

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, August 13, 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 Jerry Askew. Mr. Beauvais welcomed Stakeholders.

II. Roll Call

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

Dave Beauvais, President	Brad Smith, Vice-President
Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer	Glen Chester, Secretary
Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large	David Bereznick, Member-at-Large
Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners	Arthur Daush, Seniors
Erin Grohman, Renters	Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large
Sally Kolstad, Education	Eric Mansker, Factual Basis
Lacy Reilly, Students	Sean Rivas, Parks (late)
Robert Stevens, Homeowners	Mary Wang, Member-at-Large

Board Members absent: Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large (excused); Julie Carson, Member-at-Large (excused); Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups (unexcused); and Jim Summers, Business (excused).

Sixteen of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Also attending were approximately 14 Stakeholders and Guests, including Parliamentarian Mike Kabo.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The following correction to the May 28, 2009 Special Board Meeting Minutes was requested: Parliamentarian Mike Kabo was present, not absent.

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Ms. Kester): to approve the Minutes of the May 28, 2009 Special Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

The following corrections to the July 9, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page one, Item #II, Roll Call: "Bonnie Bursk . . . (unexcused)" should read "Bonnie Bursk . . . (excused)."

Page two, Item #III, paragraph two, third sentence: “. . . members with email address that have the @lacity.org email addresses . . .” should read “. . . Members with e-mail addresses that have the “@lacity.org” ending . . .”

Page three, Item #VI, Treasurer report: “and there was no report” should read “The Treasurer’s Budget Report was available.”

Page four, Item #VII) 3), paragraph 5 [Through a letter to Mr. Beauvais, Mr. Summers requested that in the second discussion of that section the following be added] Mr. Summers commented and Ms. Slotnick agreed that NC funds should go toward buying books, not DVD cases.

Page six, Item #VIII) B) Outreach, Discussion: [Through a letter to Mr. Beauvais, Mr. Summers requested corrections. Mr. Beauvais stated that the Minutes are not meant to be a transcript and that the Minutes of this Item will stand as written. Mr. Summers’ requested corrections of this Item were not accepted.]

Page seven, Item #VIII, Budget Committee report: “and there was no report” should read “The Treasurer’s Budget Report was available.”

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Bereznick): to approve the Minutes of the July 9, 2009 General Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Public Comment

Stakeholder and Safe Passage CEO Trish Steele [POB 40034, Studio City, CA 91614; www.safepassagehome.org] distributed an introductory letter, Mission Statement, support letter and “Chart of Accounts,” and described the non-profit program, which “helps women . . . get back into the workforce . . . We can help make an impact in our community.” They have six shelters in the San Fernando Valley. Mr. Beauvais reminded Ms. Steele that a Grant Proposal Application needs to be completed and explained the NC funding process.

Ms. Bursk presented about the Chamber of Commerce, “the voice for business . . . a clearinghouse for information . . . regarding Granada Hills.” “The Chamber is the main vehicle for outreach to business . . . and active in . . . getting businesses to improve storefronts.” The Chamber also gets maintenance and repair request calls, and “helped to prepare various Neighborhood Councils’ Bylaws, include [that of] the GHSNC.” The Chamber “participates in the United Chamber, [which] is the voice of about 36 Chambers of Commerce, and puts on the oldest parade in the Valley.” The Chamber also “looks at pending legislation” that could affect the Valley. The Chamber increases the “visibility” of Granada Hills businesses, and is “there to help the community.”

Stakeholder Linda Romney objected to the Outreach Committee Items appearing on this Meeting's Agenda [see Item VIII below], due to the Outreach Committee not Meeting in the last two months. Mr. Beauvais explained the agendaing process and that he decided to place the three Outreach Items on the Agenda. He added that the first Item (regarding allocating \$50 to continue the NC voicemail system) was requested by Mr. Askew; the second Item (to support the Granada Hills Street Faire in the amount of \$2,500) was requested by Mr. Mansker; and the third Item (regarding preparation and mailing of a Newsletter) was requested by Mr. Rivas and Mr. Summers.

Mr. Askew alerted everyone to an Internet virus circulating among Facebook [and other Internet] users which has a subject line, link and/or attachment that says something such as, "Check out this funny/cool video." Clicking on the link or opening the attachment could allow the virus into your computer; opening the e-mail [probably] will not allow the virus into your computer, however, it's best to immediately delete the e-mail, without opening it, as soon as you see it.

