



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, December 2, 2021
Approved January 6, 2022

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.

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 6:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Twelve of the 16 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Mike Benedetto (President), Launa Bogartz (Treasurer), Michael Jordan, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Christine LaMonica, Jerilyn López Mendoza, Carolyn Sanderson, Chantal Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Carlos Amador (had resigned as Secretary) and John Horn arrived later. Verej Isanians (unexcused) and Abbey Ronquillo (unexcused) were absent. 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 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. Also attended: approximately 13 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. Public Comment:

John Hales commented that many apartment building parking spaces are being used as storage and as Accessory Dwelling Units.

IV. Community Speakers

A. LAUSD District 3 (Tara Vahdani/Tammy Ramirez, Scott Schmerlson)
Tammy Ramirez, Deputy Director of School and Community Engagement for LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerlson [ofc. 818-654-3785; Tammy.Ramirez@lausd.net; <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>], reported that Tulsa Elementary School thanked the GHSNC for murals funding. She reviewed COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccination eligibilities and protocols. "Community groups can lease LAUSD facilities" for various uses. "Parents may pick up food boxes for their students."

Board Member Carlos Amador arrived online at 7:02, making 13 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum was nine).

B. Council District 12 (Matt Vallecilla)

Matthew Vallecilla, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember 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.

Board Member John Horn arrived online at 7:10, making 14 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum was nine).

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], reported that Board Members' anti-bias training must to be completed by January 1, 2022. He encouraged Board Members to ensure that all their trainings are up-to-date.

E. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Glenn Bailey reported that the BA's [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org] "have met with most of the City departments . . . [for] identifying budget consequences . . . recommendations . . . [will] be combined . . . you'll get it in January."

F. Congressional District 29 (Osvaldo Ramirez)

No 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 Caseres, 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], reported that "overall, stats are down . . . except for robberies and car thefts"; he reminded not to leave keys or fobs in vehicles.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. López Mendoza): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 7, 2021 General Board Meeting as written.

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

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.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Mark Morris, as a Stakeholder Member, to the Education Committee.

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

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.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. López Mendoza): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Bonnee Lollouz, as a Stakeholder Member, to the Education Committee.

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

D. Appointment of Mark Morris to the Seniors Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Mark Morris to the Seniors Committee.

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

E. Appointment of Madison Cha to be Co-Chair of the Youth Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Karam): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Madison Cha to be Co-Chair of the Youth Committee.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 13 in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (López Mendoza).

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.

Mr. Benedetto noted that Mr. Graham is a former Board Member.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Sanderson): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Don Graham to be a Stakeholder Member of the Public Safety committee.

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

VII. Budget Issues

A. Approval of Budget reports and Monthly Expenditures for Sept & Oct 2021.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item; he is working with the City Clerk to resolve a glitch.

B. Approval of a check in the Total amount of \$143.36; to Board Member Mike Benedetto for expenditures of \$21.89 for Public Storage Lock and keys, \$65.70 for 400 Tree lighting Flyers, \$6.56 for Harbor Freight Batteries for wireless microphones and \$49.21 for Walmart Tum containers for PA system.

Mr. Benedetto at this time explained the expenditures as receipt slides were shown, then recused from voting (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest), turned over the Presiding Officership to Vice-President Toumayan and left the meeting at this time, making 13 Board Members present and eligible to vote (the GHSNC Board quorum is nine). Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote “yes” or “no.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a check in the total amount of \$143.36; to Board Member Mike Benedetto for expenditures of \$21.89 for Public Storage lock and keys, \$65.70 for 400 tree lighting flyers, \$6.56 for Harbor Freight batteries for wireless microphones and \$49.21 for Walmart Tum containers for PA system.

Board Member Christine LaMonica was unavailable to vote at this time, making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Bogartz, Horn, Karam, Kolstad, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Jordan and Mendoza). One recused (Benedetto).

