

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the  
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)  
Thursday, November 13, 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 called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**II. Roll Call**

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

Jim Summers, President	Robert Norris, Treasurer (late)
Glen Chester, Secretary	Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large
Dave Beauvais, Community Org's	David Bereznick, Member-at-Large
Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners	Julie Carson, Member-at-Large
Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups	Erin Grohman, Renters
Eric Mansker, Homeowners	Sean Rivas, Parks
Brandon Schindelheim, Member-at-Large	Lottie Van Emden, Cultural Arts
Jim Yoder, Seniors	

Board Members absent: Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large (excused); Brad Smith, Vice-President (unexcused).

Mr. Chester noted that Shamica Doty, John Seletos, Tamara Seletos and Pamela Finn resigned.

Fifteen 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 19 Stakeholders and Guests. The Parliamentarian is Mike Kabo. Mr. Chester explained the availability and use of Speaker Cards and Sign-Up Sheets, and reminded people to speak into the microphones.

**III. Approval of the Minutes:** 10/16/2008 General Board Meeting

The following corrections to those Minutes were requested:

[Mr. Chester indicated that he'll make the necessary grammatical changes to the October 16, 2008 General Board Meeting Minutes.]

Page two, Item #IV, paragraph two: "Pamela Finn is letting go" should be "Pamela Finn resigned."

Page two, Item #V) 2), paragraph two: "[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #X6.]" should be "[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #X6, the topic was addressed later in the Meeting due to the absence of John Bwarie.]"

Page three, Item #VII) 2): “Mr. Summers explained” should be “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 . . .”

Page five, Item #X) 3): “Co-Chairs: Eric Mansker and John Seletos” should be “Chair: Eric Mansker.”

Page five, Item #X) 3) b), last paragraph: “Ms. Bursk did not understand” should be “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”.

Page six, Item #X) 3) b), “Discussion”: “Ms. Burke” should be “Ms. Bursk”.

Page six, Item #X) 3) d): “(by the Committee)” should be “(by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Mansker)”.

Page 10, Item #XII: “Linda Romy” should be “Linda Romney”.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Beauvais): to approve the Minutes of the October 16, 2008 General Board Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote, with Ms. Cirino abstaining.

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

Becky Leveque, Co-Founder, SOLID (Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire) (818-756-9011, ext. 1200), and Porter Ranch NC Board Member, spoke with Sean Kane, LAPD Devonshire Division Captain. The high-quality gym equipment and training room that 40 Members of different NCs voted to buy for the Devonshire LAPD gym cost around \$28,000, and was installed and is being used; it’s been great for Officers’ morale and health. She’s asking for a little more than a \$2,000 allocation to help complete the donation cost. Mr. Summers indicated that this Item will be agendized for the December or, more likely, January General Board Meeting.

Ms. Bursk distributed flyers and announced a February 20<sup>th</sup> Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce Installation Meeting, for which “Citizen of the Year Award” nominations are being accepted. Also, the Chamber is hosting a “Networking Mixer” November 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Candy Flowers, 11241 Balcom Ave.

Stakeholder Linda Romney requested agendizing a “no more than \$500” allocation request to purchase warning signage regarding coyotes attacking pets. Mr. Summers indicated that this Item will be agendized for the December or, more likely, January General Board Meeting.

Mr. Mansker said that Elizabeth Macias of the City Human Relations Commission said that election challenges was not received “until seven or eight days ago” and that “DONE

asked him to clarify his challenge.” The NC “should be able to seat elected Board Members in December.”

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

1) D.O.N.E. – Amelia Herrera-Robles (Valley Ethics Training)  
Ms. Herrera-Robles was unable to attend this Meeting.

2) Council District 12 – John Bwarie  
Mr. Bwarie was unable to attend this Meeting.

3) LAUSD - Joseph Pina (Update: New HS #4 on Balboa)  
Joseph Pina, L.A. Unified School District (LAUSD) New Construction Community Outreach Liaison (213-893-6809), distributed flyers about and announced a “Construction Update” Meeting, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Henry Middle School, at which the Project Manager will explain the Valley Region High School #4 project and address concerns, including graffiti.

4) Jason Hughes, Tulsa Street Elementary School PTA President, announced that the School had the largest test score increase in the LAUSD last year. They’ve bought new computers and he’s asking for an allocation toward the \$7,000 they need to complete their computer purchasing program. They’re working on getting matching and other grants. Mr. Summers indicated that this Item will be agendized for the December or, more likely, January General Board Meeting.

