



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, April 7, 2022
Approved May 5, 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 6:44 p.m. and reviewed procedures. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment's Marilu Guevara.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eight of the 15 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call, which is not a quorum: Mike Benedetto (President), Launa Bogartz, John Horn, Michael Jordan, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Christine LaMonica (Secretary) and Brad Smith. Carlos Amador and Abbey Ronquillo arrived later. Five Board Members were absent: Verej Isanians (unexcused), Carolyn Sanderson (excused), Chantal Serrano (unexcused), Chavon Smith (unexcused) and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President) (excused). New At Large Seat Board Members Cheri Norum Derohanian and Christina Wallis were appointed to the Board during below Item #s VI. C. and B. 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. Fifteen of the 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats were vacant [both At Large]. Also attended: at least 17 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. Public Comment

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VI. A.] Guest Brad Klimovitch announced upcoming events.

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. County Supervisor's Office Sheila Kuehl reps Myrna Gutierrez or Tessa Chanosky.
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 a County pilot program can provide guaranteed income. Mr. Klimovitch clarified that, to report child abuse, call 800-540-5000 or 911.
- 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>), was not present and there was no report.
- 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 reps (Patsy Ayala, Anthony Angelini or Diana Oanesyan).
Diana Oganessian, a Deputy for State 38th District Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares [ofc. 661-286-1565; Diana.Oganessian@asm.ca.gov; <https://ad38.asmc.org>], was not present and there was no report.
- 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; www.CD12.org], was not present and there was no report.
- G. 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.
- H. DONE, (NEA Marilu Guesvara).
Marilu Guevara [Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org], Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE; 818-374-9890; Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], reminded that, if a Board Member has a conflict of interest, to consult with the City Attorney or recuse from voting on that matter. She awaits a City Personnel Department response regarding the GHSNC's intern possibility inquiry.
- I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).
Mr. Allen reported that the Budget Advocates [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org] White Paper soon will be issued.

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; <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; <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;
http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station], announced
the April 30th pancake breakfast.

V. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting for March 3, 2022,
www.ghsnc.org.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by MGK): The Granada Hills South
Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 3, 2022 Regular Board
Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with eight in
favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad
and LaMonica); zero opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC does not count
abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Derohanian and Brad Smith).

*Board Member Carlos Amador arrived online at this time (6:45), making nine Board
Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine). Now the Board could take
binding votes on Agendized Items.*

VI. Appointment of Board, Committee Members & Swearing-in

A. Appointment of Christine LaMonica to Secretary.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South
Neighborhood Council appoints Christine LaMonica as Secretary.

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

B. Appointment of Christina Wallis to the Board and as Treasurer.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Christina Wallis to the Board and as Treasurer.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Wallis introduced herself and described her long and extensive financial experience.

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

New Board Member Christina Wallis was Seated at this time.

C. Appointment of Cheri Norum Derohanian to the Board.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by MLB): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Cheri Norum Derohanian to the Board.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Derohanian introduced herself.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica and Brad Smith and Wallis); zero opposed; zero abstained.

New Board Member Cheri Norum Derohanian was Seated at this time. Ms. Guevara led new Board Members Cheri Derohanian and Christina Wallis in saying aloud the Oath of Office.

Board Member Christina Wallis left at 7:33.

D. Creation of a sustainability committee or ad hoc committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by MCL): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council creates a Sustainability Committee or ad hoc Committee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Karam described the Committee’s scope of work.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Brad Smith); zero opposed; zero abstained.

E. Appointment of George Karam & Mike Benedetto as committee Co-chairs of sustainability.

Mr. Benedetto said Mr. Karam would “take the lead” on this.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints George Karam and Mike Benedetto as Committee Co-chairs of Sustainability.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Brad Smith); zero opposed; zero abstained.

F. Council members who may want to serve on Sustainability and Beautification Committees.

Mr. Amador and Ms. Derohanian volunteered to be on the Sustainability Committee. Mr. Horn and Ms. Kolstad volunteered to be on the Beautification Committee. No Motion was made or vote taken.

