

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the  
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)  
Thursday, September 10, 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 6:45 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Beauvais.

**Special Presentation: Bureau of Sanitation: Alternative Technology Waste Project**

Mr. Beauvais introduced Rebecca Woods from Harris Co. and Miguel Zermeno, Alternative Technologies Project Mgr., L.A. Dept. of Public Works (213.485.3611; Miguel.Zermeno@lacity.org). They distributed a handout and spoke about "Evaluating Alternative Technologies for Black Bin Waste." Mr. Zermano explained that different technologies are being used to process trash, and generate biofuels and energy.

Ms. Woods showed a slide program and noted that Los Angeles is the nation's leader in residential recycling, with a 65% diversion from landfills, which is 10% better than the rest of the state and 25% better than the national average. A new proposal is coming regarding more materials that can be put into blue recycling bins. The L.A. Bureau of Sanitation website [[www.lacity.org/san](http://www.lacity.org/san)] has more information. Mr. Zermano noted that, in 2013, the Puente Hills Landfill, the country's largest, will close, making the only landfill in this area at Sunshine Canyon. Also, the City estimates that it's losing \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 per year to organized gangs of recycling materials thieves. The Department is evaluating proposals from around the world to process waste using alternative biological and thermal technologies, and is working to choose four finalists by early October for submission to the Mayor and City Council. Each site would be 10-15 acres, near a Freeway, and at least one-quarter mile from a hospital, senior care, or school facility. "Environmental justice" will be considered, "to avoid putting a high concentration of facilities in one area." The environmental permitting process will start in 2010; construction will be in 2011-12; and the facilities will be operating by 2013-14.

**II. Roll Call**

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

Dave Beauvais, President	Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large
David Bereznick, Member-at-Large	Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners
Julie Carson, Member-at-Large	Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups
Arthur Daush, Seniors	Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large
Eric Mansker, Factual Basis	Lacy Reilly, Students
Sean Rivas, Parks	Robert Stevens, Homeowners
Jim Summers, Business	Mary Wang, Member-at-Large

Board Members absent: Brad Smith, Vice-President (excused); Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer (excused); Glen Chester, Secretary (excused); Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large (excused); Erin Grohman, Renters (excused); and Sally Kolstad, Education (excused).

Fourteen 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 19 Stakeholders and Guests, including Parliamentarian Mike Kabo.

### **III. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Beauvais, noting that Mr. Chester was not present, suggested and it was agreed to **TABLE** approval of the August 13, 2009 Minutes to the next General Board Meeting.

### **IV. Public Comment**

Stakeholder and Safe Passage CEO Trish Steele [POB 40034, Studio City, CA 91614; [www.safepassagehome.org](http://www.safepassagehome.org)], who spoke to last month's General Board Meeting, briefly described the non-profit program, which "helps women get back into the workforce." She's seeking to distribute program materials to schools. Mr. Beauvais told Ms. Steele to that he'll agendaize for the next General Board Meeting for the GHSNC to consider allocating \$2,700 to support the program.

Ms. Bursk announced that the Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Citizen of the Year Ceremony on Friday, February 26, 2010 at the Odyssey Restaurant. Nomination applications are available; candidates must live in or do something that benefits Granada Hills. Also, the Chamber purchased a table at the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. Mayor's Luncheon at the Marriott Warner Center, sponsored by the United Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are \$50 and three seats are available.

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

Mr. Beauvais announced that Amelia Herrera-Robles, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9895; [amelia.herrera-robles@lacity.org](mailto: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](mailto:27286@lapd.lacity.org)), were unable to attend.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; [semee.park@lacity.org](mailto:semee.park@lacity.org)), announced that the Councilman introduced a Motion regarding an ATM distress code that would automatically signal police. The one-year anniversary of the Chatsworth train accident will be observed at a Memorial Service on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Park at The Church at Rocky Peak, 22601 Santa Susana Pass Rd.; a shuttle will take attendees from there. Also on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>, the final Movie Night of the Summer, at Northridge Park, is "Madagascar"; all are invited. Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, there'll be a Fall Clean Up along Tampa Ave. between Plummer and Devonshire Streets.

