

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the  
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)  
Thursday, May 14, 2009  
at The First Baptist Church of Granada Hills  
11011 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344**

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

President Dave Beauvais called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Bereznick.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by Mr. Chester. Board Members present:

Dave Beauvais, President	Brad Smith, Vice-President (late)
Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer	Glen Chester, Secretary
Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large	David Bereznick, Member-at-Large
Julie Carson, Member-at-Large (late)	Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups
Arthur Daush, Seniors	Eric Mansker, Factual Basis
Robert Norris, Member-at-Large	Lacy Reilly, Students
Sean Rivas, Parks	Robert Stevens, Homeowners
Jim Summers, Business	

Board Members absent: Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large (excused); Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners (excused); Erin Grohman, Renters (excused); Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large (excused); and Mary Wang, Member-at-Large (excused).

Thirteen of the 20 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 approximately 15 Stakeholders and Guests.

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Beauvais declared without any objections to TABLE approval of the April 9, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes until the June 11<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting. Mr. Chester explained that, for the March 12, 2009 Minutes, he bolded and bracketed (“[ ]”) wording that he added to the draft. The following corrections to the March 12, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page three, Item #VII) 3), paragraph one: “she’d spoken with Rodger Shimatsu” should read “she had repeated procedural discussions with Rodger Shimatsu.”

Page three, Item #VII) 3), paragraph one: “. . . rodger.shimatsu@lacity.org)], regarding “how expenditures . . .” should read “. . . rodger.shimatsu@lacity.org)], prior to the purchase of the decorations, regarding “how expenditures . . .”

There was extensive discussion between Ms. Romney and Board Members regarding corrections to the Minutes. Mr. Beauvais re-stated that the previous Minutes are correct as they stand and how a Minutes is a reduction of the approximately 2 ½-hour audio file.

Page four, Item #VII) 3), paragraph two: the bolded sentence “[This is not in the email: Mr. McNeely is Mr. Shimatsu’s direct supervisor]” [sic] should not be bolded and should read, “[Mr. Beauvais stopped reading to clarify that Mr. McNeely is Mr. Shimatsu’s direct supervisor. He then continued reading.] . . .”

Page four, Item #VII) 3), paragraph four: the bolded and bracketed paragraph “[Ms. Romney noted that she informed Mr. Shimatsu from D.O.N.E. that her motion for \$5,000 in Holiday decorations that was agenized was never voted on.]” [sic] should not be bolded or bracketed and should read, “Ms. Romney noted that she “informed Mr. Shimatsu from DONE that her Motion for \$5,000 in Holiday decorations that was agendized was never voted on.””

Page four, Item #VII) 3), paragraph five: the bolded and bracketed passage, ““. . . [that was agenized] first.” [Mr. Summers stated that the audio files needed to be reviewed before amending the November minutes.]” [sic] should not be bolded or bracketed and should read, ““. . . [that was agendized] first.” [Mr. Summers stated that “the audio files needed to be reviewed before amending the November Minutes.”]”

Page five, Item #VII) 3) lines 4-5: the phrase “[who is Roger Shimatsu’s boss]” is to be deleted.

Page five, Item #VII) 3), paragraph two: the bolded and bracketed phrase “[not previously approved for reimbursement]” should not be bolded or bracketed.

Page five, Item #VII) 3), third paragraph: the passage “Gene Behrns had his men climb up the tree needs to be paid” [sic] should have quotation marks around it, as shown in this paragraph.

Page five, Item #VII) 3), third paragraph: the passage “Gene Behrns will be paid for the entire amount of \$671.00” should have quotation marks around it, as shown in this paragraph.

Page five, Item #VII) 3), third paragraph: the sentences “Linda Romney is out \$148.00. I (Mr. Summers) am out \$2,011.00” [sic] are corrected as follows: “Mr. Summers said, “Linda Romney is out \$148.00 and I am out \$2,011.00.””

**MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to approve the Minutes of the March 12, 2009 General Board Meeting as corrected.

