

Minutes of the General Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Thursday, November 8, 2007
Tulsa Street Elementary School, Auditorium
10900 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Jim Summers, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Troy Seletos.

II. Roll Call was taken by Glen Chester. Board Members present:

Jim Summers, President	Vice-President (vacant)
	Glen Chester, Secretary
Mark Barrionuevo, Renters	Dave Beauvais, Community Organizations
Bonnie Bursk, Comm Property Owners	Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups
Julie Carson, Member-at-Large	
John Hegedes, Member-at-Large	Mike Kabo, Parliamentarian
Eric Mansker, Homeowners	Randall Neudeck, Pres. Emeritus/At-Large
Sean Rivas, Parks	John Seletos, Youth Organizations
Troy Seletos, Students	Christopher Silvers, Member-at-Large
Karessa Silvers, Education	Brad Smith, Outreach Chair
Lottie Van Emden, Cultural Arts	Jim Yoder, Seniors

A quorum was noted as being present.

Board Members absent: Robert Norris, Treasurer (excused); Shamica Doty, Business (excused); Pamela Finn, Member-at-Large (excused); Norbert Soski, Member-at-Large (excused); and Cindi Wood, Member-at-Large.

Also present were nine Stakeholders and guests.

III. The October 11, 2007 Minutes were amended as follows: Page five, Section V: Elizabeth Cottage is the name of the facility and is owned by Pamela Black; and Page four, Section VII c) 1): delete the wording, "(by John Seletos, second by)." **MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Smith): to approve the October 11, 2007 Minutes as amended.

MOTION APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote, except for Ms. Cirino abstaining.

IV. Community Speakers

- a. Amelia Herrera-Robles, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) NC Coordinator, was unable to attend; Mr. Chester spoke on her behalf. There will be a Public Outreach Training session on December 3rd from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Braude Building in Van Nuys, to introduce people to the City Planning Office.

- b. John Bwarie, Deputy District Director for L.A. City Council District 12 member Greig Smith (818-701-5253; john.bwarie@lacity.org), was unable to attend. Jim Summers noted that improvement in communications between the councilman's office and GHSNC.

V. Public Comment

- a. Stakeholder Robert O'Donnell announced that the local Toastmaster Club is seeking a new meeting location, and is open to people who want to improve their public speaking skills and enjoy speaking in public. Contact Mr. O'Donnell at 818-620-2448.
- b. Stakeholder Majb Neameh inquired about how the NC would view it if he made a request to re-zone the 10668 Amestoy (and Chatsworth, southeast corner) parcel currently zoned SR-1 for a single-family residence. Mr. Mansker suggested to Mr. Neameh that he attend the Planning and Land Use Committee Meeting, and also talk with Mr. Summers after this Meeting. Mr. Beauvais noted that the request may be subject to an ICO.

VI. Officers Reports

- a. President (Mr. Summers)
Mr. Summers reported that the NC with Shamica Doty representing GHSNC may have a new office location to share with the Granada Hills North NC, at 17654 Chatsworth Street, near White Oak Avenue. The rent is \$2,310, and there are 16 parking spaces. A joint meeting will be held there on November 12th at 10:00 a.m. to discuss this. Also, the website is improving; send suggestions to Wendy Moore or Mark Barrionuevo. Finally, the 187 surveys received indicated that Stakeholders want the NC to: 1) keep tabs on public officials; 2) oppose overbuilding; and 3) graffiti control.
- b. Vice President (vacant). There was no report at this time.
- c. Treasurer (Mr. Norris)
Mr. Summers relayed that Mr. Norris had nothing new to report at this time.
- d. Secretary (Mr. Chester)
Mr. Chester referred to the Information Sign-up Sheet available at the front table for people who'd like to receive more NC information, and that Speaker Cards are also there for any Stakeholder or guest who wants to speak at this Meeting. Also, if you are already on the NC e-mail list, but you have not been receiving the e-mails, your e-mail address may have changed and you need to notify the NC so that we can update your e-mail address. Finally, a tape recorder used at

the last Meeting recorded mainly Mr. Summers, while creating a large 87-megabyte file; we can try placing microphones at the far sides of the tables to make a viable recording system. If we can get it working, we could put the Meetings on our website so that anyone can listen to the Meetings at any time. Mr. Rivas volunteered to bring microphones to the next Meeting.

VII. Board Issues & Updates – Discussion and Possible Action

- a. GHSNC 2007 Survey Results. Mr. Summers said that the results will be available on the website in two weeks.
- b. Board Vacancies. Mr. Summers relayed that Ms. Wood may need to resign from her At-Large seat due to her work requirements; her Board position may be available soon.
- c. Board Assignments.

