



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, December 5, 2019  
Granada Hills Charter H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344  
Minutes Approved January 2, 2020

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)

President Dave Beauvais called the Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**II. Roll Call** (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven of the 17 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Dave Beauvais (President), Michael Benedetto (Vice-President), Bette Biers, Julie Carson (Secretary), Maria Fisk, John Horn, Sally Kolstad, Mark Morris, Emayatzy Oliver, Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer) and Colleen Toumayan. Four Board Members arrived later: Carlos Amador, Abbey Ronquillo, Brad Smith and Ross Turmell. Two Board Members were absent: Bonnie Bursk and Sarah Tran (both excused). The GHSNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is nine All 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seat was vacant. Also attended: 19 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

Glenn Bailey, of VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; [VANC@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:VANC@EmpowerLA.org); <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>], announced the March 12 mixer at CBS studios and encouraged nominations for Neighborhood Council accomplishments. He requested Agendizing funding \$250 for the mixer; the GHSNC would be acknowledged and can bring a banner. Dave Brown, North Hills West NC Board Member, announced that the Neighborhood Councils Emergency Preparedness Alliance meets on fourth Saturdays in either downtown, West LA or the Mid-Valley library, at "10 a.m., typically." The Alliance teamed with the City's Emergency Management Department for a RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood) [<https://emergency.lacity.org/rylan>] workshop to be on Saturday, February 29, 12:00-3:00 at the Mid-Valley library.

**IV. Community Speakers**

A. Council District 12 (Matt Vallecilla)

Matthew Vallecilla, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; [Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org](mailto:Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://www.CD12.org)), reported on recent legislation and upcoming events. The new City Council President is Nury Martinez. The Municipal Code was amended regarding campaign contributions from developers. The Councilman secured more funding for traffic enforcement and requested for inspectors to have more authority to enforce regulations on sidewalk vendors who do not have permits. There will be a community survey regarding the North San Fernando Valley Bus

Rapid Transit Project. Mr. Vallecilla answered many questions regarding City services. CD12 sent 199 letters to Granada Hills South addresses regarding this meeting; he encouraged more outreach ideas and referring high school students for their leadership and civics program.

B. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IV. C.*] Mr. Allen reported that the Budget Advocates [<http://ncbala.com>] White Paper of recommendations regarding the City budget will be released by month's end. The City's deficit is estimated to be \$200 million. They requested a meeting with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Mayor and are still requesting that the annual budget be released in February, not April, to give people more time to comment upon it before the City Council votes on it. Mr. Allen reported that the City may assess an "additional sales tax" and a possible fire department tax.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. F..*

C. LAUSD District 3 (Rob Jackson)

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IV. D.*] Robert Jackson, Deputy Director of Community Engagement for LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson (ofc. 818-654-3785; [Robert.Jackson@lausd.net](mailto:Robert.Jackson@lausd.net); <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>), reported that the "100% renewable clean energy" bill passed regarding operating on clean energy by 2040 and partnering with the private sector, including planting on roof tops. He encouraged reporting smoke-emitting school buses. VAAS opened a "new well-being center."

*Board Member Ross Turmell arrived at this time (7:21 pm), making 12 Board Members present.*

Mr. Jackson reminded that parents have always had the option to "opt out" of students getting sex education.

*Board Member Brad Smith arrived at this time (7:30 pm), making 13 Board Members present.*

Mr. Jackson announced that in February 2020, the exact date and location to be determined, there will be a forum regarding sex education, which is based upon State Assembly bill 329 and State Senate Bill 48, not the LAUSD. He answered many questions about that.

*Board Member Carlos Amador arrived at this time (7:39 pm), making 14 Board Members present. The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. B.*

D. Assembly District 38 (Ryan Valencia)

Mr. Beauvais reported for Ryan Valencia, District Director for State 38th District Assemblymember Christy Smith (661-286-1565; [Ryan.Valencia@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Ryan.Valencia@asm.ca.gov); <https://a38.asmdc.org>), on a Thursday, December 12th Event to which Board Members are invited.

