



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020  
APPROVED MINUTES: Approved at the January 7, 2021 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 6:38 p.m. and gave participation instructions. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**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, Julie Carson (Secretary), John Horn, Rachel Lee, Jerilyn Mendoza, Mark Morris, Abbey Ronquillo, Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan and Ross Turmell. Bonnie Bursk and Sally Kolstad arrived later. Emayatzy Oliver was absent (excused). The GHSNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on agendized Items) is nine (see the Bylaws link at [www.empowerla.org/ghsnc](http://www.empowerla.org/ghsnc)), 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 17 Stakeholders and Guests.

**III. Public Comment**

Mark Hovatar announced that a virtual parade would happen the next Sunday.

**IV. Community Speakers**

**A. Council District 12 (Matt Vallecilla)**

Matthew Vallecilla, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (ofc. 818-882-1212; [Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org](mailto:Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://www.CD12.org)), urged complying with COVID-19 Coronavirus regulations. Small business assistance is available. He described services available for homeless people.

*Board Member Sally Kolstad arrived at this time (6:51pm), making 15 Board Members present online.*

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](mailto:Tara.Vahdani@lausd.net); <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>), was not available and there was no report.

C. DONE, (NEA Vanessa Serrano)

Vanessa Serrano, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9889; [Vanessa.Serrano@LACity.org](mailto:Vanessa.Serrano@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)), was not available and there was no report.

D. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen was not available and there was no report.

E. 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](mailto:Osvaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov); <http://cardenas.house.gov>), reported that COVID-related legislation regarding home safety passed. If you didn't yet receive a CARES Act stimulus check, contact him, and for a possible business recovery rebate available in 2021.

F. Congressional District 30 (Mikalye Lowrey)

Mikayle Lowery, a Field Deputy for U.S. 30th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; [Mikayle.Lowery@mail.house.gov](mailto:Mikayle.Lowery@mail.house.gov); <https://sherman.house.gov>), reported on available help.

G. Christina Vega, Aliso Canyon Disaster Research Study Project.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IV. H.*] Ms. Vega, Community Engagement Specialist for Co. Pub Health, showed slides and presented about the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility methane leaks, health impacts and the Study [see <https://www.ghnnc.org/2020/11/aliso-canyon-disaster-health-research-study-community-opinion-survey>]. CPH's Charlene Contreras indicated that, soon, more data will be available. She noted that the L.A. County Fire Department and the AQMD [Southern California Air Quality Management District] also are involved. Ms. Lopez noted that Study funds were allocated two years ago. Ms. Contreras said "we're trying to get feedback" and that "we're trying to make sure that [Stakeholders'] concerns are addressed . . . we're looking at a six to nine-month process." Ms. Contreras said "the chemicals list is still coming" from SoCal Gas . . . that should be within the next two months . . . on our website it looks very technical . . . we keep prodding the other agencies . . . we haven't really started the research yet . . ."

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

Stakeholder Richard Fisk reported that most area crime is down, though Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles is up. The LAPD has a new free bicycle registration program online now that has a good recovery record.

**V. Approval of November 5, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes.**

Copies were shown of the draft Minutes. The following correction was requested: page six, Item #VIII, the Education report: “the next Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 9 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a Library Appreciation Town Hall meeting on November 19” should read “the next Committee meeting will be Wednesday, November 19 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a Library Appreciation Town Hall meeting on December 9.”

**MOTION** moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Ms. Biers: The GHSNC approves the Minutes of its November 5, 2020 General Board Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Biers, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; three abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Benedetto, Lee and Mendoza).

**VI. Budget Issues**

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

Mr. Schindelheim reviewed the Report.

**FUNDING MOTION** moved by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Mr. Morris: The GHSNC approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for October 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, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Lee was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

**VII. Board Issues:** Comments from the Chair and Board members recognizing Mike Kabo for his many years of service as Parliamentarian for GHSNC and his dedication to the Neighborhood Council movement.

Mr. Beauvais noted Mr. Kabo’s accomplishments and leadership for NCs. Mr. Kabo thanked everyone for their work and support.

*Board Member Bonnie Bursk arrived at this time (7:34 pm), making 16 Board Members present online.*

Board Members and Stakeholders thanked Mr. Kabo for his work and support.