1. Outreach Chair.

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Ms. Bursk): that Mr. Barrionuevo be appointed to sit on the Beautification Committee.

MOTION APPROVED by voice vote unanimously.

Mr. Summers so appointed Mr. Barrionuevo.

John Seletos reminded the NC that a Safety Committee service position is available.

2. Vice-President. Mr. Summers voiced that there are three candidates interested in the Vice-President position: Ms. Doty, Mr. Rivas, and Mr. Smith. The NC will elect one of them in December.

MOTION (Mr. Silvers, seconded by Ms. Bursk): to appoint a Vice-President tonight.

Discussion: Mr. Summers explained the importance of the Vice-President position. Mr. Rivas offered that he has the time to fulfill the position and that he's done a lot of community service. Mr. Smith expressed that Granada Hills is his hometown and that he's done a lot of community service. In Ms. Doty's absence, Mr. Summers stated that she is also a very good candidate and has also done a lot of community service. Mr. Summers nominates Mr. Smith to be appointed as the new Vice-President. Mr. Hegedes contended that it is unfair to Ms. Doty that she is not here to speak for herself. Mr. Mansker responded that business must go on, and that there'll always be someone absent. Ms. Bursk added that the Board can just vote "Yes" or "No."

Mr. Silvers **CALLED FOR THE QUESTION**. The vote on whether to vote on this issue was 14 in favor and two opposed, with Mr. Smith abstaining.

MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to approve the appointment of Mr. Smith as the new Vice-President.

MOTION APPROVED with 11 in favor and two opposed, with four abstentions.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Public Safety (Mr. Yoder and Mr. Mansker)

1. Mr. Yoder said that solar panels can be installed on speeding signals at a cost of approximately \$9,000 per two stoplights; it makes the most sense to install the panels on stoplights across from each other at the same intersection. Councilman Smith may help pay for them if the NC waits a few months; this will be discussed at the next Safety Committee Meeting next week. Stakeholders have e-mailed support for the idea. Mr. Hegedes voiced that the City Department of Transportation must approve the installations. Mr. Mansker noted that the installations could fit into the Business Improvement District's plan, and that they and other entities could help pay for them. Ms. Burke responded that the Business Improvement District has strict spending limits and the speeding signals are not in the current Business Improvement District budget or approved spending items.
2. Community Emergency Preparedness Plan. Mr. Hegedes questioned what we are doing to prepare for emergencies. Mr. Yoder replied that this will also be discussed at the next Safety Committee Meeting next week. Stakeholder Ernie Hillard, of the North Hills NC, noted that schools have emergency supplies and that it would be good to check with them to know what's available and to avoid having overlapping supplies.

b. Beautification (Ms. Bursk)

1. Request for funds: for up to \$4,500 for the purchase of a mobile security camera for combating graffiti. Ms. Bursk stated that the Committee is considering recommending a mobile security car, which could be less expensive and further-reaching than a security camera. Mr. Hegedes said that the cost would be closer to \$5,000-\$5,200. Ms. Bursk responded that other options are more expensive. Mr. Barrionuevo explained that a mobile security car, or rent-a-cop, could be procured at a cost of \$200-\$300 per month that would patrol from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m., two to three times per week.

2. Request for funds: to continue funding Veterans Memorial Park maintenance.
MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to extend the maintenance of Veterans Memorial Park for another six months, at \$150 per month, from January 2008 through June 2008.
Discussion: Mr. Barrionuevo said that the Beautification Committee is interested to meet with the Rotary Club about this.
John Seletos **CALLED FOR THE QUESTION** and it was agreed to vote.
MOTION APPROVED by unanimous vote.
3. Mr. Rivas added that Tessa Charnofsky of Mayor Villaraigosa's office indicated that The Mayor's Million Trees L.A. (MTLA) Initiative (www.milliontreesla.org) will give away 100-150 trees on December 15th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 or 1:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

c. Planning and Land Use (PLUC) (John Seletos)

1. Request for Zoning Variance: 16830 Kingsbury St. Stakeholder Heidi Johnstone, a renter and resident at this address, said that she's been fighting this request since 2005. She contended that: the exercise room would be turned into parking; it's not true that the room was a storage room; the owner said there are 238 parking spaces; it's really 230; the owner's information to the City has not been inspected or verified; and that she's been subjected to personal harassment, including by the resident managers. She added that a 2004 inspection revealed illegal buildouts and two owner's appeals to get them approved were denied. John Seletos mentioned that he had forwarded information to the City Council District office. He also said that the Building and Safety Bureau said that they are checking on the request, and that no variance request had been received, even though the NC sent them a letter about this on January 14, 2005. He will inquire as to how this matter has gotten this far.
MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Neudeck): that the NC will send a letter to the Councilman Smith's office reiterating our opposition to this request, and that we already stated our opposition to it in our January 14, 2005 letter to the Council.
MOTION APPROVED unanimously.
Ms. Johnstone thanked the Board for their support and attention to this matter.
2. OGH-ICO Hardship Exemption for 17520 Kingsbury. The PLUC voted on October 3, 2007 to recommend opposing this request because a hardship had not been established. John Seletos explained that the Owner asked to

put a sixth house on a lot that already has five houses. Mr. Beauvais commented that this parcel design is inappropriate for the neighborhood. **MOTION** (by Planning and Land Use Committee): to oppose this hardship exemption request.