E. LAPD Senior Lead Officer or alternate rep (Lead Officer Sellers/Volunteer Richard Fisk) 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](mailto:27286@LAPD.LACity.org); who is retiring at year-end, was not present and there was no report.

F. DONE Representative (Jose Galdamez)  
Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; described the Department's budget request priorities. This year's election documents are available until March, and then will be discarded.

**V. Approval of November 7, 2019 Meeting minutes.**

**MOTION** (moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Morris): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [GHSNC] approves the Minutes of its November 7, 2019 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 13 in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (Turmell).

**VI. Budget Issues**

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

Copies were distributed of the "Monthly Expenditure Report." Mr. Schindelheim reviewed expenses. "Tavern Service Company" was for balloons. The available balance is \$29,752.21. Mr. Beauvais urged Board Members to set up their Neighborhood Council email accounts, which can be forwarded to a private account.

**FUNDING MOTION** (moved by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Mr. Morris): The GHSNC approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for October 2019.

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

**VII. Committee Reports and Motions**

*Board Members Brandon Schindelheim and Julie Carson stepped out at this time (7:56 pm), making 12 Board Members present. [The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VII. E.]*

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

PLUM *[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VII. E.]*

A. MOTION (*[The following phrase is copied from the Agenda.]* by Ms. Fisk, seconded by Mr. Yoder): The GHSNC [see the below Motion].

Ms. Fisk introduced Restaurant representative Sherry Olson.

**MOTION** (by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports the beer and wine liquor license application, Case No. ZA-2019-5851-CUB, for the Rococo Ramen Restaurant at 16931 W. Devonshire St., Northridge, CA 91344 with the condition that alcohol sales and operating hours end at 11:00 p.m. daily, and opposes alcohol sales and operating hours ending at 12:00 a.m. daily.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Olson confirmed that the restaurant currently closes at 10:00 p.m. Ms. Fisk reported that the Committee and the applicant "compromised."

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote with all 14 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. MOTION ([*The following phrase is copied from the Agenda.*] by Ms. Fisk, seconded by Mr. Smith): The GHSNC [see the below Motion].

Ms. Fisk passed around photos of sidewalk vendors and pop-up restaurants. She said “the vendors themselves have a lot of issues with crime... Right now it’s the Wild West... There’s no way to regulate them... Food poisoning... It’s a serious disease.”

**MOTION** (by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee): The GHSNC will submit a Community Impact Statement in support of the following Resolution:

Proposed Amendments to the Sidewalk Vending Program Ordinance, No. 1859000.  
Council File:13-1493-S5.

On September 17, 2018, SB 946 was signed into law which established statewide governance of vending in the public right-of-way and in parks. Subsequently, on November 30, 2018, the City of Los Angeles adopted a Sidewalk Vending Program Ordinance that complies with the new State legislation. The intent of the City Ordinance was to strike a balance between those who vend legally and a number of objectives and priorities that are critical to the City.

Granada Hills and neighboring communities are experiencing an increasing number of vendors who are operating on local sidewalks in prominent commercial areas. While outdoor food service operations offer entrepreneurial opportunities for vendors and convenience for customers, closer consideration must be given to their impacts on public safety and welfare. Some troubling incidents associated with sidewalk vending have been observed: the improper food handling and temperature control that increase the risk of food borne illness; no hand washing stations or sinks; open flame grills fueled by unsecured propane tanks that pose a fire risk especially in high fire hazard zones; equipment and customers blocking the sidewalk forcing pedestrians to walk in the street; and large amounts of trash left behind including the improper disposal of used cooking oil.