## **VI. Officer Reports**

### President

Mr. Beauvais said that he had no report.

### Vice-President

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

### Treasurer

Mr. Schindelheim was not present, but Mr. Beauvais reported that the Treasurer's Budget Report is prepared and available on line. Mr. Beauvais reminded that, at the last General Board Meeting, Mr. Schindelheim noted that there's a lot of money in the treasury that'll probably be taken back by the City due to the budget crisis.

### Secretary

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

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

1. Presentation by NHWNC followed by discussion and possible Board action regarding GHSNC sponsorship of a "Senior Symposium" scheduled for October 28, 2009, funding of \$1,000  
North Hills West NC Board Member Sher Murata distributed a handout regarding and is helping to organize a Seniors Symposium, which will include activities to improve mental and physical abilities, such as fall prevention and what to do to survive a fall. There'll be identity theft prevention instruction. City services and organizations such as the Valley Interfaith Council, MEND [Meet Each Need With Dignity] and One Generation Senior Center will also be represented. Transportation to and from the facility will be available. Host facility liability issues prevent bringing in food from outside.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Mr. Daush): to co-sponsor, with the North Hills West Neighborhood Council, a Senior Symposium.

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

2. Presentation by Sylmar NC followed by discussion and possible Board action to support the MB2 Race for Youth event on November 12, 2009, funding amount to be determined.  
Mr. Rivas reported that the Sylmar Neighborhood Council indicated that they need to wait before asking the GHSNC for support.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Reilly): to TABLE, until the next General Board Meeting, discussing co-sponsoring a fundraising event at the MB2 Raceway with the Sylmar Neighborhood Council.

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

3. Discussion and possible Board action to move location, time, and possibly date of monthly Board meeting. (Eric Mansker)

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Askew): to move the location of the GHSNC General Board Meetings to The Pavilion, starting in October, with the Meeting times starting at 7:30 p.m.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Mansker described that the Pavilion is “a much better facility” with “plenty of lighting . . . easier to set up.” Mr. Beauvais noted that start time flexibility will be limited due to being unable to start before 7:00 p.m. Ms. Cirino preferred to stay here because Stakeholders are used to it.

**MOTION FAILED** with five in favor, six opposed and one abstaining.

4. Nomination and confirmation of up to two representatives to the Empower LA 2009 Congress of Neighborhood Councils and Mayor’s Budget Day on October 10, 2009. (Brandon Schindelheim)

Mr. Beauvais said that Mr. Schindelheim indicated that he’d attend the event; Mr. Beauvais nominated him as the representative.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cirino): to name Brandon Schindelheim as the GHSNC representative to the Empower LA 2009 Congress of Neighborhood Councils and Mayor’s Budget Day on October 10, 2009.

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

Mr. Beauvais encouraged for someone to be the second volunteer; let him know.

5. Discussion and possible Board action on the following motion: “GHSNC Agenda must be approved (email ok) by a majority of a quorum of the Executive Committee and not at the sole discretion of the President. The President may put up to a maximum of 3 items without Executive Committee approval, but these items should state they are originated by the President. Any items denied to be placed on the agenda by the President must be disclosed and be given a logical reason. (Jim Summers)

Mr. Kabo explained the purpose of Parliamentary Procedure, which is “to ensure that everyone on the Board is treated equally.” He specified that this Item “is in conflict with the existing [GHSNC] Bylaws” and noted that the Bylaws give the President the authority to set the Agenda. Mr. Beauvais added that only Motions properly submitted by Committee Chairs are put on the Agenda. Mr. Summers withdrew his Motion.

6. Discussion and possible Board action to add two local dog rescue sites, Angels in Fur, and K9 Heroes Rescue as links on the GHSNC web site.

Mr. Beauvais explained that some animal rescue organizations have started and that, with all the foreclosures, they are taking in more animals than ever; adding them as a link could help with their outreach to the community.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Kester, seconded by Ms. Bursk): to add the animal rescue organizations Angels in Fur and K9 Heroes Rescue to the GHSNC website.