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

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

Stakeholder Deborah Bean is concerned about barking dogs. Many neighbors have more than one dog, all of whom bark when they hear noise in the alley. Mr. Beauvais referred Ms. Bean to Mr. Summers of the Animal Concerns Committee. Mr. Mansker noted that there’s a nuisance ordinance regarding barking dogs. Stakeholder Don Graham, an LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.) Sergeant, said there’s a “Loud and Obnoxious” Ordinance which is not usually used for animals; a “415 Disturbing the Peace” citation requires intent. Another option is regarding certain noise after 10:00 p.m. within 500

feet of a residence. Proven negligence can take a year of letter-writing to get action; more neighbors writing to the same department helps.

**V. Community Speakers:** (1) D.O.N.E. – Amelia Herrera-Robles; (2) Council District 12 – Semee Park; (3) LAPD – Dario Del Core

Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9895; amelia.herrera-robles@lacity.org), noted the City's \$500 million deficit, which is expected to double next year. Last Tuesday, more than 100 NC representatives attended the City Budget and Finance Committee Meeting to express their concerns regarding NC budget cuts. She encouraged the Board to advocate to keep the funding. A Special City Council Meeting will be held Monday at which they'll vote on it. There's no indication yet about whether NC rollover money will be touched. The NC can submit a Community Impact statement; she encouraged car-pooling to the Meeting. Tomorrow, there'll be a City Education and Neighborhoods Meeting at which they'll discuss pushing NC elections from 2010 to 2011; e-mails about this are being circulated. Ms. Herrera-Robles reminded about the May 30<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. Valley Regional Congress at Panorama High School, sponsored by the Valley NCs; the budget situation can be discussed and whether there should be a Sunshine Act. See the [[www.valleyregionalcongress.org](http://www.valleyregionalcongress.org)] website wiki to have interactive communication with other NCs. The DONE budget, approximately \$4 million, is available on the City website [[www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org)].

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), distributed the Councilman's "Special Announcement" and said that the City must balance the budget. A Chief Legislative Analyst's report is available that describes how different budget scenarios will affect the City. Also, the City supports State Assembly Bill 766 [the Safe Streets Bill], "to allow local jurisdictions to have more say over local speed limits." Regarding Verizon [FIOS] boxes, the Councilman made a Motion (#07-04-85-S2) to create a City ordinance to have them at least 10 feet off the ground. Mr. Askew added that L.A. Dept. of Public Works inspectors "brought in \$1.4 million last year"; he'd like the Councilman to look at saving jobs that generate more revenue for the City than their salaries cost.

Office Del Core was unable to attend this Meeting.

**VI. Officer Reports**

President

Mr. Beauvais urged Board Members to do the DONE ethics training [<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>]. He reported that the City Clerk's Office said that our Region Seven "will be the first area that'll hold [NC] elections next year . . . around February/March." He met with a U.S. Dept. of Commerce representative regarding "how [NCs] might help" with the Census.

Secretary

Mr. Chester noted that sign-in sheets and Speaker Cards are available, and that, if he's given a Speaker Card before an Agenda Item is addressed, he'll assist in ensuring that the person gets to speak. Also, a Board-approved letter was drafted and mailed to Assemblyman Cameron Smythe and City Councilman Greig Smith regarding the Council's opposition to a raise in the speed limit along Zelzah from Rinaldi to

Nordhoff. Mr. Chester completed a Board Members contact roster (Mr. Norris corrected his listed phone number to 818-363-3600). Also, audio files of Board Meetings from June 2008 – April 2009 are being transferred to the GHSNC website by Webmaster Aaron DeVandry.

Treasurer

Mr. Schindelheim reported that there's approximately \$33,000 in remaining funds.

Vice-President

Mr. Smith was not present and there was no report.

