



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, September 5, 2019
Granada Hills Charter H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344
APPROVED MINUTES (Approved November 7, 2019)

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 (Presiding officer)

Vice-President Mike Benedetto called the Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Abbey Ronquillo.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Twelve of the 17 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Michael Benedetto (Vice-President), Bette Biers, Maria Fisk, John Horn, Sally Kolstad, Mark Morris, Emayatzy Oliver, Abbey Ronquillo, Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan and Ross Turmell. Carlos Amador and Bonnie Bursk arrived later. Dave Beauvais (President), Julie Carson (Secretary) and Sarah Tran were absent (all excused). The GHSNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on agenda items) is nine. All 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seat was vacant. Also attended: 23 stakeholders and guests.

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

Jesse Ramos, of the Arleta Neighborhood Council (ANC), reported and showed photos of open-flame cooking being done by a street vendor in front of Target, noting safety and hygiene violations being committed. Stakeholders agreed that most such vendors block sidewalks. One noted that grease will become slippery when it rains; Mr. Ramos added that, on the street, the grease causes vehicles to skid.

Bill Hopkins, of the Southern California Preparedness Foundation [<http://SoCalPrep.us>], said volunteers are needed Friday, October 4 at New Horizons at Parthenia and Haskell to assemble disaster preparedness kits for the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair [www.ValleyDisasterFair.com] to be held Saturday, October 12, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Northridge Fashion Center [on the north side of the mall between the theatres and Shirley Ave.]. There will be exhibits, booths and guest speakers. Everything, including lunch, is free.

IV. Community Speakers

A. Council District 12 (Matt Vallecilla)

Matthew Vallecilla, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-882-1212; Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>),

encouraged making City services requests such as for street cleaning and tree trimming.

Board Member Carlos Amador arrived at this time (6:49 pm), making 13 Board Members present.

Oswaldo Ramirez, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (ofc. 818-221-3718; Oswaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), announced a Middle School and High School students' contest. He encouraged contacting him for help with Postal Service, Social Security and other federal services needs.

Ryan Valencia, District Director for State 38th District Assemblymember Christy Smith (661-286-1565; Ryan.Valencia@asm.ca.gov; <https://a38.asmdc.org>), reported that the Emergency Preparedness Town Hall meeting had a "great turnout." He described recent legislation.

B. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IV. D.*] Mr. Allen reported that the Advocates [<http://ncbala.com>] are "setting up meetings with the different Departments." He explained the Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting regarding the Aliso Canyon gas wells blowout; they will schedule public meetings.

C. Senior Lead Officer, LAPD or alternate rep (Officers DelCore/Sellers/Richard Fisk)

Stakeholder Richard Fisk, for Dario Del Core, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 818-756-9011, x1727, mobile/text phone 818-634-0577; 27286@LAPD.LACity.org), noted crime statistics which were much lower than a few years ago. Officer Del Core will retire in January. Mr. Fisk described daily CD12 HOPE teams that offer homeless services.

D. DONE Representative (Jose Galamez)

Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reported that DONE's new General Manager is Raquel Beltran. The NCs Congress will be September 28 at City Hall. He requested for the GHSNC to review its inventory and report any changes by December 1.

V. Approval of July 11, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes and August 1, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

VI. Budget Issues

A. Approval of Budget report and Monthly Expenditures for July 2019.

Copies were distributed of the GHSNC "Monthly Expenditure Report" and Mr. Schindelheim reviewed expenses.

FUNDING MOTION (moved by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Mr. Morris): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC) approves its Budget report and Monthly Expenditures for July 2019.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Biers, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

[There was no Agenda Item #VII.]

VIII. Board Issues

- A. Discussion and possible action to approve an NPG in the amount of \$1000 to the LAPD PALS organization. Funding to go towards supplies, equipment for the athletic program, supplies and instructor fees for the Arts program and training, community service projects for the Counselors in Training program.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VIII. B.*] PALS [Police Activity League Supporters] [<https://devonshire-pals.org>] Board Member Dick Ashnault explained the program.