#### **VI. Officer Reports: President, Vice-Pres.; Treasurer (Budget Revision Meeting); Secretary**

a) President

Mr. Summers will give his report during Item #7. He congratulates new Board Members and thanks outgoing Board Members. Work is being coordinated with other NCs.

a) Vice-President

Mr. Summers stated that Mr. Smith was unable to attend this Meeting.

a) Treasurer

Mr. Norris distributed a “Budget Report 11-13-08” and reported that the NC has “done very well in our spending.” Allocations have been reimbursed for the Street Faire (\$2,500), sound equipment rental, Minutes writing and audio recording services. We’re waiting for other NCs to allocate funds for us to allocate to the LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.) Devonshire Division training room and gym equipment.

a) Secretary

Mr. Chester said that there was no report.

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

A. Election and Candidate Status -- extension of election challenge to 11/15/2008 (15 days).

Mr. Summers said there was a 15-day extension from November 10<sup>th</sup>.

B. Discussion of Board Transition, Retreat Plans and new GHSNC Board Installation Meeting; Surveys; Installation, Transfer Records and useful info; wish list

1. Request for Holiday Party allocation

Mr. Rivas encouraged that time be set aside at the Retreat for new Board Members to introduce themselves.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to allocate up to \$500 for Installation and December GHSNC Holiday Party expenses.

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

2. Request for funds to replenish emergency accounts

Mr. Norris noted that \$334.55 was spent for outreach and \$438.23 for beautification.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to allocate \$334.55 for outreach and \$438.23 for beautification to replenish emergency spending.

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

## **VIII. Board Committee Appointments**

A. Board Approval of Appointments of to vacant Director seats to assure quorum until new Board is seated. First from elected 2008-2010 candidates, considered by representative position and vote count.

There was extensive discussion regarding which Board Member positions need to be replaced. It was determined that Ms. Van Emden and Mr. Yoder will remain on the Board until the new Board is inaugurated.

B. Board Approval of new Pole Mounted Facilities Committee (PMF) Ad Hoc Committee.

1. Establishment of a GHSNC Pole Mounted Facilities (PMF) Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Askew explained that he's working to "mitigate the situation" of utility boxes "being mounted two to three feet off the ground [and at head height] and proved to be a hazard . . . [that] are a graffiti and illegal sign magnet." There'll be a Meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the new Fire Station 87 on Balboa Blvd. just south of Devonshire St. Verizon, City Council and other City officials will attend.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to establish a GHSNC Pole Mounted Facilities (PMF) Ad Hoc Committee with Jerry Askew as Chair, with the Committee to work with the City, Verizon, NCs and the community.

**DISCUSSION:** There was discussion regarding whether to create an ad hoc Committee or work within an existing Committee.

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

2. Request for funds for PMF Ad Hoc Committee meeting expenses.  
Mr. Askew explained that outreach help is needed for the Committee Meeting.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to allocate up to \$500 for flyers, presentation boards and other PMF Ad Hoc Committee Meeting outreach expenses, from the Outreach budget.

**DISCUSSION:** It was noted that there aren't enough funds in the Outreach budget for this. Mr. Beauvais suggested allocating from the Public Safety budget.

It was agreed to **AMEND THE MOTION**, replacing "Outreach" with "Public Safety."

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

- C. Discussion of Holiday decorations and possible Ad Hoc Committee creation  
Mr. Summers introduced the issue and Mr. Norris explained that previous installations had trouble. Stakeholder Dr. Carl Melnik said that a possible donor has been found. Stakeholder John Cicarelli stated that he decorated the Christmas tree for 20 years under L.A. Board of Public Works supervision. There was extensive discussion regarding installation logistics, safety and liability issues. Stakeholder Linda Romney requested funding and volunteers.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Ms. Van Emden): to allocate up to \$2,000 to purchase colored spotlights to illuminate the Christmas tree, to be allocated from the Park Improvements budget.

**DISCUSSION:** This would be to purchase, not rent, the spotlights. This needs to be arranged by July, in the future. Mr. Beauvais, Dr. Melnik and Mr. Summers volunteered to work on the project, which was previously done by the Chamber of Commerce.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with Mr. Yoder opposed and Mr. Bereznick abstaining.

## **IX. Committee Reports**

### **A. Outreach Committee (OC)**

Mr. Rivas distributed copies of and explained the contract signed with Gold Graphics for them to provide "Welcome to Granada Hills" street banners. The contract, which was approved by DONE, is for 13 months from 12/1/08 – 12/31/09. "At any time, we can add more banners . . . [in addition] to the ones we already have."

1. Request for funds from Community Improvement budget for maintenance and outreach for Patrick Henry Middle School's Community Gym.

Mr. Rivas asked and it was agreed to **TABLE** this Item to the January Agenda. He met with a Gym representative; the School will advertise the NC and recognize our outreach assistance.

