



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, March 5, 2020

Granada Hills Charter H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344
APPROVED MINUTES (Approved May 7, 2020 Zoom Meeting Online/Telephone)

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 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Colleen Toumayan.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Eleven of the 17 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Dave Beauvais (President), Michael Benedetto (Vice-President), Bette Biers, Bonnie Bursk, Maria Fisk, John Horn, Emayatzy Oliver, Abbey Ronquillo, Colleen Toumayan and Ross Turmell. Julie Carson (Secretary) arrived later. Sally Kolstad (excused), Mark Morris (excused), Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer) (excused), Brad Smith (excused) and Sarah Tran (unexcused) were absent. The GHSNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on agenda items) is nine (see the Bylaws at <https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bj3apxsp3?a=q&qid=32&qskip=0&qrppg=1000&dlta=su46~>), so the Board could take such votes. All 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seat was vacant. Also attended: 19 stakeholders and guests.

III. Public Comment

Resident Brian Finnegan reported regarding Balboa Plaza at 17050 Chatsworth “trash in the back parking lot . . . where the 99 Cent Store puts their trash . . . we’ve been trying to get them . . . to lock their trash.”

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; www.CD12.org), reported that

“there’s been a major improvement . . . they’re going to be resurfacing on Balboa . . . Rinaldi to Woodley.”

B. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen reported that the Advocates [<http://ncbala.com>] White Paper of City budget recommendations was distributed; he presented a copy, noting that the 140-page Paper was emailed and is available on their website. He encouraged the Board to support it with a Community Impact Statement.

C. LAUSD District 3 (Tara Vahdani)

Mr. Beauvais reported for Ms. Vahdani regarding upcoming workshops. A Student Board Member Seat is available.

D. Assembly District 38 (Ryan Valencia)

Mr. Valencia was not present; there was no report at this time.

E. Congressional District 25 (Osvaldo Ramirez)

Mr. Ramirez was not present; there was no report at this time.

F. LAPD Senior Lead Officer or alternate rep (Lead Officers Sellers/Parker/Volunteer Richard Fisk).

There was no report at this time.

G. DONE Representative (Jose Galdamez)

Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), announced a March 30th “citywide outreach gathering” at City Hall. A Young Women’s leadership skills workshop (Ignite@EmpowerLA.org) will be held Monday evenings in April and May. The Bylaws amendments deadline is April 15th. He reminded to post meeting agendas at least 72 hours before the start of each meeting on the GHSNC website and to NC Support. The two-hour Ethics Training and the Funding Training both need to be renewed every two years in person or on the website; EmpowerLA.org/GHSNC shows the Board Roster with Training statuses. Mr. Galdamez confirmed that the GHSNC currently “doesn’t have” Standing Rules.

H. Southern California Gas Company, street closure on Encino Ave. between San Jose and Minnehaha streets.

Erick Rivas, Outreach Project Manager (213.248-3484; ERivas@SoCalGas.com), distributed copies of “Pipeline Integrity: L-1181 Inline Inspection Project” information. They are “getting ready to inspect the pipeline,” which is to be inspected every seven years. Work will be “nine to 3:30 . . . up to around the first week of April.” Work will “require road closure for two weeks . . . [at] Encino and San Jose . . . for 200 feet.” They will repair the cut street section, then, in six months, dig to inspect it.

Jason Maruca, Assistant Field Deputy for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Kathryn Barger [office 818-993-5170; JMaruca@bos.LACounty.gov]; <https://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/kathryn-barger>], reported that the Supervisor is working to ensure “consistent” mental health funding. Regarding the Coronavirus, the Health Department is “working with State and Federal partners . . . [and] the CDC.” The Federal Census starts March 12 and can be submitted online. He presented Certificates of Appreciation to Board Members.

Board Member Julie Carson arrived at this time (7:08), making 12 Board Members present.

Mr. Maruca described the electronic voting process.

V. Approval of February 13, 2020 Special Meeting minutes.

No Motion was made or vote taken.

VI. Budget Issues

A. Approval of Budget report and Monthly Expenditures for February 2020.

No Motion was made or vote taken.

VII. Board Issues

A. Discussion and possible action on [see the below Motion].

Mr. Beauvais said a completed Neighborhood Purposes Grant was submitted.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Turmell: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [GHSNC] approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) in the amount of \$1000.00 to support the Southern California Preparedness Foundation’s annual Emergency Preparedness Fair to be held on October 10, 2020. Funding to go towards emergency kits distributed to each participating family, food and media exposure.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais described the application as basically the same as the last eight years.