**VII. Board Issues & Updates**

1. Discussion and possible board action on resolution calling for funding as provided in the Mayor's budget (\$45,000)

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Rivas): the GHSNC resolves that funding for NCs should be as provided for in the Mayor's budget (\$45,000).

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Mansker related that he attended Tuesday's City Budget and Finance Committee Meeting, at which there was a "very passionate plea to maintain at least \$45,000" per year funding. . . The [NCs] vehemently objected to [rollover funds being taken back by the City]. . . If we take that hit [the Committee's proposed funding reduction from \$50,000 to \$11,200] we'll effectively be out of business."

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Schindelheim): to add the phrase, "and that any rollover funding be maintained by Neighborhood Councils."

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Herrera-Robles thanked the GHSNC for submitting success stories that "helped qualify and quantify . . . what you're doing."

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous hand vote, with Ms. Reilly abstaining [due to being under the age of 18].

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Norris): and that the City Clerk's Office will maintain the cost of Neighborhood Council elections."

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous hand vote, with Ms. Reilly abstaining.

**MAIN MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous hand vote, with Ms. Reilly abstaining.

Mr. Norris encouraged contacting City Council members regarding NC budget funding. Mr. Mansker reminded that this NC is not alone and that it has "some solid support on the City Council." Mr. Beauvais observed that we're in a budget crisis; he'd rather keep jobs and reduce funding.

2. Presentation by Sally McDowell and possible board action for funding the Therapeutic Living Center for Blind. (David Bereznick)

Ms. McDowell distributed materials, introduced herself and explained the program [www.tlc4blind.org; 818-708-1740], which is a 501(c)3 non-profit. The program has existed “for more than 30 years . . . [and employs] 150 . . . in the area and provides services to more than 100 clients.” She introduced Diana Dennis, Children’s Program Director, who described a “HOPSA-dress” device that assists sight- and movement-impaired and developmentally disabled children. They’re working to bring more services to the Valley, so people don’t have to drive so far to their Reseda location. Ms. Herrera-Robles indicated that she and Mr. Schindelheim can check regarding whether the program fits the new Neighborhood Purpose Grant program specifications.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Bereznick, seconded by Mr. Schindelheim): for the GHSNC to fund the Therapeutic Living Center for the Blind.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Bereznick believed that “this is going to help the community.” Mr. Summers and Ms. Carson were concerned about the current NC funding crisis. Ms. Dennis stated that they “want to provide access for families . . . We’d help families seek resources . . . to purchase this [device].” They’re “building a children’s center . . . in Reseda . . . [and] currently working on a matching grant . . . and a capital campaign.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Ms. Carson): to indefinitely POSTPONE funding the Therapeutic Living Center for the Blind until such time as a grant application is filed.

**MOTION to POSTPONE PASSED** with all in favor except for one opposed and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

Mr. Bereznick explained that the postponement will give the NC “time to get the grant process in place . . . We’re looking at two to three months.” Ms. McDowell added that they’re having and invited everyone to a fundraiser and barbeque June 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 at their campus, and that they also have a Wish List.

3. Discussion and possible Board Action to support AB 766. (Dave Beauvais)  
Mr. Askew explained about Assembly Bill 766 [See Semee Park’s report on Item V above.]

**MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to support State Assembly Bill 766, the Safe Streets Bill sponsored by Assemblyman Paul Krekorian.

**DISCUSSION:** Sgt. Graham supports the Bill, noting that “Average citations on Zelzah [Ave.] are between 100-150 per month . . . Not all of them are for speeding . . . Since [increased] enforcement began . . . Citations for speeding dropped [a lot].” He described speed limit law wording and reasoning and said that there’ve been “more than 400 documented accidents on Zelzah in the area we’re considering . . . Officers’ ability to write tickets . . . has been removed.” Mr. Summers opposes the Bill because the NC voted two months ago not to raise the speed limits, and he believes that Sgt. Graham’s information is for a different section of Zelzah.

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

Mr. Daush left at this time.