G. Discussion and possible action of appointing a parliamentarian for General Board meetings at a rate of \$150 an hour with a \$300 minimum.

There was discussion. No Motion was made or vote taken.

VII. Budget Issues

A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) for March 3, 2022, www.ghsnc.org.

Mr. Benedetto said the MER was not ready; it was agreed to TABLE this Item. No Motion was made or vote taken.

VIII. Board Issues

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

The Grocery Outlet representative had notified Mr. Benedetto the project was cancelled. No Motion was made or vote taken.

B. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$2500 to the VFW for umbrellas and barstools – Brad Klemovich.

Mr. Klimovitch, Commander of Granada Hills VFW [Veterans of Foreign Wars] Post 2323, described the VFW’s long-time community services. He noted that the Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) application requested \$2,755 in funding, not “\$2,500.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Horn): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$2,500 to the VFW for umbrellas and barstools.

Mr. Horn believed that the GHSNC should not hold a Board retreat at the VFW if the GHSNC funds the VFW because it may be a conflict of interest. Ms. Guevara encouraged contacting the City Attorney if there is a concern.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto): to change the Motion amount of "\$2,500" to "\$2,755."

Mr. Benedetto withdrew his Motion to amend.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Jordan and Mr. Amador believed that, though the VFW is a good organization, the funding would be for a bar, to which they object. Mr. Klimovitch listed some of the VFW's "astronomical" amount of community services volunteer work and noted that that they serve alcohol "responsibly."

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived online at this time (8:04).

FUNDING MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with two in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto and Brad Smith); four opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Amador, Horn, Jordan and LaMonica,); four abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either "yes" or "no" votes) (Bogartz, Karam, Kolstad and Ronquillo). One was ineligible (Derohanian) to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct.

C. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$2,000 to the Granada Hills Charter High School Robotics (Robodox) team.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE the above Item.

D. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$3,500 to (EHR) Environmental Health Resources. To address impact of human and pet health from the SoCal Gas Company blow-out at Aliso Canyon including flyers, surveys and meeting outreach to Communities on a variety of issues.

Mr. Allen explained the above.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Amador, seconded by MLB): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$3,500 to (EHR) Environmental Health Resources. To address impact of human and pet health from the SoCal Gas Company blow-out at Aliso Canyon including flyers, surveys and meeting outreach to Communities on a variety of issues.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Allen reported that the Department of Public Health "is not requiring a patient-centric study . . . people are not being protected." The funding would be used "for outreach . . . to provide information for the community." He said that, in the six years since the blowout, "nothing has been achieved" for

affected residents, though the site keeps leaking potentially harmful chemicals. Mr. Horn first wanted more information.

MOTION to REFER to COMMITTEE (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Mr. Horn): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council REFERS this Item to the Sustainability Committee.

MOTION to REFER to COMMITTEE PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo and Brad Smith); zero opposed; zero abstained.

E. Discussion and possible action to approve a new proposal on the watering of the Deodar trees.

Mr. Benedetto reported that CD12’s Matt Vallecilla said that [the City’s] Urban Forestry [Division] won’t water the Cedar Deodar trees.

Mr. Benedetto turned over the Presiding Officership to Mr. Smith at this time.

Mr. Smith noted that “more than four months ago” it was requested for City to respond about watering the trees. The Beautification Committee will further consider this. No Motion was made or vote taken.

Mr. Benedetto resumed as the Presiding Officer.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

PLUM

Mr. Smith earlier showed slides and reported that Home Depot filed plans [Case #ZA-2022-1981-CU-SPP-SPR] to build a 136,000 square-foot store where the Regency Theaters are at the North Hills Shopping Center at the southeast corner of Devonshire St. and Balboa Blvd. At this time, Mr. Benedetto reported that he had asked Mr. Smith to be the Interim Planning and Land Use Management Committee Chair. Mr. Smith described a plan to outreach to Stakeholders

Outreach

Mr. Benedetto indicated for Ms. Toumayan that there was no report at this time.

