



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, March 3, 2022  
Approved April 7, 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 welcomed everyone and called the Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chantal Serrano.

**II. Roll Call (Secretary)**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven of the 15 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto (President), John Horn, Michael Jordan, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Carolyn Sanderson, Chantal Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Launa Bogartz (who had resigned as Treasurer), Christine LaMonica and Abbey Ronquillo arrived later. Verej Isanians was absent. Jerilyn López Mendoza had resigned. 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 the Board could take such votes. Fifteen of the 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats were vacant [both At Large]; to apply, see [www.ghsnc.org](http://www.ghsnc.org). Also attended: at least 24 Stakeholders and Guests.

**III. Public Comment**

Stephanie Clements, City Controller candidate, introduced herself and listed her priorities. Stakeholder John Hales commented on the Chatsworth TravelLodge project.

*Board Member Launa Bogartz arrived online at this time (6:49), making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

Stakeholder Glenn Bailey reported that the next VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; [VANC@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:VANC@EmpowerLA.org); <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>]

meeting would be March 10th. Stakeholder Mark Hovater reported that pop-up sidewalk vendors “are now competing with our Grub Fest . . . right in front of our L.A. City sign.”

*Board Member Christine LaMonica arrived online at this time (6:57), making 13 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

#### **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](mailto:Tammy.Ramirez@lausd.net); <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>], reported that new LAUSD Superintendent Alberto Carvalho started February 15<sup>th</sup>. She reviewed COVID-19 Coronavirus safety masking guidelines. Public Ambassador Program trainings are available for students. Community Advisory Committee applications are being accepted from parents, staff and community members. A Young Men’s Leadership class will be held in April.

B. One Generation, an LADWP community outreach partner (Jasmine Martinez).  
Ms. Martinez, of One Generation [818-705-2345; <https://www.OneGeneration.org>] reported that DWP “discount programs and rebates” are available.

C. Senator Robert Herzberg’s office (Edwin [Amaya]).  
Edwin Amaya, a District Representative for State 18th District Senator Bob Hertzberg (818-901-5588; <http://senate.ca.gov/hertzberg>), reported on recent legislation regarding abortion, assault weapons and taxes, and upcoming events.

Myrna Gutierrez, a Caseworker for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (818-901-3831; [MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov); <http://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/sheila-kuehl>), reported on the latest mask guidelines.

D. 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.

E. Assembly District 38 – Suzette M. Valladares REP (Patsy Ayala).  
Diana Oganessian, a Deputy for State 38th District Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares [ofc. 661-286-1565; [Diana.Oganessian@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Diana.Oganessian@asm.ca.gov); <https://ad38.asmr.org>], reported.

F. 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)], reported on recent legislation. A gas bill reduction can be applied for at SoCal CARE

program. A Project RoomKey webinar was “advertised to the public” and a recording is available. They are working on the BID [Business Improvement District; <https://www.gradahillsbid.com>; <https://business.facebook.com/GranadaHillsBID>] project of watering the Cedar Deodar trees on White Oak. He reported that “Urban Forestry does not do deep watering”; they await information regarding other options.

*Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived online and Chavon Smith had left by this time (7:04), keeping 13 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

G. 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.

H. DONE, (NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames)

Marilu Guevara [[Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org](mailto:Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org)], new Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate who replaced Freddy Cupen-Ames, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE; 818-374-9890; [Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org](mailto:Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)], reminded about conflict of interest guidelines, recommending that Board Members recuse if there may be a conflict of interest. Funding training is available. She indicated that she knows that the GHSNC approved having a CSUN intern; she consulted with the City Attorney and City Clerk Funding Unit and “will follow up.”

I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen)

Mr. Allen reported that the Budget Advocates [[LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com](mailto:LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com); [www.BudgetAdvocates.org](http://www.BudgetAdvocates.org)] “have met with most of the [City] Departments.” There will be an April 10<sup>th</sup> City Controller candidates forum. The annual Budget Day will be Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. - noon.

J. 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](mailto:Osvaldo.Ramirez@mail.house.gov); <http://cardenas.house.gov>], was not present and there was no report.

K. 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.

L. LAPD Senior Lead Officer or alternate rep (Lead Officers Sellers/Parker/Volunteer Richard Fisk).

Resident 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 crime statistics are available. John Parker, a Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer [mobile/text phone 818-832-0773; office 818-832-0633; [36560@LAPD.LACity.org](mailto:36560@LAPD.LACity.org); [http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station)], reported that crime was down 3.9%; though violent crime was up 19%; property crime was down 8%. There will be an April 30th pancake breakfast open house at the Station.

## **V. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting for February 3, 2022.**

**MOTION** (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Karam): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 3, 2022 Regular Board Meeting:

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

## **VI Appointment of Committee Members/ CIS and confirmation.**

A. Appointments of CIS filers and users: Colleen Toumayan. John Horn, Brad Smith and Mike Benedetto.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the appointments of CIS filers and users: Colleen Toumayan. John Horn, Brad Smith and Mike Benedetto.

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

## **VII. Budget Issues**

A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) for September, October, November 17 Notes, December 2, 2021, January 6, 2022,

Ms. Bogartz reviewed the September 2021 MER.