As sidewalk vending operations continue to expand, the associated risks and hazards have become more evident. The current Ordinance along with the Rules and Regulations do not go far enough to safeguard public safety, health and general welfare. The following proposed amendments offer more specific sidewalk vending regulations that will ultimately protect the interests and safety of vendors, business owners and residents within the City of Los Angeles:

- All sidewalk vendors (stationary and mobile) shall be required to obtain all applicable city, county, state, and business licenses/permits/decals. All required documents shall be prominently displayed in plain view.
- All vendors who sell foods shall be required to obtain a permit from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (see below).
- All sidewalk vendors who sell foods shall comply with California Health and Safety Codes and LA County Department of Public Health standards, that regulate the preparation, handling and distribution of food items, including but not limited to:
  - potable water and sinks for food handlers to wash their hands or utensils
  - food obtained from approved sources
  - proper equipment to maintain food at required temperature
  - foods stored, handled and prepared under sanitary conditions

-foods protected from contamination or adulteration  
-restroom availability for food handlers

- All food carts shall be self-contained with the appropriate equipment necessary to comply with food sanitation and safety requirements.
- Open-flame grills or any cooking utensils requiring the use of a combustible agent/liquid, propane tank and fossil fuels are strictly prohibited from use in the public right-of-way as they pose safety hazards and have the potential of causing great bodily harm or death in the event of an explosion or fire.
- A vendor may not use a stationary cart to vend in residential areas. Only a mobile cart (roaming vendors) may be used to vend in residential areas.
- Hours of operations for roaming vendors in areas zoned residential shall be between the hours of 8am to 9pm.
- Hours of operations for stationary vendors in areas zoned commercial or industrial shall be between the hours of 8am to 9pm, or consistent with the hours of operation of adjacent businesses.
- For safety reasons, the sale of weapons, alcoholic beverages, cannabis, cigarettes, nicotine delivery systems, adulterated/unsanitary foods are strictly prohibited.
- All carts shall not exceed a length of 72 inches, width of 54 inches, or height of 78 inches including roof, awning, umbrella or canopy.
- Sidewalk vending shall not obstruct, impede pedestrian and traffic slow on sidewalks, pathways, and roadways. A minimum 5 ft. sidewalk clearance is required. All clearances shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Prior to issuance of a permit, a vendor shall provide proof of general liability (with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000, each occurrence), and worker's compensation that are acceptable to the City.
- As a requirement of the permit approval, a vendor shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers and employees from any and all damages or injuries to persons or property proximately caused by the act or neglect of the vendor or by hazardous or negligent conditions maintained at the vendor's locations.
- Sidewalk vending business that has been found in violation three (3) or more times of any applicable regulation within a one-year period are grounds for permit suspension and revocation.

Furthermore, it is incumbent of the City to dedicate the needed resources and funds to establish a separate City agency/department dedicated to the overall management of the Sidewalk Vending Program. Responsibilities would include the oversight of the permit process/suspension/revocation, effective communications /outreach, coordination of enforcement, and the establishment of a public complaint process.

The GHSNC Board strongly urges Los Angeles City policymakers to consider the above proposed amendments and recommendations. A well-regulated vending program benefits the City as a whole, leads to orderly commerce and safeguards the public's welfare.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Bailey said the City needs to enforce laws "after hours... including weekends... Other cities have implemented this... This is a recommendation... Food trucks are... completely different... We are not addressing that right now." Mr. Amador believed "this is very restrictive... I've never had an issue" with street vending. Mr. Benedetto said "we're talking about the vendors who do not have food handler's permits." Ms. Fisk reported that the City said it will have "more inspectors working late hours and weekends"; most vendors "working completely illegally." Mr. Smith reported that "you can get \$1 million [insurance] Policy for less than \$1,000."

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 11 in favor; three opposed; zero abstained.

- C. MOTION ([*The following phrase is copied from the Agenda.*] by Ms. Fisk, seconded by Mr. Yoder): The GHSNC [see the below Motion].

Ms. Fisk explained the issue and said "we build and build... Affordable units vanish... We have 100,000 units standing empty." She reported that the State is considering legislation that "takes away any kind of planning process" from the City.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will submit a Community Impact Statement in support of the following Resolution regarding Council File 18-1226-S1:

NOWTHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2020-2021 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION to SB 50, SB592, any other pending State legislation and any/all amendments, that usurp the City's authority over local land use policies and development.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Benedetto reported that Chambers of Commerce voted "a resounding "no" ... The zoning change will erode the fabric of our very town... We can't allow it."