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

Mr. Beauvais will advise the organizations that they'll be added to the website.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

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

1. Status of Outreach Newsletter and Survey.

Mr. Rivas reported that the Newsletter and Survey were printed at a cost under budget, around \$4,200, and are due out Friday. Ms. Carson added that 10,000 households will be mailed, including with a Survey return envelope. Mr. Rivas elaborated that the Survey was edited to meet graphic design space requirements. Mr. Summers objected to the editing. Mr. Rivas added that the return envelope has the GHSNC address and that surveys can also be submitted through the website. Returned surveys will be given to Board Members.

2. Discussion and possible action on purchase of GHSNC Polo shirts, funding approximately \$550.

Mr. Rivas reported that the Committee agreed to recommend Stakeholder Dick Ashnault for the GHSNC shirts.

**MOTION** (by the Outreach Committee): for Stakeholder Dick Ashnault to purchase the GHSNC shirts.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with one abstention.

3. Discussion and possible action on purchase of GHSNC logo pens, funding approximately \$900.

Mr. Rivas reported that the supply is low of pens that have the GHSNC name printed on them. The price would be approximately the same as the last order.

**MOTION** (by the Outreach Committee): to purchase 1,000 pens that have the GHSNC name printed on them, at approximately the same as the last order.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with one abstention.

4. Discussion and possible action on purchasing ad space in the North Valley Reporter in the amount of up to \$500 for three months.

Mr. Rivas explained that the Committee recommends purchasing a one-quarter-page ad in the North Valley Reporter, a free monthly newspaper, for three months at \$165 per month/issue, for a total of [\$495].

**MOTION** (by the Outreach Committee): to purchase a one-quarter-page ad in the North Valley Reporter, a free monthly newspaper, for three months at \$165 per month/issue, for a total of \$495.

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

5. Discussion and possible adoption of GHSNC Outreach Plan.

Mr. Beauvais suggested and it was agreed to postpone this Item to the October General Board Meeting.

6. Discussion and possible action on lighting the tree at Veteran's Memorial Park and appointment of a Joint ad hoc Committee (Beautification and Outreach) to oversee the process, funding up to \$5,000.

**MOTION** (by the Outreach Committee): to POSTPONE this Item to the October General Board Meeting, as part of the Outreach Committee plan.

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

7. Discussion and possible action on lighting ceremony following the Granada Hills Holiday Parade (assuming the previous action passes).

Mr. Rivas reported that the Outreach and Beautification Committees voted at their September Meetings to ask that it be agendaized to appoint Mr. Summers to an ad hoc Committee. Ms. Kester wanted to ensure that there's enough funding for the ceremony. Mr. Mansker distributed a handout of a lighting bid, explaining that he got bids up to \$8,800 and that the NC needs to find a licensed and insured contractor. Ms. Bursk emphasized that the NC needs a "Committee to look at all the issues about lighting the tree." Stakeholder Dr. Carl Melnik, of the Rotary Club, reported that the Club is still working out the contract and permit with the City, and that the project needs to go through the Rotary Club. Mr. Mansker would like to set a meeting with the Rotary Club and other organizations.

Stakeholder Linda Romney was "concerned" about the project organizing procedure. Mr. Beauvais indicated that Ms. Bursk indicated that this project was discussed in the Beautification Committee Meeting. Mr. Rivas related that the project was discussed in the Outreach Committee Meeting, which "seconded the Beautification Committee Motion." Ms. Bursk stated that the Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes were available at this [General Board] Meeting and that the NC needs to move quickly on this issue.

**MOTION** (by the Outreach Committee): to move forward on organizing a lighting ceremony following the Granada Hills Holiday Parade.

**MOTION PASSED** with eleven in favor and one opposed.

Mr. Beauvais will ask local Veterans for volunteers. Ms. Bursk, Mr. Summers, Mr. Mansker and Dr. Melnik volunteered. Dr. Melnik relayed that Stakeholder Gene Behrns is also interested in volunteering.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Cirino): to confirm Bonnie Bursk, Jim Summers, Eric Mansker, Dr. Carl Melnik and Gene Behrns as Members of the GHSNC ad hoc Tree Lighting Committee.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote with Mr. Bereznick abstaining.

