



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, October 7, 2021  
Approved December 2, 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 [https://ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Agenda\\_2021-10-07.pdf](https://ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Agenda_2021-10-07.pdf) 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**

President Mike Benedetto called the Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Michael Jordan.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven of the 16 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador (Secretary), Mike Benedetto (President), Launa Bogartz (Treasurer), Michael Jordan, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Jerilyn López Mendoza, Carolyn Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). John Horn and Christine LaMonica arrived later. Verej Isanians (unexcused), Abbey Ronquillo (unexcused) and Chantal Serrano (excused) were absent. Emayatzy Oliver had resigned. 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. Sixteen Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant [At-Large]; to apply, see [www.ghsnc.org](http://www.ghsnc.org). Also attended: approximately 17 Stakeholders and Guests.

**III. Public Comment**

Susan Levi, of the Granada Hills BID [Business Improvement District; <https://www.granadahillsbid.com>; <https://business.facebook.com/GranadaHillsBID>], wanted to coordinate with the GHSNC on watering the Cedar Deodar trees on White Oak. Alessandra Gonzales, of One Generation [[AGonzales@OneGeneration.org](mailto:AGonzales@OneGeneration.org)], announced a Nov. 6th family event. Resident Mark Hovatar wanted a Devonshire St. cleanup video he made to be posted on the website and said the website's "next page" function was not working.

*Board Member John Horn arrived online by 6:40, making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

*Public Comment continued after Jason Maruca's Item #IV report.*

Stakeholder John Hales noted a long-time lack of mental health facilities available, and the unwillingness of many companies to hire senior citizens.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #V.*

#### **IV. Community Speakers**

**A. Congressman Brad Sherman**

U.S. 30th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; [www.Sherman.House.gov](http://www.Sherman.House.gov)) noted services available including IRS, passport and small business financial aid. He explained legislation and procedures regarding the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, the federal budget, and immigration and more. He will have a Town Hall Meeting November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. His now-former Field Deputy Mikely Lowery was replaced by Kimberly Caseres; John Alford still works with him.

**B. LAUSD District 3 (Tammy Remirezi, Scott Schmerlson)**

Ms. Remirezi was not present and there was no report for LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerlson [ofc. 818-654-3785; <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>]

**C. 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 there was a \$1.8 billion settlement of the 2015 "methane blow-out"; the Councilman "will continue to advocate . . . for a closure of the facility" so that "their health and safety is prioritized." Mr. Vallecilla noted the Councilman's legislation to ban import of non-recyclable printer ink cartridges, which are toxic and could take a thousand years to decompose.

**D. Mayor's Office**

Mr. Benedetto noted that Vaheed was no longer with the Mayor's Office. There was no report.

**E. 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 there would be a Code of Conduct information session on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Board Members may receive emails from Cornerstone regarding technical problems; you may be requested to reset your user name and password. The BONC [the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; [Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)] Digital Media Policy was drafted; they are considering public comment and more sought.

F. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen encouraged volunteers to help the BAs [<http://BudgetAdvocates.org>] meet with City Departments regarding their budgets and services.

G. Congressional District 29 (Osvaldo Ramirez)

Mr. Benedetto reported that Osvaldo Ramirez no longer works with U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas [ofc. 818-221-3718; cell 818-388-0685; <http://cardenas.house.gov>].

H. Congressional District 30 (Mikalye Lowrey)

See above Item #IV. A.

I. 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](mailto:31934@LAPD.LACity.org); [http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station)], reported that the new Mayor's Representative is Erin Seinfeld. There have been increased property crimes, including of vehicle catalytic converters.

Jason Maruca, Assistant Field Deputy for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Kathryn Barger [office 818-993-5170; [JMaruca@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:JMaruca@bos.LACounty.gov); <https://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/kathryn-barger>], reported on declining COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic hospitalizations and new L.A. City mask-wearing requirements. County employees must be vaccinated. The Homelessness Commission is making reform recommendations. He spoke regarding Men's Central Jail concerns.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was continued Item #III. Public Comment.*

**V. Approval of Sept 2, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes.**

*Mr. Benedetto turned over the Presiding Officership to Vice-President Toumayan at this time. Also, Board Members Christine LaMonica arrived at and Launa Bogartz had stepped away by this time (7:30), keeping 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

**MOTION** (by Mr. Karam, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the September 2, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Mendoza, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

*Mr. Benedetto resumed as the Presiding Officer.*

## **VI. Board Issues**

- A. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$2,500 YMCA Thanksgiving Baskets - Jane Stanton.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Horn, seconded by Mr. Karam): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$2,500 for YMCA Thanksgiving Baskets.

**DISCUSSION:** David Hartmire, new YMCA Director [North Valley Family YMCA; 818-368-3231; [<http://www.ymcala.org/north-valley>], thanked the GHSNC for its previous support. He described the basket distribution procedure that started last year due to the pandemic.

*Board Member Jerilyn Mendoza left at 8:00, making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).*

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- B. Presentation by Dave Brown – Ham Radios’.