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote with all 14 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

[*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VIII.*]

#### Outreach

Mr. Benedetto reminded about the December 6th tree lighting ceremony and the December 8th parade.

- D. Motion to hold a Movie Night in the Park on June 13, 2020, funding for event not to exceed \$1500.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by the Outreach Committee): The GHSNC will hold a Movie Night in the Park on June 13, 2020, funding for event not to exceed \$1,500.

**DISCUSSION:** Movie Nights usually are held at Petit Park with popcorn served.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Fisk,

Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

E. Motion to hold another Board retreat in 2020, time and place to be determined. Cultural Affairs Report; cancellation of Valley Cultural Arts concert.

Mr. Benedetto explained the purpose of the Retreat.

**MOTION** (by the Outreach Committee): The GHSNC will hold another Board retreat in 2020, time and place to be determined.

*Board Members Brandon Schindelheim and Julie Carson returned at this time (8:02 pm), making 14 Board Members present.*

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Beauvais encourage specific bylaws change ideas be submitted to Bylaws Committee chair Brad Smith. The retreat is open to the public.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote with all 14 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Cultural Affairs - Emayatzy Oliver distributed copies of emails regarding the Valley Cultural Arts concert scheduled in conjunction with the annual Granada Hills Memorial Park Tree Lighting ceremony for December 6th and explained why it cannot be done, though it was still on as of December 4th. She and other Board Members expressed concerns regarding how the concert processing was handled. Stakeholder Mark Hovatar explained some concert handling details. Mr. Beauvais reminded that Committees cannot take up issues upon which the Board already has voted and that Committee Agendas must have clearly noted Agenda items. He said "it's inappropriate to take up any discussion of any item that's already been decided by the Board." He noted that that can be a Brown Act violation. Ms. Toumayan clarified that the Committee never voted "to disagree with this event." Mr. Beauvais added that he still would like the concert to happen.

#### Homelessness Report

Mr. Horn reported that the 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count will be Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. The volunteers gathering site is at Our Saviors Lutheran Church at San Fernando Mission Boulevard and Hayvenhurst. See [www.TheyCountWillYou.org](http://www.TheyCountWillYou.org) to volunteer. They are seeking businesses to donate food for volunteer counters. Volunteers will not interact with homeless people, only count them.

*Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived at this time (8:36 pm), making 15 Board Members present.*

Mr. Benedetto announced a January 18th 1:00-4:00 job fair at Freedom Church.

#### Beautification Report

Mr. Amador reported that the letter to LA City Recreation and Parks requesting retention of Michelle Gross De La Hoya as Granada Hills Park Director was sent to the Recreation and Parks Superintendent, who was unwilling to meet about it. Mr. Amador asked CD 12 to help.

#### Public Safety Report

Mr. Turmell reported that the request to the LADOT for a crosswalk by the Granada Hills Women's Club, 10666 White Oak Ave., "failed to satisfy the accepted guidelines." The Granada Gardens cannabis business permanently closed; there apparently are no more illegal cannabis businesses in Granada Hills South.

#### Education Report

Ms. Carson distributed copies of a list of "Neighborhood Purpose Grants to Local Schools" and reported that, in the last two years, the GHSNC gave \$18,445 to schools; \$12,500 of it was allocated to Granada Hills Charter High School. Mr. Morris said that the GHSNC needs to do more outreach to local LAUSD schools. Mr. Morris said the Committee will meet on Thursday, January 16.

*Board Member Brandon Schindelheim left at this time (8:47 pm), making 14 Board Members present. The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VII. A.*

#### **VIII. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.**

Ms. Toumayan noted that the recent homeless summit "humanized the issue." Board Members expressed appreciation for Committees and Board work. Ms. Fisk suggested "a budget system for Committees." Ms. Biers thanked Councilman Lee and the Food Bank for candy canes distributed to the public. Mr. Beauvais announced that he will miss the next Board meeting and encouraged submission of retreat Agenda items and details.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Benedetto).

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