



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Granada Hills H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills CA 91344

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Brad Smith (Member-at-Large)	Gina Greschner (Renters)
Vice-President: Jerry Askew (Business)	Varun Khurana (Students)
Secretary: Anthony Matthews (Parks & Arts)	Sally Kolstad (Education)
Treasurer: Brandon Schindelheim (MaL)	Deron Lopez (Youth Organizations)
Michael Benedetto (Community Organizations)	Eric Mansker (Homeowners)
Jeffrey Bohrer (MaL)	Mark Morris (Faith-Based Organizations)
Bonnie M. Bursk (Commercial Property Owners)	Jim Summers (MaL)
Krisna Crawford-Velasco (MaL)	Rene R. Trinidad (MaL)
Arthur A. Daush (Seniors)	Ross Turmell (MaL)
Jett Dunlap (MaL)	Cindy Wu Freedman (MaL-CI)
	Member at Large: pending
	Michael J. Kabo (Parliamentarian)

GHSNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary; Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript or comprehensive record of what was said at a Meeting. Exceptions: Motion(s) (included as stated at the Meeting, or, if not stated, as written on the Agenda); quotes (words that have quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and Agenda wording copied into the Minutes.

I. Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance (Smith)

President Brad Smith called the Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. Roll Call (Matthews)

Roll Call was taken by the President. Eight of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Michael Benedetto, Varun Khurana, Deron Lopez, Eric Mansker, Mark Morris, Brad Smith, Jim Summers and Ross Turmell. Krisna Crawford-Velasco, Sally Kolstad, Brandon Schindelheim and Rene Trinidad arrived later. Eight Board Members were absent: Jerry Askew (excused), Jeffrey Bohrer (excused), Bonnie Bursk (excused), Arthur Daush (excused), Jett Dunlap (excused), Gina Greschner (excused), Anthony Matthews (excused) and Cindy Wu Freedman (unexcused). The GHSNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11 (see <http://empowerla.org/wp->

content/uploads/2012/09/GranadaHillsSouthNC-Bylaws.pdf), so at this time the Board could only take public comments and could not have any discussions, make any Motions or take any votes. Twenty of the 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat (Community Organizations) was vacant. Also attending: 19 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. **Approval of Minutes** from the February 2015 regular meeting (Matthews)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IX.]

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Mansker): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 5, 2015 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; one abstained (Summers).

IV. **Public Comment:** Community and Public Comment on non-agenda items.

A Tulsa Street Elementary School student presented an NPG (Neighborhood Purposes Grant) Application requesting funding for a field trip. Mr. Smith will refer it to the Education Committee. Glenn Bailey, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9953; Glenn@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), encouraged attending the March 12th VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) Mixer. Stakeholder William Kuzmin was concerned about the purpose and Notice for the February 24th Special Board Meeting.

V. **Community Speakers**

(1) Council District 12 – Tania Oronoz

Tania Oronoz, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Tania.Oronoz@LACity.org; http://CD12.LACity.org), reported that the Councilman submitted Motions to create laws about hit-and-run and street racing drivers. City elections will be held in even-numbered years beginning in 2020.

(2) LAPD Senior Lead Officer - Dario Del Core

Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 818-756-9011, x1727, mobile/text phone 818-634-0577; 27286@LAPD.LACity.org), was not present and there was no report.

VI. **Board Issues and Updates:** Note that Members voting on financial issues must have passed the necessary Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) training courses.

1. Appointment and confirmation and/or oath of office of new Board Members/assignments

- a) Community Organizations: Discussion and possible action appointing Mike Benedetto to the Community Organizations Seat on the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council. Mr. Benedetto is currently an at-large Member who has volunteered to fill the seat (vacant since 2014), and, if appointed, would serve a term until the end of the current (DONE Region 2) council term, presumably 2016. Public Comment: Mr. Benedetto to present his qualifications; further action requires a Motion to remove Mr. Benedetto from his current at large seat and re-

appoint him to the Community Organizations seat; Motion requires a second and a vote. If appropriate, oath of office to be administered by President.

Mr. Smith noted the above; contact him to volunteer for the vacant Board Seat.

Board Member Sally Kolstad arrived at this time, making nine Board Members present, two short of the GHSNC quorum of 11.

[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #III.]

Mr. Smith reported that he consulted with DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment; 213-978-1551; NCSupport@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org] and the City Attorney; they confirmed that it is acceptable for Mr. Benedetto to resign and be re-appointed.

