



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, June 4, 2020

Granada Hills Charter H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344
APPROVED MINUTES (Approved at the July 2 Regular Meeting)

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this duly noticed meeting was held entirely online and telephonically.

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 instructions for participating in the virtual meeting (Presiding officer and moderator).

President Dave Beauvais called the Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. He explained procedures. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carlos Amador.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Fifteen of the 17 Board Members were present online at Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Dave Beauvais (President), Michael Benedetto (Vice-President), Bette Biers, Bonnie Bursk, Julie Carson (Secretary), Maria Fisk, John Horn, Sally Kolstad, Mark Morris, Emayatzy Oliver, Abbey Ronquillo, Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan, Sarah Tran and Ross Turmell. Brandon Schindelheim and Brad Smith arrived later. No Board Members were absent. The GHSNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on agenda items) is nine, so the Board could take such votes. All 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seat was vacant. Also attended: at least 51 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

Stakeholder Heather Budman was concerned about two businesspersons' comments regarding protestors. A woman was concerned about "hard drugs at Petit Park . . . crime and scary activity . . . we shouldn't have addicts in our community." Stakeholder Karen Waters encouraged considering that what we say may be heard outside of Granada Hills.

L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; 818-701-5253; 213-473-7012; Councilmember.Lee@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), updated. He has met weekly with NC Presidents and said "we gave out 2,500" meals to homeless people. A telethon with Super King raised \$125,000 to fight "food insecurity." "We raised over a million dollars for our Business Angel Program" that has "no-interest long-term loans"; "over \$400,000" already has been loaned. He encouraged letting businesses know about the program.

IV. Community Speakers

A. Council District 12 (Matt Vallecilla)

Matthew Vallecilla, Field Deputy for Councilman Lee (818-882-1212; Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), reported that hair salons and barbershops re-opened. The City Council approved “a rent relief proposal”; it soon will be available; see hcidla@LACity.org. “Regulatory burdens for small business” also were addressed.

B. LAUSD District 3 (Tara Vahdani)

Ms. Vahdani was not able to attend and there was no report.

C. DONE, (NEA Jose Galamenz)

Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), was not able to attend and there was no report.

D. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen, of the Budget Advocates [<http://ncbala.com>], reported that the Advocates election will be June 27th at 1:00 on Zoom. The City budget “has been adopted as a placeholder . . . but will be in revision for months.”

E. Assembly District 38 (Ryan Valencia)

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 State budget surplus now is a deficit due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and more. If you are “north of Devonshire,” he encouraged contacting them for EDD [unemployment] help.

F. Congressional District 25 (Osvaldo Ramirez)

Osvaldo Ramirez, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (ofc. 818-221-3718; Osvaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), reported that they are working on electronic privacy and economic stimulus issues. He cautioned not to throw away a card that the IRS may send you.

G. Congressional District 30 (Nikole Gonong)

Ms. Gonong was not able to attend and there was no report.

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

Stakeholder Richard Fisk reported that license plates have been stolen and that National Guard troops were deployed “to every area of the city.”

Scott Abrams, Deputy for U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; Scott.Abrams@mail.house.gov; www.BradSherman.House.gov), reported that “there is federal assistance for homeowners” and on other issues, programs and legislation, including the Heroes Act and the PPP [Small Business Paycheck Protection Program; see <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>]. A telephone Town Hall meeting was attended by 6,000 people.

David Meza, SoCal Gas Public Affairs Manager, reported that a 20% gas bill discount is available to qualified applicants; he will forward the application link.

V. Approval of May 7, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes.

MOTION moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Amador: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [GHSNC] approves the Minutes of its May 7, 2020 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Toumayan, Turmell and Tran); zero opposed; zero abstained.

VI. Budget Issues

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

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Morris: The GHSNC approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for April 2020.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais reviewed the Report.

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, Bursk, Carson, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Tran was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

Board Member Brandon Schindelheim arrived online at this time (7:46), making 16 Board Members present online.

B. Approval of 2019/2020 GHSNC Encumbrance Expense Form.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Schindelheim: The GHSNC approves the 2019/2020 GHSNC Encumbrance Expense Form.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Tran was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

VII. Board Issues

A. Discussion and possible action on a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) in the amount of \$5000 to North Valley Caring Services. Funding dedicated to PPE for staff, additional staff for expanded food pantry, non-perishable food items for pantry.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Horn: The GHSNC will have discussion and possible action on a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) in the amount of \$5,000 to North Valley Caring Services.

DISCUSSION: Laura Rathbone, of North Valley Caring Services, described their extensive services for “1,800 families” every week. Mr. Horn said they are “a fantastic organization.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Tran was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

Board Member Brad Smith arrived online at 8:03, making all 17 Board Members present online.

- B. Presentation by the Youth Committee project; “Civics Delivered” (Sarah Tran, Rachel Lee.

Ms. Lee and Ms. Tran, showed slides (online), and described the project and need. It includes a “Fellowship Program Curriculum . . . Interactive Experiences . . . [and] Mentorship Program.” Mr. Morris noted the extensive project work done.

- C. Board approval of the appointment of Sally Kolstad and Abbey Ronquillo to the Youth Committee.

The appointments of Sally Kolstad and Abbey Ronquillo to the Youth Committee PASSED unanimously without a Motion by a roll call vote of the 17 eligible voters present with all 17 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan, Turmell and Tran); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- D. Board approval of appointment of Rachel Lee to the Board, replacing Sarah Tran upon her resignation from the Board to attend college at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Tran described Ms. Lee’s qualifications. Mr. Benedetto said Ms. Lee “would be a tremendous addition to this Board.”

