

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)**

Thursday, April 10, 2008

The First Baptist Church of Granada Hills
11011 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance

Brad Smith, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Tamara Seletos.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Parliamentarian Mike Kabo. Board Members present:

Jim Summers, President (late)	Brad Smith, Vice-President
Robert Norris, Treasurer	Mark Barrionuevo, Renters
Dave Beauvais, Community Org's	Bonnie Bursk, Comm. Prop. Owners
Julie Carson, Member-at-Large	Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups
Shamica Doty, Business	Pamela Finn, Member-at-Large
John Hegedes, Member-at-Large	Mike Kabo, Parliamentarian
Eric Mansker, Homeowners	Sean Rivas, Parks
John Seletos, Youth Organizations	Tamara Seletos, Students
Christopher Silvers, Member-at-Large	Karessa Anne Silvers, Education
Norbert Soski, Member-at-Large (late)	Lottie Van Emden, Cultural Arts
Jim Yoder, Seniors	

Board Members absent: Glen Chester, Secretary (excused); Randall Neudeck, Pres. Emeritus/At-Large (unexcused); and Cindi Wood, Member-at-Large (unexcused).

Twenty-one of the 23 Board Members were present, which is a quorum, and the business of the Council could be conducted.

Also present were 12 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes was postponed to next month's Meeting due to the Secretary, Mr. Chester's absence.

IV. Community Speakers

- a. **DONE** (L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) (Amelia Herrera-Robles)
Ms. Herrera-Robles was not present and there was no report.

- b. **Council District 12** (John Bwarie)
Mr. Bwarie was not present and there was no report.

c. LAPD [L.A. Police Dept.] Devonshire Division

[The following report was given after Item #2.]

LAPD Lieutenant Mike O'Donnell (818-832-0633; lapdonline.org) declared that the Police are "absolutely in favor" of the NC hiring a private security service to "help them out," especially since the new Police Station to be built in the area will take some of their resources. The service has their own insurance; the NC doesn't incur any liability. The Police "will be happy to sit down with them" to establish protocols. His only caution is regarding the value of the company hired. He added that "visible patrols are very effective."

Dario Del Core, LAPD Senior Lead Officer, (818-756-9011, x1727; cell 818-634-0577), who has worked in the Devonshire Division for more than 16 years, distributed a "Devonshire Area Senior Lead Officers and Basic Car Coordinators / Neighborhood Watch Meeting Schedule" and the latest "[LAPD Devonshire Area] Neighborhood Watch" Newsletter. He agreed that private security services are very helpful; sometimes they're faster responders. Area violent crime is down 9%, while car crime is up 2%. The LAPD's average response time is 7 ½ minutes and they're averaging 350 arrests per month. Neighborhood Watch meetings are usually the third Thursday each month for one hour and are informative. Billboard access is normal and according to the law; the VST (Volunteer Surveillance Team) is assisting.

Lt. O'Donnell continued that one detective is dedicated to tagging. Residents have complained that tagging alarms have been sounding during sleeping hours; new technology is being sought and real-time Internet monitoring is in the future. The worst crimes in the area are car break-ins and theft. Anyone can be sued, but insurance companies incur all the liability; private security services are fully licensed and bonded. Ideal coverage is several hours per night. He will provide a contact name from another community that employs a private security service.

d. Security Specialists

[The following report was given after Item #4c.]

Nick Tsotsikyan, Director of Operations of Security Specialists Patrol (SPP) (877-CAPATROL; capatrol.com), introduced himself and stated that they have their own unique equipment in all of their cars, which are all marked the same. Their "major clients are apartment complexes and homeowner's associations." They can work a flexible schedule, and can patrol our area three nights per week, for three hours each time, between 10:30 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. One patrol takes approximately 45-60 minutes. They would also patrol parks on foot. A flat monthly rate would be charged. There would be extra billing only if an officer "needs to be stationed for an extra couple of hours for an arrest or something like that." SPP is licensed by the State Department of Consumer Affairs and approved by the City of L.A. The NC would be mentioned "as an additional insured." It's up to the Board how aggressive they would want SPP to be.

They'd take the same basic information as the LAPD, and that information is shared with the LAPD and the City Attorney. Private property activity would also be coordinated with the LAPD. Activity reports can be generated daily and information will be accessible to clients through SPP's website.

Mr. Rivas pointed out that the General Services Dept. has one car to patrol parks from the Ventura County line to Griffith Park; private security would help.

[e. L.A. Fire Department] [This Item was not on the Agenda.]

Mike Arguelles, Los Angeles City Fire Dept. (LAFD) Battalion Chief (911 in progress / emergency; 311 non-emergency; lafd.org) spoke. There'll be a Grand Opening Ceremony on May 3rd from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for the new Fire Station #87 at 10124 Balboa Boulevard. There'll be lots of activity, food and events. The Station includes a Community Room with seating for 79 people. The Room needs audiovisual equipment and he would like the NC's support. They also need help "to get the word out" to the community about the event. The old Fire Station will probably be leased to a non-profit organization.

