

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, September 11, 2008**
at The First Baptist Church of Granada Hills
11011 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance

Jim Summers, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

II. Roll Call

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

Jim Summers, President	Brad Smith, Vice-President
Robert Norris, Treasurer	Glen Chester, Secretary
Jerry Askew, At-Large	Dave Beauvais, Community Org's
Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners	Julie Carson, Member-at-Large (late)
Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups (late)	Pamela Finn, Member-at-Large
Eric Mansker, Homeowners	Sean Rivas, Parks
John Seletos, Youth Organizations	Christopher Silvers, Member-at-Large
Norbert Soski, Member-at-Large (late)	Lottie Van Emden, Cultural Arts
Jim Yoder, Seniors	

Board Members absent: Shamica Doty, Business (excused); John Hegedes, Member-at-Large (excused); Tamara Seletos, Students (excused); and Karessa Anne Silvers, Education (excused).

Thirteen of the 21 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, and the business of the Council could be conducted. Also attending were 12 Stakeholders and Guests. The Parliamentarian is Mike Kabo.

III. Approval of the Minutes: 7/10/2008 and 8/14/2008

Mr. Chester noted that he sent the draft August 14, 2008 Minutes on September 11, 2008 and will present it for approval at next month's General Board Meeting. Nine corrections were distributed and presented for the July 10, 2008 Minutes (see attached).

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2008 General Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Public Comment: Community and Public Comments on non-agendized items

Stakeholder Reverend Eddie Wiggins introduced himself. He's seeking guidance regarding buying a property at Encino Avenue and Chatsworth Street for an anti-gang after-school program that would cost \$1.2 million per year and serve 100 children. Mr. Summers recommended attending the Planning and Land Use Committee Meeting.

Stakeholder Sharon Gallagher is concerned about traffic at Balboa Boulevard and Chatsworth St. for the 10726 Balboa Blvd. property. She described the intersection, alley and traffic flow. Mr. Beauvais explained the Design Review Board discussion and recommendations to the City Planning Department.

Stakeholder Ilene White, from Patrick Henry Middle School Fitness Center, is requesting financial help. The Center opened in 2002 with a proposition bond grant. They want to open it to the entire community year-round; it's currently open Monday-Friday 6:00 – 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. and costs \$2 per day to use.

V. Community Speakers:

(1) D.O.N.E. – Amelia Herrera-Robles

Ms. Herrera-Robles (818-374-9895; amelia.herrera-robles@lacity.org) distributed a flyer about and announced the Congress of Neighborhood Councils and Community Budget Day at City Hall October 11th; they'll discuss next year's budget.

(2) Council District 12 – John Bwarie

Mr. Bwarie, Deputy District Director for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-701-5253; john.bwarie@lacity.org), announced a community clean-up including removing illegally placed signs for September 27th, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., and the Granada Hills Street Faire on October 4th.

(3) L.A.P.D. – Private Security Patrol Update; Senior Lead Officers

Sergeant Dan Randolph, in charge of the LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.)'s Devonshire Division training, is seeking funds to buy a trailer to house training equipment. He made a presentation including a video show about the training and said that the equipment "would be exclusively and permanently at" the Devonshire station. Mr. Smith met with Sean Kane, LAPD Devonshire Division Captain, who estimated the total cost to be \$35,000. Mr. Smith suggested that the NC could provide "seed money" with other area NCs at \$5,000 each.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Mansker): for the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to commit a pledge of \$5,000 from the Community Impact Project fund to the L.A. Police Dept.'s Devonshire Division for housing for the Use of Force Simulator, contingent upon the remainder of funding being acquired as soon as possible as a benefit to the LAPD, the community and the City.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Mr. Rivas).

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION was **PASSED** with 14 in favor and one opposed.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais is concerned that the Motion [by Mr. Smith] may be out of order because “there hasn’t been proper consideration.” The Parliamentarian opined that the Motion can be made; “It’s for the Board to decide.” Mr. Summers added that the City Attorney said that as long as the topic is on the Agenda, a Motion can be made.

MOTION PASSED with 12 in favor, two opposed and one abstention.