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, Bursk, Carson, Fisk, Horn, Oliver, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Benedetto explained the need.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Horn: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves to implement previously approved NPG in the amount of \$2500.00 to the Northridge Beautification Foundation.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais emphasized that the Board previously approved this. He explained that “this is a cleanup project . . . around the community,” but Clean Streets/Clean Starts “never used the money.” Mr. Benedetto further explained. Funding would be for work to be done, not work already done.

FUNDING MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with three in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Biers and Fisk); seven opposed (Amador, Carson, Horn, Oliver, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Turmell); two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Beauvais and Bursk).

Mr. Beauvais requested and Mr. Benedetto agreed to request that Clean Streets/Clean Starts President Don Larson return the check to the GHSNC.

- C. Discussion regarding agenda, location, and date for Board retreat.
- Mr. Beauvais reported that Ms. Toumayan is working on it. Board Members promised to reply regarding availability. Ms. Bursk suggested considering the newly-remodeled VFW facility. Mr. Horn wanted the GHSNC to calendar at least the next six months of Committee meetings. Ms. Ronquillo wanted the retreat to cover meeting participation training and Board orientation. She and other Board Members also wanted Parliamentary Procedure training. Mr. Turmell wanted to make the retreat a Board mini-training. Mr. Benedetto, Ms. Oliver, Ms. Fisk and Ms. Toumayan wanted to cover the Code of Ethics. Mr. Beauvais and Ms. Toumayan wanted to cover event planning. Ms. Fisk wanted to re-define the NC’s purpose; review outreach, funding, NPGs and agendizing (including Committee recommendations); update the Bylaws; and re-write Committee missions and goals. Mr. Amador wanted to review Neighborhood Councils’ and GHSNC history. Ms. Carson wanted to re-assess the GHSNC mission and consider having speakers.

VIII. Committee Reports and Motions

Outreach

Mr. Benedetto reported that the CD12 Candidate Forum had “a little under 200 people” attend.

PLUM

President Beauvais turned over the Presiding Officership to Vice-President Benedetto at this time.

A. PLUM Motion

[See the farther below Motion].

Planet Fitness Director of Construction Chase Villafano, Property Manager Nick Bersey and other representatives described options and services. The gym would be open 24-7. It was said that “no new construction is proposed” and that “there are many gyms operating in the C-4 zone in the Valley.” There

would be signage and other improvements. Explanations were made of the need for and requirements of the Variance request. They told the Committee that they would study “ingress and egress.” The Veterinary Clinic Owner was concerned about whether there would be enough parking; they will “try to make three spaces . . . available in his storefront.” Stakeholder Mark Hovatar and Mr. Allen were concerned about parking. Mr. Villafano stated that “usage per hour is 40-60 people . . . we’re there to revitalize the center . . . the other tenants are beyond excited that we’re there.” Mr. Bersey said there are scattered bike racks; “parking shouldn’t be any kind of issue . . . Signature Banquet moved out in July . . . since then we have not had any parking issues.” Mr. Villafano said “the lighting . . . is at Code.” Mr. Bersey stated that “we have approximately 30 cameras . . . monitored by the Owner . . . the cameras are definitely visible . . . 40-60 hours per week is covered by an on-site security guard.”

President Beauvais resumed as Presiding Officer.

MOTION (by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council: Proposed Zone Variance, Change of Use from Banquet Hall to 23,685 Sq. Ft., 24-hour Gym in Existing Multi-Tenant Commercial Center, 11222 N. Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, 91344 Case Nos: ZA-2019-6081-ZV, ENV-2019-6082-CE

The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Planning and Land Use Management Committee recommends to the Board to support the following resolution:

The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Planning and Land Use Management Committee recommends that the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports the following resolution:

WHEREAS, gymnasiums, health clubs and other similar uses have been traditionally excluded from the C4 zone and subsequently, consumer habits have shifted from customary retail uses to service oriented uses such as restaurant and fitness establishments.

WHEREAS, there is no clear rationale for the exclusion of gymnasiums/health clubs from the C4 zone (less restrictive) while allowing these uses by right within a C2 zone (more restrictive).

WHEREAS, there are multiple gymnasiums/health clubs (with weights and fixed equipment) operating within nearby Granada Hills commercial districts, zoned C2.