V. Public Comment

Stakeholder Jerry Askew is pleased that the NC is considering hiring a private security service and reminded homeowners to secure their roof access to prevent access to taggers.

Stakeholder Susan Robinson had her U.S. Mail and identity information stolen; she encourages everyone to use locking mailboxes.

VI. Officer Reports

A. President – Jim Summers

Mr. Summers reported that the NC needs the Board Retreat to happen soon. Also, there'll be a Greek Festival in which the NC can participate; we need volunteers. The NC could host a State Assembly 40th District candidates debate. He wants Committee Chairs to recruit more volunteers.

B. Vice President – Brad Smith

Mr. Smith reported that he contacted possible honorees for Good Neighbor awards. Also, the California Clean Money Act website [cacean.org] is very informative regarding public financing of elections.

C. Treasurer – Rob Norris

Mr. Norris distributed a "[GHSNC] Budget Report 4-10-08" and reported that all bills are paid. Next year's Budget needs to be submitted to the City before July 1st to get funding; the Budget Committee will meet again soon to work on that. We still need a second credit card signer. Payment will be made to Academy Mailing for their work regarding the \$2,400 CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program mailing.

D. Secretary – Glen Chester

Mr. Chester was not present at this Meeting; there was no Report.

VII. Board Issues & Updates - Discussion and Possible Action

A. Board & Committee Re-assignments

- i. **MOTION** (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Norris): to approve Lottie Van Emden's removal as a Committee Member in Outreach and Election Committees to concentrate her efforts as the GHSNC Cultural Arts Representative.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Summers noted that Ms. Van Emden requested this herself.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

- ii. **MOTION** (by the Election Committee): to approve the appointment of Sean Rivas to the Election Committee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Summers noted that Ms. Carson nominated Mr. Rivas.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

- iii. **MOTION** (by Mr. Seletos, seconded by Mr. Smith): To approve the selection of Eric Mansker as PLUC [Planning and Land Use Committee] Co-Chair.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Summers noted that this was approved by the PLUC on March 26th.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

B. Board Elections: GHSNC Elections Procedures Update

Mr. Rivas reported for Ms. Carson that the Committee needs volunteers and to finalize the Elections Procedures by 60 days before our September election. They are working with Jerry Kvasnicka, Independent Elections Administrator (IEA) (818-269-7759 or 323-256-6330); they'll meet within two weeks. Ms. Finn, Ms. Cirino and Mr. Yoder volunteered to help.

C. GHSNC Office Lease

Ms. Doty reported that, due to our cost constraint, it's difficult to find affordable office space. She'll tour with the Granada Hills North NC President looking for a location. Mr. Mansker is also concerned about the cost constraint, is

skeptical that they'll be able to find office space, and noted the City's "draconian" lease terms that scare off potential landlords.

D. Board Retreat: Organization, accomplishments and goals

Mr. Rivas reported that Ms. Carson and Mr. Chester are helping; more volunteers are needed. They're pursuing locations; it'll probably be on a Saturday mid-day. The Retreat is to "road map" between the outgoing and incoming Boards.

E. Board Equipment

- i. Request for funds to purchase a sound system [see below]. Review of three written estimates and recommendation.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mansker reminded that [Amelia Herrera-Robles, DONE Project Coordinator] keeps saying that accurate Minutes are important and he believes that the NC needs a good sound system to help with that. A \$4,700 bid includes five microphones, microphone stands, a recorder, a sound mixer, cables, and speakers. We could also use the system for community events. The Committee would maintain the system, which could be paid for through the "Office Equipment" Budget category.

Mr. Norris reminded all Board Members to specify the Budget category for funding requests. Ms. Cirino and Mr. Soski suggested that the NC could hire a recording service instead of buying our own sound system. Mr. Mansker responded that the expensive rental costs would exceed the purchase cost within one year. Ms. Bursk is concerned that the entire Office Equipment budget for the year would be used to buy the sound system. Mr. Mansker responded that the NC hasn't used much of the budget and more funding is due anyway in July.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Beauvais) was agreed to.

MOTION (the Motion was made and seconded): to purchase a sound system for GHSNC Meetings, the cost not to exceed \$4,700.

MOTION FAILED, with a hand vote showing four in favor.

- ii. Request for funds to purchase a Video Camcorder [see below].

DISCUSSION: Mr. Summers explained that the cost would probably be between \$300 - \$500 and could be paid for through the "Outreach" Budget category. Mr. Hegedes pointed out that another NC hires a videographer. Mr. Beauvais noted that the NC already has a video recorder and

Stakeholder Aaron DeVandry agreed that lots of post-Meeting work would be needed, especially editing.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION was accepted by acclamation.

