



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, March 4, 2021
APPROVED MINUTES, Approved at May 6, 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.

Document copies were available at www.ghsnc.org and shown online.

Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [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. Twelve of the 16 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Dave Beauvais (President), Michael Benedetto (Vice-President), Bonnie Bursk, Julie Carson (Secretary), John Horn, Rachel Lee, Jerilyn Mendoza, Mark Morris, Emayatzy Oliver, Brad Smith and Colleen Toumayan. Sally Kolstad and Abbey Ronquillo arrived later. Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer) and Ross Turmell were absent (both 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), so the Board could take such votes. Sixteen Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant [At-Large]. Also attended: at least 21 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. In memory of Board Member Bette Biers: GHSNC Board member Bette Biers passed away on February 26, 2021. Bette was a long time resident and activist in Granada Hills, she will be missed. Comments from Stakeholders and Board members.

Mr. Benedetto described Ms. Biers' life and many accomplishments, and proposed having a virtual memorial for Ms. Biers.

Board Member Sally Kolstad arrived at this time (6:56 pm), making 13 Board Members present online.

Many Stakeholders, including Ms. Biers' daughter, and Board Members expressed condolences to Ms. Biers' family and shared memories of Ms. Biers.

IV. Public Comment

Cheri Derohanian, Museum of the San Fernando Valley Board Member, announced that it is moving to the southwest corner of Wilbur and Nordhoff. Their free Artist/Speaker series is on monthly second Saturdays on Zoom. Pilar Schiavo, Co-Founder of the West Valley People's Alliance, reported on the Alliance's work to provide housing for homeless people. Glenn Bailey announced that VANC [the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>] meets second Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.; all are invited to their Zoom meetings. He reported that "the City is not addressing" the problem of NCs that do not have enough candidates for their elections. "The Department [DONE, the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment; 213-978-1551; www.EmpowerLA.org] is talking about changing the rules in the middle of the game."

V. 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), announced that the West Valley Animal Shelter will reopen March 15th as a City-run facility, and the City Council voted to increase grocery workers' pay, though the Councilman voted against it, arguing that the increase could lead to layoffs and/or closures. Appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations for those eligible can be made through the City or County; feel free to contact his office for help. The MyLA2050 grant challenge will give \$1 million to 25 organizations; apply thru April 2nd.

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 [818-374-9890; Freddy.Cupen-Ames@LACity.org], reported that DONE is finalizing its Digital Media Policy, including recognition that AB992 amended the Brown Act regarding government organizations and social

media. He will email information regarding “the Board seating policy”; it will offer NCs “the option” to use “the 2019 policy or the 2021 policy.” He cautioned that he might email updated information this night; “this is being changed consistently.” He added that “this Council has been chosen by the City Clerk to not need an election.” Mr. Beauvais explained that there are 17 Candidates for the 17 Board Seats. Mr. Beauvais announced that the GHSNC will have a Special Board Meeting before April 1st to discuss and possibly take action regarding election issues.

Mr. Cupen-Ames reported that BONC [the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners] adopted a “civility” policy. He encouraged appointing at least two volunteers for the Regional Grievance Panel. He urged Board Members who haven’t “to update their Funding training”; their will be a March 23rd training.

E. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).

Mr. Allen reported that the Advocates [<http://ncbala.com>] will have a Budget Day in April. “The City is still in its financial crisis . . . there are people leaving . . . [and the City] cannot fill those positions . . .

F. Congressional District 29 (Osvaldo Ramirez).

Osvaldo Ramirez, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (ofc. 818-221-3718; cell 818-388-0685; Osvaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov; <http://cardenas.house.gov>), was not present and there was no report.

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).

Phillip 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 crime statistics. He urged storing vehicles in garages, if possible, to avoid catalytic converters being stolen. Email him for online community meeting information. Regarding 16557 Bircher, “multiple City agencies have been working on this issue . . . They have [been] issued a Citation . . . Warrants [were] issued.” Regarding the Devonshire and Balboa southeast corner, the Police are working on the problem of “debris left on the sidewalks.” Arrests were made regarding problems in the alleyway behind the Ralph’s Market. Many residents have complained. Officer Sellers noted that “a lot of the tools that we used in years past to address these kinds of issues have been taken away from us.”