FUNDING MOTION (moved by Ms. Biers, seconded by Mr. Turmell): The GHSNC approves a Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to the LAPD PALS organization. Funding to go towards supplies, equipment for the athletic program, supplies and instructor fees for the Arts program and training, community service projects for the Counselors in Training program.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Vallecilla further described the program and its value.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- B. Discussion and possible action to approve an NPG for up to \$5000 to the Clean Streets/Clean Starts program. Funding to go towards supplies, gift cards for participants.

Clean Streets/Clean Starts President Don Larson explained the program and answered many questions.

Board Member Bonnie Bursk arrived at this time (7:19 pm), making 14 Board Members present.

Mr. Allen noted that the L.A. Street Services Department “should do the work that [Mr. Larson] is doing.”

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

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION PASSED with eight in favor; four opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC counts abstentions as “yes” votes).

FUNDING MOTION (moved by Ms. Fisk, seconded by Ms. Biers): The GHSNC approves a Neighborhood Purposes Grant for \$5,000 to the Clean Streets/Clean Starts program. Funding to go towards supplies, gift cards for participants.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (moved by Ms. Fisk, seconded by Ms. Biers): to revise to \$2,500 the allocation amount.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED with 10 in favor; two opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC counts abstentions as “yes” votes).

DISCUSSION: Board Members wanted more financial documentation. Mr. Schindelheim noted that the GHSNC has allocated \$5,000 without requesting a Form 990. Mr. Vallecilla said it is an “effective” program.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Bursk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); one opposed (Fisk); two abstained (Amador and Biers).

- C. Discussion and possible action to approve and NPG in the amount of \$2500 to the North Valley YMCA Thanksgiving dinner project. This annual project provides Thanksgiving dinners to needy families in the North Valley, including Granada Hills. The YMCA partners with local schools to identify families in need.

FUNDING MOTION (moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Bursk): The GHSNC approves a Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$2,500 to the North Valley YMCA Thanksgiving dinner project. This annual project provides Thanksgiving dinners to needy families in the North Valley, including Granada Hills. The YMCA partners with local schools to identify families in need.

DISCUSSION: The Y’s Jessica Vera explained that 600 families, 57 schools and 14 communities participate in the free program. Mr. Vallecilla described the Y’s work with CD12.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- D. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$500 to support the Granada Hills Park Halloween Night on October 31, 2010. Funds to be used for refreshments and decorations.

It was noted that the date was meant to be “2019,” not “2010.”

FUNDING MOTION (moved by Ms. Biers, seconded by Mr. Morris): The GHSNC approves up to \$500 to support the Granada Hills Park Halloween Night on October 31, 2019. Funds to be used for refreshments and decorations.

DISCUSSION: Granada Hills Petit Park Director Michelle Gross De La Hoya reported that the pool will be “refurbished.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- E. Discussion and possible action to hold the previously approved Map Your Neighborhood forum on Saturday, November 16, 2019. Allot up to \$2000.00 for refreshments, publicity and speaker honorarium for this event.

Copies were distributed of a “Your Neighbors as Life Lines” flier.

FUNDING MOTION (moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The GHSNC will hold the previously approved Map Your Neighborhood forum on Saturday, November 16, 2019. Allot up to \$2,000.00 for refreshments and publicity for this event.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Hopkins explained that the Map Your Neighborhood program is now known as RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood) [<https://emergency.lacity.org/rylan>]. He explained the free home-based program which lasts around 2 ½ hours for 10-20 neighbors. Mr. Allen noted that the “honorarium” could invalidate the allocation.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (moved by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Morris): to delete the phrase “and speaker honorarium.”

DISCUSSION: It was clarified that there would be no speaker compensation by the GHSNC.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with all 14 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kolstad was hoping to have it as a community event.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); one opposed (Oliver); two abstained (the GHSNC counts abstentions as “yes” votes) (Amador and Schindelheim).

IX. Committee Reports

[The following sub-section first paragraphs are copied from the Agenda.]

- A. Cultural Affairs. Confirmation of Stakeholder Kimberly Morales as committee member.