4. Should the board vote affirmatively on Support for AB 766, discussion and possible board action to ask Councilman Smith to continue the vote on raising the Zelzah speed limits until AB 766 is resolved through the legislative process.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to ask City Councilman Greig Smith to Table the City Council vote on raising the Zelzah Ave. speed limits until State Assembly Bill 766 is resolved through the State legislative process.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Askew believes that “if we raise the speed limit now, we’ll lose the ability to lower it [later] . . . Hannah Lee [Associate Planning and Transportation Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Hannah.Lee@lacity.org) agreed that, if AB 766 can be passed in six to eight months, it’s worth holding the speed limit at this time.” Mr. Summers doesn’t “think it’s worth it.” Mr. Beauvais observed that “it’s been returned [to Committee] for a rewrite.” It was mentioned that School Zone limits and other conditions necessitate a lower speed limit.

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

Mr. Beauvais asked and Ms. Park agreed to advise Councilman Smith of this vote.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Outreach Committee** (Sean Rivas)

1. Participation in the Valley Regional Congress of Neighborhood Councils, and funding for outreach efforts of up to \$500.

Mr. Rivas distributed fliers about the Congress and explained that nearby NCs are helping to fund the Congress.

**MOTION** (by the Committee): to participate in the Valley Regional Congress of Neighborhood Councils and allocate up to \$500 for outreach efforts.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with one opposed and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

It was agreed to allocate funds from the General Outreach budget.

2. Discussion and possible board action on the purchase of a video camera to record meetings and events and for possible use by other community organizations up to \$1,000.

Mr. Rivas explained that the Board gave Mr. Askew an equipment list.

**MOTION** (by the Committee): to purchase a video camera and accessories of an amount up to \$1,000 to record meetings and events, and for possible use by other community organizations.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Mansker pointed out that someone needs to operate the camera; “it could be a problem.” Ms. Carson related that the Committee discussed that the “primary purpose of buying the camera is to record events [such as] the Street Faire.” Mr. Mansker stated that “you’d end up with a lot of dead footage.” Mr. Askew remarked that “There’s not much to do” to operate a camera . . . There are “numerous events around” to record. Mr. Chester believes that the NC “could make it a public service opportunity.” Mr. Schindelheim emphasized that the NC credit card would be needed to purchase the equipment.

**MOTION PASSED** with nine in favor, one opposed and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

3. Discussion and possible board action to support the 6th annual Safety Fair and Car Show at Granada Hills Recreation center by renting an ADA-compliant Porta Potty in the amount of \$576.12.

Mr. Rivas explained that LAPD Officer and Event Chair Brian Thompson first contacted him about this two years ago. Officer Thompson has said they “don’t have adequate facilities” for [the expected] 2,500-3,000 or more people. The event is especially big for toddlers and mothers. Mr. Beauvais said that “the idea is to have one facility in the middle of the Park . . . Same-day pickup does raise the cost.”

**MOTION** (by the Committee): to support the 6th annual Safety Fair and Car Show at Granada Hills Recreation Center by renting an ADA-compliant Porta Potty in the amount of \$576.12.

**DISCUSSION:** Concern was expressed regarding whether it would be available to physically-challenged people, especially if it is located in the crowded middle of the Park.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Askew): to support the 6th annual Safety Fair and Car Show at Granada Hills Recreation Center by renting one ADA-compliant and one regular Porta Potty in the total amount of \$743.12, including same-day delivery and pickup.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED** with seven in favor, one opposed and two abstaining.

**MAIN MOTION PASSED** with 10 in favor and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

4. Report and Discussion GHSNC Outreach plan for 2009.  
Mr. Rivas reported that the Committee is planning for BongHwan Kim, DONE General Manager, to address the NC; working to have Mark Cronin, LAPD Valley Traffic Division Officer (818-902-0336) address the NC in July; possibly have a barbeque; possibly give school supplies to schools; create a newsletter; and create a Stakeholders survey.
5. Recommendation for Newsletter to all Stakeholders for August to include CERT signup and Survey.

