

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, January 14, 2010**

The Pavilion, 16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance

President Dave Beauvais called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Beauvais.

II. Roll Call

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

Dave Beauvais, President	Brad Smith, Vice-President
Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer	Glen Chester, Secretary
Jerry Askew, 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
Sally Kolstad, Education	Eric Mansker, Factual Basis
Lacy Reilly, Students	Sean Rivas, Parks
Mary Wang, Member-at-Large	

Board Members absent: David Bereznick, Member-at-Large (excused); Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large (unexcused); Erin Grohman, Renters (excused); Bob Stevens, Homeowners (excused); and Jim Summers, Business (excused).

Fifteen 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: approximately 13 Stakeholders and Guests, including Parliamentarian Mike Kabo.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The following corrections to the November 12, 2010 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page five, paragraphs eight and 11: "**MOTION** (by the Sean Rivas" should read "**MOTION** (by Mr. Rivas".

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Ms. Kester): to approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED; Ms. Cirino abstained.

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Public Comment

Ms. Bursk distributed a “Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce . . . Installation of Directors and Officers and Awards Ceremony” flyer and announced the Citizen of the Year Ceremony on Friday, February 26, 2010 at the Odyssey Restaurant [15600 Odyssey Dr., Granada Hills, CA 91344, 818-366-5817; www.TheOdysseyRestaurant.com]. Tickets are \$65 each.

Amanda Branam, Editor, San Fernando Valley News, announced that the paper moved from print to web-only at www.GHScoop.com. They’re seeking writers and pictures about Granada Hills events and news.

Stakeholder Richard Fisk relayed from Dr. Carl Melnik that Veterans Park negotiations are over and construction is due to start January 25th, depending upon the weather.

[The following comments were made after the Item #8 UCLA conference Motion.] Mr. Beauvais explained that Glenn Bailey, Encino NC Board Member (818-453-3407; GlennBaileySFV@yahoo.com), attended the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Meeting this night and had agreed to report on it. Mr. Bailey reported that the City Controller’s website has the recent NCs audit [http://controller.lacity.org/audit_reports.htm] [click on “Audit of Neighborhood Councils’ Expenditures”. The Controller highlighted NCs rollover funds: there was supposed to be \$7.2 million, but only \$1.6 million is available, a \$5.6 million deficit. There are 364 NC Quarterly Financial Reports for DONE (the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) to review. There was much discussion at the Alliance Meeting regarding Treasurer training. Al Abrams, BONC (L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) Commissioner, told them that BONC’s next Meeting will review the audit.

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

Mr. Beauvais relayed that Amelia Herrera-Robles, Project Coordinator, DONE, could not attend this Meeting and that there’ll be a Candidate Training Forum in February at San Jose Elementary School in Mission Hills.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Semee.Park@lacity.org), distributed “Kick-off Reception for the Northridge100 Celebration” flyers and announced the Northridge Recreation Center January 19th, 5:30-7:30 Reception; Councilman Smith will speak around 6:30. They’re seeking exhibit photos. Also, the Councilman’s Office is seeking a twice-weekly intern; send resumes to Megan.Cottier@lacity.org. Crime statistics are available at www.LAPDOnline.org, and www.Nixle.com has crime reports.

Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-756-9011, x1727, cell 818-634-0577; 27286@lapd.lacity.org), distributed a “Devonshire Area Residential Burglary 12/13/09 – 01/09/10” map and a “Crime Snapshot Year Ending

2009” chart, and reported that the most serious crimes were 6% less than last year, “though quality of life issues are deteriorating.” There’ve been huge drops in lesser crimes. LAPD Chief Beck has made more Officers available to Area Captains. Response times are around eight minutes for high-priority calls and 30 minutes for low-priority calls. Vehicle break-ins are still easiest when valuables are visible. Three addresses were investigated, processed and shut down for zoning violations. There’re increasing catering trucks and fruit vendors in residential areas; as long as there’s no food cart, there’s no violation that can be prosecuted under present laws. There’ll be a Summit Meeting “problem-solving forum for the community” February 3rd, 10:00 a.m. at the Devonshire Station [10250 Etiwanda Ave., Northridge, CA 91325; 818-832-0633; http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station].