- (4) Department of Transportation (DOT) – Traffic regulations
Alan Willis, Principal Transportation Engineer, L.A. Dept. of Transportation Valley Operations Bureau (213-972-8430; alan.willis@lacity.org), elaborated on how the Department must follow State law in setting speed limits, including regarding radar speed limit enforcement on Zelzah Avenue, which was last surveyed 12 years ago. Speed limits must be reviewed every 7-10 years, or radar enforcement expires. The national standard is that the 85th percentile of measured speeds is the “starting point for determining the speed” limit. Exceptions include safety factors and can lower the speed limit five miles per hour. School speed zones will remain. The lower part of Zelzah is a “secondary highway’ whose “purpose is to move traffic,” while 78% of drivers are already violating the speed limit.

VI. Officer Reports

President

Mr. Summers distributed a handout and said that the NC needs a slogan. Also, a coyote alert is in effect because many animals have been killed and people chased. The NC’s Mayor’s Budget Day representatives will be Mr. Smith and himself. Disaster preparedness work is being coordinated with City Council District 12 and other NCs.

Vice-President

Mr. Smith thanks the LAPD for their support of the Use of Force Simulator.

Treasurer

Mr. Norris distributed a “Budget Report 8-14-08” that has subsequent “Changes” on the back of it. He’s waiting for more information from the City about demand warrants. He needs to move on to other responsibilities and a new Treasurer is needed to replace him.

Secretary

Mr. Chester said there was no report.

VII. Board Issues & Updates – Discussion of Meeting and Equipment for future board.

1. **Motion:** GHSNC to spend up to \$55 on a dedicated telephone line (internet-based) for at least 6 months.

Mr. Askew explained that calls would go to a voicemail system. It may cost almost \$60 and would be for six to twelve months.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Yoder): to allocate up to \$55 for a dedicated telephone line (Internet-based) for at least six months.

DISCUSSION: Information is available at www.less.net and 818-668-5969.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

2. Transition and Retreat Plans for first Meeting of new Board in October.
Mr. Summers encouraged Board Members to submit topics. Mr. Mansker recommended that the council hire an operator to instruct volunteers on how to work the new sound equipment.

VIII. Committee Reports:

1. Elections Committee (EC): (Julie Carson). Update: timetables, mailings, outreach, Street Faire booths & election locale organization. Number of Candidates and categories. GHSNC Boundaries.
Ms. Carson described election candidate statement specifics and procedures progress. Ms. Carson also gave an update on various election deadlines. There're 18 candidates. There are currently six positions with no candidate running. There'll be a meeting at this location on September 25th at 6:00 p.m. Election volunteers are needed. NC boundaries were discussed.

2. Outreach Committee (OC): Final Outreach Report (Sean Rivas).
A. **Motion:** Request for up to \$500 for promotional items for outreach

MOTION (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Beauvais): to allocate up to \$500 to be added to the Outreach Committee's Discretionary Fund from the Budget's General Outreach category.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rivas distributed a handout regarding and explained that promotional items are needed for an upcoming event. There was discussion about what budget category to use.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Chester).

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION was **PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION PASSED unanimously with 13 in favor.

B. Discussion of Outreach events, GHSNC 2008 surveys & banners

Mr. Summers noted that surveys will be distributed this Saturday. Mr. Rivas explained that a problem with the street banners caused the price to increase and they were not installed. He distributed a price quote from Gold Graphics, and described their installation and repair services and possible design considerations. Installation would be for one year, not just 60 days. Mr. Bwarie said that the "full City Council" would have to vote on the design, etc.

MOTION (by the Committee): to allocate \$1,000 to the banner budget to increase it to \$3,500 for banner installation, maintenance and general outreach.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

Sean also asked for Board Members to volunteer for the Fair and Chatsworth event on Saturday and Sunday, October 4th and 5th.

3. Planning & Land Use Committee (PLUC): (Co-Chairs: Eric Mansker and John Seletos) [Meeting 8/27/08]

A. Update: New Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan and Specific plan

Mr. Mansker reported that there's been no response from Anna Vidal, , L.A. Planning Dept. Valley NCs Liaison (818-374-5043; anna.vidal@lacity.org).