Mr. Beauvais asked the Committee to meet within the next two weeks. The Committee will choose its own Chairperson.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Ms. Kester): to Refer the Item of the lighting ceremony following the Granada Hills Holiday Parade to the GHSNC ad hoc Tree Lighting Committee.

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

8. Discussion and possible action to support the Senior Services Business Council of the North Valley Regional of Commerce's Fall Senior Fair on October 17, 2009, funding up to \$500.

Mr. Rivas distributed a flyer regarding and Mr. Ashnault spoke to request funding for the fourth annual Fair, to be held Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the LIFEhouse Church in Northridge. The Fair is sponsored by the Senior Services Business Council of the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce and L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich. Flu shots would be available. Joel Lipin, of the Senior Services Business Council, explained that the Council provides many services for seniors, and that community businesses and Supervisor Antonovich's Office will participate in the Fair. He expects that many local Stakeholders would be served. Mr. Rivas, replying to a question, said that, at last year's Fair, there were no GHSNC sign-ups, but that no current Board Member attended the Fair. Also, a direct mailer would be sent to attendees of the recent Senior Dance and distributed throughout the community. Mr. Ashnault added that the GHSNC name would be on the flyers.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to support the Senior Services Business Council of the North Valley Regional of Commerce's Fall Senior Fair on October 17, 2009 with funding up to \$500.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Rivas related that Stakeholders, including Mr. Ashnault, requested last week that this Item be agendaized.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with eleven in favor and two abstaining.

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

Discussion and possible Board action to sponsor and fund a Planning and Land Use Outreach event, funding up to \$500.

**MOTION** (by the Planning & Land Use Committee): to sponsor and fund a Planning and Land Use Outreach event, funding up to \$500.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Summers believes that “all the [NC]” Planning and Land Use Committees working together “will have more power.” Mr. Rivas suggested bringing in other experts.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Beauvais). There were no objections.

**MOTION PASSED** with nine in favor, one opposed and three abstentions.

Mr. Beauvais said that the Planning & Land Use Committee will put this together.

Ms. Kester had to leave the Meeting at this time.

**Beautification Committee** (Bonnie Bursk)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the following Item #2.]

1. Report, discussion and possible Board action regarding application for a City block grant.

Ms. Bursk reported that the Committee discussed this and is “gathering proposals for . . . sidewalk repairs . . . [and] tree wells . . . in Old Granada Hills.” Mr. Beauvais added that Mr. Smith said that a grant application is available to submit. Ms. Bursk relayed that the BID [Business Improvement District] said that they’ll match the funds up to \$10,000. Mr. Beauvais will have Mr. Smith submit the grant application.

2. Resolution regarding homeowner repair of sidewalks:

**MOTION** (by the Beautification Committee): for the GHSNC to adopt the following Resolution:

Whereas: The Los Angeles City had a program in which they would be 50% of expenses to fix sidewalks adjacent to residential houses, and the owner would pay other 50% in matching funds.

Whereas: Due to budget constrains the City is no longer offering this program, but takes the position that the owner of property is liable for injuries caused by broken sidewalks.

Whereas: It is believed that many owners would be willing to pay for 100% of the sidewalk repair adjacent to their houses to avoid accidents, liability, or simply to beautify their property, but the task of repairing sidewalks, including red tape, permits, and risk of contractors taking advantage of them, is daunting, especially to more elderly residents.

Resolution: The City of Los Angeles should have a program to offer property owners the repairs of sidewalks adjacent to their property if the Owner would agree to pay for 100% of those repairs, based upon an estimate and written agreement between the Owner and Resident specifying the amount of such repairs, or a “NOT TO EXCEED” figure. It is believed that this proposal will “pave the way” for

sidewalk repairs to be done at no cost to the City, or just minimal administrative cost, and relieve homeowners of possible liability, red tape, or fear of fraud in getting the repairs done adjacent to their own property on public sidewalks.