VI. Officer Reports

President

[The President’s report was given after the Secretary’s report.] Mr. Beauvais reported that the regular Neighborhood Council Candidate Filing deadline passed, but that there’s still time for Write-In Candidates. He encouraged current Board Members and others to file. Also, he was appointed to a Citizens Advisory Panel that met with City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, who’s “very open regarding what can . . . and can’t be done through his Office.” Mr. Beauvais also attended a Regional High School #4 Meeting, and described security fencing on the San Jose Street side of the School and sound-muffling trees. He asked the LAUSD to coordinate construction there with construction on the new “Balboa” or “Hospital” High School, on the old hospital site (it’ll be for five to six weeks, probably around June); and that, if they can’t coordinate the two constructions, to call a community meeting. Proposals were discussed regarding construction at the School and to widen Balboa Blvd. to accommodate a drop-off zone for the School. He believed that having a crosswalk on Balboa between Devonshire and San Jose Streets “would exacerbate what will already be” a heavy traffic situation.

Vice-President

Mr. Smith reported, also as a Granada Hills High School [GHHS] PTA Member, that the School’s API (Academic Performance Index), a measure of student academic performance, was 845 out of a possible 1,000, a very high score, and that 96% of their students go to college. The GHHS has applied to the LAUSD [L.A. Unified School District] to have the new “Balboa” or “Hospital” High School be a Charter School; Mr. Smith will ask for GHSNC support for that. He explained the new School’s enrollment criteria and that it’s designed to serve up to 1,200 students.

Treasurer

Mr. Schindelheim reported that, after encumberments, the NC Treasury balance is around \$35,000.

Secretary

Mr. Chester reported that Sign-Up Sheets and Speaker Cards were in the back of the room to receive e-mailed information and speak at this Meeting.

VII. Board Issues & Updates

a) Discussion and possible board action on procurement of storage space.

Mr. Rivas reported that, as a City entity, the NC has insurance. He'll get storage space prices, which'll possibly be around \$67 per month at Lindley Ave. and Chatsworth St., and Balboa Blvd. around Lassen St.

MOTION (by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to TABLE discussion and possible board action on procurement of storage space until the February General Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

b) Renewal of ad in OGHRG newsletter for six months, cost of \$200.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Kester): to renew the Old Granada Hills Residents Group Newsletter ad for six months at \$200 per six months.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais recused himself from voting on this because he is President of the OGHRG and a Newsletter contributor. Mr. Rivas thought the ad "is still worth the money." Ms. Kolstad added that "everyone she knows reads it."

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

c) Renewal of Pole Banners for one year, cost of \$5281.19

MOTION (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Carson): to renew the pole banners for one year, at a cost of \$5,281.19.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rivas provided an "Estimate" of banners and installation costs. All banners had to be removed by December 31st, as the contract ended. The banners price increased, but "the installation cost is the same." It's the same number of banners, though banners that were at Haskell Ave. and Devonshire St. have been moved to Balboa Blvd. and Chatsworth St., and Balboa Blvd. and San Fernando Mission Blvd. Green color was added to the design to coordinate them with the Granada Hills North NC. Councilman Smith's Office will approve what the NC approves; the "permit is free" and good for 13 months. There was extensive discussion regarding the cost, effectiveness and feasibility of banners.

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

A vote was taken in which seven were in favor and seven opposed. Parliamentarian Mr. Kabo noted that only 14 of the 15 Board Members present voted; it was agreed to re-vote.

MAIN MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; eight were in favor, six opposed and one abstained.

VIII. Committee Reports

Ad hoc Election Committee (Julie Carson)

Report on Candidate filing status, Write-in Candidate deadline.

Ms. Carson distributed a postcard advertising March 2nd NC elections and reminded that the Write-in Candidate deadline is February 1st. Mr. Rivas showed a North Valley Regional News edition with an elections ad. March 2nd, door-hangers will be distributed. Ms. Carson recommended a "Candidates Form . . . February 11th"; Mr. Beauvais agreed to agendaize that for the February 11th General Board Meeting. Ms. Carson described other efforts and encouraged everyone to talk with their neighbors to "turn out the vote."