Ms. Oliver explained that Ms. Morales had an emergency and was unable to attend this meeting.

MOTION (moved by Ms. Oliver, seconded by Mr. Amador): The GHSNC confirms Stakeholder Kimberly Morales as a Cultural Affairs Committee Member.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- B. PLUM

1. Removal of Stakeholder Don Graham from committee due to inability to attend meetings.

MOTION (moved by Ms. Fisk, seconded by Ms. Biers): The GHSNC Planning and Land Use Management Committee removes Stakeholder Don Graham from the Committee due to inability to attend meetings.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

2. Motion from Committee: The GHSNC Planning and Land Use Management Committee recommends to the Board to support the project at 16855 W. Devonshire St., Granada Hills.

Ms. Fisk explained the issue and that the Committee “was very pleased with the applicant’s proposal.”

MOTION (from the Planning and Land Use Management Committee): The GHSNC supports the project at 16855 W. Devonshire St., Granada Hills.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

3. Motion from Committee: The GHSNC Planning and Land Use Management Committee recommends to the Board [see the below Motion].

Ms. Fisk explained the issue and that three NCs have submitted Community Impact Statements supporting the Motion.

MOTION (from the Planning and Land Use Management Committee): The GHSNC supports the resolution presented by Councilmember Koretz and seconded by Councilmember Smith that: With the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-20 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION to SB 330 (Skinner), which would place until January 1, 2025 a moratorium on ‘down-zoning’ parcels, that is, reducing the number of units that can be built on a parcel, and in addition prohibit cities and counties, including charter cities, from imposing

parking requirements within one quarter mile of a rail stop, and freeze nearly all project related fees once a project applicant submits a 'preliminary application,' inasmuch as it undermines local land use control, and ultimately, the principle of home rule. Furthermore, we strongly urge the City of Los Angeles to oppose SB 330 in its entirety and any subsequent amendments that may be proposed.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Fisk further explained that SB330 “would supersede local control” of land use planning. She encouraged stakeholders to attend Committee meetings.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Presiding Officer Mike Benedetto temporarily stepped down; Mr. Schindelheim became the Presiding Officer.

C. Outreach. Confirmation of Abbey Ronquillo as a member of the Outreach Committee.

MOTION (from the Outreach Committee): The GHSNC confirms Abbey Ronquillo as a member of the Outreach Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Mike Benedetto again became the Presiding Officer.

D. Beautification Report

Mr. Amador reported that the Committee did not have a quorum, but stakeholders who attended had a discussion.

E. Public Safety Report

Mr. Benedetto reported that the Committee met and will move forward with the Map Your Neighborhood program.

F. Education/Seniors/Youth Joint meeting. Confirmation of Mihran Kalaydjian and Heather Budman as members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Morris reported.

MOTION (from the Education Committee): The GHSNC confirms Mihran Kalaydjian and Heather Budman as members of the Education Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Mr. Morris added that the Committee will reach out to school administrators. Ms. Kolstad noted that, at the Joint Meeting, they discussed working together.

X. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.

Mr. Amador supported grocery store workers and “the effort to have a fair work week.” Mr. Smith requested reconvening the ad hoc Bylaws Committee; keeping an

NPGs list; and requested that the L.A. Recreation and Parks Department and CD12 report to the GHSNC about the Park project. Ms. Oliver was “proud to be on this Board.” Mr. Turmell multiple times contacted the L.A. Department of Cannabis Regulation about an unlicensed cannabis seller. Ms. Kolstad encouraged contacting her about issues affecting seniors and wanted a crosswalk at the Chatsworth and Zelzah shopping center. Ms. Toumayan reported that [the August 6] National Night Out was “a great event.” Mr. Morris was “reaching out to the Department of Mental Health” about discussions. Ms. Ronquillo said it is “an honor to be a part of . . . [GHSNC] Committees.” Mr. Horn was working to schedule a Homeless Committee meeting, is seeing more homeless people in the area, and encouraged helping get shopping carts removed and bulky items picked up. Mr. Benedetto conversed with Congressman Cardenas.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (moved by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Morris).

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:26 p.m.

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