Mr. Brown said ham radios “work better than they ever did.” He described ham radio’s importance, especially if cell phone towers become inoperable, such as after an earthquake, and training available. “The 5 W’s” are “1) Who are you calling?; 2) Who are you?; 3) Where are you?; 4) What do you have; and 5) What do you need?” Mr. Brown noted that ham radios are part of CERT [Community Emergency Response Team; 818-756-9674; [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com), [lafdcert@LACity.org](mailto:lafdcert@LACity.org)] training. Also see the Neighborhood Team Program (NTP) at <https://join.ntp-la.org> and <https://training.ntp-la.org>; recent NTP presentations include <https://www.socalprep.us/resources> and <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL20o9XUbatGp4CTo56UloRkN03cX3t114>

- C. Approval of June’s 2021 MER.

Mr. Benedetto explained and there was extensive discussion of the need. Mr. Cupen-Ames showed this and other MERs online.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for June 2021.

*Board Member Sally Kolstad was unavailable to vote at this time, making 10 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Chavon Smith).

D. Approval of July’s 2021 MERs.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Mr. Karam): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for July 2021.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Chavon Smith).

E. Approval of August’s MERs.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for August 2021.

*Board Member Sally Kolstad was again available to vote at this time, making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Sanderson, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Jordan, and Chavon Smith).

F. Approval of September’s MERs.

**MOTION to TABLE** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council TABLES approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report for September 2021.

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

**VII. A. Appointment of Committee Members and confirmation.**

**B. Remove Chavon Smith from Public Safety.**

Mr. Benedetto noted that Ms. Smith requested the removal due to a time conflict.

**C. Appointment of Chavon Smith to Chair Cultural Affairs.**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Chavon Smith to Chair Cultural Affairs.

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

D. Discussion and possible appointment for Treasurer.

There was no volunteer at this time.

### **VIII. Budget Issues**

A. NONE

### **Committee Motions and Reports**

#### **Beautification Committee**

Mr. Amador indicated that there was no report.

#### **Cultural Affairs Committee**

Mr. Karam will email information to Committee Members.

#### **Outreach Committee**

A. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$5,000 for Outreach events, Street Fair, Parade, Tree Lighting, Holiday Egg Hunt, Movie Night in the Park, etc.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$5,000 for promotional items for outreach events such as the Street Fair, Parade, Tree Lighting, Holiday Egg Hunt and Movie Night in the Park.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Toumayan explained the use.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Sanderson).

B. Discussion of the Granada Hills Street Fair on Saturday October 23rd and the manning of 2 shifts. The Fair hours are from 10:00AM to 5:00PM. We need to get there by 8 am to set up.

Mr. Smith volunteered. Ms. Toumayan will email a sign-up sheet.

C. Discussion of Granada Hills Tree Lighting on Dec 3rd and our participation.

Mr. Benedetto described the long-time community event.

D. Discussion of Granada Hills Parade to take place on Dec 5th regarding arrangements for our participation.

Ms. Toumayan described the long-time community event; trucks and convertible vehicles are needed.

### **Public Safety Committee**

A. The GHSNC [see the below Motion].

Mr. Smith explained the above.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council is requesting a DONE report about legalities of Neighborhood Councils, as a branch of the City, seeking funding, including partnering with 501(c)3 orgs; and the same regarding the legalities of Neighborhood Councils, as a branch of the City creating and sustaining an NC internship program, to include DONE, the City Attorney and the City Clerk.

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

B. The GHSNC [see the below Motion].

Mr. Smith explained the above, noting that it is one of only two public swimming pools in the northwest Valley. It was graded “D” by the City “almost 15 years ago.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council is requesting a report from CD 12 and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks on the status of, and plans for, improving, repairing, and/or replacing the pool at Granada Hills Recreation Center (generally known as Petit Park).

**DISCUSSION:** Stakeholder Brian Allen supported this, noting that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Fund is partly to support pool maintenance. Stakeholder Carolyn Cable added that it was supposed to be a year-round pool.

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

C. The GHSNC [see the below Motion].

Mr. Smith explained the above.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council is requesting a report about the City's plan for providing for the sustainment of the White Oaks Avenue Deodar Trees, LA City Cultural Historical Monument #41, in the face of the current drought.

**DISCUSSION:** Stakeholder Mark Morris supported this.

*Board Members Michael Jordan had left and Launa Bogartz had returned by this time (9:58), keeping 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

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

Mr. Benedetto asked Board Members to announce when arrive they arrive or leave.

PLUM Committee

Mr. Benedetto indicated that there was no report.

Homelessness Committee

Mr. Horn reported that the Committee will meet in October.

Education Committee

Mr. Benedetto indicated that there was no report.

Youth Committee

This was not addressed.

Seniors Committee

Ms. Kolstad will request funding to send more cards.

**IX. Board Members comments and Submission of Agenda Items.**

Mr. Horn requested Agendizing participation in the annual Homeless Count. Ms. Sanderson reminded, because of the pandemic, that when outreaching to “take extra precautions.” She encouraged taking the EmpowerLA “clean air pledge” [see <https://empowerla.org/ca-clean-air-day>]. Mr. Smith requested Agendizing possible action regarding street racing and Committee appointments. Mr. Karam emailed Cultural Affairs Committee Members requesting a reply regarding a proposed standing meeting time. Mr. Benedetto will email regarding a VFW event and encouraged mask wearing.

**X. Adjournment**

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Ms. Sanderson, seconded by Mr. Smith).

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:09 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>.*