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

Mr. Beauvais noted that Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9895; amelia.herrera-robles@lacity.org), and Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-756-9011, x1727, cell 818-634-0577; 27286@lapd.lacity.org), couldn't attend this Meeting.

Seme Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), announced that Councilman Smith was named Chair of the City Council's Public Safety Committee. The last Movie Night had great attendance; the next one is Saturday, September 12th at Northridge Park. A Memorial Service will be held, for the September 12, 2008 Chatsworth Metrolink train crash victims, on September 3rd at Stoney Point; a shuttle will take attendees from the Church at Rocky Peak. Northridge Hospital will have free breast and prostate cancer screenings, mammograms, and PAP smears open to all on September 12th, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; RSVP to (800) 700-5668. The Fall community cleaning will be September 26th; they're seeking cleaning need ideas.

Mr. Beauvais noted that the cleaning is a lot of fun, only takes around three hours, and is "very worthwhile." He also noted that a group homes Ordinance is being worked on by Phyllis Winger (Chief Planning Deputy of L.A. City District 12; 213-473-7012; phyllis.winger@lacity.org; www.cityplanning.lacity.org) (and others), who said she's "hopeful we will see something soon," probably in the Fall. He also noted that Ms. Winger said that all medical marijuana dispensaries applications will "be reviewed individually." He's awaiting an answer regarding when Hearings will be held regarding the properties in the Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan which Mr. Beauvais said are "still slated to remain R1 [zoning] . . . she seemed unaware of it." He also invited Anna Vidal, L.A. Planning Dept. Valley NCs Liaison (818-374-

5043; anna.vidal@lacity.org; www.cityplanning.lacity.org) to this Meeting; however, City budget cutbacks are reducing City representatives' availability.

Michael Tou, Policy Deputy for U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; michael.tou@mail.house.gov; www.house.gov/sherman), provided a quick overview of constituent services. He encouraged that, "if there's any problem with a Federal agency . . . bring it to our attention." They'll make comments known to "the Congressman and staff here and in Washington." They're working to create a transportation projects list to qualify for stimulus funds, and have "been working on" the Burbank and Van Nuys Airports curfew restrictions issue "for years . . . to maintain a balance." They "want to make sure that everyone is counted" in the Federal census coming up; census data will be downloadable from the Internet. He'll check whether NCs can apply for Federal stimulus funding. Mr. Smith "sincerely hopes the Congressman will provide leadership" regarding the Sepulveda VA Hospital issue.

VI. Officer Reports

President

Mr. Beauvais apologized for "overlooking" two Items from Mr. Mansker that were to be agendaized. He has "been in contact" with the Pavilion Manager; "the Pavilion could be available on the second Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m." [one-half hour later than currently]. He asked for and Board Members commented upon the idea, it was agreed that "7:30 would be fine." Mr. Beauvais will call the Pavilion Manager and try to arrange it; if he can, he'll agendaize it for the next General Board Meeting and the new time would start in October. The Pavilion is on the northeast corner of San Fernando Mission and Balboa Blvds., next to Pep Boys, near Trader Joe's.

Vice-President

Mr. Smith said that there was no report.

Secretary

Mr. Chester congratulated the Outreach Committee for having many recent Stakeholder e-mail sign-ups. For this Meeting, speaker Cards and sign-up sheets were available in the back of the room. He'll be on vacation during the next General Board Meeting.

Treasurer

Mr. Schindelheim distributed a "[GHSNC] Budget Report – as of August 13, 2009" and reported that approximately \$68,000 remains in the Budget for this fiscal year. He advised spending "to help the community" because the City may not allow funds to rollover next year.

VII. Board Issues & Updates

1. Presentation, discussion and possible Board Action on request for grant from the Valley Interfaith Council (VIC) supporting their network of food banks.

VIC Board Member Gulshan Amar distributed a program description flyer and a “funds urgently needed” letter, noting that they’ve been a 501(c)3 non-profit since 1964. Most funding is through the City Dept. of Aging, and they have three Multipurpose Senior Centers and Day Centers. The VIC operates Meals on Wheels and other similar programs. Their Food Pantry is “in dire need for funding . . . Some food pantries are experiencing a 100% increase in clients from one year ago.” “Pantries are located across the Valley . . . people are going outside their areas because they don’t want to be seen by their neighbors . . . The quality of food is diminishing.”

