



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SPECIAL BOARD DISCUSSION*, Wednesday, November 17, 2021
Approved February 3, 2022

* Note: this event did not have a quorum; the City Attorney has designated such events as “discussions,” not “Meetings” and the record of them as “notes,” not “Minutes.”

In conformity with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this duly noticed discussion was held entirely online and telephonically.

I. Call to order, Flag Salute

President Mike Benedetto started the discussion at 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brad Smith.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Colleen Toumayan. Seven of the 16 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call, which is not a quorum: Mike Benedetto (President), John Horn, Michael Jordan, Sally Kolstad, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Nine Board Members were absent: Carlos Amador (Secretary) (excused), Launa Bogartz (Treasurer) (excused), Verej Isanians (unexcused), George Karam (excused), Christine LaMonica (excused), Jerilyn López Mendoza (excused), Abbey Ronquillo (excused), Carolyn Sanderson (excused) and Chantal Serrano (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 at this time the Board could only take public comments, could not have any official discussions, and could not make any Motions or take any votes. Sixteen of the 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat (At Large) was vacant; to apply, see www.ghsnc.org.

III. Public Comment: Community and Public Comment on non-agenda items.

Stakeholder Cheri Derohanian announced a December 2nd event at the Museum of the San Fernando Valley [818-347-9665; <https://themuseumsfvnow.org>] on the southwest corner of Wilbur and Nordhoff. Mr. Benedetto reported that the \$1,500 Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the "Volunteers Cleaning Communities" (VCC) is being processed by the City. Stakeholder Mark Hovater announced a November 20th family event.

IV. Community Speakers

A. LAUSD District 3 (Tara Vahdani/ Tammy Ramirez, Scott Schmerlson).

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.

B. 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.

C. Mayor's Office (Erin Seinfeld)

Erin Seinfeld, West Area Representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti (323-552-6730; Erin.Seinfeld@LACity.org; <https://www.lamayor.org/WestValleyAreaRep>), 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 Board Members to complete trainings as needed; he reported on upcoming times and will email more information. Also, neither DONE or the City Attorney has said when in-person meetings will continue.

E. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org] was not present and there was no report.

F. Congressional District 29 (Osvaldo Ramirez)

No Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas [ofc. 818-221-3718; cell 818-388-0685; <http://cardenas.house.gov>] was present and there was no report.

G. Congressional District 30

Kimberly, a Field Deputy for U.S. 30th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman [818-501-9200; <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], was not present and there was no report.

V. Approval of Oct 7, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes.

The above Item was not addressed as there was no quorum.

- VI. A. Appointment of Committee Members and conformation w/ Discussion.
- B. Appointment of Mark Morris, as stakeholder member, to the Education Committee. Former Director w/ GHSNC and past Chair of Education Committee.
- C. Appointment of Bonnee Lollouz, as stakeholder member, to the Education Committee. Bonnee is a long time member of the community and a director at GH Charter High.
- D. Appointment of Mark Morris to the Seniors Committee.
- E. Appointment of Madison Cha to be Co-Chair of the Youth Committee.
- F. Appointment of Don Graham to be stakeholder member of the Public Safety committee. Don Graham, a longtime resident of Granada Hills and former GHSNC board member, as a stakeholder member of the Public Safety committee.

The above Items were not addressed as there was no quorum.

VII. Budget Issues

- A. Approval of Budget reports and Monthly Expenditures for Sept & Oct 2021.
- B. Approval of a check in the Total amount of \$21.89 to Board Member Mike Benedetto for expenditures for Public Storage Lock and keys.

The above Items were not addressed as there was no quorum.

VIII. Board Issues

- A. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$2,500 NVCS – Laura Rathbone. The holidays are here and NVCS is looking for support for our community outreach! Since the beginning of the pandemic, our data shows that 1,021 households that reside in Granada Hills have received food from our weekly food pantry. This holiday season, with the help of your council, we would like to bring the sense of holiday cheer to families that come to NVCS! NVCS serves up to 300 families living in motels, has an after school program for youth, a breakfast and shower program for the unhoused, safe parking programs for those who live in their vehicles, and the San Fernando Valley's largest weekly food distribution.
- 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 Colleen Toumayan and John Horn as liaisons to UCEH.
- C. Discussion and possible action on deodora trees; w/ CD-12 update.

The above Items were not addressed as there was no quorum.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

[The following sub-section first paragraphs are copied from the Agenda.]

PLUM

Outreach

- A. Report on Street Faire
- B. Discussion on who wants to ride in the Holiday Parade Dec 5th.

C. Discussion on Tree Lighting Dec 3rd.

Homelessness

- A. Discussion and possible motion for GHSNC to participate in the 2022 homeless count this January; volunteers needed.
- B. Discussion and possible motion for approval to make GHSNC the host for the Count.

Education

Youth

Cultural Affairs

Seniors

- A. Discussion and possible action to approve funding to the Senior Committee in the amount of \$700 dollars for the creation and materials for seasonal cards for Seniors in Granada Hills.

Beautification

Public Safety

- A. Discussion and recommendation to the Board regarding a request to support the following council file on street racing; see CF-21-0975: Illegal Street Racing / Reckless Driving Exhibition / Spectator Gathering / Promotion / Facilitation. (See Exhibit A). Note the following motion was approved unanimously (4-0) by the committee at the Oct. 21, 2021, meeting; Motion to support as follows: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council wishes to express its endorsement and support for Council File 21-0975 (Lee-Rodriguez). Street racing and intersection takeovers have become a chronic issue in Granada Hills and throughout Los Angeles. Adding penalties that criminalize the promotion of illegal street races and side shows by making it a misdemeanor to knowingly encourage, promote, instigate, assist, facilitate, aid or abet the gathering of persons as spectators at these events making it punishable by a fine and or imprisonment is a good step towards reducing the dangers, nuisance, and damage caused by these actions.
- B. Discussion and recommendation to the Board regarding a new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course sponsorship. GHSNC has sponsored or co-sponsored CERT training programs, in concert with the city of Los Angeles in the past. GHSNC President Mike Benedetto has requested we do so in the future. This would require purchase of the CERT Basic Kit for the trainees. See attached bid (Exhibit B-1 and B-2), provided by SOS Survival Products (Van Nuys, CA) Mr. Benedetto, as of Oct. 9, 2021. Bid is \$839.891 for 48 kits. Note the following motion was approved unanimously (4-0) by the committee at the Oct. 21, 2021, meeting; Motion to support as follows: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council moves to allocate up to \$900 from

GHSNC budget for the purchase of CERT Basic Kits, and to move forward with coordinating a CERT training program as practical.

- C. Informational note: The committee voted unanimously (4-0) to support and commend the Beautification Committee in their effort to move the GHSNC and GH BID deodar trees project(s) project forward and coordinate with the BID to maximize effectiveness of this effort.

The above Items were not addressed as there was no quorum.

- X. Board Members comments and Submission of Agenda Items**. Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council- Thursday Dec. 2, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

The above Item was not addressed as there was no quorum.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Benedetto declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the discussion at 7:15 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>.