MOTION APPROVED unanimously.

3. Sober Living Homes (Mr. Hegedes)
Mr. Hegedes announced that Councilman Smith made a Motion in the City Council, of which Mr. Hegedes has a copy, which will regulate the openings and locations of Sober Living Homes, and will submit a draft ordinance to the Council in 45 days. Mr. Summers and the Board congratulated Mr. Hegedes on his groundbreaking work in this matter, which may affect the entire City.
4. Community Impact Statement: ICO area, Commercial areas. John Seletos said that the PLUC will discuss this matter. GHSNC supports following the current laws and ordinances in particular the statutes for granting variances and entitlements. The above statement will be on next month's agenda.
5. Proposed Kohl's Overbuilding Hearing Results: Appeal to be Filed. John Seletos recused himself from all such discussions with regards to Kohl's. Stakeholder Maria Fisk stated that an appeal will be filed by November 20th, and summarized the ten items that the North Valley Planning Commission will submit to the L.A. City Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM).
6. Las Lomas, a major building project north of Granada Hills. The PLUC voted on October 3, 2007 to recommend opposing this request as proposed. The GHSNC Board also voted to oppose the project in October. The Porter Ranch NC will give a presentation regarding this project on November 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Sheppard of the Hills Church on Rinaldi Avenue.
7. Mario de Campos Trail, Mission Peak: Proposal to purchase a portion of Gas Company land to allow for improved hiking/biking/equestrian trails. John Seletos stated that a Gas Company fence cuts through the area. **MOTION** (by John Seletos): to purchase a portion of Gas Company land to allow for improved hiking/biking/equestrian trails. **MOTION TO TABLE** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Mansker). **MOTION TO TABLE APPROVED.**
Mr. Rivas recommended not voting on this issue until it is further investigated. John Seletos added that the Design Review Board will receive a City Planning Department briefing in the near future.

d. Outreach (Mr. Barrionuevo)

1. Request for funds: Allocating up to \$500 for an outreach event for The Mayor's Million Trees L.A. (MTLA) Initiative.

MOTION (by Mr. Barrionuevo, seconded by Mr. Smith): to allocate up to \$500 for food and other supplies for an outreach event for The Mayor's Million Trees L.A. (MTLA) Initiative.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barrionuevo explained that there would be an NC table and banner, giveaways, food and other items to promote the NC and the MTLA. Jim Summers and Eric Mansker questioned whether the purchase of food would be a wise outreach expenditure. Bonnie Bursk offered the opinion that using food was an appropriate expenditure because stakeholders are more likely to attend when food is offered. The event will be held on December 15th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center (Petit Park).

There was a **CALL FOR THE QUESTION** and it was agreed to vote.

MOTION APPROVED with 12 in favor, four opposed and one abstention.

2. Granada Hills Holiday Parade: GHSNC Participation. The Parade will be held on December 2nd on Chatsworth Street. Volunteers are needed.

e. LADWP Rate Hikes (Ms. Cirino). Ms. Cirino reported that the Department of Water and Power wants a Community Impact Statement from the NC. At December's meeting, the Board will have a chance to vote on an official stance.

f. Dog Park Ad Hoc Committee (Ms. Silvers). Mr. Rivas related that there has been no word regarding City funding; the Committee will consider other sites, and 64% of the community wants a dog park.

g. Recreation & Parks (Mr. Rivas). Mr. Rivas mentioned that Ken Novak of the City Recreation and Parks Department described improvements to be made, with their date to be determined. Meanwhile, other events are continuing.

IX. Board Member Comments

John Seletos relayed that Stakeholder Richard Fisk of the Old Granada Hills Group said that people can submit articles for their newsletter by November 15th. Mr. Beauvais announced that he will be absent from next month's Meeting. Mr. Smith asked that the adjournment be in memory of his father, who recently passed.

X. Agenda Items for next General Meeting, and for Committee Meetings

Mr. Summers said that he will e-mail the next General Meeting Agenda to everyone.

XI. Closing remarks and adjournment.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.