



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, February 3, 2022
Approved March 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 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jerilyn López Mendoza.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. D.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven of the 16 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto (President), John Horn, Michael Jordan, George Karam, Christine LaMonica, Jerilyn López Mendoza, Carolyn Sanderson, Chantal Serrano, Brad Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Sally Kolstad arrived later. Four Board Members were absent: Launa Bogartz (Treasurer) (excused), Verej Isanians (unexcused), Abbey Ronquillo (excused) and Chavon Smith (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 the Board could take such 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. Also attended: at least 18 Stakeholders and Guests.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. D.

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

Stakeholder Richard Fisk was concerned that not all online attendees' names were visible.

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.

Board Member Sally Kolstad arrived online at this time (6:46), making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

Myrna Gutierrez, a Caseworker for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (818-901-3831; MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov; <http://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/sheila-kuehl>), reported that “grant applications” are available.

B. One Generation, a LADWP community outreach partner (Jasmine Martinez). Ms. Martinez, of One Generation [JMartinea@OneGeneration.org], showed slides, and described the organization and their work.

C. Congressional District 25 -Congressmen Mike Garcia’s office (Matt Rogers). Matt Rogers, Field Representative for U.S. 25th District of California Congressman Mike Garcia [ofc. 661-568-4855; <https://mikegarcia.house.gov>], was not present and there was no report.

D. Assembly District 38 – Suzette M. Valladares REP (Patsy Ayala). Anthony Angelini introduced Diana Oganessian, a Deputy for State 38th District Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares [ofc. 661-286-1565; Diana.Oganessian@asm.ca.gov; <https://ad38.asmtc.org>], reported on recent legislation. Mr. Angelini encouraged contacting them for help.

E. 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.

F. Mayor’s Office 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.

G. 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], introduced Marilu Guevara [Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org] the new Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate who will replace him. She reminded Board Members to complete their ABLE training. Emails that were sent to _[anything]_@EmpowerLA.org between Thursday, January 20th and Friday, January 28th may not have been received; she asked that they be re-sent.

H. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen reported that the Budget Advocates [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org] continue working on their White Paper. DONE is asking for a 63% funding increase in their City budget.

I. 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.

J. 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; <https://sherman.house.gov>], was not present and there was no report.

K. 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], showed a slide of recent crime statistics, which always is available on the LAPD website.

Ben Steinberger, a Pub Affairs Advisor for SoCalGas, introduced himself, “plans to be accessible” and “will be attending these meetings.”

This was addressed after Item #V. Edwin Amaya, a District Representative for State 18th District Senator Bob Hertzberg (818-901-5588; <http://senate.ca.gov/hertzberg>), reported on recent legislation.

Jill Mather [founder of "Volunteers Cleaning Communities" (VCC); JillMather@earthlink.net], described their upcoming cleanup. Stakeholder John Hales reported that “approximately 100 students” who did a “smash and grab” crime at Ralph’s Market.

V. Approval of Nov 17, 2021 Meeting Notes, Regular January 6, 2022 Meeting minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. López Mendoza): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Notes of its November 17, 2021 General Board Discussion as written:

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, López

Mendoza, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (López Mendoza).

MOTION (by Ms. Sanderson, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 6, 2022 General Board Meeting as written:

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, López Mendoza, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions) (López Mendoza).

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, November, December 2021 and January 2022.

Mr. Benedetto reported that “our account is frozen again.” Mr. Cupen-Ames explained further and noted upcoming funding trainings; Ms. Guevara will help communicate it. Mr. Allen reported that he “met multiple times” to help; he suggested another resource and again offered to help. No Motions were made or votes taken.

VIII. Board Issues

A. Need for Treasurer and Secretary

Mr. Benedetto explained the Secretary responsibilities. Ms. Smith was interested in the Secretary position.

B. Deodar trees; update

Mr. Benedetto summarized history regarding the Cedar Deodar trees on White Oak Ave. Mr. Smith wanted CD12 to report regarding what they are doing to help the trees.

C. ABLE training

Mr. Benedetto explained that, if a Board Member hadn’t completed the training, they could not vote on funding Motions.

D. Use of GHSNC personal email accounts

Mr. Benedetto reported that Ms. Kolstad couldn’t access her GHSNC email account; no other Board Member indicated that.

E. Bylaw committee.

Mr. Benedetto, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Toumayan volunteered to be on the Bylaws Committee. Mr. Benedetto, Mr. Horn, Mr. Smith and Ms. Toumayan

volunteered to be CIS (Community Impact Statement) filers. Mr. Cupen-Ames recommended Agendizing approval of CIS filers for the next Board Meeting.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

PLUM

Chair Ms. López Mendoza reported that a grocery outlet store at the 11130 Balboa Blvd. shopping center “want[s] to apply for a liquor license.” She then announced her immediate resignation from the Board.

Board Member Jerilyn López Mendoza left the meeting at 8:27, making 10 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum was nine).

Outreach

Chair Ms. Toumayan indicated that there was no report

Homelessness

A. Homeless Count updates, volunteers needed.

Chair Mr. Horn reported that another at least 30 volunteers are needed. Pilar Schiavo, State Assembly District 40 Candidate [<https://pilar4ca.com>], offered to help.

Board Member Sally Kolstad had left by this time, making nine Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

Education

Mr. Benedetto indicated for Ms. Kolstad that there was no report.

Youth

Mr. Benedetto indicated for Ms. Ronquillo that there was no report.

Cultural Affairs

Mr. Benedetto indicated for Ms. Smith that there was no report.

Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad was not present; there was no report.

Beautification

Chair Mr. Amador reported.

Public Safety

Chair Mr. Smith reported; soon, the Committee will meet again.

Board Member Carolyn Sanderson had left by this time, making eight Board Members present online, one short of the GHSNC quorum of nine.

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Mr. Karam commented that free COVID-19 testing was available at St. Peter's Apostolic Church, 17231 Sherman Way. Ms. Toumayan encouraged Homeless Count volunteering. Mr. Benedetto will send a letter to Isanians "regarding his absences."

Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council- Thursday
March 3, 2021 at 6:30 PM

VII. Adjournment

[This was the second Item #VII on the Agenda.]

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** with no objection at 8:45 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>.