



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, August 6, 2020
APPROVED Minutes - Approval at September 3, 2020 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.

Document copies were available at www.ghsnc.org.

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 6:34 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brad Smith.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Fourteen of the 17 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, Jerilyn Mendoza, Mark Morris, Emayatzy Oliver, Abbey Ronquillo, Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan. Sally Kolstad (excused), Ross Turmell (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&delta=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: at least 25 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. Public Comment.

Michelle, Kathy and L.A. Animal Services Dept. Animal Control Officer Barbara wanted support to re-open the West Valley Animal Shelter as a municipal shelter open for adoptions, instead of as a privately-run shelter; Officer Westphal agreed and opposed Bond Measure F regarding that.

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 more HOPE Team hours were funded to help homeless people. The Small Business Relief Fund offers zero percent loans. The Business Angel Program of no-interest long-term loans is available and the Super King telethon raised \$125,000 for the community. Wilkinson Senior Center is available as a cooling center. Every Thursday meals are delivered to seniors; volunteers are needed.

B. LAUSD District 3 (Tara Vahdani)

Tara 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>), reported that online music lessons are available to LAUSD students. The Family Voices program helps parents learn from other parents about distance learning. A Student Board Member position is available on the LAUSD Board.

Tanaz Golshan, Mayor Eric Garcetti's West Valley Area Representative (213-610-4808; Tanaz.Golshan@LACity.org; <http://LAMayor.org>), reported that free COVID-19 testing and also relief funds are available. The DWP started shutting off power to loud house parties. She urged submitting the U.S. Census form.

C. DONE, (NEA Serena)

Vanessa Serrano, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9889; Vanessa.Serrano@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), replacing Jose Galdamez, reported on Board and meeting procedures.

D. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Brian Allen, of the Budget Advocates [<http://ncbala.com>], reported that the Advocates will issue focused position papers instead of a[n annual] White Paper. He encouraged City budget input and noted that the budget, which is "a placeholder," is more "out-of-date" daily due to COVID-19; "expect delays in services . . . or lessened" services. Advocate Glenn Bailey reported that the annual Neighborhood Councils Congress will be online September 26th with information sessions.

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>), was not present; there was no report.

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>), encouraged contacting them for help with federal issues.

G. Congressional District 30 (Nikole Gonong)
Nikole Gonong was not present; there was no report.

H. LAPD Senior Lead Officer or alternate rep (Lead Officer Parker).
John Parker, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text phone 818-832-0773; office 818-832-0633; 36560@LAPD.LACity.org), http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station), reported that “we are seeing an increase in homes rented out for large parties.” He noted a citywide increase in auto thefts and thefts from vehicles, especially midnight-6:00 a.m., most often on Mondays, then Fridays. Chevy, Ford and Toyota are the most-often targeted brands. Overall crime in Devonshire is down 7.8% compared to last year. The Police are checking businesses “day and night . . . making sure customers can [shop] safely.”

V. Approval of July 2, 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 July 2, 2020 General Board Meeting as written.

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, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

VI. Budget Issues

A. Approval of Budget report and Monthly Expenditures for June, 2020.
Mr. Schindelheim reviewed the report.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Mr. Benedetto: The GHSNC Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for June 2020.

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, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

VII. Board Issues

A. Appointment and confirmation of pending Board Member Rachel Lee to the Education Committee.

MOTION moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Lopez: The GHSNC confirms the appointment of Rachel Lee to the Education Committee.

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, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- B. Discussion and possible action to establish a moratorium on non-essential NPGs through 2020. Committee with jurisdiction to be given the authority to determine whether an NPG is essential.

MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Benedetto: The GHSNC establishes a moratorium on non-essential NPGs through 2020. Committee with jurisdiction to be given the authority to determine whether an NPG is essential.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais noted that he discussed this with the other Executive Board Members; he explained it at this time. Mr. Schindelheim confirmed that no grants can be made to individuals.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Carson, Horn, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Bursk); zero abstained.

- C. Discussion and possible action to support Northridge West NC virtual debate for the LAUSD District 3 election that will be held on November 3.

MOTION moved by Ms. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Carson: The GHSNC supports Northridge West NC virtual debate for the LAUSD District 3 election that will be held on November 3.

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, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

VIII. Committee Reports and Motions

Cultural Affairs

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

- A. Motion from Committee: Discussion and possible action to approve the following resolution: “The Cultural Affairs Committee recommends GHSNC support the Neighborhood Council Commission (BONC) in including Implicit Bias Training as part of the mandatory training program for all Neighborhood Council Board members. Implicit Bias identifies ways in which the conscious patterns people inevitably develop to organize information actually affects individual’s actions, thus creating real-world implications, even though individuals may not be aware that those biases exist within themselves. As leaders within the community, it is imperative that all board members are adequately trained to engage successfully with members of the community who may be different from them.

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

Ms. Oliver reported on and explained this, believing the training to be “imperative . . . especially in dealing with the public.” Keren Waters supported this. Ms. Bursk believed that participation should be voluntary. Ms. Lopez noted that such

training “has been part of the legal profession for decades.” Mr. Horn noted such training “in the Human Resources world.” Mr. Beauvais clarified that the training would be conducted by people hired by DONE.

