



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

Thursday, November 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)	Justin Kim (Student)
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)	Nareh Sargsyan (At Large)
Krisna Crawford-Velasco (MaL)	Rene R. Trinidad (MaL)
Arthur A. Daush (Seniors)	Ross Turmell (MaL)
Jett Dunlap (MaL)	Cindy Wu Freedman (MaL-CI)
	Michael J. Kabo (Parliamentarian)
	At Large: pending

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: Motions/Resolutions (as stated at the Meeting, which take precedence over versions written on the Agenda, if different); quotes (words that have quotation marks ("") at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and other wording from the Agenda such as the first paragraph(s) of some Items. Items are listed in and match the same order as on the Agenda.

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

President Brad Smith called the Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Anthony Matthews.

II. Roll Call (Matthews)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Fourteen of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jerry Askew, Michael Benedetto, Jeffrey Bohrer, Bonnie Bursk, Krisna Crawford-Velasco, Arthur Daush, Justin Kim, Sally Kolstad, Eric Mansker, Anthony Matthews, Brad Smith, Rene Trinidad, Ross Turmell and Cindy Wu Freedman. Mark Morris arrived later. Four Board Members were absent: Jett Dunlap, Gina Greschner, Deron Lopez and Brandon Schindelheim (all excused). Nareh Sargsyan resigned (see Item #VI. 2.). 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 the Board could take such votes. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats (At Large and Community Organizations) were vacant. [To apply, see www.ghsnc.org.] Also attending: 21 Stakeholders and Guests.

Mr. Smith requested and Stakeholder Dave Beauvais agreed to be the Acting Parliamentarian.

III. Approval of Minutes from prior Board Meetings – to be considered by General Board (Matthews)

MOTION (by Mr. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Bohrer): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 24, 2015 Special Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 12 in favor; one opposed (Mansker); one abstained (Turmell).

MOTION (by Mr. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Bohrer): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 1, 2015 General Board Meeting as written.

Board Member Mark Morris arrived at this time, making 15 Board Members present (the GHSNC quorum is 11).

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Ms. Wu Freedman, seconded by Mr. Mansker): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will add the following on page six, Item #VI. 4. of the Minutes of its October 1, 2015 General Board Meeting at the end of the “Discussion” regarding appointments to its Planning and Land Use Committee: “Ms. Wu Freedman was concerned about how and why Committees were rearranged.”

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 12 in favor; one opposed (Trinidad); two abstained (Bohrer and Turmell).

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Ms. Crawford-Velasco): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will add the following on page six, Item #VI. 4. of the Minutes of its October 1, 2015 General Board Meeting at the end of the “Discussion” regarding appointments to its Planning and Land Use Committee: “Mr. Mansker and Ms. Bursk concurred with this position.”

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 11 in favor; zero opposed; three abstained (Bohrer, Trinidad and Turmell).

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Smith); there was no opposition.

CALL for the QUESTION PASSED with no opposition.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 12 in favor; zero opposed; three abstained (Bohrer, Trinidad and Turmell).

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

Members of St. Euphrasia Catholic School described their project composting food in an area behind the School. Otherwise, they said, discarded food “takes up unnecessary landfill space” and uses “precious resources.” They have a GoFundMe campaign for financing the project. A member of the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences Robotics Team reported that they competed with the help of previous GHSNC funding; they seek a \$3,000 Neighborhood Purposes Grant. She said 40% of their students live in Granada Hills South. Stakeholder Tim Whiting was opposed to the City’s Residential Floor Area (RFA) Ordinance. Stakeholder William Kuzmin believed that former Board Member Jim Summer’s resignation was “still incomplete” because it was “not approved by the Board”; he also believed that this Meeting’s Agenda was not complete. Mr. Smith noted that Public Comment is not for Board Members.

V. Community Speakers

(1) Council District 12 – Tania Oronoz (General update)

Megan Cottier, District Director for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Megan.Cottier@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>), introduced Eric King, who replaces Tania Oronoz, who left their Office. She announced that the City Council approved the Community Plan, which will be in effect when the Mayor signs it. They are “getting cost estimates” for the new Petit Park pool. She urged being careful about coyotes. They will form a “working group” to resolve the O’Melveny Park running groups situation.

(2) LAPD Senior Lead Officer - Dario Del Core (General update)

Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 818-756-9011, x1727, mobile/text phone 818-634-0577; 27286@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station), reported that the Division is up “18% in overall crime . . . first time in 10 years.” Homeless people and narcotics use has greatly increased. To start a narcotics investigation, detectives “must hear it first-hand,” not from an Officer. He urged and would help form Neighborhood Watches. It is “now mandatory Citywide” for all Officers to wear a Taser. The Citywide rollout continues of Officers wearing body cameras.

