



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, January 6, 2022  
Approved February 3, 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 6:47 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Benedetto.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eight of the 16 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call, which is not a quorum: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto (President), John Horn, Michael Jordan, George Karam, Christine LaMonica, Chavon Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Sally Kolstad, Abbey Ronquillo and Carolyn Sanderson arrived later. Launa Bogartz (Treasurer) (excused), Verej Isanians (unexcused), Jerilyn López Mendoza (excused), Chantal Serrano (excused) and Brad Smith (excused) 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](http://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 was vacant [At Large]; to apply, see [www.ghsnc.org](http://www.ghsnc.org). Also attended: at least 13 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

Rob Wilcox, Candidate for City Controller (<https://robforcontroller.com>), spoke of his experience and interests.

**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 Schmerlson [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.

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](mailto:Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://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](mailto:Erin.Seinfeld@LACity.org); <https://www.lamayor.org/WestValleyAreaRep>), was not present and there was no report.

D. DONE, (NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames)

*[This Agenda Item was addressed after the below Tessa Charnofsky report.]*

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)], requested that Board Members who need to complete trainings to do so; those lacking funding training "will be considered ineligible to vote on funding items." He also reported on upcoming trainings and events. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to submit Bylaws amendments to DONE; he noted that Standing Rules can be amended at any Board meeting. He said he will bring concerns expressed about the webinar meeting format "to leadership." He explained the Grievance process.

*Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived online at 7:41, making nine Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum was nine). Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.*

Mr. Cupen-Ames explained how business can be carried over to another meeting.

*Board Member Sally Kolstad and Carolyn Sanderson arrived online at 7:45, making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum was nine).*

E. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen reported that the Advocates [[LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com](mailto:LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com); [www.BudgetAdvocates.org](http://www.BudgetAdvocates.org)] are identifying recommendations.

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; <http://cardenas.house.gov>], was not present and there was no report.

G. Congressional District 30 (Kimberly Caseres)

Kimberly Caseres, a Field Deputy for U.S. 30th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman [818-501-9200; [Kimberly.Caseres@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Caseres@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](mailto:31934@LAPD.LACity.org); [http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station)], reported on recent and upcoming events.

Tessa Charnofsky, District Director for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (818-901-3831; [TCharnofsky@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:TCharnofsky@bos.LACounty.gov); <http://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/sheila-kuehl>), introduced Caseworker Myrna Ramirez. Ms. Charnofsky noted that COVID-19 Coronavirus infection numbers are again rising; testing is increasing. She reported that some employers soon must start supplying COVID-19 safety equipment for their employees.

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

Mr. Benedetto noted that it was meant for the Agenda to say and to approve the December 2, not “Oct 7” Minutes.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 2, 2021 General Board Meeting as written.

*Board Member Carolyn Sanderson was unavailable to and/or did not vote at this time.*

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

**VI. A. Appointment of Committee Members and confirmation w/ Discussion.**

NONE.

**VII. Budget Issues**

A. Approval of Budget reports and Monthly Expenditures for September, October, and December 2021.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

**VIII. Board Issues**

A. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$500 for Granada Hills Women’s Club. Their roof needs replacement since it was built in 1950. Pat Silver to present.

Ms. Silver explained the above and community services that the Club has been providing since 1927.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant for Granada Hills Women’s Club in the amount of \$500.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Horn, Karam, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. Four were ineligible (Amador, Jordan, Kolstad and Chavon Smith) to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct.

B. Deodar trees; update

Mr. Benedetto updated about the Cedar Deodar trees on White Oak Ave.

## **IX. Committee Reports and Motions**

### PLUM

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

### Outreach

#### A. Report on Tree Lighting

Chair Ms. Toumayan reported that “the tree lighting was a beautiful event.”

Mr. Benedetto reported that at least 300 people, including elected officials and staff, attended.

#### B. Report on Holiday Parade

Chair Ms. Toumayan and Mr. Benedetto reported on the well-attended and fun Parade.

### Homelessness

#### A. Homeless Count updates, volunteers needed.

Chair Mr. Horn showed slides and reported on the Count. See [www.TheyCountWillYou.org](http://www.TheyCountWillYou.org).

### Education (Kolstad)

Ms. Ronquillo reported that the Committee met in December.

### Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that the Committee needs members. Youth can get credit for volunteer hours.

### Cultural Affairs

*[The following is copied from the Agenda.]* Cultural Affairs Community Engagement Through Social Media - Observance Of Cultural And Historical Events And Contributions. Discussion and possible action to approve, [See the below Motion].

Chair Ms. Smith reported that the Committee meets on monthly second Fridays.

**MOTION** (by the Cultural Affairs Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council values the contributions and stories of the diverse communities and cultures that reside in and around Granada Hills, and the greater Los Angeles region. In observance of the varied cultural, historical, and heritage celebrations throughout each calendar year, the GHSNC Cultural Affairs Committee will share content on behalf of GHSNC, through available web and social media platforms, that recognize and elevate local cultural events, share historical facts and stories, and celebrate the contributions of the diverse communities throughout Granada Hills, the City of Los Angeles, and the larger U.S. community.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Smith explained the above. She said “we will always use verified sources.” Ms. Ronquillo said the Youth Committee would like to collaborate on it.

*Board Member Michael Jordan had left by this time (9:02), making 10 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

#### Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad indicated that there was no report.

#### Beautification

Chair Mr. Amador indicated that there was no report.

#### Public Safety

Mr. Horn suggested having a City Sanitation Bureau representative address the Board, including about bulky items being put out without the City having been called to pick them up.

**X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.** Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council - Thursday FEB. 3, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Amador and Mr. Horn looked forward to more people helping with the Homeless Count. Mr. Karam reported that many street lights are out. Ms. Ronquillo reported the need for street light at San Fernando Mission Rd. and White Oak Ave. She suggested having a Board Retreat. Ms. Sanderson wanted faster progress regarding helping the Cedar Deodar trees, and she and Chavon Smith urged being

fully vaccinated against and following safety measures regarding the COVID-19 Coronavirus. Ms. Smith also supported having a Retreat and reviewing, as a Board, meeting and other procedures. Mr. Benedetto will send a new Agenda template to Committee Chairs.

## **VII. Adjournment**

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:29 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>.*