WHEREAS, the commercial community center located at 11222 N. Balboa Boulevard continues to experience ongoing vacancies, a more stable and long-term tenant would be welcome. Planet Fitness is a nationwide operation, with a strong stock performance and a competitive business model.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports a proposed zone variance to permit a 24-hour gym use in an existing multi-tenant commercial center otherwise not permitted in the C4 zone, with the following recommendations:

- Due to current traffic congestion and safety issues at all of the commercial center’s driveways, request a Los Angeles Department of Transportation traffic impact study.
- No left turn signs at all driveways exiting on to San Fernando Mission and Balboa Boulevards.
- While the current number of parking spaces meet code requirements/Specific Plan guidelines, actual parking demands are unpredictable. Therefore, a future parking study would be triggered by parking demands that exceed availability.
- The Mission Animal Care Center & Animal Emergency Hospital has experienced an ongoing shortage of parking spaces during day and evening hours. Because this facility provides emergent or urgent care service request for the reservation of 3 parking spaces directly in front of the aforementioned veterinary hospital.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION moved by Mr. Amador, seconded by Ms. Oliver: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council adds the following fifth bullet point to the Motion: “install bicycle racks in close proximity of the facility to alleviate parking impacts according to Code.”

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Motion

[See the below Motion].

Ms. Fisk explained that the Resolution “would give the City more latitude . . . this . . . Motion passed the City Council on the third of March.”

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: 19-0002-S191. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles include in the 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT or SPONSORSHIP of legislation and/or administrative action to amend California Government Code Section 51039 to allow local municipalities with compliant sidewalk vending permit programs more flexibility when enforcing non-permitted vending violations.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Amador said the City should “invest in education” rather than “criminalize” street vending. Mr. Turmell believed vendors need to consider public needs when opening a business. Ms. Fisk reported that “we have a major problem with compliance . . . it’s not only education.”

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with six in favor; four opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions).

C. Motion

[See the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council requests up to \$1,000.00 for mailing of PLUMC meeting notifications to stakeholders within a 100'-500' radius of a proposed project/development.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Fisk explained the need and that “we’re doing it for all projects.” Mr. Beauvais explained possible outreach and that the mailings would be done by a vendor, not by Board or Committee Members.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Fisk, Horn, Oliver, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; one abstained (Benedetto) (the GHSNC does not count abstentions).

Cultural Affairs Report on February 22, 2020 Black History Month Event

Ms. Oliver reported that the “From Drumming to Jazz” event was “such a . . . success . . . the food, the music, the conversation, the action . . . it was really wonderful . . . I’ve gotten so much feedback.” Mr. Beauvais said “we were close to 70 people . . . the drummers . . . taught people how to use the drums.” Mr. Amador said “the food was great . . . energy was really, really good . . . a really great community event.” He suggested funding Jazz Band tickets for the community.

Public Safety Report

Mr. Turmell reported that he attended a RYLAN [(Ready Your LA Neighborhood) <https://emergency.lacity.org/rylan>] presentation and recommended that the GHSNC participate. He and Mr. Horn recommended that the presentation be given to the Board; Mr. Beauvais said he would try to Agendize it for the April or May meeting. Mr. Benedetto reported that the next CERT [Community Emergency Response Team; 818-756-9674; www.cert-la.com, lafdcert@LACity.org] class will start July 7th and could be held “in conjunction with North Hills West [NC] and the LAFD.”

Education Report

Ms. Ronquillo reported that the Committee will meet March 19 at the Chamber of Commerce and discuss “spreading the word” to schools about how to apply for NPGs.

Beautification Report

Mr. Amador indicated that there was no report.

Homelessness Report

Mr. Horn indicated that there was no report.

IX. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.

Mr. Benedetto reported that the Bylaws Committee met and discussed that revisions “should be considered.” He requested agendaizing linking the website to public agency Coronavirus information websites. Ms. Oliver requested agendaizing that the Committees have a budget, along with a general flier announcing meetings. Mr. Amador requested Agendaizing using social media for outreach and Board Member access to that. Ms. Bursk reported that BID renewal applications were distributed and encouraged to “support your local business.” Ms. Fisk reported that there are a number of shopping center projects proposed; she encouraged Board Members to attend other Committee meetings. She requested Agendaizing revising the Bylaws. Mr. Beauvais encouraged Board Members to participate in the April 11 Egg Hunt. This room will not be available on the first Thursday in June; that month’s Board meeting may be cancelled; if a Special Meeting is held, probably it would be a shortened meeting during June’s second week.

X. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN moved by Mr. Turmell, seconded by Mr. Benedetto.

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:34 p.m.

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