Melvin Canas, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9898; cell 323-972-7782; Melvin.Canas@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reported that Citywide Neighborhood Council Elections start in Spring 2016; he encouraged face-to-face and social media outreach and appointing a Public Works Liaison; Ms. Crawford-Velasco volunteered to be the Liaison.

VI. Board Issues and Updates: Note that Members voting on financial issues must have passed the necessary Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) training courses; in addition, Board Members must take the necessary ethics and code of conduct training in a timely manner.

1. GHSNC currently has one open at large seat. Appreciate applications for the additional open seat via e-mail to Secretary; In addition, note Member Sargsyan's seat will open after item 2).

Mr. Smith noted the above. Mr. Kuzmin was concerned whether Board Members were following Roberts Rules of Order regarding comment procedures; Mr. Beauvais agreed.

2. Nareh Sargsyan (MaL) has resigned; see attached. Board to accept resignation.

Mr. Smith noted the above.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Ms. Wu Freedman): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council accepts the resignation of Nareh Sargsyan.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Proposed amendments to GHSNC Bylaws regarding Article V, Section 8: Censure (currently intentionally left blank, and Section 9: Removal (currently refers to Section 7). Text to be presented for review by Board at December meeting.

Mr. Smith will Agendize the above for the December Board Meeting, saying "the City Attorney and DONE have recommended action."

4. Discussion and possible action on complaints received regarding moderation occurring on Nextdoor.com. Board action may include, but is not limited to requesting that Nextdoor take remedial action, and recommendations to DONE and other NCs regarding future use of Nextdoor.

Mr. Askew explained that, at last week's GHSNC Planning and Land Use Committee Meeting, Mr. Kuzmin claimed that the GHSNC had a lack of outreach regarding the Community Plan and the Interim Control Ordinance (ICO). Nextdoor posts were made and removed regarding the RFA and the ICO, and personal information was posted. Mr. Askew indicated that the GHSNC's ability to

communicate with Stakeholders “was being interfered with.” He proposed to communicate with Nextdoor “to deal with it according to their procedures.”

MOTION (by Mr. Kim, seconded by Ms. Crawford-Velasco): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will request Nextdoor to review actions taken by the lead.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Canas indicated that the Board can advise Stakeholders to direct their concerns to Nextdoor and that the GHSNC could start its own Nextdoor account.

MOTION to RESCIND the previous Motion (by Mr. Kim, seconded by Ms. Crawford-Velasco).

MOTION to RESCIND PASSED with no opposition.

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

1. President: Announcements regarding:

- a) NC Code of Conduct (see attached), Board Members acknowledgement of the Code, and that any violation of said policy, by a Board Member, while in a meeting will result in an immediate voice motion by the presiding officer and Board to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Smith reminded that the Board does “live by” the Code of Conduct.

2. Vice-President: Pending meeting

Mr. Askew indicated that there was no report.

3. Treasurer: will present:

- a) Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Budget Report – as needed to Oct., 2015

Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Schindelheim was not present; there was no report.

- b) Monthly Expenditure Report(s) for: as needed through to Oct, 2015

Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Schindelheim was not present; there was no report. No Motion was made or vote taken.

- c) NC Budget Advocates report (Velasco & Wu)

Ms. Crawford-Velasco announced and encouraged completing the City services survey [see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/servicereportcard2015>]. Ms. Wu Freedman reported that the recent Regional Budget Day was “very

good”; a City Chief Financial Officer representative presented. The Mayor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget will be released April 20th.

4. Secretary: Pending meeting

Mr. Matthews indicated that there was no report.

VIII. Committee Reports

- 1) Beautification - Report from the Beautification Chair; Possible Board actions/updates on:
- a. REQUEST for funds / community purpose grant for Deodar Trees, Arborist and other services to assist in protection and preservation. Requested \$500.00

Ms. Bursk will submit a Neighborhood Purposes Grant application.

- b. REQUEST for funds/ community purpose grant for maintenance, Veterans Memorial Park. The annual cost is \$2000.00. (Dr. Carl Melnik requesting)

Dr. Melnik will submit a Neighborhood Purposes Grant application.

- c. REQUEST for funds, community purpose grant, for HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING, Veterans Memorial Park. The cost is \$3500.00. (Requested by various organizations and community members)

Ms. Bursk indicated that a Neighborhood Purposes Grant application will be submitted.

- d. APPOINTMENT of an ad hoc committee to research the cost of permanent lighting for the Veterans Triangle Tree.

Ms. Bursk reported that volunteers are needed. Mr. Mansker “did some preliminary research” and is seeking to reduce the cost. He explained that the tree is “only trimmed as needed.” Ms. Wu Freedman and Mr. Kim volunteered for the Committee. Ms. Bursk explained the extensive installation considerations and procedure for the \$5,000 clock “on City property . . . it is in the works . . . we’ve ordered the clock to hold the price.” She is working with City Council District 12 “to get this expedited.”