B. Update: Old Granada Hills Interim Control Ordinance (ICO): Status, Renewal, and interpretations

It was noted that the ICO has "run its course . . . there's nothing we can do about it." Mr. Seletos said that "restrictions will no longer apply" if the ICO ends. [The following comment was made between Item #'s IX and X.] Stakeholder Maria Fisk announced that Phyllis Winger, Chief Planning Deputy of L.A. City District 12 (213-473-7012; phyllis.winger@lacity.org), said that the City is working to extend the ICO, which is due to expire September 14th, for another six months. She described the ICO's purpose.

C. GHSNC to participate in "SurveyLA" – a documentation of area's historical resources.

Mr. Summers described the Committee's work.

D. Mayoral Housing Summit 2008 – (John Seletos & Jim Summers)

Motion: GHSNC to reimburse \$274 for two tickets (\$137 each) to Housing Summit

Mr. Mansker, Mr. Summers and Mr. Seletos described the event.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Beauvais): to reimburse \$274 for two tickets (\$137 each) to Housing Summit.

Mr. Seletos and Mr. Summers recused themselves and left the room before the discussion and vote.

DISCUSSION: the allocation would come from the Planning budget.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Seletos and Mr. Summers returned to the room.

- E. Discussion of eight detached Single Family Residences on two parcels currently zoned R1-1 requiring a zone change to RD1.5-1 (VTT-69144-SL, APCNV-2007-2160-ZC-ZAA, hearing Sept. 18, 2008).
Mr. Summers and Mr. Seletos distributed a handout regarding, described and there was extensive discussion about the project, which is close to Andesol Avenue. Mr. Askew read a 1/10/2006 advisory agency requirement from the City of Los Angeles Planning Department which states that a maintenance association will be required of a small lot subdivision.

MOTION (by Mr. Seletos, seconded by Ms. Carson): to oppose the zone variance allowing a small-lot subdivision at 17154 Chatsworth Street.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (Mr. Norris, seconded by Ms. Carson)

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION was **PASSED** with one opposed.

MOTION PASSED on a voice vote with three abstentions.

Mr. Soski arrived at 9:10 p.m. Ms. Finn and Ms. Van Emden left at 9:20 p.m.

- F. Discussion of change of use of one-story office building to a mini-shopping center and a one story addition at 10700 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills. (DIR-2008-3516-DRB-SPP, Design Review Board Sept. 9, 2008)
Ms. Cirino indicated that nearby single-family homeowners have been approached by the 10700 Balboa Blvd. property owners.

- G. Early Notification System - new business
There was no report.

4. Beautification Committee (BC): (Bonnie Bursk) [Meeting 8/18/08]
a. Discussion of \$10,000 Beautification Grant
Mr. Summers said that he's working on it.

- b. Discussion to continue paying maintenance fees for Veterans Park @ \$150/month

MOTION (by the Committee): to continue paying maintenance fees for Veterans Park @ \$150/month for one year, retroactive to July 1st, 2008.

MOTION PASSED without objection.

- c. Clean-Up Day with CD 12, September 29, 2008, possible sponsorship of refreshments

MOTION (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Askew): to allocate up to \$300 for refreshments for the workers at the September 27, 2008 Clean-Up Day with Council District 12.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

- 5. Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee (PSC): (Jim Yoder)
 - a. Discussion of raising of speed limit on Zelzah Ave. for radar enforcement, Traffic Commission – postponed; GHSNC to help arrange a community meeting with LAPD and other NCs
Mr. Summers noted that this was already discussed in Item V) 4) above.
 - b. Discussion of GHSNC's partial sponsorship of Devonshire Division's LAPD Simulator/Weight room (Brad Smith).
Mr. Summers noted that this was already discussed in Item V) 3) above.
 - c. Disaster Preparedness: CD 12 Cabinet, mapping, coordination with other NCs (NHWNC)
Mr. Rivas announced that The Great Shake Out Emergency Response Drill will be held November 13, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Summers is working on another CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program (818-756-9674; cert-la.com, lafdcert@lacity.org).