The Board agreed to TABLE this Item to the next Board Meeting.

b) Note that if a), above, goes forward, we will need to fill an at-large seat; we have another community member who has asked to be considered for the community organizations seat. If a) goes forward, we will advertise the at large seat and ask the other candidate to apply again.

Mr. Smith noted the above.

2. Discussion and possible Board action to establish suggested language for GHSNC Neighborhood Purpose Grant-related project Funding Guidelines (see attached; this language is based on that created by a joint Bylaw and Budget Committees meeting and is presented as a draft for discussion); also, see the existing GHSNC-specific cover letter for NPG applications, and NPG application forms, here: <http://ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/GHSNC-NPG-CL.pdf> and <http://www.ghsnc.org/resources/neighborhood-purpose-grant-npg/>

Copies were distributed of “Recommendations for Applicants for [GHSNC] Funding (Neighborhood Purpose Grants and other funding).”

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council adopts suggested language for GHSNC Neighborhood Purpose Grant-related project Funding Guidelines.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of how to get and ensure outreach value from allocating Neighborhood Purposes Grants (NPG’s). Mr. Smith reminded that the City does not allow funding faith-based organizations. He recommended that funding suggestions be referred to the Budget Committee. There was extensive discussion of the NPG allocation process.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Trinidad, seconded by Mr. Summers): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will add to the above Motion wording to indicate that the GHSNC will have a \$500 NPG allocation limit.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of the merits of the proposed amendment.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with two in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Summers and Trinidad); eight opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Benedetto, Kolstad, Lopez, Mansker, Morris, Schindelheim, Smith and Turmell); zero abstained. Mr. Khurana was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

VII. Officers’ Reports – for consideration/response/ratification by the Board:

1. President

- a) Request that Board Members interested in service on the new Government Affairs Committee contact the President and indicate their interest. Same for any Board Members interested in switching their current Committee assignments; with new Board Members and a new Committee, there is a need to balance workloads. Note that current Committees are Beautification, Budget, Bylaws and Rules, Education, Outreach, Planning and Land Use, and Safety and Emergency Preparedness. With 21 Board Members and eight Committees (each of at least five Members; $8 \times 5 = 40$) we need every Board Member serving on two Committees, and interested Stakeholders, to fill the Committees, especially if Committee membership increases to seven ($8 \times 7 = 56$).

Mr. Smith noted the above.

2. Vice-President

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

3. Treasurer

- a) Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Budget Report FY 2014 - as of February- March 2015

Copies were distributed of the GHSNC “Monthly Expenditure Report for: February 28, 2015” and the “[GHSNC] Budget Report FY 2015 – as of February 28, 2015.”

- b) Monthly Expenditure Report(s) for: February, 2015

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Budget Report and Monthly Expenditure Report for February 2015.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that Meeting food funding should be allocated from the Outreach budget.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Kolstad, Lopez, Mansker, Morris, Schindelheim, Smith, Summers, Trinidad and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Mr. Khurana was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

c) NC Budget Advocates report (Crawford-Velasco /Wu Freedman)

[See below Item #VIII. B. 4.]

4. Secretary

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

VIII. Committee Reports

1. Outreach (Summers) - Report from the Outreach Chair and possible Board actions/updates on the following:

A. Outreach Committee (OC) Chair Report – Jim Summers

1. Update on Metrics, Outreach Budget, Outreach Plan, Upcoming Events: March 11th, Egg Hunt

Mr. Summers explained developing the metrics. There will be a March 11th City Attorney Town Hall Meeting.

2. Recommendations from OC Chair to Committees

Mr. Summers encouraged all Committees to have an outreach plan.

3. Website Update: Change of Webmaster and alternatives. Website improvements and corrections. Social Media. Stakeholder input via polling and involvement.

Mr. Smith reported that DONE indicated that the required webmaster change may need to be made within 30-45 days.

B. Outreach Motions and Possible Action Items:

1. Motion: [see below]. Presented by Dave Beauvais (OGHRG). Original request: \$500 for 1,100 mailed plus 800 printed larger postcards, shall adjust for reduction. (Postcard) (OC Vote: 3-0)

FUNDING MOTION (by the Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will allot up to \$250.00 for the printing and mailing of postcards to publicize the Joint Neighborhood Council Citrus Sunday event on May 17, 2015.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Dave Beauvais explained the food goes to local non-profit organizations. Last year around 20,000 pounds of food was collected. "Ten Neighborhood Councils" and other community groups are involved.