Acting Parliamentarian Mr. Beauvais explained the procedure to make a Motion to Reconsider. Mr. Canas indicated that a Motion to Reconsider made at the subsequent Meeting must have been Agendized for that Meeting.

- 2) Budget - Report from the Budget Chair; possible Board actions/updates on the following:

- a) Consideration of Fy16 budget. Note that in July, the City Council approved a NC budget increase and we have the additional \$5,000 available.

Chair Mr. Schindelheim was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken.

- 3) Bylaws and Rules – Report from the Bylaws Chair; nothing from committee.

Mr. Askew indicated that there was no report at this time.

- 4) Education - Report from the Education Chair; possible Board actions/updates on:
a) The Friends of the Granada Hills Library are seeking a NPG for 2015-16 for \$1,500.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Kolstad, seconded by Mr. Kim): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will allocate \$1,500 for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the Friends of the Granada Hills Library.

DISCUSSION: Pamela Franklin, President, Friends of the Granada Hills Library [10640 Petit Ave. at Chatsworth St.; 818-368-5687; <http://www.lapl.org/branches/granada-hills>], described the need for books, DVDs and literacy programs and said “we have no monies coming in . . . our book sale is the only fundraiser.”

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Wu Freedman, seconded by Ms. Crawford-Velasco): to amend the above Motion allocation amount to \$2,500.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith noted that “there’s a significant amount of detail” on the NPG application. Mr. Matthews described well-attended Friends meetings of at least 30 people, saying “this is a very active cultural organization.” Mr. Bohrer was concerned that no budget information was available and that the Friends have a much larger budget than the GHSNC. Ms. Franklin would be “happy to show” financial documents. Mr. Kim believed that increasing the allocation could set a bad precedent.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Ms. Crawford-Velasco).

CALL for the QUESTION PASSED by a voice vote; one abstained (Bursk).

It was noted that Mr. Kim completed Financial Training and is eligible to vote on funding Motions.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of 14 of the 15 eligible voters present with five in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Crawford-Velasco, Daush, Kolstad, Matthews and Wu Freedman); eight opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Askew, Benedetto, Bohrer, Bursk, Mansker, Morris, Trinidad and Turmell); one abstained (Kim). [Presidents can choose whether or not to vote; President Smith chose not to vote.]

ORIGINAL FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of 14 of the 15 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Askew, Benedetto, Bursk, Crawford-Velasco, Daush, Kim, Kolstad, Mansker, Matthews, Morris, Trinidad, Turmell and Wu Freedman); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Bohrer); zero abstained. [President Smith chose not to vote.]

- 5) Outreach - Report from the Outreach committee; possible Board actions/updates on:
- a) Halloween Bash at GH Rec Center (report only; no funds expended);

Ms. Wu Freedman “got 40 new emails.” Mr. Smith reported that the Recreation Center did not reply to his email regarding co-sponsoring the event.

- b) Helium tank and regulator purchase – not to exceed \$175

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Trinidad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will allocate an amount not to exceed \$175 for a helium tank and regulator purchase.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Richard Fisk noted the need to determine storage and to have a Permit to transport the tank in a truck. Mr. Kuzmin offered to loan his helium tank for the GHSNC to use.

MOTION to RESCIND the previous Motion (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Trinidad).

MOTION to RESCIND PASSED with no opposition.

- c) Ad hoc committee for Holiday Tree Lighting and Ceremony

Mr. Smith and Mr. Mansker volunteered.

Board Member Jerry Askew recused himself and left the room at this time because he is on the Chamber of Commerce Board, making 14 Board Members present (the GHSNC quorum is 11).

- d) Granada Hills Holiday Parade – sponsorship and participation. Note attachment for sponsorship amounts; possibilities are: \$195 – one banner; Bronze - \$500, one banner and logo in Daily News ad; Silver - \$1,000, two banners and ad; Gold - \$2,500, three banners and ad; Platinum - \$3,500, four banners and ad.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will allocate \$2,000 to the Granada Hills Community Foundation to fund the Granada Hills Holiday Parade.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Bursk explained the 33-year-old event that “is the largest event that Granada Hills puts on . . . over 3,500 young people go into this” including “bands, drill teams, orchestras.” The estimated total cost is \$24,000; \$7,000 so far has been raised. She added that “this is entirely funded by donations . . . we’re also promoting the equestrian industry.” She confirmed that she is “not a Board Member of the Chamber” or “the Community Foundation.” Mr. Trinidad believed the amount to be “more than we can afford.”