Mr. Mansker strongly supports the VIC and “we have it in our budget . . . One of the things the NC was designed to do” is to help people. Mr. Amar noted that Food Pantries are “located in areas of the most need . . . A log is kept . . . People are allowed to, once a month, get a three-day supply of food.” Their nearest Food Pantry to here is in Reseda and they accept food donations.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Mansker): for the GHSNC to approve allocating \$2,500 for the Valley Interfaith Council Food Pantries.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith voiced that “there’s a tremendous need.”

AMENDED MOTION (by Ms. Wang, seconded by Ms. Kester): for the GHSNC to approve allocating \$5,000 for the Valley Interfaith Council Food Pantries.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Wang observed that “it’s not just senior citizens . . . underemployed . . . people who lost businesses” are using these services. Mr. Chester was concerned regarding spending funds “for a one-time thing . . . it’s a great project,” but the NC needs to “invest in renewable resources.” Mr. Schindelheim clarified that \$21,000 was available for Community Improvement in the next 10 ½ months.” Ms. Reilly declared that “we have an opportunity here . . . to help.” Mr. Smith believed that the NC “should stick to what they [the VIC] asked for.” Mr. Askew pointed out that the NC can always “make another [allocation] in the future . . . and approve additional funds at that time.” Mr. Mansker was concerned that “our budget may be cut severely . . . we also have to look at being sensible about where we put these” allocations.

AMENDED MOTION FAILED with all opposed except for one in favor (Ms. Wang) and one abstention (Ms. Reilly).

MAIN MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with one abstention.

Mr. Chester pointed out that the next NC election is in March 2010. Mr. Beauvais welcomed the VIC to apply again later for funding.

2. Discussion and possible Board action to apply for a City Beautification Grant. Mr. Smith explained that the Community Development Block Grant Program application deadline is in October. Mr. Beauvais relayed that he told Ms. Bursk, Beautification Committee Chair, that this Item could be given to the Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Grohman): for the GHSNC to apply for a \$10,000 City Beautification Grant.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith voiced that “if we don’t go ahead with it, someone else will . . . The NC can serve as a central point” for community improvements. Ms. Bursk announced that the Beautification Committee will meet Monday, August 17th at 6:30 p.m. at her office at 10663 Yarmouth, Granada Hills. She said that the Committee “will need people to show up” at the Committee Meetings to do this. Mr. Mansker encouraged that the NC needs to start preparing for Christmas lights and decorations at Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Smith urged that work to apply for the grant would need to start right away because time is short. There was extensive discussion regarding the application process.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Smith): for the GHSNC to apply matching funds if the City Beautification Grant funding is granted.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mansker volunteered to write the Grant.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with 12 in favor and three abstentions.

Mr. Rivas arrived during this discussion.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais clarified that the NC “would allocate” up to \$10,000 if the Grant is given.

VIII. Committee Reports

Outreach Committee (Sean Rivas)

[First sub-Item.] Allocation of up to \$50.00 to continue Les.net Voicemail.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Rivas): for the GHSNC to again fund the telephone account at Les.net for the GHSNC’s main phone number, in the amount of \$50.00.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Askew explained that this would pay for another six to 12 months of service by Les.net Voicemail.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with Ms. Reilly abstaining.

[Second sub-Item.] Renewal of Motion to Support the Granada Hills Street Faire in the amount of \$2500.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Ms. Kester): for the GHSNC to rescind the action of the Board at the last [July 9, 2009] General Board Meeting regarding the Board's vote to not "participate in the Granada Hills Street Faire [by allocating funding of] \$2,500", and to revisit participating in the Granada Hills Street Faire and funding it in the amount of \$2,500.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion regarding what the appropriate procedure would be, according Robert's Rules of Order, since the Motion failed at the last General Board Meeting. Mr. Beauvais **POSTPONED** this discussion until after the next sub-Item was considered, to give the Parliamentarian time to research.

[This sub-Item was finished being addressed after the below third sub-Item.] Parliamentarian Mr. Kabo declared that removal of the [July 9th] Motion is one way to do this. Mr. Mansker contended that Mr. Summers "should've recused himself" for the vote [on this Item] at the last [July 9th] General Board Meeting and "because Mr. Summers is on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce and therefore has a financial stake" in the event. It was mentioned that the Faire "brings a lot of [attention] to the community . . . to not participate is just unconscionable." Mr. Beauvais noted that Mr. Kabo is on the Street Faire Committee and can answer questions about it. Mr. Kabo distributed a "Neighbor Sponsor" flyer regarding the Faire [contact Charles Beris, 818-435-4281; Charles.Beris@theSFV.com] and added that the "value-added [to the NC] is the exposure . . . The Granada Hills North NC has signed on to be a sponsor." Mr. Smith noted that "we're here [to] build alliances . . . the Street Faire is a tremendous benefit to the community . . . It's a great event." Ms. Wang was concerned that, last year, the "cost per [NC information] sign-up was \$63.00." Mr. Rivas reported that approximately five Stakeholders per week are signing up through the Internet . . . and web traffic has increased." Ms. Kester added that "this is for [the community]."