Planning & Land Use Committee (Eric Mansker)

Report on January 9, 2010 Plancheck Meeting.

Mr. Mansker reported that he and Stakeholder Maria Fisk attended a PlanCheckNC [www.PlanCheckNCLA.com] Meeting. They networked with other NC Board Members; Ms. Fisk noted that the same land use problems happen throughout the City. Mr. Askew announced a North Valley Area Planning Commission Meeting January 21, after 4:30 p.m. at the Braude Governmental Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, and encouraged opposing a cell tower installation at Los Alimos St. and Gaynor Ave.

Motion: [regarding the below]

MOTION (by the Committee): to support the Old Granada Hills Residents Group position regarding the City Planning Department's hold on an Accessory Dwellings Unit Ordinance.

DISCUSSION: (Mr. Beauvais confirmed that, as a Committee Motion, no second to the Motion is needed.) Mr. Mansker read a letter about this and said, "Anyone can, without saying anything . . . start putting up accessory units . . . [that] could be bigger than the main unit." Ms. Fisk added, "we're asking [the City] to enforce the moratorium . . . or write an Interim Control Ordinance."

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Motion: [regarding the below]

Mr. Beauvais explained that the City is already considering including existing Accessory Dwelling Units as legal.

MOTION (by the Committee): to support the Old Granada Hills Residents Group position and file a Community Impact Statement regarding CF 09-2589: that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles City Planning Dept. in consultation with the City Attorney to conduct a study and report back in regard to the legalization of previously unpermitted converted units in conjunction with permanent development and in compliance with AB 1866.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith believed “there’s no reason to grandfather in substandard construction.”

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

MAIN MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Motion: [regarding the below]

MOTION (by the Committee): that the GHSNC fund up to five (5) Directors or Stakeholders to attend the UCLA Land Use Law and Planning Conference to be held January 29, 2010. Cost of \$175.00 per person, for a total of \$875.00.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mansker recommended that attendees must be involved in Land Use issues. Ms. Bursk contended the NC “doesn’t need to send five people.”

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Ms. Bursk): [to add the words, “not to exceed two people.”]

AMENDMENT to the MOTION FAILED for lack of a seconding Board Member.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Carson, seconded by Ms. Kester).

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

MAIN MOTION PASSED with 13 in favor, one opposed and one abstained.

Beautification Committee (Bonnie Bursk)

Motion: [regarding the below]

Ms. Bursk explained the following Motion.

MOTION (by the Committee): to ask the City of Los Angeles to develop a program to assist homeowners in the repair of sidewalks adjacent to their property by offering assistance in the process, waiving permit fees, and offering an expedited process.

DISCUSSION: Some repairs are being done; this Motion is to expedite the process and “make it so that [homeowners] can get it done themselves.”

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Motion: [regarding the below]

MOTION (by the Committee): the GHSNC supports Councilman Greig Smith in his effort to change lawn watering schedules to three times per week instead of two, while essentially using the same amount of water.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Smith tested this and found it to be effective.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

IX. Board Member comments, announcements and agenda Items for next General Meeting and Committee Meetings.

Ms. Carson expressed empathy for Haitian earthquake victims. Mr. Rivas announced an Outreach Committee Meeting Tuesday, “most likely at Dupars” [restaurant]. They’re seeking input for updating the website. Mr. Chester stated that the NC “should strive to spend all [its] funds.” Mr. Schindelheim announced that there’ll be a Budget Committee Meeting this month to re-evaluate the fiscal situation. Mr. Beauvais encouraged donating for Haitian earthquake victims. Mr. Smith added that the website www.DirectRelief.org can help. He requested agendaing, to speak at the March 18th General Board Meeting, Brian Bauer and Susan Hollenbaugh of Granada Hills Charter High School. Mr. Askew reported that “just about all of [the FIOS boxes] have been raised” in the NC’s area. Ms. Bursk congratulated Mr. Askew and Ms. Fisk for being nominated as the Gil Benjamin Citizen of the Year.

X. Adjournment

MOTION (by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Ms. Kester): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:52 p.m.