



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, July 2, 2020

Granada Hills Charter H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344
APPROVED MINUTES (Approved at the August 6, 2020 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, flag salute and instructions for participating in the virtual meeting (Presiding officer and moderator).

President Dave Beauvais called the Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Beauvais.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Fifteen of the 16 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Dave Beauvais (President), Michael Benedetto (Vice-President), Bette Biers, Bonnie Bursk, Julie Carson (Secretary), John Horn, Sally Kolstad, Mark Morris, Emayatzy Oliver, Abbey Ronquillo, Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan and Ross Turmell. Sarah Tran was absent (excused). 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. Sixteen of the 17 Board seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board seat was vacant [At-Large]; to apply, see www.ghsnc.org. Also attended: at least 33 stakeholders and guests.

III. Public Comment

Joan Diamond, Friends of the GH Library Treasurer, was concerned about homeless people around the Library. People "are missing out because they do not have access to the Library." Pamela Franklin believed criticism of Councilman of John Lee to be unjustified.

IV. Community Speakers

A. Council District 12 (Matt Vallecilla)

Mr. Vallecilla, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), reminded to disinfect and help avoid spreading the COVID-19 virus. Councilman Lee "voted against" reducing the LAPD budget by \$150 million. "Fireworks are illegal in the City of Los Angeles and the LAPD will be patrolling."

- B. LAUSD District 3 (Tara Vahdani)
Ms. Vahdani, Deputy Director of Community Engagement for LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson (ofc. 818-654-3785; Tara.Vahdani@lausd.net; <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>), was not present; there was no report.
- C. DONE, (NEA Jose Galdamez)
Mr. Galdamez, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE; 818-374-9895; Jose.Galdamez@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reported.
- D. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)
Mr. Allen, of the Budget Advocates [<http://ncbala.com>], reported that the Advocates started new Fiscal Year work.
- E. Assembly District 38 (Ryan Valencia)
Mr. Valencia, District Director for State 38th District Assemblymember Christy Smith (661-286-1565; Ryan.Valencia@asm.ca.gov; <https://a38.asmdc.org>), was not present; there was no report.
- F. Congressional District 25 (Osvaldo Ramirez)
Mr. 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>), corrected that he represents District 29, not the 25th District. He can be contacted for help regarding the “Economic Impact Payment” (EIP), aka the “stimulus check,” which can be filed for until October 15, and about taxes.
- G. Congressional District 30 (Nikole Gonong)
Ms. Gonong was not present; there was no report.
- H. LAPD Senior Lead Officer or alternate rep (Lead Officer Sellers/Parker/Volunteer Richard Fisk).
No representative was present; there was no report.

V. Approval of May 27, 2020 Special Meeting minutes.

Copies were available of draft Minutes.

MOTION moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Morris: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [GHSNC] approves the Minutes of its May 27, 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, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Approval of June 4, 2020 Regular Meeting **minutes**.

Copies were available of draft Minutes.

MOTION moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Amador: The GHSNC approves the Minutes of its June 4, 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, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Approval of June 12, 2020 Special Meeting minutes.

Copies were available of draft Minutes.

MOTION moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Ms. Oliver: The GHSNC approves the Minutes of its June 12, 2020 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; two abstained (Bursk and Schindelheim).

VI. Budget Issues

President Beauvais turned over the Presiding Officer duties to Vice-President Benedetto at this time. The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VI. B.

A. Approval of Budget report and Monthly Expenditures for May, 2020.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VII. D.*] Copies were shown of the GHSNC May “Monthly Expenditure Report.” Mr. Schindelheim reviewed expenses.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Ms. Carson: The GHSNC approves of Budget report and Monthly Expenditures for May 2020.

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

President Beauvais resumed as Presiding Officer. The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VIII Committee Reports.

B. Approval of 2020/2021 fiscal year budget.

Mr. Schindelheim reported that the GHSNC will have \$3,533.64 in rollover funds for a total of \$35,533.64 available funding this Fiscal Year. He reviewed the budget.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Mr. Morris: The GHSNC approves of 2020/2021 fiscal year budget.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais explained that operational budget cuts already have been made.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo had stepped out by this time, making 14 Board Members present online.

