



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, May 6, 2021  
APPROVED MINUTES, Approved at June 3, 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](http://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 6:36 p.m.

**II. Roll Call** (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Twelve of the 17 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Dave Beauvais (President), Michael Benedetto (VicePresident), Bonnie Bursk, Julie Carson (Secretary), John Horn, Sally Kolstad, Mark

Morris, Emayatzy Oliver, Brandon Schindelheim (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan and Ross Turmell. Abbey Ronquillo arrived later. Four Board Members were absent: Carlos Amador (excused), Rachel Lee (excused), Jerilyn Mendoza (excused) and Chavon Smith (excused). 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](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: approximately seven Stakeholders and Guests.

**III. Public Comment**

Stakeholder Brian said that there still is a trash mess by the El Pollo Loco even though the redesign was completed; he wanted to know if there was any follow-up. Resident Mark Hovatar was concerned about homeless belongings spread around on Chatsworth St.; said that homeless encampments by the Jack-in-the-Box would be removed; and said there was a 600-signature petition regarding the

encampments. Resident Richard Fisk announced that Granada Hills Charter High School won the national academic decathlon.

#### **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)], reported that the Councilman's office was accepting applications until May 15th for the Military Home Town Heroes program. CD12's Annual Citrus Harvest drive-up program is in progress. He did not know where 17 motor homes went that were near CD12 office. The GHSNC's tiny homes recommendation was sent for review; it was determined that it's not a feasible location because of the Fire Station in front of it and the activity there.

##### **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 present and there was no report.

##### **C. Mayor's Office (Vahid Khorsand)**

Vahid Khorsand, West Area Representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti (323-5526730; [Vahid.Khorsand@LACity.org](mailto: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](mailto:Freddy.Cupen-Ames@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)], reported that the GHSNC's final check payment will be June 1<sup>st</sup>, and June 20th for bank card transactions. The GHSNC can roll over \$10,000 to next year's budget. Board Member training links were sent to new Board Members. Three new required trainings were added; he will send links when they're available. Live trainings also will be available. City Council File #21-0600 is the Mayor's Budget. The Congress of Neighborhoods will be held in September. Board Meetings still must be virtual, but hybrid models may soon be possible; it depends on the Governor's orders.

##### **E. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)**

Mr. Allen reported that the BA's [<http://BudgetAdvocates.org>] indicated that there was not much to report. They'll meet August 21<sup>st</sup>.

##### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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).

John Parker, a Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer [mobile/text phone 818-832-0773; office 818-832-0633; [36560@LAPD.LACity.org](mailto:36560@LAPD.LACity.org); [http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station)], reported crime statistics. Devonshire crime is down 16.6% from last year at this time: there were 1,653 crimes at this time last year and 1,378 this year. Violent crimes are up 8.6% (202 this year, 186 last year). Top crimes are burglary and theft from motor vehicles. Submit illegal fireworks addresses to [36560@lapd.online](mailto:36560@lapd.online).

I. Presentation by Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Group.

It was reported that, more than five years ago, a 118-day gas blowout spewed dangerous toxins; the Group is trying to find out what chemicals came out of the ground during that time. [See [AlisoHealthStudy.org](http://AlisoHealthStudy.org).] The Group asked the L.A. County Department of Public Health and the County Supervisors to subpoena the information from the Gas Company. The Group's representative said they need a patient-centric approach to this. Board Members asked questions.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VII. A.*

J. Presentation by Clear Captions on free phones to seniors Reginald Gregorio (818-334-2810) presented.

*Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived online at (7:21), making 13 Board Members present online.*

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

**MOTION** moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Smith: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 4, 2021 General Board Meeting as written.

*Board Member Schindelheim left by this time, making 12 Board Members present online.*

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Beauvais, Benedetto, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

## **Approval of March 18, 2021 Special Meeting minutes.**

**MOTION** moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Ms. Toumayan: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 18, 2021 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Benedetto, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; zero abstained.

## **Approval of April 1, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes**

**MOTION** moved by Ms. Carson, seconded by Ms. Toumayan: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 1, 2021 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Benedetto, Bursk, Carson, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; one abstained (Horn).

## **VI. Budget Issues**

A. Approval of Budget report and Monthly Expenditures for March, 2021.

**FUNDING MOTION** moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benedetto: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2021.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Benedetto, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; one abstained (Bursk).

## **VII. Board Issues**

A. Discussion and possible action to submit a vote of “no confidence” in the ACDHRS (Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study) based on information provided to us from the Department of Public Health, the Community Advisory Group and individual stakeholders, including the removal (on Feb 3, 2021) of the community’s most trusted advocate, from the Scientific Oversight Committee.