2. Request for funds for purchase of GHCC Holiday Parade-related items.

Mr. Cicarelli remarked that this is the largest Holiday Parade in the San Fernando Valley. They're expecting 10 bands and 4,000 participants, including many youth. The Parade will cost around \$15,000, including contest judging, insurance, banners and a mailing. He's requesting funding for trophies and ribbons, as "City funding has dropped the last two to three years."

**MOTION** (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Ms. Cirino): to allocate up to \$1,000 toward the purchase of Parade-related items, including trophies, ribbons and awards, to be funded from the Community Projects budget.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Norris noted that suppliers need to directly bill the NC, and they can bill for \$999 or less so that the NC can expedite processing through the NC credit card.

It was agreed to **AMEND THE MOTION**, replacing "\$1,000" with "\$999."

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

3. Discussion of GHSNC Participation in GH Holiday Parade

Mr. Summers explained that NC participation arrangements are being made through private means due to City objections to religious symbols.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to allocate up to \$200 for artistic decorations for a Holiday Parade car, from the Outreach budget.

**DISCUSSION:** The car can be decorated for much less than \$200.

It was agreed to **AMEND THE MOTION**, replacing "\$200" with "\$100."

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

4. Future Outreach Events: Nov. 16th - Disaster Preparedness Event; Dec. 7 – Granada Hills Holiday Parade; Dec. TBD – GHSNC Installation and Holiday Party; GHSNC Board of Directors Retreat

Mr. Rivas indicated that outreach materials will be at the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Disaster Preparedness Event. Ms. Cirino volunteered to participate. Outreach will be done regarding the Holiday Party. He suggested having the Retreat in January, after the Installation; volunteers for that and the Parade are needed. Mr. Rivas will run again as Outreach Chair and is seeking event ideas.

5. Possible events with other NCs: Clean Money Forum; Candidate Debate (Feb. 09 – NHWNC); Traffic Forum; Blight, PMF, cell towers, other suggestions  
Mr. Rivas and Mr. Summers explained the merits of coordinating work on the above issues with other NCs. Mr. Rivas indicated that Board Member website profiles need to be updated and that “pictures will be taken at the Installation.”

**B. Planning & Land Use Committee (PLUC)**

1. Request for Entitlement: Small Lot Subdivision (Case file: VTT-69144-SL, APCNV-2007-2160-ZC-ZAA). Request for eight detached Single Family Residences on two parcels currently zoned R1-1 requiring a zone change to RD1.5-1 at 17154 and 17158 Chatsworth St. (Extended Deadline to 12/18/08 by Zoning Administrator).  
Mr. Mansker explained that the developer presented to this Meeting three months ago, but needs to present to the PLUC, as the Zoning Administrator requested. Applicant Representative Jonathan Rezbannia stated that the City allows eight units that are not all connected. “Trash receptacles” will be positioned to conform to City codes. “Wire mesh” may be arranged. The Homeowners Association (HOA) will share the cost of trash maintenance. “The design and color will stay the same . . . unless the HOA decides otherwise.” Mr. Mansker observed that the Committee needs to see the developer’s drawings; the project “will be at the top of the Agenda at the next Committee Meeting.” Mr. Askew said the [Granada Hills-Knollwood] Special Plan contains additional guest parking requirements and advised the applicant’s representative, Mr. Rezbannia, to investigate those requirements.
2. Request for Entitlement: Discussion of Proposed 60' Monopine Cell Tower at 15941 Los Alimos St., (Case file ZA 2008-1430-CUW). (Hearing 11/24).  
Mr. Askew distributed copies of the CUP [Conditional Use Permit] Application and explained that T-Mobile wants to construct a 60-foot tall tower where a 45-foot tall tower is allowed. There was extensive discussion regarding placement, health/safety, and environmental and community impact issues. Stakeholder Glen Messick noted that there’re already 199 cellphone towers in Granada Hills and that the tower would be next to an Elementary School intersection. Stakeholders Maria Messick, Evelyn Ujueta and Cherrie Mann also spoke in opposition. Ms. Carson is concerned about the project’s effect on property values.

Frank Koppala of Suresite Consulting Group (310-743-9884, f.koppala@sure-site.com), representing the project, stated that the FCC and others have studied cell phone towers for many years with “absolutely no evidence of any health problems from a cell site” and an “EMF Report” is available. He described that a cell phone signal is like a regular radio signal. Tower sites are considered based upon the zoning, lease availability, and constructability. Signal coverage can be as little as ½ mile, tower capacities “are filling up fast,” and some towers are within 1/8 mile of each other in congested areas. He will report on whether an alternate site at the Caltrans Maintenance Yard at the southwest corner of the 405 and 118 freeways intersection was considered and, if rejected, why. A full one-year City CUP process was done.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Beauvais): that the GHSNC take a position with the Zoning Administrator regarding the T-Mobile CUP Application for a proposed 60' Monopine Cell Tower at 15941 Los Alimos St., expressing the NC's concerns regarding the project exceeding the original 45-foot height limit, requesting a review of the environmental portion of the CUP to include consideration and Fire Department review of the safety of the temporary backup system, and the need to consider an alternative location at the Caltrans Maintenance Yard at the southwest corner of the 405 and 118 freeways intersection.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Messick believes that we shouldn't necessarily believe business positions regarding health issues. Mr. Koppala added that Caltrans, per the Master Lease Agreement, would maintain trees next to the Tower.