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote, with 12 in favor and three abstentions (Askew, Bursk and Reilly).

Mr. Beauvais remarked that volunteers will be needed to staff the NC's Faire booth.

[Third sub-Item.] Preparation and Mailing of a Newsletter. Mr. Rivas explained this. Ms. Grohman and Ms. Wang volunteered to help. Ms. Reilly volunteered to write a 100-200 word article. Mr. Beauvais said that an article is needed from the Public Safety Committee regarding CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] classes. He prepared a 200-word article and Mr. Summers volunteered to write an article. Mr. Beauvais added that this would be a four-page newsletter, part of which will be returnable because of the need to include the DONE [services] survey. Mr. Rivas stated that there's enough material to make a six-page newsletter including the survey, which would be printed on the insert page; a return envelope would be provided for return of the survey and contact information. Ms. Bursk advised that flyers could be included. Mr. Rivas

indicated that almost 8,000 newsletters were distributed last time. Mr. Beauvais stated that the newsletter needs to be published by around three weeks from now, so articles are due by August 21st. Mr. Rivas and Ms. Grohman were designated to handle the formatting, printing and mailing.

Planning & Land Use Committee (Eric Mansker)

Mr. Mansker indicated that, due to Items not having been agendized, there was no report.

Beautification Committee (Bonnie Bursk)

Ms. Bursk reminded about the Committee Meeting Monday, August 17th at 6:30 p.m. at her office at 10663 Yarmouth, Granada Hills.

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee (Bob Stevens)

Mr. Stevens reported that the Committee will meet in the next couple of weeks, and that LAPD Officer Del Core wrote up the NC in the Officer's "Neighborhood News."

Bylaws and Rules Committee (Jerry Askew)

Mr. Askew reported that the Committee had not met and that the September 1st DONE Bylaws moratorium is coming up.

Budget Committee (Brandon Schindelheim)

Mr. Schindelheim reported that no meeting is scheduled.

Environmental Committee (Shondrella Kester)

Ms. Kester reported that the Committee will meet "within the next week or so" and will be sending a mass e-mail.

Education Committee (Julie Carson)

Mr. Beauvais reported for Ms. Carson that there was no report.

Ad hoc Election Committee (Julie Carson)

Mr. Rivas reported for Ms. Carson that the [September 10th] NCs Outreach Forum will meet in Little Tokyo.

Ad hoc Verizon FIOS Box Committee (Jerry Askew)

Mr. Askew reported that there was "no new information to report."

Ad hoc Animal Concerns Committee (Jim Summers)

Mr. Beauvais reported that, as Mr. Summers was absent, there was no report.

IX. Board Member Comments and Announcements

Ms. Bursk appreciates the Board's support of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Askew relayed that Mr. Summers requested that a number of Motions be agendized for the next General Board Meeting; the first request is a Bylaws Motion. Mr. Beauvais urged that the "Public Safety and Outreach Committees should make

every effort to make a permanent time for their Meetings”; the problem with Outreach is that six Board Members are on the Committee, so the quorum is four Committee Members and is not always easy to get. He advised that the Outreach Committee may want to form sub-committees.

Mr. Schindelheim announced that the Saturday, September 12th NCs Regional Roundtable & Training [at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys; RSVP 213-485-4415] will be discussing public safety; the NC needs to appoint two representatives “to the Budget portion” of the October 10th Congress of Neighborhoods [http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Empower_LA_2009/home; 213-485-1360]; also, the Budget Committee Meetings need more attendance to make quorum.

Mr. Rivas announced that the Outreach Committee will meet on August 19th at 6:00 p.m. at the Granada Hills Recreation Center, in the Granada Room; also, the NC’s Facebook [www.Facebook.com] and Twitter [www.Twitter.com] accounts are active. Mr. Daush announced that the City Dept. of Aging “File of Life” program has a medical ID packet available, including a window sign for paramedics; it could be a good handout for the Street Faire.

X. Agenda Items for next General & Committee Meetings

This Item was combined with the above Item.

XI. Adjournment

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:22 p.m.