



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, April 1, 2021
APPROVED Minutes, Approved at May 6, 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).

Vice-President Mike Benedetto called the Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Colleen Toumayan.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven 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), Rachel Lee, Jerilyn Mendoza, Mark Morris, Abbey Ronquillo, Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer) and Colleen Toumayan. Brad Smith and Ross Turmell arrived later. John Horn (excused), Sally Kolstad (unexcused) and Emayatzy Oliver (unexcused) were absent. New At-Large Seat Board Member Chavon Smith was appointed to the Board during below Item #VII. A. The GHSNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) was 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 30 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

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], was not present at this time and there was no report.

- 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 “Health Site Support Aides” are being staffed at schools and more are being hired; applicants are sought. The “2021 Sponsor a Graduate” program sponsors high school graduates; sponsors are sought.
- 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], reminded that Board Members who need to recuse from a vote due to a conflict of interest need to leave the meeting room. Land use planning and also funding trainings are available.
- E. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)
Mr. Allen reported that the BA’s [<http://BudgetAdvocates.org>] reported that the federal government will distribute \$1.3 billion to the City.
- 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).
[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Javier’s report.*] 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 statistics for himself and Officer John Parker’s areas. It is encouraged, regarding homelessness issues, to call 3-1-1 (L.A. City) or 2-1-1 (L.A. County). He said “we’re doing what we can” regarding that. If someone blocks a business entrance, the Police might handle it as “a trespassing issue”; which he explained in detail. Resident Lisa Carothers expressed thanks for Officer Sellers’ help. He described his and other Officer’s years-long relationships built with many homeless people and said “we deal with the homeless as humanely as we can”; he distinguished those “traditional homeless” people from others, many of whom have drug and mental health problems.

Javier, a Deputy for State 38th District Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares (661-286-1565; <https://ad38.asmrc.org>) reported that many Granada Hills South residents have contacted their office for help with various issues, including unemployment benefits and State taxes.

V. Approval of March 4, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes.

Mr. Beauvais requested and it was agreed to wait until the May Board Meeting to approve the Minutes.

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

VI. Budget Issues

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

Mr. Schindelheim showed a slide and reviewed the report.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Ms. Mendoza: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [GHSNC] approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for February 2021.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Carson, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (Bursk).

B. Reallocation of Budget categories, moving \$12,000 from Outreach and Operations to Neighborhood Purpose Grants.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Morris: The GHSNC reallocates budget categories, moving \$12,000 from Outreach and Operations to Neighborhood Purpose Grants.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais explained the Motion.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Carson, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (Bursk).

VII. Board Issues

A. Board confirmation of appointment of Chavon Smith to the vacant board position.

Mr. Beauvais explained this.

MOTION moved by Mr. Amador, seconded by Mr. Benedetto: The GHSNC confirms the appointment of Chavon Smith to the vacant Board position.

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

New Board Member Chavon Smith was Seated at this time, making 12 Board Members present online.

Chavon Smith expressed her appreciation for the support and the opportunity.

- B. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$3500 to the North Valley YMCA. Grant to be used to purchase items for Kid’s Health Day scheduled for May 1, 2021.

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Ms. Mendoza: The GHSNC approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$3,500 to the North Valley YMCA. Grant to be used to purchase items for Kid’s Health Day scheduled for May 1, 2021.

DISCUSSION: Jane Stanton, of the North Valley Family YMCA (818-368-3231; [<http://www.ymcala.org/north-valley>]), explained the event. Last year 250 bags were distributed; this year, 500 are planned to be distributed. Facey, UCLA and Kaiser are among the sponsors.

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

Mr. Beauvais recommended that, due to the amount of funding requests at this meeting, this and other funding requests be reduced. Ms. Carothers believed the request should be fully funded.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Ms. Carson: The GHSNC approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$2,300 to the North Valley YMCA. Grant to be used to purchase items for Kid’s Health Day scheduled for May 1, 2021.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais explained GHSNC financial procedures. Stakeholder Michael Jordan believed the request should be fully funded.

Board Members Brad Smith (at 7:55) and Ross Turmell (at 7:56) arrived at this time, making 14 Board Members present online.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Benedetto, Carson, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Smith and Turmell); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Amador and Toumayan); two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Bursk and Schindelheim). Chavon Smith’s name was not called.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto,

Carson, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Bursk). Chavon Smith was ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

President Beauvais resumed as Presiding Officer.

- C. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$5000 for ongoing homeless services including PPE for staff and volunteers, Homeless Resource Guides, hygiene kits, food containers and rapid covid test kits for staff, volunteers and clients.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$5,000 for ongoing homeless services including PPE for staff and volunteers, Homeless Resource Guides, hygiene kits, food containers and rapid COVID test kits for staff, volunteers and clients.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Turmell): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$3,800 for [**JC CONFIRM WORDING:** __] ongoing homeless services including PPE for staff and volunteers, Homeless Resource Guides, hygiene kits, food containers and rapid COVID test kits for staff, volunteers and clients.