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

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

**MOTION PASSED** with Mr. Norris opposed.

Mr. Askew added that a Hearing on the above project will be held on November 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Braude Center in Van Nuys.

At this time Mr. Summers requested and it was agreed to extend the Meeting 20 minutes to complete the Agenda.

C. Beautification Committee (BC): (Bonnie Bursk)

1. Request for funds for Community Improvement project at Memorial at Chatsworth St. & Zelzah Ave.

Mr. Norris recused himself and left the room at this time because he is a Rotary Club Member. Dr. Melnik expressed that the Rotary Club wants to add three flagpoles and more to the project, which is a 501 c) 3) non-profit "looking to maintain itself." The total cost is "close to \$100,000." Groundbreaking was last Saturday. He's asking for \$5,000 to help with construction costs.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to allocate up to \$5,000 for improvements to Veterans Park Memorial at Chatsworth St. and Zelzah Ave., from the Community Projects budget.

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

Mr. Norris returned to the room at this time.

D. Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee (PSC)

1. Disaster Preparedness Event: new Fire Station #87, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008, following "The Great SoCal Shake Out (Dave Beauvais, Jim Summers)



Mr. Summers said that volunteers are needed and suggested having children's entertainment. Mr. Beauvais estimated the outreach printing cost to be around \$105-110 for two to five pages. Around 22 vendors and agencies will have presentations and demonstrations.

2. Transportation & Traffic

a. Update on speed limit increase on Zelzah Ave. for radar enforcement; Councilman Greig Smith's (CD 12) letter to GHSNC and possible outreach event. Mr. Summers related that website articles are posted and that work will be coordinated with other NCs and the Outreach Committee.

b. Announcement – Upcoming Orange Line Community Meeting & DOT Signs  
See above Item.

E. Bylaws and Rules Committee

1. Minor modification of Bylaws amendment recommendation passed 10/16/2008 [Agenda Item X. 6], as advised from City Attorney's Office recommendation to DONE, due to concern of "floating quorums."

Mr. Beauvais explained that a "floating quorum" is not allowed under the Brown Act.

**MOTION** (by the Bylaws Committee): to delete the phrase "unless otherwise stated" from GHSNC Bylaws Article VII, Section D to comply with the CAO interpretation of the Brown Act.

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

X. Board Member Comments

1. DWP Rate Update

Ms. Cirino announced a DWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) Meeting this Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>; they must create a solar energy initiative by March.

2. Discussion of lending out GHSNC equipment to GHSNC Stakeholder Organizations

Mr. Summers explained that this is so that other NCs and local groups, such as the Old Granada Hills Residents Group, can save money. We need to track who borrows the equipment and ensure that damage is covered.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Chester): to create a system, procedures and forms to loan GHSNC equipment to Stakeholders and other local organizations.

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

3. Other

Mr. Mansker wants to form an ad hoc committee to investigate having a new General Board Meeting location, and a committee to determine funding levels to allocate to guide the Board before General Board Meetings. Mr. Rivas will discuss this at the Retreat. Ms. Carson thanks the Board for the letter of support it issued regarding the

Kennedy-Rinaldi Adult School for their City Beautification Grant application. Mr. Norris announced that the Budget Committee will meet this month. Mr. Chester thanks Mr. Mansker for setting up the sound system for this Meeting. Mr. Askew reported that DONE General Manager BongHwan Kim spoke at the Porter Ranch NC [General Board] Meeting; Mr. Kim said he's "trying to encourage NC alliances . . . The City budget is very tight . . . [The City Council] is looking at the NCs [and] unspent funds." He "will fight that tooth and nail . . ." and he's "looking at NCs establishing their own financial accounts." Mr. Summers reported that he spoke with Kevin McNeely [DONE Funding Program Administrator], who said that "NCs should be spending their money." Mr. Rivas concluded that he's preparing Board Members' nameplates for the next General Board Meeting and needs correct name spellings as soon as possible.

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

[See above Items.]

**XII. Discussion of Installation Ceremony of 2008-2010 GHSNC Board Members**

Mr. Summers said he'll work with Ms. Carson on this.

**XIII. Closing Remarks & Adjournment**

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

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:10 p.m.