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

VII. Board Issues

- A. Appointment and confirmation of Stakeholder Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza to fill vacant board position.

Ms. Mendoza introduced herself, and described her background and extensive community service. Stakeholders Cheri Derohanian and Jason Hector supported the appointment.

MOTION (by the Executive Committee): The GHSNC appointment and confirmation of Stakeholder Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza to fill vacant board position.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo had returned by this time, making 15 Board Members present online.

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

New Board Member Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza was Seated at this time, making 16 Board Members present.

- B. Appointment and confirmation of Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza to the PLUM committee.

MOTION (by the Executive Committee): The GHSNC appointment and confirmation of Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza to the PLUM committee.

DISCUSSION: Jason Hector supported the appointment.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- C. Appointment and confirmation of Stakeholder Heather Budman as second Budget Representative.

Ms. Budman introduced herself, and described her interest and background. Mr. Allen, Mr. Morris and Mr. Benedetto spoke in support of the appointment.

MOTION moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Morris: The GHSNC appointment and confirmation of Stakeholder Heather Budman as second Budget Representative.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- D. Appointment and confirmation of Stakeholder Chavon Smith to the Outreach and Cultural Affairs committees.

MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Ms. Carson: The GHSNC appointment and confirmation of Stakeholder Chavon Smith to the Outreach and Cultural Affairs committees.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais noted that Ms. Smith was also a Board candidate. She described her background and extensive community service.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VI. A.

VIII. Committee Reports and Motions

Outreach

- Working on new name plaques and name badges.
Mr. Benedetto thanked people who helped research prices. Ms. Ronquillo described her work and soon will update.
- Board retreat; proposing a virtual event in mid-August, canvass the Board to select a date, canvass to be completed by July 24, 2020.
Mr. Morris recommended having the retreat be facilitated by a non-Board Member. There was discussion of how it could virtually work online instead of in-person. Mr. Beauvais indicated that there may not be any in-person meetings [because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic] until January. Mr. Amador noted that the two new Board Members also would benefit having a retreat.
- Promotional items; committee members will inventory, determine specific items for purchase.
Ms. Carson and Mr. Benedetto reported.
- Discussion on possible speaker series via Zoom.
Ms. Toumayan reported.
- Discussion of possible events once we are past the Covid-19 pandemic.
Ms. Toumayan reported.
- Discussion on holding an open house in conjunction with election promotion.
Ms. Toumayan reported.

PLUM

- A. Discussion and possible recommendation to approve a “no opposition” position to Applicant Caresource Congregate Living application for a conditional use permit (CUP) at 17727 Simmonds St., Granada Hills, CA. CUP to increase bed capacity from current six beds to 12 beds. PLUM committee did not have a quorum, so motion will require a mover and a second.

It was noted that the address is 17227, not 17727 Simmonds. Nicole Kuklok-Waldman, representing Owners Arman Musakhanyan and Chris Saryan, presented and explained the project while slides were shown on the screen. She said there are no external changes; there would be two beds within each bedroom. She reported that they had not received any neighbor comments

despite mailing notices in and outside of the required 500-foot radius. The Owners said “we are not admitting any COVID patients” and two negative tests would be needed for admittance. Mr. Musakhanyan said “we’ve seen a positive impact” of patients having a roommate. They have had such a facility in Pacoima for five years. This facility would be 2,582 square feet in size. The average patient stay varies. Some are long-term; they’re pretty much living there and require 24-hour care. He said, “For the most part, it is for long-term patients.”

MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Ms. Oliver: The GHSNC approves a “no opposition” position to Applicant Caresource Congregate Living application for a conditional use permit (CUP) at 17727 Simmonds St., Granada Hills, CA. CUP to increase bed capacity from current six beds to 12 beds.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Cultural Affairs

Ms. Oliver said that there was no report.

Public Safety

- B. Recommendation to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) demanding Los Angeles City, Council District 12 and Supervisor Barger take action regarding the homeless encampments near Granada Hills Park and in other areas of Granada Hills. Full text of CIS attached. Education Report from July 18, 2020 meeting.