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

DISCUSSION: Laura Rathbone, Director of the Safe Parking Program for North Valley Caring Services, explained the Program. LAHSA and the City funds their “non-profit agency.” Mr. Beauvais indicated that the Board had an opportunity to review the Grant application. Ms. Rathbone explained that each funding source designates specific uses for their funding. Her organization is, “for 28 years,” a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Board Member Rachel Lee had stepped out by this time, making 13 Board Members present online.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Benedetto, Carson, Morris, Brad Smith and Turmell); [**JC CONFIRM: __ I THINK YOU SAID “FIVE”**] four opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Amador, Mendoza, Ronquillo and Toumayan); two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Bursk and Schindelheim). Chavon Smith was ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith noted that no IRS determination letter was attached to the application. Mr. Beauvais said “we have those documents.”

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Carson, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Brad Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Bursk). Chavon Smith was ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

President Beauvais resumed as Presiding Officer.

- D. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to Vintage Magnet Elementary School in the amount of 3084.96 to purchase materials for a Robotics Team start-up.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Carson): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to Vintage Magnet Elementary School in the amount of \$3,084.96 to purchase materials for a Robotics Team start-up.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais confirmed that Vintage is in the GHSNC’s southeast corner. Vintage Principal Nancy Williams-Mourao described the Team’s accomplishments and importance. Current and former Team Members introduced themselves and explained how the Team helps and helped them learn life skills. Rosio Chatham, PTA President, described the Team’s work. A short video was shown of the Team’s participation in a world championship competition. Ms. Vahdani supported the Team. Parent Silvia Darie supported the funding request and noted that the Team went to the VEXIq Worlds Championship in 2019.

Board Member Rachel Lee had returned by this time, making 14 Board Members present online.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Beauvais, Benedetto, Carson, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Brad Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Bursk). Chavon Smith was ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

- E. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$4400 to the Granada Hills Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to purchase new signage and a sound system.

Mr. Benedetto recused from voting (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest (he is a member of the VFW Auxillary) and left the meeting at this time, making 13 Board Members present and eligible to vote. Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote “yes” or “no.”

FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Turmell: The GHSNC approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$4,400 to the Granada

Hills Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to purchase new signage and a sound system.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Smith: The GHSNC revises the amount to \$3,200 in funding.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Klimovitch, of VFW Post 2323, explained that the signage “is over 40 years old . . . that’s a two-sided sign . . . we also support other community-based organizations,” some of which he listed. He described a number of community services the Post provides. Also, “we open [the Post] up for other people to use . . . we need a public address system for these events.” He “is going into his fourth year as Commander” of the Post. Matt Vallecilla, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org; www.CD12.org], described a veterans-honoring program on which CD12 is working. Mr. Klimovitch explained that the Post is a 501(c)19 operating “under the umbrella” of the VFW’s national foundation 501(c)3 non-profit status. Mr. Amador was concerned about funding an organization that serves alcohol. Mr. Beauvais explained that the City indicated that they would not know whether the funding is allowed until they review the application. Mr. Klimovitch noted that another Neighborhood Council has had funding approved to allocate to the VFW.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Carson, Lee, Mendoza, Morris, Ronquillo, Schindelheim, Brad Smith and Toumayan, Turmell); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Amador); zero abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Bursk). Chavon Smith was ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training. One recused (Benedetto).

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Carson, Morris, Schindelheim, Brad Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); four opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Amador, Lee, Mendoza and Ronquillo); one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Bursk). Chavon Smith was ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training. One recused (Benedetto).

Mr. Benedetto, who had recused from voting, returned to the meeting at this time, making 14 Board Members present online.

VIII. Committee Reports and Motions

Homelessness Report on March 23, 2021 meeting/upcoming event.

Mr. Benedetto reported that speaker Laura Craft gave an excellent talk about homeless services work.

PLUM: Announcement of next scheduled meeting.

Ms. Lopez reported that the Committee will meet on the third Wednesday.

Outreach

Ms. Toumayan indicated that there was no report at this time.

Seniors Report on Seniors greeting card project.

Mr. Benedetto reported on “absolutely free . . . federally funded” easy-to-read phones that will be available.

Youth Report on Civics Delivered Summit held on March 13, 2021.

Ms. Lee reported that “the event went really well”; “around 30 students” and “six guest speakers” attended. Mr. Beauvais said it was “very, very educational.”

Beautification.

Mr. Amador reported that Scott Harmon, of the City’s Urban Forestry Department, is working to care for the Deodar trees.

Public Safety

Mr. Turmell reported that Charles Landon, Director of this area’s Jamba Juice stores, will discuss traffic issues with the Committee.

Education

Mr. Morris reported that the Committee would meet April 15th.

IX. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.

Board Members thanked each other for their support. Mr. Benedetto noted that the Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Group and the West Valley Alliance on Homelessness will each be meeting.

X. Adjournment

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:33 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>.