



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, July 1, 2021
Approved August 5, 2021

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 (DONE NEA)

Outgoing President Dave Beauvais called the Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call (DONE NEA)

Roll Call was taken by Freddy Cupen-Ames, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE; 818-374-9890; Freddy.Cupen-Ames@LACity.org www.EmpowerLA.org]. Thirteen of the 17 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto, John Horn, Michael Jordan, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Christine LaMonica, Emayatzy Oliver, Carolyn Sanderson, Chantal Serrano, Chavon Smith, Brad Smith and Colleen Toumayan. Launa Bogartz and Abbey Ronquillo arrived later. Verej Isanians (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) was 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.

III. Administration of Oath of Office for incoming Board (outgoing President)

Board Member Launa Bogartz arrived online by this time (6:42), making 14 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

Mr. Beauvais administered the Oath of Office to Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto, Launa Bogartz, John Horn, Michael Jordan, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Christine LaMonica, Emayatzy Oliver, Abbey Ronquillo, Carolyn Sanderson, Chantal Serrano, Brad Smith and Colleen Toumayan.

IV. Election of New Officers

President (DONE NEA)

Mr. Jordan nominated Mike Benedetto as President. Ms. Oliver nominated John Horn as President; Mr. Horn declined the nomination.

Ms. Toumayan spoke in support of Mr. Benedetto.

Mike Benedetto received 10 votes for President (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); one opposed (Oliver); three abstained (Horn, Karam and Chavon Smith).

Mike Benedetto was elected as GHSNC President.

Mr. Cupen-Ames turned over the Presiding Officership to newly-elected President Benedetto at this time.

Vice President (President)

Ms. Kolstad nominated and Mr. Amador seconded nominating Colleen Toumayan as Vice-President. Ms. Oliver nominated Carlos Amador as Vice-President; Mr. Amador declined the nomination.

Colleen Toumayan received 11 votes for Vice-President (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Oliver, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; three abstained (Horn, Karam and Chavon Smith).

Colleen Toumayan was elected as GHSNC Vice-President.

Secretary (President)

There were no volunteers or nominations for Secretary.

Treasurer (President)

Mr. Benedetto nominated and Ms. Kolstad seconded nominating Launa Bogartz as Treasurer. There were no other nominations.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived online at this time (7:04), making 15 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

Launa Bogartz received 12 votes for Treasurer (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Oliver, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; three abstained (Horn, Karam and Chavon Smith).

Launa Bogartz was elected as GHSNC Treasurer.

V. Appointment of Financial Officers of the Board

Neighborhood Council Bank Card Holder
Second Card Holder
Second Signer

MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Colleen Toumayan as Bank Card Holder; Mike Benedetto as Second Card Holder; and Colleen Toumayan as Second Signer.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Oliver, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; three abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Horn, Karam and Chavon Smith).

Alternate Signer (optional)

Chavon Smith and Sally Kolstad were nominated as Alternate Signer.

Chavon Smith received eight votes (Amador, Jordan, LaMonica, Oliver, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Chavon Smith); Sally Kolstad received four votes (Benedetto, Bogartz, Kolstad and Toumayan; three abstained (Horn, Karam and Serrano).

Chavon Smith was appointed as GHSNC Alternate Signer.

VII. Appointment and board approval of Committee Chairs and members.

[The Agenda showed that this Item #VII followed #V; there are two #VII's.]

Mr. Benedetto appointed the following Committee Chairs:

Education: Abbey Ronquillo;
Planning and Land Use Management: Jerilyn Mendoza;
Public Safety: Brad Smith;
Outreach: Colleen Toumayan;
Beautification: Carlos Amador;
Seniors: Sally Kolstad;
Cultural Affairs: Emayatzy Oliver; and
Homelessness: John Horn.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints the following Committee Chairs:

Education: Abbey Ronquillo;
Planning and Land Use Management: Jerilyn Mendoza;
Public Safety: Brad Smith;
Outreach: Colleen Toumayan;
Beautification: Carlos Amador;
Seniors: Sally Kolstad;
Cultural Affairs: Emayatzy Oliver; and
Homelessness: John Horn.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Mark Morris supported Ms. Ronquillo as the Education Chair. Mr. Cupen-Ames noted that the PLUM Committee Chair, if they haven't already, needs to complete Planning 101 Training.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with 13 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Jordan, Kolstad, LaMonica, Oliver, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Chavon Smith, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Horn and Karam).

VI. Public Comment

Brian Allen, of the Aliso Canyon Community Advisory Group (CAG) reported that some members don't believe the County Department of Public Health study; the members established a non-profit organization to conduct a separate health study and will have Town Hall meetings on August 14th and 16th. Stakeholder Mark Morris offered to continue as Education Liaison; Mr. Benedetto will Agendize this for the next Board Meeting.

VII. 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 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>], 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)

Mr. Cupen-Ames reported that funding training will be offered. The Congress of Neighborhoods will be Saturday, September 25th. Regarding fireworks, he

reminded that “any and all types are illegal to use or sell within the City of L.A.” He said that fireworks especially affect “pets, vets and kids.” He encouraged taking an online illegal fireworks survey at <http://surveys.mysafela.org/index.php/642974?lang=en>. Report illegal fireworks at <https://complaint.lacity.org/Complaint/fireworks>. Mr. Cupen-Ames will email document templates to the Board.

E. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen reported for the BA’s [<http://BudgetAdvocates.org>].

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)

Stakeholder Richard Fisk, for 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 that Patrol Captain Weber was replaced by Anthony Espinoza, who starts August 1st. Mr. Fisk later added that the Devonshire Division will have a “ride around” to spot potential fire hazards.

Board Member Launa Bogartz left at this time (7:49), making 14 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

VIII. Approval of minutes from June 3, 2021 Regular Meeting.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 3, 2021 Regular Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Oliver, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Chavon Smith, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Horn).

Approval of minutes from June 22, 2021 Special Meeting.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 22, 2021 Special Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Oliver, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Chavon Smith, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Horn).

IX. Board Member comments and submission of agenda items.

Mr. Amador said that the Beautification Committee will discuss watering of the deodar trees on White Oak; it is being coordinated with the City Urban Forestry Department. Board Members expressed interest and appreciation for new and former Board Members. Brad Smith reported that the LADOT is considering “improvements” at Jamba Juice at Lindley and Chatsworth; he encouraged contacting him with questions. Ms. Kolstad and Mr. Benedetto thanked Mr. Beauvais for “years and years of service” to the GHSNC and the community. Mr. Benedetto will propose a Retreat to educate the Board; Mr. Cupen-Ames agreed to participate. Mr. Benedetto announced that the Granada Hills Street Faire will be in October; the holiday tree lighting will be December 3rd and the Holiday Parade will be December 5th.

X. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Ms. Kolstad).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:11 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>.