

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the  
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)  
Thursday, October 16, 2008**

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

**[GLEN – THIS ROUGH FIRST DRAFT SHOWS HOW FAST AND CIRCUITOUSLY THE MEETING MOVED. PLEASE CALL ME REGARDING CLARIFICATIONS, WHILE WE BOTH HAVE THIS DRAFT IN FRONT OF US. I'M ALSO WAITING TO HEAR BACK FROM SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE WHOM I VOICEMAILED. -- DAVID]**

**I. Call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance**

Glen Chester called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eric Mansker.

**II. Roll Call**

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

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

Board Members absent: Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups (unexcused), Shamica Doty, Business (unexcused), John Hegedes, Member-at-Large (unexcused), Karessa Anne Silvers, Education (unexcused), Christopher Silvers, Member-at-Large (unexcused), and Norbert Soski, Member-at-Large.

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 16 Stakeholders and Guests. The Parliamentarian is Mike Kabo.

**III. Approval of the Minutes: 9/11/2008**

The following correction to the August 14, 2008 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested:

Page eight, Item #VII6b: "Mr. Seletos said that he "will deal with it"" should be "agreed with Mr. Beauvais and said, 'we have dealt with it before'".

**MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Yoder): to approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2008 General Board Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to approve the Minutes of the September 11, 2008 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Stakeholder Carl Melnik distributed flyers and said that the cost of the new walkway and statues would be around \$60,000. He described the Veterans Park Memorial. "Donor bricks are \$125 each or three for \$300" and are tax deductible; 130 bricks have been purchased. The previous \$5,000 allocation was just received and the Rotary would like another \$5,000. The overall cost has increased due to such things as the City wants seismic guidelines met and the architect's proposal cost \$6,000. He estimates the total cost will be more than \$100,000. The groundbreaking will be Saturday, November 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Prior to the meeting agenda commencing, Mr. Askew brought up his concern that the Board might lose a quorum due to the extended service time frame of the outgoing board. There was a brief discussion regarding the seating of new Board Members. Mr. Summers indicated that he will appoint the vacant special seats at this time. If a quorum is needed, Mr. Summers will appoint At-Large seats using the popular vote as guide for which individual to appoint first. Mr. Summers stated that "Pamela Finn resigned her At-Large position and is stepping down now." He would like to appoint Erin Grohman to the Renter's position.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to approve the appointment of Erin Grohman to fill the position of Renter's Position which is currently vacant but was formerly held by Mark Barrionuevo.

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimously by a hand vote.

#### **V. Community Speakers**

##### **1. D.O.N.E.**

Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9895; amelia.herrera-robles@lacity.org), thanked and congratulated outgoing and new Board Members, and encouraged online budget participation

##### **2. Council District 12**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #X6, the topic was addressed later in the Meeting due to the absence of John Bwarie.] John Bwarie, Deputy District Director for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-701-5253; john.bwarie@lacity.org), remarked that the recent fires are a reminder to be ready for any kind of disaster. The CD 12 Office needs an official letter from the NC regarding the pole-mounted facilities

Motion [see Item #X3d]. Also, the report is due soon of the Jobs, Business Growth and Tax Reform Committee, which the Councilman Chairs; the City is “dealing with the economic crisis.” The best way to report problems is 1) call 311 and get a Confirmation Number; 2) call the Councilman’s Office with the Confirmation Number; and 3) also report the problem online at the appropriate City Department website page.

## **VI. Officer Reports**

a) President – Mr. Summers indicated that there was no report.

b) Vice-President – Mr. Smith had not yet arrived to give his report.

c) Treasurer

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #V2.]

Mr. Norris reported that he’s awaiting DONE funding of approximately \$20,000 in allocations and that the Budget Committee will meet next month. Mr. Rivas clarified that the NC will continue to employ the sound recording system.

d) Secretary

Mr. Chester reported that the sound quality was “not as good last month as the first month,” maybe because people were not using the microphones as much.

## **VII. Board Issues & Updates**

### **1. Election and Candidate Status**

Mr. Summers explained that “this is an extended Meeting because there was an election challenge.”

### **2. Discussion of Board Transition and Retreat Plans new Board**

Mr. Summers consulted with DONE (L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment), the City Attorney’s office and Amelia Herrera-Robles, their Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, and explained that “the current Board will continue until the challenge is resolved.” He reminded new Board Members to complete DONE ethics training.