Mr. Benedetto, who had recused from voting, returned to the meeting at this time and resumed as the Presiding Officer, making 13 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

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.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$2,500 for North Valley Caring Services to support their holiday services distribution for families serviced by NVCS, including Granada Hills households.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Rathbone explained NVCS' extensive services.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, Mendoza, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained..

- 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.

MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Ms. Serrano): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council recognizes the United Coalition to End Homelessness and approves John Horn as liaison to UCEH.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion of what kind of alliance and what UCEH's tax status is. Ms. Mendoza pointed out that a number of Board Members are new to this kind of issue; she preferred to see something in writing about why the GHSNC should liaison with UCEH.

Mr. Benedetto requested and Ms. Toumayan agreed to withdraw the Motion; he will make a "full presentation in the future."

- C. Discussion and possible action on deodora trees; w/ CD-12 update.

Mr. Benedetto reported that CD12 indicated that a Permit is not needed.

MOTION to RECONSIDER (by Mr. Benedetto).

MOTION to RECONSIDER FAILED for lack of a seconding Board Member.

Board Member Jerilyn Mendoza left at 8:40, making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

PLUM

No report or Motion was made or vote taken.

Outreach

A. Report on Street Faire.

Mr. Benedetto reported that it was “very successful.”

Board Members Christine LaMonica had returned by 8:42 and George Karam had left by 8:44, keeping 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

B. Discussion on who wants to ride in the Holiday Parade Dec 5th.

Mr. Benedetto, Ms. Bogartz, Ms. Kolstad, Mr. Smith, Ms. Smith will be there.

C. Discussion on Tree Lighting Dec 3rd.

Mr. Benedetto noted elected officials and their staff who will attend.

Homelessness

A. Discussion and possible motion for GHSNC to participate in the 2022 homeless count this January; volunteers needed.

Committee Chair Mr. Horn reported that the Granada Hills part of the Count will be on January 25th.

B. Discussion and possible motion for approval to make GHSNC the host for the Count.

MOTION (by Mr. Horn, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will host and participate in the 2022 Homeless Count this January through volunteer work.

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

Education

Chair Ms. Kolstad was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken.

Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken.

Cultural Affairs

Chair Ms. Smith asked about and there was very extensive discussion regarding outreach/social media content and posting protocols.

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.

Committee Chair Ms. Kolstad explained this.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Kolstad, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves funding to the Senior Committee in the amount of up to \$700 dollars for the creation and materials for seasonal cards for seniors in Granada Hills.

Board Member Michael Jordan had left by 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, Kolstad, LaMonica, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (Chavon Smith).

Board Member Sally Kolstad left at 9:31, making nine Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

Beautification

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the Public Safety report.] Chair Mr. Amador reported that he was advised by Arborist Scott Harmon [Consulting Arborist and Resident Supervisor in the L.A. Department of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division] to outreach to CD12 to submit a service item request to the City Clerk’s office to water the Cedar Deodar trees on White Oak Ave. Mr. Benedetto will do that.

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;

[The following paragraph also is copied from the Agenda.] 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.

Chair Mr. Smith explained this.

MOTION (by the Public Safety Committee): 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.

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

- 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.

[The following paragraph also is copied from the Agenda.] 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.

FUNDING MOTION (by the Public Safety Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council allocates 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.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith explained that this has successfully been done before.

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

- 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.

Chair Mr. Smith reported that Mr. Benedetto requested that three formal requests for information approved by the GHSNC Board earlier this year: 1) from DONE regarding the use of the City’s internship program to provide administrative support for the GHSNC; 2) from CD 12 for a status update on the pool renovation project at the Granada Hills Recreation Center; and 3) – separately – from CD 12 on the status of the CD 12 plan for a permanent watering system for the White Oak deodars; be made to the GHSNC Board before the end of the first quarter of 2022.

X. Board Members comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Mr. Benedetto requested that Items be submitted at least one week before the next Board Meeting. Mr. Amador wanted to Agendize discussion of tree lighting ceremony flier distribution and to know how distribution could be verified; Mr. Benedetto described his extensive flier distributions.

Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council
Thursday Jan. 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM

XI. Adjournment

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:52 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>.