Mr. Rivas explained that the Committee discussed creating a four-page newsletter and U.S.-mailing it, with a return address envelope, for Stakeholders to sign up for CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] classes and other NC services.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Summers): to create and send a Newsletter to all Stakeholders for August to include a CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] signup and a Survey.

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

Mr. Rivas encouraged Board Members to participate in Outreach Committee activities, including the NC booth at the May 30<sup>th</sup> Safety Faire, and the same day Valley Regional Congress. Mr. DeVandry and Mr. Beauvais noted the LAPD Devonshire Division Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00–10:00 a.m.

**B. Planning & Land Use Committee** (Eric Mansker)

Mr. Askew reported that a City Zoning Administrator denied a variance application on the Sepulveda Veterans Administration property and noted that the City has no jurisdiction over that federal property; the federal government may decide otherwise on the variance. There'll be a Meeting Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Patrick Henry High School. Mr. Beauvais discussed with Nicky at the Chamber of Commerce about them installing a bulletin board for NC postings.

**C. Beautification Committee** (Bonnie Bursk)

Mr. Beauvais reported that the Committee will meet May 18<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Wang asked to be off the Committee and will be assigned to another.

**D. Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee** (Bob Stevens)

Mr. Stevens reported that e-policing can be linked to the NC website. Also, the Masonic Lodge can create a children's ID for "free."

1. Discussion and possible Board action to apply for funding from the Highway Safety Research Center to improve pedestrian safety at GHCHS.  
It was agreed that this Item was addressed at the last General Board Meeting. Also, Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-756-9011, x1727, cell 818-634-0577; 27286@lapd.lacity.org), will speak Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Shepherd of the Hills Church [19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch, 818-831-9333; www.theshepherd.org].

**E. Bylaws and Rules Committee** (Jerry Askew)

1. BONC approval necessary for Bylaws revisions.  
Mr. Askew and Mr. Beauvais will attend the BONC [Board of Neighborhood Commissioners] Meeting on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. downtown, regarding BONC's consideration of the GHSNC Bylaws Amendment Application "to reduce the size of the board, including possible action approving or rejecting the proposed bylaw amendments."



**F. Budget Committee** (Brandon Schindelheim)

Mr. Schindelheim reported that there was no quorum for the last Meeting; it'll be rescheduled.

**G. Ad Hoc Verizon FIOS Box Committee** (Jerry Askew)

Mr. Askew reported that "Verizon contacted the Mayor's Office . . . Negotiations are going on . . . Street Services has . . . taken this over. . . A report has been written that the boxes are a hazard . . ."

**H. Environmental Committee** (Shondrella Kester)

Mr. Beauvais reported that there'll be a report at the next General Board Meeting.

[There was no Item #VIII) I).]

**J. Animal Concerns Committee** (Jim Summers)

Mr. Summers reported that "we're going to be working with other NCs . . . [regarding] a "dog park" and more.

**IX. Board Member Comments and Announcements**

Mr. Bereznick will follow up with the Therapeutic Living Center for Blind. Mr. Norris announced Chamber of Commerce mixers on Wednesdays May 20<sup>th</sup> at the VFW and June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Union Bank; all are invited. Mr. Rivas announced an Outreach Committee Meeting May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at a location to be determined, and reminded about the May 30<sup>th</sup> Valley Regional Congress and the Safety Faire, both on May 30<sup>th</sup>, and the need to register for the Congress and vote for the awards.

Mr. Mansker mentioned that he "would like to buy one more microphone [to use at these Meetings]. . . We need it. . . It would cost less than \$60." Mr. Stevens announced a Public Safety Committee Meeting June 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Patrick Henry Middle School. Mr. Summers announced that the Animal Concerns and Environmental Committees will survey Stakeholders.

**X. Agenda Items for next General & Committee Meetings**

This Item was combined with the above Item.

**XI. Adjournment**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Askew): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:38 p.m.