### **3. Request for funds to replenish emergency accounts for all committees**

The Board Tabled this issue until after the Treasurer arrived to provide clarity to the amount needed.

After Item X) 6, the Treasurer indicated that the only committee that has spent money so far is the Outreach Committee. Since no clear figures were available, the Board tabled the discussion of replenishing funds for all committees to the next meeting.

There was a discussion about reauthorizing the sound system and Mr. Rivas indicated that the Board had already approved continuing the payments for the sound system rental until the system could be purchased.

## **VIII. Board Committee Appointments (if no resolution to election challenge)**

1. Board Approval of Appointments of to vacant Director Seats until new Board is seated (Elected 2008-2010 candidates, first considered by position and vote count)
  - a. Renters - Erin Nicole Grohman  
Ms. Grohman was appointed after the general comment section of the agenda.
  - b. At-Large – Appointments by vacancy and highest vote count  
At. Large appointments were deferred to the end of the meeting since a quorum was present and not threatened by the presence of outgoing board members.
  - c. Other vacant Board positions and assignments  
The new Board will need to recruit additional members to fill those positions that were not elected in the October 4, 2008 Board Election.

## **IX. Officer Reports**

(Same as Item VI.)

## **X. Committee Reports**

### **1. Elections Committee:** Election Results: Update

Ms. Carson reported that the October 4<sup>th</sup> election had 92 registrations, for which 180 ballots were filed. She noted that all candidates were elected, except in the contested and subsequently challenged Homeowners Representative category, which will be resolved within 30 days. There was discussion regarding people who visited the NC booth and did or did not vote, and the benefits and drawbacks of how the election was managed. Mr. Beauvais observed that the weather helped hold the attendance down to half of last year's.

### **2. Outreach Committee:** Update

#### a. Street Faire Outreach results

Mr. Rivas reported that there were 68 NC information registrations and that "everybody loved our promotional items."

#### b. Future Outreach Events

Mr. Rivas announced a Halloween Bash indoors at the Granada Hills Recreation Center October 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 – 8:00, with free candy and other things. He also mentioned that he'll be discussing street banner locations with Gold Graphics. The banners will be installed at major intersections for one year instead of the original two month time frame initially discussed several months ago.

#### c. Discussion of additional questions and funds for mailing of 2008 GHSNC Survey

Mr. Summers announced that the Great ShakeOut Emergency Response Drill will be held November 13 at 10:00 a.m. ([www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org)). Our local drill will be held at Fire Station 87; firefighters will especially be honored for their recent firefighting work. Mr. Summers had no update on the survey at this time.

- d. Request for funds discussion for Patrick Henry Middle School's Community Workout Room & Gym  
Mr. Rivas requested to Table this because the representative couldn't attend.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Carson): to **TABLE** the request for funds discussion for Patrick Henry Middle School's Community Workout Room and Gym.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote.

**3. Planning & Land Use Committee (PLUC):** (Chairs: Eric Mansker)

- a. There was a brief discussion New Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan.
- b) Mr. Askew explained that the original Specific Plan was approved in July 2008. Some wording and other changes are being added and clarified, including regarding setbacks, and the "Inclusions" section was expanded. Anna Vida, the L.A. City Planning Department liaison requested that we approve these amendments by 10/17/2008.

**MOTION** (by the Committee):

WHEREAS: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approved certain recommendations for the updated Granada Hills Specific Plan on July 10, 2008.

WHEREAS: The City Planning Department has requested retransmission of our recommendations

WHEREAS: The GHSNC Planning & Land Use Subcommittee has approved further recommendations for the Specific Plan

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council hereby approves the changes recommended by the PLUC subcommittee (redline document attached) and authorizes retransmission of the updated recommendations to City Planning

[Seven pages of supporting documentation are available through the GHSNC.]

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous hand vote.

After Item X) 3) c) was addressed, Ms. Bursk said that she wanted the Minutes to show that she was opposed to the amendments that was unanimously passed to the updated Granada Hills Specific Plan. Ms. Bursk did not understand from the prior discussion that the vote was for the Motion rather than for the Call for the Question and that her vote in the affirmative was made in error from the presentation and discussion that the amendments would make commercial development more difficult. She indicated that she has been outspoken that commercial development should be encourage and as the Business Property

Owner's representative she wanted to change her vote to the negative so that her position would be accurately reflected.