MOTION (by Mr. Summers, and the Motion was seconded): to purchase a Video Camcorder for use at GHSNC meetings, hearings and events, the cost not to exceed \$1,500.

MOTION FAILED, with a roll call vote requested and a majority opposed, with Mr. Seletos abstaining.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Outreach Committee (OC): Chair: Mark Barrionuevo

- i. Report & Updates: Graffiti Watch, Tote Bags, Nameplates, Kudos.
Mr. Barrionuevo announced that outreach materials are available, including magnets, tote bags, and nameplates.
- ii. Straw Poll: Board Member interest in lawn signs.
Mr. Barrionuevo took a straw poll, which indicated that a majority of the Board are interested in having lawn signs. The signs would say “[GHSNC], (etc.), see our website . . .” and would be generic so that nothing would need to be written or changed on them. Their size would be 18 inches by 24 inches and the number of signs to be made is to be determined.
- iii. GHSNC Website - Discussion: All changes/updates/e-mail blasts/etc. will be verified through the Outreach Chairman, who will also address questions regarding the website and webmaster's duties.
Mr. Barrionuevo explained that Board Members can update the website through the Committee.
- iv. Spring Egg Hunt
Mr. Rivas reported that there were 1,000 attendees, including parents, and \$1,500 was donated. A carnival-type event will be considered next.
- v. Upcoming Outreach Activity: Beautification Day at Tulsa Street Elementary School on April 26th from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Volunteers Needed.

MOTION (by the Outreach Committee): to allocate \$500 for the Tulsa Street Elementary School Beautification Day for the School to buy trees and plants, and for the NC to distribute water to volunteers, with funds to be allocated from the NC Budget's Community Projects category, pending DONE approval.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion regarding the allocation arrangement. Mr. Norris explained the requirements, including that the NC's name needs to be on the invoice and that the NC can buy the items with a credit card. Mr. Soski noted that the City is giving away trees, so he believes that there's no need to buy trees. Mr. Rivas responded that the City has already allocated their free trees to another event and that they can't help with this event.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Summers) was agreed to.

MOTION PASSED, with 13 in favor, one opposed, and two abstentions.

vi. Requests for Funds

i. \$60 for GHSNC to join the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The following Board Members recused themselves from, and left the room before and did not return until this Item was finished being addressed: Mr. Beauvais, Ms. Bursk, Ms. Doty, Mr. Norris, Mr. Seletos, and Mr. Summers. A quorum still existed after they left, so the Item could be voted upon.

MOTION (by the Outreach Committee): to allocate \$60 for GHSNC to join the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce to assist in outreaching and supporting the business community, pending DONE approval.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barrionuevo said that Mr. Rivas would be the liaison with the Chamber. Mr. Mansker is concerned that membership could create a conflict of interest. Mr. Soski believes that it is inappropriate for the NC to be involved in a private organization and read from the By-Laws' Article 3B that "the [NC] must avoid interfering in another organization." Mr. Kabo pointed out that the NC would be a non-voting Chamber member, but still get the benefits of membership.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

ii. **MOTION:** Outreach Item, to sponsor a bus for transporting children for the Granada Hills Recreation Center's Annual Spring Camp, not to exceed \$466.11. (OC: 3-0, 2/08)

The above Item was dropped due to the event already having occurred.

B. Beautification Committee (BC): Chair: Bonnie Bursk

i. Committee Report

It was noted by Mr. Barrionuevo that the report was covered by the earlier discussion regarding the private security service.

- ii. Request for funds for a security patrol [see below].

MOTION (by Mr. Barrionuevo, seconded by M unknown): to allocate funds for a security patrol for three patrols per night on three days per week to spot check Granada Hills South, at a cost of \$250.00 per month for three months, at a total of \$1,080 total, pending DONE and City Attorney approval.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion regarding this Motion and the merits and drawbacks of hiring a private security service. It was noted that the Committee approved it by a 3-0 vote on January 14th. Mr. Beauvais stated that he'd been opposed to the idea, but after hearing the Security Specialists Patrol presentation earlier in this Meeting, he's now in favor of it. Mr. Barrionuevo indicated that this allocation could come from the "Community Projects" budget category.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION was passed by acclamation.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

- C. **Public Safety Committee (PSC):** Chair: Jim Yoder. CERT Update.
[The above Item was addressed after Item #9.]

Mr. Yoder reported that lots of people are signing up for the next CERT class.

- D. **By-Laws & Rules Committee (BRC):** Chair: Dave Beauvais

The Committee will meet April 16th and he'll have a full report next month.