MOTION (by the Public Safety Committee): The GHSNC will submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) demanding Los Angeles City, Council District 12 and Supervisor Barger take action regarding the homeless encampments near Granada Hills Park and in other areas of Granada Hills.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Turmell explained the issue. He estimated that the approximately 40 homeless people in the Park are impacting the 53,000 Granada Hills residents. Mr. Benedetto said, “We cannot use words like “demand” or “demanding” the first time out to our public officials, thereby shooting ourselves in the foot. The recommendation, as a Motion from the Public Safety Committee, is misleading, since it was, along with the two attached pages, never agreed to or approved by the Committee. Many of the items on the two pages already were answered at the Homelessness Committee meeting and by Ken Craft of Hope of the Valley.” Mr. Horn also noted that those items were never agreed to by the Public Safety Committee. A Stakeholder was concerned about possible drug use among the homeless people and noted that, because of COVID-19, the park is needed for residents to exercise. Another Stakeholder said the situation is getting worse, especially “on the side of the Library.” Another Stakeholder claimed

that the people living there are “homeless criminals” and said “you’ve gotta take your neighborhood back.”

Another Stakeholder believed that “you don’t have any protections in place...for renters” and that homelessness is due to a lack of affordable housing. Stephanie Aston of the West Valley People’s Alliance believed that moving the homeless people could spread the COVID-19 virus; she wanted the GHSNC to support permanent supportive housing. The Alliance’s Katherine Tattersfield said there is an unused “safe parking facility” nearby. The Alliance’s Pilar Schiavo said they have experienced a 400% increase in food need. Corinne Ho believed that “additional policing will not solve the homeless crisis”; she and Mr. Morris wanted the Homelessness Committee to further consider this first. Mr. Hector encouraged including other City agencies. Another Stakeholder noted that the encampment was promoted on social media without the capacity being noted; she believed that “now there are homeless people roaming around the community” looking for a place to stay. Verneen Mincey believed that homeless people “were shipped here from as far as Rowland Heights.” Mr. Turmell showed photos on the screen and confirmed that people are defecating in public at and by the Park; “children were walking” nearby . . . this is completely unsanitary . . . they have moved far beyond the Park.”

MOTION to REFER to COMMITTEE moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Horn.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto requested to include the main Motion in a joint Meeting of the Public Safety and the Homelessness Committees. Mr. Amador noted that “Police are not health workers . . . [or] social workers.” Mr. Turmell said that he was told that “no more homeless would be transferred to the Park”; immediately afterward 20 more were transferred there. He reported that the City did not have any Council File regarding using City parks to house homeless people. Mr. Smith believed that the City had “no public debate or discussion . . . [or] exit plan” before moving homeless people to the Park. Mr. Benedetto believed that the Statement is not what was presented to the Committee. Ms. Mendoza wanted more information before voting on the Statement; she encouraged that, later, it be sent to more City agencies.

Board Member Brandon Schindelheim had left by this time, making 15 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Carson: **PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo and Toumayan); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Smith and Turmell); zero abstained.

MOTION to REFER to COMMITTEE PASSED by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver,

Ronquillo and Toumayan); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Smith and Turmell); zero abstained.

Education: Report from July 18, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Morris reported that the Committee will meet July 23rd; “everyone’s invited.”

Beautification

There was no report.

Homelessness

C. Recommendation to the Board to host a virtual community forum on homelessness to educate the community on the issues surrounding homelessness, solutions to the problem, and community action.

Mr. Horn would like the forum to be held by early August.

MOTION (by the Homelessness Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council recommendation to the Board to host a virtual community forum on homelessness to educate the community on the issues surrounding homelessness, solutions to the problem, and community action.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo was unavailable at this time, making 14 Board Members present online.

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

Seniors: Discussion on holding an open house event in conjunction with new board elections. Included above in Outreach report.

There were no comments at this time.

Youth: Progress report on Civics Delivered initiative.

Stakeholder Rachel Lee reported.

IX. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.

Ms. Mendoza thanked Board Members for including her. Mr. Beauvais said that the homelessness Community Impact Statement Item #VIII. B. would be re-agendized.

X. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN moved by Ms. Mendoza, seconded by Ms. Biers.

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:26 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>.