for questions and answers.

Ms. Dungo reported on the GHSNC’s Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> hybrid election. Candidate filing will be from February 10<sup>th</sup> - March 28<sup>th</sup> via online or paper.

- B. Discussion and possible action on a motion related to the 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, organized by LAHSA, which relies on local leaders to do a visual count of their unhoused population for the purposes of informing service strategies and funding. The motion reads as follows: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council commits to serving as the Deployment Site Host for the 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. The 2023 Homeless Count will take place on Tuesday, January 24th, starting at 8PM. The Deployment Site will be at the Our Saviors First Lutheran Church located at 16603 San Fernando Mission Blvd. in Granada Hills. GHSNC approves up to \$100 in refreshment and supply expenses for volunteers. To volunteer for the Granada Hills Homeless Count visit [www.theycountwillyou.org](http://www.theycountwillyou.org).

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Horn, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council commits to serving as the Deployment Site Host for the 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. The 2023 Homeless Count will take place on Tuesday, January 24th, starting at 8PM. The Deployment Site will be at the Our Saviors First Lutheran Church located at 16603 San Fernando Mission Blvd. in Granada Hills. GHSNC approves up to \$100 in refreshment and supply expenses for volunteers.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Amador and Mr. Horn gave further information.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- C. Discussion and possible action on the following motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council awards a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences Parent Teacher Student Association (VAAS PTSA) for the amount of \$5,000. The NPG will cover part of the costs of the yearly Senior Gradnight event that celebrates the accomplishment of local students graduating from high school. The event is scheduled for June 17th, 2023.

Juan Muldong earlier believed that the tickets cost too much.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council awards a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences Parent Teacher Student Association (VAAS PTSA) for the amount of \$5,000. The NPG will cover part of the costs of the yearly Senior Gradnight event that celebrates the accomplishment of local students graduating from high school. The event is scheduled for June 17th, 2023.

**DISCUSSION:** Lesa Joyce, event Treasurer, explained the event and need. Last year, attendance cost students \$215 each; it's "around \$295" each this year. A VAAS Senior student explained the importance to him of the event.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Toumayan); one opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Jordan); zero abstained.

D. Report on:

- Granada Hills Tree lighting

Ms. Toumayan described the "wonderful community-building event."

- Holiday Parade

Ms. Toumayan reported that "the Parade was really fun . . . even with the rain."

E. Date for Election committee

Mr. Benedetto reported.

F. Date for By-laws Committee

The date will be determined.

**IX. Committee Reports and Motions**

A. PLUM

Interim Chair Mr. Smith reported "no developments" on the proposed Home Depot. Peggy Malone-Brown is the City Planner handling it (818-374-5036; [Peggy.Malone-Brown@LACity.org](mailto:Peggy.Malone-Brown@LACity.org)). He encouraged joining the Committee.

B. Outreach

Chair Ms. Toumayan indicated that there was no more to report.

C. Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn reported.

D. Education

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported.

E. Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that youth members are sought for the Committee.

F. Cultural Affairs

Chair Ms. Smith was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken.

G. Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad reported that holiday cards were sent to seniors.

H. Beautification

Chair Mr. Amador indicated that there was no report.

I. Public Safety

Chair Mr. Smith reported on the San Jose Pipeline Infrastructure Project. He noted that White Oak may be closed.

J. Sustainability

Chair Mr. Karam had resigned.

**X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.**

Ms. Sanderson noted that next month is Black History Month; she encouraged having that on the website.

**XI. Adjournment**

NOTE: Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council - Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023, at 6:30 PM

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Smith).

**MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:45 p.m.

*The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by the GHSNC. The GHSNC Board Meeting Minutes page is <http://www.ghsnc.org/resources/minutes-and-agendas>.*