After Item X) 6 was addressed, the parliamentarian, Mr. Kabo advised Mr. Summers that a motion of reconsideration can be made to reopen discussion of a topic. The Board entertained a motion for reconsideration. A 2/3 majority is required for reconsideration and a revote of the issue.

**MOTION to RECONSIDER** (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Ms. Carson): to **reconsider ITEM X) 3) b) GH Specific Plan MOTION Amendments.**

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Mansker believes that everyone understood the original vote. Ms. Bursk would like to change her vote to reflect her publicly stated positions over the last two years.

**MOTION to RECONSIDER PASSED** with 12 in favor, one opposed and one abstention.

The original Motion of Granada Hills-Knollwood Specific Plan Amendments was reconsidered:

**MOTION PASSED** with 13 in favor and one opposed (Bursk).

- c. Discuss granting L.A. City Historical Status to Griffith Park versus commercial expansion - tram, visitor center, restaurant; Early Nov. (Rob Norris, Stakeholder request-Cherie Mann); PLUC, GHNNC approved [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #X3d.] Mr. Mansker related that the Griffith grandson is maintaining that Griffith Park was "a gift to the people of Los Angeles in perpetuity."

**MOTION** (by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Beauvais): for the GHSNC to support granting L.A. City Historical Status to Griffith Park.

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

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 12 in favor and one opposed.

- d. Discussion of telephone pole mounted facilities  
Mr. Askew explained that Verizon has installed, without notice, many telephone pole mounted electrical installations boxes that're dangerously blocking sidewalks and obtruding on residences.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Mansker):

WHEREAS: Verizon has begun installing FDH enclosures upon telephone poles as part of their FiOS project, and such enclosures are mounted less than 8' from the ground (measured to the bottom of the enclosure or supporting/accessory structures)

WHEREAS: Verizon represented that an outreach effort would be made prior to the start of construction, yet neither the Neighborhood Council nor the Old Granada Hills Resident's Group was contacted

WHEREAS: Such enclosures are subject to vandalism and graffiti, creating blight.

WHEREAS: Such boxes infringe on use of the public right of way, create an attractive nuisance and pose a hazard to pedestrians

WHEREAS: Such enclosures disrupt the visual landscape of our residential communities

WHEREAS: Such enclosures are a critical part of our communications infrastructure and are vulnerable to damage by vandalism & traffic accidents, jeopardizing emergency communications

WHEREAS: The City may control the time, place and manner in which utility lines and equipment are installed.

WHEREAS: City law prohibits the construction or maintenance of any structure or obstacle which will interfere with the free passage of pedestrians along a sidewalk or parkway (LAMC §56.08)

WHEREAS City law requires pole mounted facilities to comply with DWP guidelines, the Joint Pole Agreement, and Bureau of Street Lighting regulations (LAMC §62.03.2)

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council requests that the City Council enact additional regulations, as needed, to

- a) Prohibit the mounting of structures on telephone poles or hanging from utility wires such that any portion of the structure extends beneath a height of 8 feet.
- b) Prohibit the mounting of structures on telephone poles or hanging from utility wires which are unsightly and/or harm the visual landscape of an area.

FURTHERMORE: The Council requests that Verizon relocate all FDH enclosures and associated equipment such that no portion of the structure extends beneath a height of 8 feet.

FURTHERMORE: In the event that Verizon declines a request to relocate the enclosures as requested, the Council requests that the Bureau of Street Services, the City Attorney and the Department of Water and Power investigate the existing enclosures and, if any specifications, guidelines, laws, orders or other standards have been violated, take steps to require Verizon to remedy such violations immediately and prior to Verizon initiating service on the FiOS network.

**DISCUSSION:** A number of people agreed that they'd not received any notice from Verizon, and Mr. Askew related that other cities, including New York, are "in protracted lawsuits" regarding the boxes.

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

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote, with Mr. Norris abstaining due to his arrival after the discussion ended.

#### **4. Beautification Committee**

- a. Discuss a Beautification Grant for Kennedy-Rinaldi Adult School; GHNNC approved; deadline: Oct. 22nd  
Ms. Bursk said she had "nothing new" to report. Ms. Carson is asking the NC to issue a letter of support regarding the Kennedy-Rinaldi Adult School, at which she teaches, for their City Beautification Grant application.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Norris): For the GHSNC to issue a letter of support of the Kennedy-Rinaldi Adult School City Beautification Grant application.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Seletos, seconded by Ms. Seletos).

