



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, February 4, 2021
APPROVED Minutes, Approved at March 4, 2021 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 and shown online.

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. Thirteen of the 17 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Dave Beauvais (President), Michael Benedetto (Vice-President), Bonnie Bursk, Julie Carson (Secretary), John Horn, Rachel Lee, Mark Morris, Emayatzy Oliver, Abbey Ronquillo, Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan and Ross Turmell. Carlos Amador (excused), Bette Biers (excused), Sally Kolstad (unexcused) and Jerilyn Mendoza (excused) were absent. 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), 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 18 stakeholders and guests.

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

Later, Stakeholder Cheri Derohanian announced the Museum of the San Fernando Valley's Artist/Speaker Series of regular public events; she will send information.

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

Mr. Benedetto requested that people say prayers for Betty Biers.

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; www.CD12.org), reported on the issue of “hazard pay” for front-line workers. He reminded that the privately-funded Angel Fund has interest-free loans for qualifying small businesses. He reminded to take “precautions” regarding the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic. He noted a request to reinstate the street racing task force.

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

C. Mayor’s Office (Vahid Khorsand)

Vahid Khorsand, West Area Representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti (323-552-6730; Vahid.Khorsand@LACity.org; <http://LAMayor.org>), was not present and there was no report.

D. DONE, (NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames)

Freddy Cupen-Ames, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9890; Freddy.Cupen-Ames@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), introduced himself as the new NEA for the GHSNC. The GHSNC election will receive vote-by-mail ballots from February 26th through April 30th; the election will be April 27th; if postmarked by then, ballots will be received by April 30th. Curated election outreach templates are available through a CANVA account [<https://www.canva.com/login>]. He cautioned to avoid forwarding phishing emails to others. Volunteer Regional Grievance Panelists are sought regarding Neighborhood Council Grievances. There will be another Funding Training will be February 23rd. The Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be September 25, 2021; volunteers can join the organizing committee; see www.EmpowerLA.org.

E. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen reported that the BA’s [<http://ncbala.com>] are meeting with City departments regarding the City’s “deficit of \$650 million which may reach \$1 billion next year”; ideas are sought. The Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Group met last night regarding the 2015 111-day blowout; the CAG is asking Neighborhood Councils to issue declarations of “no confidence.” The L.A. County Department of Public Health has reduced the number of CAG meetings to quarterly; informal community meetings will be held more often.

F. Congressional District 25 (Osvaldo Ramirez)

Osvaldo Ramirez, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (ofc. 818-221-3718; cell 818-388-0685;

Oswaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), reminded that his District is 29, not “25” as the Agenda says. He described the COVID-19 relief package legislation that the Congressman supports. PPP [Small Business Paycheck Protection Program; see <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>] loans are available to qualifying applicants.

G. 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; <https://sherman.house.gov>), was not present and there was no report.

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

Stakeholder Richard Fisk, for Alan Sellers, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 818-756-9011; 31934@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station), reported that he met with Capt. Burns and Mr. Khorsand. Some Officers are either out sick or awaiting COVID-19 test results. The Narcotics Division is watching the new cannabis shop on Chatsworth St.; seven are allowed in the Granada Hills area. Many homeless people “do not want any shelter help.” There will be a Feb. 26 “Battle of the Badges” PALS [Police Activity League Supporters] [<https://devonshire-pals.org>] fundraiser. Mr. Turmell noted that a second cannabis shop that recently opened also did not notify the GHSNC as required by the City.

V. Approval January 7, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes.

Ms. Carson noted that the Agenda incorrectly says “January 7, 2020”; “January 7, 2021” was meant and the Minutes show the correct “2021.”

MOTION moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Horn: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [GHSNC] approves the Minutes of its January 7, 2021 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Benedetto, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Lee, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Oliver).

VI. Budget Issues

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

The GHSNC December “Monthly Expenditure Report” was shown and Mr. Schindelheim reviewed it.

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais clarified that the “Pro Printing” expenditure was the down payment for professional printing for the upcoming GHSNC election.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Benedetto, Carson, Horn, Lee, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained. [Later, it was noted that Ms. Bursk was ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.]