The appointment of Rachel Lee to the Board PASSED unanimously without a Motion by a roll call vote of the 17 eligible voters present with all 17 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan, Turmell and Tran); zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

MOTION moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Amador: The GHSNC approves an Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Group Motion requesting Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles use any and all methods (including power of subpoena) to obtain from the Southern California Gas Company the full list of chemicals emitted from the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility during the SS-25 blowout; well kill attempts; ongoing operation and from any subsequent leaks. GHSNC requests that the list be made available and immediately accessible to our community and stake holders. GHSNC believes this information is essential and needs to be provided to all entities of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Aliso Canyon Health Study to ensure a thorough, accurate, concise and science-based health study is conducted. Our businesses, communities and stakeholders should have every chance to learn what health issues they may be faced with following the largest gas blowout in United States history.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto noted that the Agenda’s “Alisio” should be “Aliso.” He explained the issue. Andrew Krowne explained the need for a complete list of chemicals. Asaad Alnajjar, of the Porter Ranch NC, and Patty Glueck, Deirdre, Helen Attai, Lori Auvazian, Craig Galanti and Brian Allen shared knowledge of

negative health experiences and supported the Motion. Mr. Galanti said that there would be no personal medical information or HIPAA concerns.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 17 eligible voters present with all 17 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Fisk, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan, Turmell and Tran); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- F. Discussion and possible action on a resolution (attached) asking the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission for an investigation (if they have not done so already) into Councilmember John Lee’s participation in and subsequent actions following the June 2017 Las Vegas trip that resulted in indictment of and subsequent guilty plea by former Councilmember Mitch Englander.

Copies of the Resolution were available at https://www.ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Agenda_2020-06-04.pdf.

MOTION moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Smith: The GHSNC supports a resolution (attached) asking the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission for an investigation (if they have not done so already) into Councilmember John Lee’s participation in and subsequent actions following the June 2017 Las Vegas trip that resulted in indictment of and subsequent guilty plea by former Councilmember Mitch Englander.

DISCUSSION: Kayla Owens, John Werner, Natalia Rodriguez, Michelle Fowle, Diego, Pryat, Connie, Megan, Andrew Krowne, Asaad Alnajjar, Pete Ackerman, Christine Reyes, Helen Attai, Heather Budman, Rick Myers, Patty Glueck and Jessica supported the Motion, citing reasons such as “transparency” and “ethics.” John Ciccarelli believed the Motion “creates a very bad precedent” and another person also opposed the Motion. Mr. Morris said the Motion “is a plea for process . . . this is not guilt by association”; he “read from the indictment.” Mr. Amador wanted to know “what he knew” and believed “we are within our rights to ask these questions.” Mr. Turmell said “we’re asking the City Ethics Commission to investigate John Lee”; he noted that the indictment is by the federal government. Ms. Toumayan believed “it is very much in our right” to “ask for an investigation.” Ms. Carson did “feel betrayed . . . because we didn’t find out about this until after the election.” Mr. Smith noted that “the City Ethics Commission is a civil regulatory panel”; the resolution is “not a trial, it’s not an indictment.” Mr. Benedetto noted that Mr. Lee “is under a gag order . . . he can’t even defend himself.” Ms. Fisk believed that “this is a groundless, baseless Motion”; Ms. Bursk agreed with Ms. Fisk and believed that the resolution “already decided that he’s guilty.” Mr. Schindelheim believed “there are a lot of axes to grind” by the Motion; “John has dedicated himself for many years to this District.”

President Beauvais turned over the Presiding Officership to Treasurer Schindelheim at this time.

Mr. Beauvais stated that “I’ve written to John Lee and told him he should resign.” Regarding whether Mr. Lee committed ethics violations, Mr. Beauvais said “it’s right there in the indictment.”

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 17 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Carson, Horn, Morris, Oliver, Smith,

Toumayan, Turmell and Tran); six opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Biers, Bursk, Fisk, Kolstad, Ronquillo and Schindelheim); one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Benedetto).

President Beauvais resumed as Presiding Officer.

VIII. Committee Reports and Motions

Outreach

Ms. Toumayan reported that the Committee soon will meet.

PLUM

Ms. Fisk reported that the Committee soon will meet.

Cultural Affairs

Ms. Oliver reported that there was no report at this time.

Public Safety

Mr. Turmell reported that 17 NC Public Safety Committee Chairs indicated that their “number one concern was homelessness”; street racing also was a concern.

The Committee will meet June 12th.

Education

Mr. Morris reported that the Committee will meet June 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Beautification

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

Homelessness

Mr. Horn reported that the Committee will meet June 26.

Mr. Beauvais thanked Ms. Tran for her Youth Committee work.

IX. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.

Ms. Toumayan thanked everyone for their homelessness issues work. Ms. Oliver noted that “there’s a lot of work to be done”; she wanted the Board to address racist behavior. Mr. Morris appreciated being part of “a vital Neighborhood Council.” Ms. Fisk reminded that NCs “were established to be liaisons with City officials, and that she has asked the GHSNC to have Standing Rules; she “is resigning as of tonight.” Ms. Bursk wanted Item #VII. F. regarding the Motion about Councilman Lee to be reconsidered at the next Board meeting.

Board Member Betty Biers had left by this time of 10:18, making 16 Board Members present online.

Mr. Amador wanted to adjourn in memory of George Floyd. Mr. Benedetto was “proud of our Council” as “the most proactive Council in the Valley.”

X. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Ms. Bursk.

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:31 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>