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous hand vote.

- b. Report on Clean-Up Day with CD 12  
Mr. Askew reported that the Clean-Up Day was successful and they did a "great job." He and Mr. Mansker displayed the new safety vests.

#### **5. Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee**

- a. Updates: speed limit increase on Zelzah Ave. for radar enforcement, Traffic Commission; helping arrange a community meeting with DOT and other NCs.  
Mr. Summers reported that Zelzah Ave. in Granada Hills was the only street in the Valley where the speed limit was not increased as the DOT (L.A. Dept. of Transportation) had wanted.
- b. Disaster Preparedness: The Great SoCal ShakeOut (Nov. 13, 2008) (Jim Summers: Discuss funds for promotional and advertising to promote event; CERT class outreach)  
Mr. Summers distributed flyers and described that the ShakeOut is about how to survive the ten days after a major earthquake before the City can help. He's

requesting a \$1,000 allocation in support of a follow-up event, the North Valley Disaster Preparedness Event on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Fire Station 87 [10124 Balboa Blvd., just south of Devonshire St.]. A booth will be provided and a number of other NCs are participating.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Seletos): to allocate \$1,000 in support of the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 North Valley Disaster Preparedness Event.

**DISCUSSION:** Funds would be allocated from the Outreach / Event budget.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Seletos).

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote, with one opposed.

#### **6. Bylaws and Rules Committee**

Discussion of Bylaw changes/clarifications: locations and number of posting sites  
Mr. Beauvais stated that Bylaws changes have been submitted to DONE and are awaiting approval.

**MOTION** (by the Committee): to change GHSNC Meeting notice posting places to 1) Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce; 2) Granada Hills Pavilion; 3) the Granada Hills Recreation Center; 4) the Granada Hills Library; and 5) the ghsnc.org website.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Rivas noted that the two Middle School posting places were removed. Mr. Chester was concerned that we needed five physical locations and the website would not count as a physical location.

**AMENDED MOTION** (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Askew): to change GHSNC Meeting notice posting places to 1) Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce; 2) Postal Plus; 3) the Granada Hills Recreation Center; 4) the Granada Hills Library; and 5) Granada Hills Pavilion.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Beauvais explained that we're working to increase notice access and Middle Schools are often unavailable. Mr. Summers expressed that an east side notice is needed.

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

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

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous hand vote.

At 8:35 p.m. there was a brief breakout session for Board Members and Stakeholders to discuss the Board transition and other issues.

Just before the breakout session, Mr. Smith arrived around 8:40 p.m., and Ms. Seletos, Mr. Seletos and Ms. Van Emden left; a quorum was still present.

Mr. Summers reconvened the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

**The Board voted to deal with Item VIII b**

Mr. Summers explained that outgoing Board Members Shamica Doty, Karessa Anne Silvers, Christopher Silvers, and Norbert Soski have agreed to resign so that newly elected Board Members David Bereznick, Shondrella Kester and Brandon Marc Schindelheim can be appointed to the Board.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to appoint newly elected GHSNC Board Members David Bereznick, Shondrella Kester and Brandon Marc Schindelheim to the Board.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

**XI. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Mansker is concerned about DONE's delays in reimbursing allocations. Ms. Carson "appreciates the enthusiasm Board Members brought to the Faire booth." Mr. Rivas explained that the NC was "missing information" on DONE reimbursement forms; he invites participation in a three-on-three basketball tournament and the Halloween Bash; also, ShakeOut booth volunteers are needed. Mr. Norris announced a Chamber of Commerce Texas Hold 'Em Fundraising Tournament this Saturday. Ms. Kester thanked the Board for appointing her as a Board Member, as did Mr. Bereznick and Mr. Schindelheim.

**XII. Agenda Items for next General Meeting & Committee Meetings**

Ms. Bursk: allocating \$1,000 for the Holiday Parade. Mr. Smith: broken or missing business windows not being replaced. Stakeholder Linda Romney: Christmas decorations. Mr. Rivas: the Board Retreat. Mr. Beauvais: the Veterans Park Memorial installation ceremony. Mr. Norris: revising the Budget.

**XIII. Discussion of Induction Ceremony of 2008-2010 GHSNC Board Members (Julie Carson and Jim Summers)**

It was clarified that the current Board will continue unless the election challenge is resolved.

**XIV. Closing Remarks & Adjournment**

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

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:08 p.m.