Board Member Krisna Crawford-Velasco arrived at this time, making 12 Board Members present (the GHSNC quorum is 11).

The local drop-off point for food will be here. Funding "would print several thousand cards." Mr. Beauvais encouraged participating.

Board Members Eric Mansker and Mark Morris recused themselves and left the room at this time, making 10 Board Members present (the GHSNC quorum is 11).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Crawford-Velasco, Kolstad, Lopez, Schindelheim, Smith, Summers, Trinidad and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Mr. Khurana was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

Board Members Eric Mansker and Mark Morris returned to the room at this time, making 12 Board Members present (the GHSNC quorum is 11).

2. Presentation of Hope Garden (Union Rescue Mission) food pantry, located in Sylmar. by Susanna Martinez. Susanna volunteered to collect fruit on a monthly basis at the GHSNC regular Board Meetings for the Hope Garden. (Flyer/Pamphlet) (OC Vote: 3-0)

Copies were distributed of a letter from Ms. Martinez to the GHSNC. She is the Hope Garden Executive Chef. It is a “transitional housing program . . . for the entire San Fernando Valley.” They serve 250 people, including 25-30 seniors. They “live in individual apartments . . . in several buildings.” She invited everyone to visit and volunteer with them.

3. Motion: GHSNC to [see below]. (VANC Flyer) (OC Vote: 3-0)

Mr. Summers explained the event.

FUNDING MOTION (by the Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will sponsor the 12th Annual Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) mixer on March 12, 2015 for up to \$100.00 for food.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Summers); there was no objection.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Kolstad, Lopez, Mansker, Morris, Schindelheim, Smith, Summers, Trinidad and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Mr. Khurana was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

4. Motion: GHSNC to co-sponsor NC Budget Advocates program for up to \$150 to aid with food costs, presented by Krisna Velasco, GHSNC Budget Advocate. (Outline) (OC Vote: 3-0)

Mr. Summers explained the Budget Advocates (www.BudgetAdvocatesLA.com) program. Ms. Crawford-Velasco reported that the Budget Advocates White Paper of Budget suggestions were submitted March 2nd to the Mayor. There will be a Budget Advocates radio show the next three Sundays; listeners “can call in.” No Motion was made or vote taken.

5. Online Voting for 2016 Neighborhood Council Elections: Update and for possible Discussion. Costs: \$50,000 to \$900,000 depending on services provided; DONE can use roll-over funds. BONC Agendas <http://www.lacity.org/city-government/subscribe-meeting-agendas-andmore/departments-commissions-committees-boards>; Click under “BONC”, “Board Agendas” (OC Vote: 3-0)

Mr. Summers explained the above. Mr. Bailey explained that DONE and the City Clerk recommended that one company be considered by the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. Board Members wanted more information about online voting.

6. Motion: GHSNC [see below]. (Outline) (OC Vote: 3-0)

It was explained that the website might be able to be used to poll Stakeholders on different issues.

MOTION (by the Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will participate in a possible beta-testing and/or cooperate with DONE to establish an online voting system for Neighborhood Council Elections, including the polling of Stakeholder issues via website and other means, at no cost to the Neighborhood Councils.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Summers clarified that the testing would be regarding Stakeholder issues, not for the next GHSNC election.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

7. Presentation of GHSNC Newsletter and Survey (Draft): Possible Discussion of draft presented by Mr. Kuzmin, including printing and mailing costs. Collection of possible survey questions and recommendations. (Attachment - Draft) (OC Vote: 3-0)

Copies were distributed of a printing quote from The Press Room, and of draft copies of February 11th and March Newsletters. Mr. Kuzmin explained the survey’s purpose and reviewed the draft and quote. He is getting more bids. The Committee will further consider this. Mr. Beauvais encouraged contacting Academy Mailing and urged, before extra copies are printed, to ensure that schools commit to help distribute them. He also encouraged including a self-addressed stamped envelope with the surveys, which would be mailed to “a little over 10,000 addresses.”

8. Possible Motion: GHSNC [see below]. (GHNNC Letter) (OC Chair)

Mr. Summers explained this would be to limit traffic. Mr. Mansker encouraged everyone to contact the State Assemblymember [Scott Wilk, 661-286-1565; <http://ad38.asmr.org>], to support this.