John Parker, another Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer [mobile/text phone 818-832-0773; office 818-832-0633; 36560@LAPD.LACity.org], reported that the Devonshire Division is third lowest of the 21 LAPD Divisions regarding violent crime. Theft, “mostly petty theft” is the biggest problem, especially regarding the Target store; “we’re working with their Loss Prevention” staff; some homeless people have been caught and arrested for theft. If you have no garage in which to store your vehicle, to prevent catalytic converter theft a muffler shop can weld a protective piece around it; Toyota Prius’ especially have been targeted. Converter replacement can cost up to \$3,500. Criminals were arrested who robbed at least one Postal worker. Mr. Fisk noted that, for minor traffic accidents, Officers no longer will be sent to the scene; the accident must be reported online if needed.

- I. Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Group update.
Mr. Benedetto disagreed with some things that the L.A. County Department of Public Health has done regarding the 2015 111-day blowout. Mr. Allen has “mini-Town Halls every Monday night,” which he encouraged attending. He believed a “patient-centered study” is needed to help determine short and long-term health effects. See AlisoHealthStudy.org. Later, Charlene Contraras reported that community feedback “is going to help draft a goals and priorities document”; scientists will be consulted.

VI. Approval of February 2, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes.

Ms. Carson noted that the Meeting was February 4, not “February 2.”

MOTION moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Morris: The GHSNC approves the Minutes of its February 4, 2021 General Board Meeting as written.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived by this time (8:17 pm), 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, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

VII. Budget Issues

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

It was noted that the Report is for January 2021, not January “2020.” Mr. Beauvais reviewed and explained the GHSNC “Monthly Expenditure Report.”

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Benedetto: The GHSNC approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2021.

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, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

VIII. Board Issues

- A. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$3500 to PALs. Grant to be used to expand services and programs to youth in the North San Fernando Valley.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Benedetto: The GHSNC approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$3,500 to PALs. Grant to be used to expand services and programs to youth in the North San Fernando Valley.

DISCUSSION: Millie Jones, a Board Member of the PALS [Police Activity League Supporters; <https://devonshire-pals.org>], a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides youth services that “help all of our community.” The Grant would help three PALS programs, which she described. There have been budget cuts; fundraising has been and will be done. Other NCs also will be requested to provide funding. Before the COVID pandemic, PALS served 150 children per day; it is slowly coming back. Brad Klimovitch said “PALs is a fabulous organization.” Mr. Amador preferred that funding be given to “restorative justice” work.

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

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

Homelessness: Announcement of next meeting/event on March 16, 2021.

Mr. Horn reported that the Committee met in February; homelessness in Granada Hills was discussed. He believed that homelessness problems will be solved “by providing more housing,” not by arresting people.

PLUM: Announcement of next scheduled meeting.

Ms. Lopez indicated that there was no report at this time; the Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 17th.

Outreach: Report on Election Outreach, possible Candidate Forum scheduled March 18, 2021.

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

Education: Report on February 18 committee meeting.

Mr. Morris reported on the meeting. The Committee meets monthly third Thursdays.

Seniors: Report on Seniors greeting card project.

Ms. Kolstad reported that more seniors' greeting cards will be delivered March 20th. She encouraged emailing her with more seniors' names to which to send cards.

Youth: Report on Civics Delivered outreach project.

Ms. Lee showed a flier and reported on the March 13th event. Luca Lin explained the event is "to promote civic engagement with the youth of our community." There was discussion and offers to assist with event outreach.

Beautification.

Mr. Amador reported that the Committee met in January and discussed "delivery of items" in "collaboration with the Sanitation Department."

Public Safety

Mr. Beauvais reported for Mr. Turmell about COVID-19 protection masks.

X. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.

Many Board Members thanked everyone for their work. Mr. Benedetto requested that the Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Group be Agendized to present at the next Board meeting.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN moved by Ms. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Morris).

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:05 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>.