President Beauvais resumed as Presiding Officer.

MOTION (by the Cultural Affairs Committee): The GHSNC supports the Neighborhood Council Commission (BONC) in including Implicit Bias Training as part of the mandatory training program for all Neighborhood Council Board members.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Carson, Horn, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; three abstained (Benedetto, Biers and Bursk).

- B. Motion from Committee: Discussion and possible action to approve the following resolution: “As elected officials in the City of Los Angeles, we, the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, took an oath to ‘work to honor diversity’ and ‘build community’. In the current environment, we need to continue to uphold our oath by supporting the California Department of Education’s decision to not include antisemitic curriculum in the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. Jewish students learning in the Los Angeles Unified School District deserve to grow up in a safe environment free from discrimination of religion and culture; the inclusion of antisemitic curriculum is contrary to that value and can make Jewish students feel unsafe and unsupported in their communities.”

MOTION (by the Cultural Affairs Committee): The GHSNC approves the following resolution: “As elected officials in the City of Los Angeles, we, the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, took an oath to ‘work to honor diversity’ and ‘build community’. In the current environment, we need to continue to uphold our oath by supporting the California Department of Education’s decision to not include anti-Semitic curriculum in the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.”

DISCUSSION: Ms. Vahdani noted that the resolution is online. Ms. Bursk was concerned that certain educational curriculum could be eliminated. Mr. Smith wanted “more information.”

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

Outreach

- C. Recommendations for the Board Retreat; whether it will be virtual or in person, a date, and the agenda items for the retreat.

Mr. Benedetto reported that the Committee recommended having the Retreat on October 15th at 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. Mr. Morris recommended that a non-Board Member facilitate the Retreat. No Motion was made or vote taken.

- D. Recommendation to host a virtual town hall with other community leaders to discuss the current state of affairs in our country regarding racial equality (motion originally from Cultural Affairs Committee).

MOTION (by the Outreach Committee): The GHSNC will host a virtual town hall with other community leaders to discuss the current state of affairs in our country regarding racial equality.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Amador explained the town hall would be “to have a more thorough conversation” about such matters and suggested having it on Saturday, October 3rd. Ms. Waters supported this. Mr. Morris offered the Education Committee’s support.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (Biers).

- E. Recommendation to host a virtual town hall with minority business owners within the community to discuss the impact COVID 19 has had on their businesses (motion originally from Cultural Affairs Committee).

Mr. Fisk believed all business owners are affected. Mr. Amador proposed having the town hall on August 29th.

MOTION (by the Outreach Committee): The GHSNC will host a virtual town hall with minority business owners within the community to discuss the impact COVID 19 has had on their businesses.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION moved by Mr. Horn, seconded by Mr. Morris: The GHSNC will delete the word “minority” from the main Motion.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto noted that all businesses are affected. Ms. Oliver explained that minority businesses tend to be more negatively affected by such things as COVID-19, which “disproportionately affects minority businesses.”

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Oliver); zero abstained.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Morris believed small businesses should be the focus.

AMENDED 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, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

PLUM: No report.

Mr. Beauvais said that the 17227 Simmonds project Hearing would be the next day.

Public Safety/Homelessness

F. Motion from Committee: Recommendation to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) requesting 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. This item was referred to the joint committees at the July 2, 2020 regular meeting.

Mr. Horn reported that he, Mr. Beauvais and Mr. Turmell met with people living at the Park “to get their view.”

MOTION (by both the Public Safety and the Homelessness Committees): The GHSNC will submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) requesting 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.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Morris: The GHSNC will add to the CIS section #4 the words “and add trash bins” to the main Motion.

DISCUSSION: Resident Josiah Alvarez was concerned about “a dangerous situation” of “fighting . . . yelling and screaming” and possible illegal drug use among homeless people at the Park. Resident Mark Hovater was concerned about “a lot of trash” by homeless people.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Biers, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Schindelheim).

AMENDED 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, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Education: Report from July 18, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Morris reported that “we had a really terrific meeting.” The next meeting will be August 20th at 6:30 and discuss the LAUSD budget and at-home learning; “everyone’s invited.”

Youth: Report on Civics Delivered project.

Ms. Lee reported that a project date will be discussed.

Beautification: No report.

Seniors: No report.

IX. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.

Mr. Smith requested that more “background information” be included with meeting agenda packets. Ms. Oliver encouraged “having a conversation with someone you wouldn’t normally have a conversation with” or reading something different. Mr. Horn and Mr. Benedetto were concerned that CD12 was not represented at this and the last Board meeting after the representative gave their report. Ms. Bursk noted that business owners are paying “out-of-pocket” for community improvements. Ms. Carson was “proud of the work that we’re trying to do.” Mr. Benedetto suggested supporting “showers for the homeless” and an “LAPD Liaison for the homeless.” Mr. Beauvais reported that the GHSNC election will be April 20th, conducted virtually [online]; the new Board may be Seated on May 20. He discussed with CD12’s Hannah Lee “ethics in government.”

X. Adjournment

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:52 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>.