**MOTION** moved by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Morris: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council submits a vote of “no confidence” in the ACDHRS (Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study) based on information provided to us from the Department of Public Health, the Community Advisory Group and

individual stakeholders, including the removal (on Feb 3, 2021) of the community's most trusted advocate, from the Scientific Oversight Committee.

**DISCUSSION:** There was public and Board discussion. It was noted that the Porter Ranch, Chatsworth, and Granada Hills North Neighborhood Councils all have passed similar Motions.

**MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Beauvais, Benedetto, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Kolstad, Morris, Oliver, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Turmell); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Smith).

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. J.*

- B. Discussion and possible action to recognize the United Coalition to End Homelessness, including the use of the GHSNC logo on UCEH materials and approving Mike Benedetto and Colleen Toumayan as liaisons to UCEH.

**MOTION** moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council recognizes the United Coalition to End Homelessness, including the use of the GHSNC logo on UCEH materials and approving Mike Benedetto and Colleen Toumayan as liaisons to UCEH.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Benedetto explained issues and described the many organizations participating. He and Ms. Toumayan would recuse from voting if there was a potential or actual conflict of interest. UCEH has applied but is not yet a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Board members suggested that Mr. Benedetto contact the City Attorney and DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment; 818-374-9890; [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)] regarding whether joining such an alliance was acceptable. Some Board Members were concerned about the use of the GHSNC logo.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** moved by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Morris: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council recognizes the United Coalition to End Homelessness and approves Mike Benedetto and Colleen Toumayan as liaisons to UCEH.

*Board Member Emayatzy Oliver had left by this time, making 11 Board Members present online.*

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with four in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Beauvais, Benedetto, Morris and Toumayan); three opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Carson, Smith and Turmell); four abstained (Bursk, Horn, Kolstad and Ronquillo).

**AMENDED MOTION FAILED** by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with four in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Morris, Ronquillo and Toumayan); six opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Beauvais, Bursk, Carson, Horn, Smith and Turmell); one abstained (Kolstad).

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

PLUM

[*This paragraph is copied from the Agenda.*] Report on April 14, 2021 meeting and motion from the committee: The PLUM Committee recommends the board [see the below Motion].

**MOTION** (by the Planning and Land Use Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will write to Councilperson John Lee and the Department of Cannabis Regulation objecting to the proposed marijuana dispensary at 17719 Chatsworth Street for the following reasons:

- Owners/operators have failed to apply for a license.
- Owners/operators have failed to notify property occupants within 500 feet of their intent to open a marijuana dispensary as required.
- Owners/operators have failed to notify Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council as required.
- Owners/operators have failed to schedule a community meeting for the general public as required.
- Owners/operators have failed to notify the Granada Hills Business Improvement District as required.
- Owners/operators are in violation of the Granada Hills/Knollwood Specific Plan in that they have not followed the Specific Plan requirements in their remodel.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Smith explained the above and that much research was done about this. Mr. Turmell described the proximity of nearby schools and businesses, including those that provide addiction recovery services. Mr. Benedetto noted that “far more” retrofitting was done by the owners/operators than was permitted, and that elected officials were notified “over a year ago” and have not responded.

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

Cultural Affairs [This report was added.]

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

## Outreach

Mr. Benedetto and Ms. Toumayan indicated that there was no report.

## Homelessness: Report on meeting/upcoming event

Mr. Horn reported that the Committee soon will meet again.

## Education: Report on April 15, 2021 meeting

Mr. Morris reported that the Committee discussed re-openings. The Committee will meet again May 20th at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Beauvais added that LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson [ofc. 818-654-3785; <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>] will attend the next Board Meeting.

## Seniors

Ms. Kolstad reported that Spring greeting cards “went over really big”; seniors display them and the GHSNC was thanked.

## Youth

Mr. Beauvais noted that Ms. Lee was not present and there was no report.

## Beautification

Mr. Beauvais noted that Mr. Amador could not attend this Meeting and there was no report at this time.

## Public Safety

Mr. Turmell reported that he asked the LADOT to review the Jamba Juice traffic situation and that the Jamba Juice manager “has stopped communicating with me . . . it definitely is a dangerous drive-through there.” Also, he still is working on obtaining masks that the GHSNC funded.

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

Ms. Ronquillo appreciated how involved Board Members are in community service. Ms. Toumayan thanked “teachers in our community.” Mr. Turmell reminded everyone to “keep your distance, wear a mask, even if you’re vaccinated . . . stay safe.” Ms. Carson was proud of how the GHSNC funds community causes. Mr. Beauvais thanked everyone for their patience and urged everyone to “please get vaccinated.”

## X. Adjournment

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

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

Mr. Beauvais noted that the newly-elected Board will be Seated at the July 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting and declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:19 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/minutesand-agendas>.*