Ms. Bursk relayed that Councilman Smith believes that a 50-50 sidewalk repair program is needed. She stated that a “homeowner could be legally liable and responsible if someone has an accident” on their sidewalk and that the Motion [Resolution] doesn’t mandate fixing sidewalks or changing the law. She believes that this program “would help the City” and would help ensure that “licensed, bonded, reputable contractors” would be used. The City would do the work and the homeowner would pay for it. A Stakeholder recommended using rubber, rather than cement, sidewalk material. Ms. Bursk replied that the proposal doesn’t say what material to use. She added that, at a Board of Realtors Meeting, Councilmen Smith and Richard Alarcon “thought this was a good idea.” She believes that this proposal will break through red tape. Mr. Beauvais declared that this was properly brought up to and voted upon by the Beautification Committee.

**MOTION FAILED** with five in favor and six opposed.

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

Mr. Stevens announced that there’ll be an important Meeting on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Petit Park Recreation Center regarding the [Granada Hills] Street Faire.

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

Mr. Askew said that there was no report.

**Budget Committee** (Brandon Schindelheim)

Mr. Beauvais noted that Mr. Schindelheim was absent and there was no report.

**Environmental Committee** (Shondrella Kester)

Mr. Beauvais noted that Ms. Kester had to leave the Meeting and there was no report.

**Education Committee** (Julie Carson)

Ms. Carson reported that the Committee will meet in the next couple of weeks.

**Ad hoc Election Committee** (Julie Carson)

Ms. Carson reported that the NC election will be in March and that the Committee will meet with [City Clerk Office staff] in October or November to organize details. Mr. Beauvais asked for and there were no objections to the Committee handling this.

**Ad hoc Verizon FIOS Box Committee** (Jerry Askew)

Board of Public Works Hearing on repositioning of Verizon FIOS boxes, Sept. 11, 2009.

Mr. Askew reported that there’ll be a City Board of Public Works Meeting tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. downtown at 200 N. Spring St, Room 350. The boxes are “particularly a hazard for visually impaired” people and he found “ADA [Americans with Disabilities

Act] language that the boxes are improper and not legal.” Mr. Beauvais noted that he and Mr. Askew are going to the Meeting.

**Ad hoc Animal Concerns Committee** (Jim Summers)

Mr. Summers reported that the Committee is working with the Lake Balboa, Encino, Sherman Oaks and North Hollywood NCs.

**IX. Board Member Comments and Announcements**

Mr. Rivas announced that the Granada Hills Recreation Center is hosting, with the AYSO [American Youth Soccer Organization], the Granada Hills Rotary Club, and more organizations, a Community Blood Drive on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 – 4:00. For more information, see [www.ghrc.givesblood.org](http://www.ghrc.givesblood.org). The NC will have a booth and needs a volunteer. Regarding the Street Faire, he’d like to make [Board Member] attendance “mandatory, as it is [the NC’s] biggest event of the year.” He’ll e-mail the Board regarding volunteers for two-hour shifts between about 9:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Ms. Bursk reminded about the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. Mayor’s Luncheon at the Marriott Warner Center. Mr. Askew expects delivery of the video camera [for which funding was allocated at the May 14, 2009 General Board Meeting] next week. Mr. Summers would like to agendize that Stakeholders Maria Fisk and Debbie Orrico be considered for the Planning & Land Use Committee. Mr. Beauvais observed that Ms. Orrico is already on the Committee and that Ms. Fisk’s nomination and confirmation will be placed on the Agenda for the next General Board Meeting. Mr. Mansker related that Ms. Fisk recently agreed to be on the Committee.

Ms. Romney would like the Board to vote upon a Motion to Reconsider moving the [General Board] Meeting. Ms. Bursk agreed to introduce such a Motion at the next General Board Meeting. Ms. Romney was concerned about why she’s not listed as a Committee Member. Mr. Beauvais replied that Ms. Romney is “not listed as an official Committee Member” and invited Ms. Romney to “send a communication” to be appointed to a Committee. Mr. Summers was concerned that he hasn’t received Planning & Land Use Committee materials. Mr. Mansker replied that the materials were sent.

**X. Adjournment**

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:16 p.m.