- E. **Planning & Land Use Committee (PLUC):** Chair: John Seletos

- i. **Master Land Use Permit Application and/or Request for Variance**

- a. **Case ZA 1995 455 Project: 10515 Balboa Blvd.** – Modification of existing communications facility consisting of installation of eight dish antennas to existing wireless facility atop existing three-story building.

Mr. Beauvais announced that that application had been withdrawn.

- b. **Case AZ 2008-767 Project: 10549 Haskell Ave.** – Discussion of request for continued use and maintenance of an existing preschool facility with a total enrollment of 106 children and addition of a one-story 1,157 sq. ft. modular building.

Mr. Seletos will get information regarding the project's community affect.
Mr. Mansker noted that it's in the middle of single-family homes.

ii. Design Review Board and Community Plan

Mr. Beauvais noted that the sign at the southwest corner of Devonshire St. and Balboa Blvd. was approved.

iii. Sober Living Homes – PLUC Motion dated October 24, 2007

Status: City Planning and City Attorney are working on ordinance. Reports should be ready for review at April PLUM meeting. AB 724 & SB 992 Licensing of Sober Living Homes

Mr. Hegedes reported that Phyllis Winger, Chief Planning Deputy of L.A. City District 12 (213-473-7012; phyllis.winger@lacity.org) will be at the City PLUM Meeting April 29th at around 2:00 p.m. State AB [Assembly Bill] 724 and SB [Senate Bill] 992 are working their way through the State legislature; we need to “keep pushing on the local level” to get something passed here, regardless of what happens at the State level. Mr. Seletos asked everyone to please support this.

iv. Baseline Mansionization Ordinance: Limit of FAR [Floor Area Ratio] to 3:1 citywide. (Recommendation: Further discussion of FAR verses Granada Hills Interim Control Ordinance should be considered.) (PLUC approved 1/30/08.)

MOTION (by the PLUC): that the GHSNC supports a Baseline Mansionization Ordinance. Size should be taken into account for the local area.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION was passed by acclamation.

MOTION PASSED with 15 in favor, three opposed, and three abstentions.

v. Building/Safety and GH Specific Plan potential violations

a. List of building and safety violations: 17339 Los Alimos – Old Granada Hills - ICO (stakeholder requests info)

Mr. Summers mentioned that he's watching this construction. Mr. Beauvais disclosed that plumbing is being installed there.

b. Request that Building & Safety Frank Bush speak at GHSNC.

Mr. Mansker announced that Frank Bush, Chief Inspector for the L.A. City Building and Safety Dept. Code Enforcement Bureau (DBS) (213-252-3930; ladbs.org), agreed to address the NC at our next Meeting. Mr.

Mansker took a straw poll and it was agreed to have Mr. Bush speak. Mr. Mansker also said that a Chatsworth Street developer is not pursuing a development there.

vi. Early Notification Reports

Mr. Summers said that there's no report on this at this time.

vii. Update: Regency Centers Overbuilding Entitlements (Kohl's)

Mr. Summers said that there's no report on this at this time.

viii. SB 1818 – Statewide density bonus for housing units

Mr. Summers said that he'll soon have more information regarding this.

MOTION (by Mr. Seletos, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to TABLE this Item until the next General Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

F. Ad Hoc GHSNC/LA DWP Oversight Committee (DWP-OSC): Chair: Alexia Cirino - Update Report

Ms. Cirino said that there's no report on this at this time.

IX. Board Member Comments

1) Bonnie Bursk – Citywide proposal (GH Chamber of Commerce approved April 2008)

[The above Item was addressed after Item #8) B) ii).]

Ms. Bursk explained that we need to support a continued waiver, otherwise the cost could greatly increase and “shut down important community events.” She would send a letter about this to the City Council.

MOTION (by the Outreach Committee): to have the City of Los Angeles continue to waive fees for Chambers of Commerce, Business Improvement Districts, Neighborhood Councils, and non-profits for events such as parades, Street Fairs, and other community events.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2) Other Board Member Comments

There were no other Board Member comments at this time.

X. Agenda Items for next General Meeting

- 1) Chris Silvers** – Discussion of GHSNC sponsorship of West Valley Alliance graffiti removal program for May 2008 agenda.

Mr. Summers noted that Mr. Silvers left this Meeting early; this Item was not addressed.

- 2) Mark Barrionuevo** – Plastic Bags & Billboards motions

Mr. Summers suggested and it was agreed to address this Item at the next Meeting.

XI. Closing remarks and adjournment

Mr. Rivas announced that the Park Advisory Board is up and running, and he is representing the GHSNC on it.

Mr. Beauvais announced that Tamar Galatzan will be the Speaker at the next Old Granada Hills Residents Group (OGHRG) Meeting on Thursday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. Also, the OGHRG is soon having a Board of Directors election.

Mr. Summers adjourned this Meeting at 9:26 p.m.