VII. Board Issues

- A. Discussion and possible action to authorize an additional \$500.00 for purchase of N-95 masks for a total not to exceed \$2000.00. Masks to be distributed to retail workers in the Granada Hills area (Board previously approved \$1500.00).

Mr. Beauvais requested and it was agreed to withdraw this Item because additional funding is not needed due to the work of Mr. Benedetto and Mr. Smith.

VIII. Committee Reports and Motions

Public Safety

- A. Motion from committee recommending funding for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) submitted by SOLID.in the amount of \$3500.00. Purpose of the grant is to renovate and improve the Devonshire Station gym.

FUNDING MOTION moved by the Public Safety Committee: The GHSNCI will fund a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) submitted by SOLID.in the amount of \$3,500.00. Purpose of the grant is to renovate and improve the Devonshire Station gym.

DISCUSSION: Lori Luszczak, representing SOLID [Supporters of Law enforcement In Devonshire; 818-756-9011, ext. 1200; www.SOLIDDevonshire.org] noted that SOLID is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. She reported that, due to COVID-19, normal fundraising events cannot be held, and that the gym is good for Officers’ “mental health,” too. “The total cost is going to be somewhere between \$20,000 and \$25,000”; SOLID also is asking other NCs and organizations for funding. Mr. Turmell reported that eight LAPD Officers so far have died from the COVID-19 virus. Mr. Beauvais noted that the GHSNC had “about \$23,000” in available funding.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Benedetto, Horn, Lee, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Carson and

Oliver). Ms. Bursk was ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

Report on other January 25 Committee meeting items.

Mr. Turmell reported that the Committee “had a very good meeting.” Jamba Juice [at Granada Village at Chatsworth and Lindley] is partnering to re-design traffic flow for better safety; two LAPD Officers had vehicle accidents there. Jamba Juice’s red-curb idea “was generally rejected by the Committee.” Mr. Beauvais noted that the Starbucks at Chatsworth and Zelzah has a “similar” problem. Mr. Turmell reported that Granada Hills north and south have 5,845 cases of COVID-19 infection and 142 deaths; the death total was in the 90’s last month. He reminded to wear a mask, wash your hands and keep a safe social distance.

Homelessness: Announcement of next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Horn reported that the Committee would meet February 9th and discuss community food resources and other issues. “Michael” was concerned that the City building “tiny homes” for homeless people could encourage people from other cities to come here.

PLUM: Announcement of next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Beauvais reported that Chipotle applied to extend their hours.

Outreach: Report on Election Outreach.

Ms. Toumayan reported that Ms. Ronquillo designed a GHSNC election outreach flyer that was distributed (Mr. Beauvais: in the first and second weeks of January) to 9,000 Stakeholders. Mr. Benedetto reported that 13 candidates have applied; “others are pending.”

Education: Report on January 21 Committee meeting.

Mr. Morris reported that the Library’s Young Adult Librarian leads a program for high school students. Next February 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Seniors: Report on Seniors greeting card project.

Ms. Kolstad was not present; there was no report.

Youth

Ms. Lee reported that she will report at the next meeting.

Beautification: Report on January 25 Committee meeting.

Chair Mr. Amador was not present; there was no report.

Cultural Affairs

Ms. Oliver indicated that there was no report.

President Beauvais resumed as Presiding Officer.

IX. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.

Board Members offered prayers for Bette Biers. Mr. Smith requested adjourning in honor of Jeannie Loneli, a Registered Nurse and Granada Hills resident, and Harry Polakow, a WWII veteran and grocery businessman, who both passed away from the COVID-19 virus. Mr. Horn noted that COVID-19 “is real.” Mr. Beauvais noted other circulating COVID-19 strains may cause “another spike”; he urged those aged 65 and up to see www.VaccinateLACounty.com to set a vaccination appointment. Ms. Bursk reported that, at www.MyTurn.ca.gov, you can enter your zip code to see the closest vaccination sites. Mr. Turmell reminded to “still be careful” after being vaccinated.

X. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Smith.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.
The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:36 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 the GHSNC. The GHSNC Board Meeting Minutes page is <http://www.ghsnc.org/resources/minutes-and-agendas>.