[*There was no Item #VII. A. on the Agenda.*]

B. Discussion and possible action to authorize an additional \$200 for the Assisted Living Greeting Card Project.

Ms. Kolstad reported that card recipients were “thrilled to pieces” to receive them.

**FUNDING MOTION** moved by Ms. Kolstad, seconded by Ms. Mendoza: The GHSNC authorizes an additional \$200 for the Assisted Living Greeting Card Project.

*Board Member Bonnie Bursk was unavailable to vote at this time, making 15 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, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Lee was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

### **VIII. Committee Reports and Motions**

Homelessness

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

A. Update on the 2021 Greater LA Homeless Count.

Mr. Horn reported that it is being decided whether the Count will happen.

B. Update on Virtual Community Forum on Homelessness scheduled for Monday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Horn reported that the Forum will have three speakers and encouraged attending online.

C. Recommendation to Councilmember John Lee’s call for potential housing sites (interim and permanent) within GHSNC boundaries. Motion from committee proposing the use of the back lot at Fire Station 87 (Balboa and Mayall) as a potential tiny homes site.

Mr. Horn reported on the above.

*Board Member Bonnie Bursk was again, by this time, available to vote, making 16 Board Members present online.*

There was discussion of the availability and feasibility of the site. Mr. Turmell noted that there are an estimated 85,000-100,000 empty homes in L.A. County.

**MOTION** (by the Homelessness Committee): The GHSNC supports use of the back lot at Fire Station 87 (Balboa and Mayall) as a potential tiny homes site.

**MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; two abstained (Biers and Bursk).

PLUM

D. Motion from Committee to support the demolition and rebuilding of a medical building located at 16801 Devonshire Street (case no. ENV-2020-3819-CE). Applicant will present an overview of the project, followed by public comment, discussion, and possible action by the board.

Ms. Mendoza reported that the Committee supported the project. Applicant representative Bert Elliott showed slides and presented. The house would be replaced by “a single-story” structure next to the Carl’s Jr. restaurant.

**MOTION** (by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee): The GHSNC supports the demolition and rebuilding of a medical building located at 16801 Devonshire Street (Case no. ENV-2020-3819-CE).

**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, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

#### Outreach

E. Discussion and possible action regarding election outreach for the 2021 GHSNC board election. This includes authorization of a mailing not to exceed \$7,000.00 to Stakeholders publicizing candidate filing deadlines, instructions for vote-by-mail and a possible joint Neighborhood Council Election Town Hall.

Ms. Toumayan reported that she is working with DONE and other NCs. Mr. Beauvais reported that the candidate filing period is December 26 – February 9.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by the Outreach Committee): The GHSNCI authorizes a mailing not to exceed \$7,000.00 to Stakeholders publicizing candidate filing deadlines, instructions for vote-by-mail and a possible joint Neighborhood Council Election Town Hall.

*Mr. Beauvais temporarily turned the Meeting Chairmanship over to Mr. Benedetto.*

**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, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Lee was ineligible to vote due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

#### Education

F. Report from Nov. 19, 2020 meeting including December 9, 2020 (4:30 pm) Committee meeting/Library Town Hall.  
Mr. Morris reported that all are invited.

*President Beauvais resumed as Meeting Chair.*

#### Seniors

G. Report on assisted living facilities greeting card project.  
Ms. Kolstad reported that senior centers gave thanks for the cards.

#### Youth Report

Ms. Lee reported that the Committee met with the Bezos Family Foundation regarding getting a grant.

Beautification Report.

Mr. Amador reported that there were no updates at this time.

Cultural Affairs Report.

Mr. Beauvais indicated for Ms. Oliver that there was no report at this time.

Public Safety Report.

Mr. Turmell reported that emergency preparedness kits are available in multiple languages. He will update about the Jamba Juice [at Granada Village at Chatsworth and Lindley] traffic situation when more information is available. He reported regarding COVID-19 that, in one month, Granada Hills recorded 1,686 additional cases, creating a total of 3,667 and “an additional . . . four people have died [in one month; the total is now 72] . . . please wear your mask . . . it is” real.

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

Ms. Bursk thought that more meeting participation instructions may be needed. Mr. Turmell cautioned that a COVID-19 vaccine may not be available to the general public for six to eight months.

#### **X. Adjournment**

**MOTION to ADJOURN** moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Carson.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:47 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>.*