MOTION (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Khurana): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council recommends the DMV's customer service be "by appointment only."

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Khurana): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council recommends the DMV's customer service be "by appointment only" and will write a letter to the appropriate decision-makers.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

9. Possible Motion: GHSNC to [see below].
www.eteamz.com/granadahillslittleleague. (OC Chair)

Mr. Summers explained the March 7th event.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Ms. Crawford-Velasco): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will spend up to \$100 for helium to fill balloons for the Granada Hills Little League Baseball Opening Day Event, located at 16035 Rinaldi St. GHSNC will have a booth, with GHNNC and possibly Sylmar NC to promote Stakeholder participation at no cost.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Kolstad, Lopez, Mansker, Morris, Schindelheim, Smith, Summers, Trinidad and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Mr. Khurana was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

2. Planning and Land Use (Askew) – Report from the PLUM Chair and possible Board actions/updates on the following issues:

- a) Motion from PLUM Committee to file a CIS in opposition to increasing the limit on cat ownership per CF 13-1513. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council is opposed to increasing the number of cats owned by resident of the City of Los Angeles. Further we are opposed to the concept of "clowder" and the fee/inspection element of the proposal. (a group of cats is called a clowder).

Copies were distributed of a proposed Resolution. Mr. Mansker explained that even animal rights activists agree that the proposed Ordinance needs to be rewritten. The City Council may Agendize it for May. He believed it to be unenforceable.

MOTION (by the Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will file a Community Impact Statement in opposition to increasing the limit on cat ownership per CF 13-1513.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Education (Kolstad) - Report from the Education Chair; no Motions from Committee, so the following two requests need to be referred to Committee and NPG process.

Ms. Kolstad indicated that she will report at next month's Meeting.

- a) Laurie Spoons Abraham - Project proposed is to improve and increase the physical education program at Tulsa St. Elementary School by providing resources and training on the state standards. (forwarded by Mr. Lopez)

The School's Ms. Abrahams reported that new State standards mandate physical education time for students; the School does not have "the physical equipment." She noted "the obesity rates of children . . . we're teaching skills, as opposed to games." Mr. Smith urged Ms. Abrahams to present to the Education Committee "early in the next" Fiscal Year.

4. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (Turmell) – Report from the Chair on the CERT class to occur in March; no Motions from Committee.

Mr. Turmell reported that there will be a CERT [Community Emergency Response Team; 818-756-9674; www.cert-la.com, lafdcert@LACity.org] class here on Tuesdays through April 14th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.; he encouraged signing up. [See <http://EventBrite.com>; "type in CERT" to sign up and/or see <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lafd-cert-granada-hills-tickets-15620665832?aff=es2&rank=2>.]

5. Beautification (Bursk) - Report from the Beautification Chair; nothing from Committee.

Ms. Bursk was not present and there was no report.

6. Budget (Schindelheim) - Report from the Budget Chair; nothing from Committee.

[See above Item #VII. 3.]

7. Bylaws and Rules (Mansker) - Report from the Bylaws and Rules Chair; nothing from Committee.

Mr. Mansker reported that the Committee will meet March 17th at 7:00 p.m. here in the Library. City Council Files and Committee descriptions will be discussed.

Board Member Rene Trinidad arrived at this time, making ten Board Members present, one short of the GHSNC quorum of 11.

IX. Board Member comments, announcements and agenda Items for next general meeting and Committee meetings.

Mr. Mansker noted the GHSNC's continuing work on funding guidelines. Also, he wrote to DONE requesting that their mandate for Neighborhood Councils to make a costly webmaster change be delayed to the next Fiscal Year starting July 1st.

Board Member Brandon Schindelheim arrived at this time, making a quorum of 11 Board Members present. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

Mr. Lopez reported that the new Tulsa Street Elementary School Principal is very helpful. [*This Agenda Item was continued after Item #XIII. 3.*] Mr. Morris encouraged advising him of faith-based events. Ms. Crawford-Velasco suggested establishing a Veterans Committee; Mr. Smith will Agendize it. Mr. Schindelheim reminded of the need to submit funding allocation requests by the April [2nd] Meeting.

X. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Smith): in honor of Mrs. Daush.

MOTION PASSED without any objection.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:21 p.m.

[Each Item's first paragraph may be directly from the Agenda.]