Mr. Askew announced that GHSNC vest artwork is completed and he distributed a copy of the design. The safety vests have been ordered and will be used for the sign clean up before the Fair on October 4, 2008.

- 6. Bylaws and Rules Committee (PSC): (Mr. Beauvais) [Meeting Aug 26-27, 2008]
Discussion of proposed Bylaw changes.
Mr. Beauvais distributed a handout about and explained that the Committee unanimously approved recommendations to approve three Bylaws revisions.

MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to approve changes to Bylaws Article VII, Sec. D "Official Actions and Quorum," Sec. I "Voting on Board

Matters"; Article X. "Committees"; and Article XIV. Sec. A "Amendments to Bylaws" (see Bylaws Attachment).

MOTION TO SEPARATE (by Mr. Silvers, seconded by Mr. Askew): to separate the above Motion into three separate Motions.

MOTION TO SEPARATE APPROVED automatically without a vote and confirmed by the Parliamentarian.

MOTION (by the Committee): to approve changes to Bylaws Article VII, Sec. D "Official Actions and Quorum," Sec. I "Voting on Board Matters" [see attached Bylaws and Rules Committee Report, September 2008].

DISCUSSION: Mr. Chester is concerned that Board Members would be encouraged to abstain. Mr. Beauvais responded with further explanation that the Motion discourages abstentions. Mr. Smith conducted a straw poll which was inconclusive regarding voting on this now. The Parliamentarian reminded that a 2/3 vote is needed to make a Bylaws change.

MOTION PASSED with 11 in favor and three opposed.

MOTION (by the Committee): to approve changes to Bylaws Article X. "Committees" [see attached Bylaws and Rules Committee Report, September 2008].

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Chester).

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION was **PASSED** without objection.

MOTION PASSED with 11 in favor and three opposed.

MOTION (by the Committee): to approve changes to Bylaws Article XIV. Sec. A "Amendments to Bylaws" [see attached Bylaws and Rules Committee Report, September 2008].

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion. Mr. Silvers and Mr. Askew are concerned that Bylaws changes would become too easy. Mr. Beauvais explained the proposed change. The Parliamentarian reminded that people can "make a Motion to refer back to the Committee."

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Silvers, seconded by Mr. Mansker).

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION was **PASSED** with 13 in favor and one opposed.

MOTION PASSED with ten in favor, three opposed and one abstention.

IX. Board Member Comments

Mr. Yoder enjoyed his two years on the Board. Ms. Bursk noted that Mr. Yoder needs to be replaced as Seniors Representative. Ms. Cirino said that the holiday parade idea was denied. Mr. Rivas reminded that volunteers are needed for the September 27th Clean-Up, October 4th Street Faire, and October 5th Pioneer Day Outreach events. Ms. Carson reminded that outreach is everyone's "responsibility" and "obligation." Mr. Summers thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve. Mr. Silvers reminded everyone to vote in the NC election as soon as can be done.

Mr. Soski thanked the NC for two years on the Board and announced that he'll be available for committee work. Mr. Smith said it's "been an honor and a pleasure" to serve on the Board. Mr. Askew relayed that the LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) said that there'll be another SLO soon; two burglary suspects were picked up; the City issued approximately eight "nuisance notices" to businesses for having sidewalk signs; and he thanks the Board for their work. Mr. Mansker thanked the NC for two years on the Board. Mr. Beauvais thanks "everybody for their hard work" the last two years. Mr. Norris would like the NC to send a letter to the City Council supporting designating Griffith Park as a "Historical/Cultural Landmark" to prevent it being developed; Veteran's Park brick sponsorship forms are available; there'll be a fundraising poker tournament October 18th; and he thanks the Board for the opportunity to serve.

X. Agenda Items for next General Meeting & Committee Meetings

Mr. Summers commented that the next General Board Meeting can be used for transitioning activities [to the newly-elected Board] for approximately 30 minutes. Effort will be made to have the Board Retreat one week later at this location.

XI. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Ms. Carson): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.