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

**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, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Ms. Bogartz reviewed the October 2021 MER.

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

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

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

Ms. Bogartz reviewed the November 2021 MER.

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

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

*Board Member Sally Kolstad was again available to vote at this time, making 13 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

Ms. Bogartz reviewed the December 2021 MER.

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

**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, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Ms. Bogartz reviewed the January 2022 MER.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Karam): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2022.

**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, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

*Board Member Carlos Amador left at 8:45, making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).*

### **VIII. Board Issues**

#### **A. Need for Treasurer and Secretary**

Mr. Benedetto noted the need. Stakeholder Christina Wallis described her extensive financial services background and interest in being the Treasurer. Ms. LaMonica agreed to become the Secretary.

#### **B. Discussion and possible support for a liquor license for the Grocery Outlet at 11130 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills.**

Project representative Steve Rawlings presented and showed slides. They have three Grocery Outlets in the San Fernando Valley. The store at Balboa and San Fernando Mission Blvd. will have “improvements on the exterior of the buildings.”

*Board Member Launa Bogartz left at 9:02, making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).*

Pat Barber, of Grocery Outlets, said it’s a 75-year-old, 450-store discounter with major brands. They have an “independent operator model” and though “Grocery Outlet pays the rent and other expenses . . . it’s not a franchise . . . we split the gross profit” while the independent operators “run the stores.” He said “there’s plenty of parking . . . we hope to open by the end of the year.” Operating hours would be “no earlier than six a.m. in the morning and no later than 11 p.m. at night.” Brian Allen was concerned that already there is a lot of traffic and it is “extremely difficult to get in and out of this lot”; he asked the developer to “do a lot more research on the traffic.” Mr. Barber believed that Trader Joe’s traffic won’t overlap with Grocery Outlets’.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Horn): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports a liquor license for the Grocery Outlet at 11130 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills.

**MOTION FAILED** by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with four in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Horn, LaMonica, Serrano and Toumayan); five opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Jordan, Kolstad, Ronquillo, Sanderson and Brad Smith); two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Benedetto and Karam).

There was extensive discussion of whether to refer this to a Committee.

**MOTION to RECONSIDER** (by Ms. Ronquillo, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will RECONSIDER Item #VIII. B.

**MOTION to RECONSIDER PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Serrano and Toumayan); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Kolstad, Sanderson and Brad Smith); zero abstained.

Mr. Smith declined to have the Public Safety Committee take up this issue. Mr. Benedetto, noting that the GHSNC currently didn’t have a functioning Planning and Land Use Management Committee, “will speak to DONE.”

C. Deodar trees; update

There was an update about the Cedar Deodar trees; also see above Item #IV. F.

D. ABLE training

Mr. Benedetto reminded those who haven’t to complete the training.

E. Bylaw committee – set up a meeting

Mr. Benedetto noted the need for the above.

*Board Members Carolyn Sanderson and Michael Jordan left at 9:37, making eight Board Members present online, short of the GHSNC Board quorum of nine.*

**IX. Committee Reports and Motions**

PLUM

There was no report.

Outreach

- A. Discussion and possible action to support the Granada Hills Recreation Center’s annual Spring Egg Hunt to be held either April 9th or April 16th, 2022, not to exceed \$500.

Ms. Toumayan noted the event’s community value.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports the Granada Hills Recreation Center’s annual Spring Egg Hunt to be held either April 9th or April 16th, 2022, not to exceed \$500.

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

*Board Members Chantal Serrano left at 9:43 and Michael Jordan soon after that, making six Board Members present online, short of the GHSNC Board quorum of nine.*

- B. Discussion and possible action for GHSNC to host a Movie Night at the Granada Hills Recreation Center on May 28th, not to exceed \$2,000.

The above Item was not addressed.

- C. The Outreach Committee discussed and approved doing a board retreat at the VFW. Discussion of best dates for the retreat with the Board.

The above Item was not addressed.

- D. Discussion of Earth Day April 22, 2022, to have an event to recognize the Deodar trees. We will coordinate and set up a joint meeting with

The above Item was not addressed.

#### Beautification and or Public Safety Committees.

There was no report.

#### Homelessness

- A. Homeless Count recap

Mr. Horn said he will report at the next Board Meeting.

#### Education

There was no report.

#### Youth

Ms. Ronquillo will meet with a community organization.

#### Cultural Affairs

There was no report.

#### Seniors

Ms. Kolstad is “working on spring cards” and will meet with the Education and/or Youth Committee(s).

#### Beautification

There was no report.

#### Public Safety

Mr. Smith noted that the GHSNC has been “excellent partners with CD12 on public safety issues.”



**X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.**

Mr. Smith wanted to Agendize getting written reports from the City. Ms. Kolstad wanted to Agendize a “second sign for White Oak.” Mr. Horn, Mr. Karam and Ms. Toumayan wanted to reduce the number of community speakers at these meetings to shorten the meeting time. Ms. Toumayan acknowledged Mr. Benedetto for his extensive MER work.

*[This is copied from the Agenda.]* Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council - Thursday April 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM

**XI. Adjournment**

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:56 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>.*