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Morris).

CALL for the QUESTION PASSED by a voice vote; one opposed (Trinidad).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of 13 of the 14 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bohrer, Bursk, Crawford-Velasco, Daush, Kim, Kolstad, Mansker, Matthews, Morris, Turmell and Wu Freedman); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Benedetto and Trinidad); zero abstained; one recused (Askew). [President Smith chose not to vote.]

Board Member Jerry Askew returned to the room at this time, making 15 Board Members present (the GHSNC quorum is 11).

- e) Outreach for GHSNC elections April 9, 2015, including a stakeholder-centered website for elections; up to \$100 a month for (up to) five months (December-April)

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Bohrer): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$100 a month for (up to) five months (December 2014 - April 2015) for outreach for GHSNC elections April 9, 2015, including a stakeholder-centered website for elections.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Turmell believed the cost to be too expensive.

MOTION to TABLE the Item to the December Meeting (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Turmell).

MOTION to WITHDRAW the funding Motion (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Bohrer).

MOTION to WITHDRAW PASSED with no opposition.

- 6) Planning and Land Use – Report from the Planning Chair; nothing from committee.
 - a. Project presentation, reports and/or PLUM action re: projects

Mr. Askew reported that the Committee met.

- 7) Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness – Report from Chair; nothing from committee.

Mr. Turmell reported on a partnership with the Northridge East Neighborhood Council on “their sign replacement program”; about 10 Neighborhood Watch signs are available.

- 8) Ad hoc Veterans’ Committee – Report from Chair; SFV Veterans Day Parade committee is seeking \$500 donation in order to help pay expenses for day of parade (11:11 am, Wednesday, November 11th, Mission Hills, Laurel Canyon Blvd. and San Fernando Mission Blvd) in particular the Street closure invoice. Total cost is \$3500, and they will be seeking help from other NCs as well. Organizing Committee member Fred Flores is available to give a presentation. For more information, see: <http://www.sfvveteransdayparade.com>

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Crawford-Velasco, seconded by Mr. Bohrer): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will allocate \$500 for the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade to help pay expenses for day of parade (11:11 am, Wednesday, November 11th, Mission Hills, Laurel Canyon Blvd. and San Fernando Mission Blvd.), in particular the Street closure invoice.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Kuzmin believed and Mr. Mansker agreed that ad hoc Committees cannot make allocation Motions. Ms. Crawford-Velasco said the San Fernando Valley Partnership holds the Parade and the City supports it. Mr. Smith reminded that funds cannot be allocated if an organization is not a 501(c)3 non-profit. Ms. Bursk suggested the funding could be allocated pending verification of non-profit 501(c)3 status.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Crawford-Velasco, seconded by Mr. Bohrer): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will add the phrase “pending verification of non-profit 501(c)3 status of the San Fernando Valley Partnership” so that the amended Motion would be “The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will allocate \$500 for the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade to help pay expenses for day of parade (11:11 am, Wednesday, November 11th, Mission Hills, Laurel Canyon Blvd. and San Fernando Mission Blvd.), in particular the Street closure invoice, pending verification of non-profit 501(c)3 status of the San Fernando Valley Partnership.”

DISCUSSION: Mr. Kuzmin believed that it is a DONE rule that a Neighborhood Council “must have the NPG application in hand” before voting on such an allocation. Mr. Askew and Mr. Smith disagreed.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mansker was concerned that the people for whom Ms. Crawford-Velasco was speaking were not at this Meeting.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of 14 of the 15 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Askew, Bohrer, Bursk, Crawford-Velasco, Daush, Kim, Kolstad, Trinidad, Turmell and Wu Freedman); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Mansker); three abstained (Benedetto, Matthews and Morris). [President Smith chose not to vote.]

Ms. Crawford-Velasco noted that all veterans are welcome to participate; those wanting to ride in the parade must provide their own car.

IX. Board Member announcements and agenda Items for next general meeting.

Mr. Smith requested that Agenda requests be submitted in Motion format and no later than one week before the Meetings. Mr. Trinidad suggested having a Board Retreat to facilitate better interactions. Mr. Mansker noted and Mr. Smith agreed to Agendize regarding excessive absences by two Board Members. Ms. Wu Freedman requested to have all approved Minutes posted on the website. She reminded that \$3,500 was allocated “for outreach items.” She encouraged the GHSNC writing a letter taking a position regarding the Porter Ranch gas well installations. She distributed an events calendar and requested that it be U.S. Mailed to Board Members. Ms. Kolstad cautioned to “lock your cars.”

X. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Bohrer).

MOTION PASSED with no opposition.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:00 p.m.

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda. The GHSNC Minutes page is <http://www.ghsnc.org/resources/minutes-and-agendas>.