A. Volunteers for Spring Egg Hunt to be on April 16th, 2022.

Mr. Benedetto noted that volunteers are needed at Petit Park. Ms. Bogartz, Ms. Kolstad and Mr. Smith volunteered.

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.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by MCL): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will host a Movie Night at the Granada Hills Recreation Center on May 28th, not to exceed \$2,000.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto explained that funding will be used for things such as the movie usage fee, outreach and the screen. Mr. Horn was concerned that May 28th is on Memorial Day weekend; Mr. Benedetto noted that many people stay home for holidays.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Brad Smith); zero opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Horn and Kolstad). One was ineligible (Derohanian) to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct.

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

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE the above Item.

- 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 Beautification and or Public Safety Committees.

Mr. Smith explained this.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Horn): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will seek to celebrate both Earth Day and Arbor Day with a community event Saturday, April 30th to recognize L.A. City Cultural Affairs Monument 42, the White Oak deodar trees. The event to be coordinated by various Committees assigned by the Board.

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

Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn reported that he welcomed the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council’s participation in next year’s Homeless Count.

Education

Chair Ms. Ronquillo indicated that there was no report.

Youth

- A. Discussion and possible action to support VFW and Bikers Against Child Abuse, (BACA), during 5k run for ending child abuse on May 5, 2022, in conjunction with GHCHS Kids.

Ms. Ronquillo noted the above.

MOTION (by Ms. Ronquillo, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports the VFW and Bikers Against Child Abuse during their 5k run for ending child abuse on May 5, 2022, in conjunction with GHCHS students.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Brad Smith); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- B. Discussion and possible action to support and co-sponsor Volunteer Cleaning Committee, (VCC), during Ventura Boulevard clean-up on Earth Day, April 23, 2022.

Ms. Ronquillo explained this. Jill Mather [founder of "Volunteers Cleaning Communities" (VCC); JillMather@earthlink.net], explained that many organizations and volunteers will participate.

MOTION (by Ms. Ronquillo, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports and co-sponsors the Volunteer Cleaning Committee (VCC) during Ventura Boulevard clean-up on Earth Day, April 23, 2022.

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

- C. Discussion and possible action to support conjoint beautification project with the VCC and Granada Hills Charter High School on May 15, 2022 not to exceed \$300.

Ms. Ronquillo noted that Ms. Mather indicated that the VCC partners a lot with the School.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Ronquillo, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports a conjoint beautification project with the VCC and Granada Hills Charter High School on May 15, 2022 not to exceed \$300.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, AR, Brad Smith); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Kolstad). One was ineligible (Derohanian) to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct.

Cultural Affairs

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

Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad reported that she delivered greeting cards to senior centers.

Beautification

Chair Mr. Amador reported that the Committee will meet about watering the Deodar trees.

Public Safety

Chair Mr. Smith reported that a Community Impact Statement was filed regarding street racing. The Committee soon will meet.

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Mr. Amador thanked Ms. LaMonica for being Secretary. He was “deeply concerned about the direction of the Board in recent months” and meeting facilitation and Member retention. He wanted to Agendize consideration of “a vote of no confidence on the President.” Mr. Horn and Mr. Jordan agreed with Mr. Amador. Mr. Jordan wanted these Minutes to say that he “notified the Board that the Bylaws were revised per suggestion and recommendation by Freddy Cupen in January 2022, and provided to President Mike Benedetto and Colleen Toumayan at the beginning of February by Mr. Jordan. No action was taken by the President until an email was received in mid-March from the President paraphrasing, “It is too late to take any action on these bylaws by the April due date. We will have another year to work on them.” Mr. Jordan felt this delay and inaction was inappropriate.”

Mr. Benedetto noted that it was difficult to convene Bylaws Committee Members to have a meeting. Ms. Kolstad noted Mr. Benedetto’s extensive work. Ms. Ronquillo noted that “for 2 ½ years” she’s been asking for a Board Members retreat. Mr. Karam spoke about sustainability; it was suggested to work with the Neighborhood Councils Sustainability Alliance [NCSA; www.ncsa.la; ncsa@EmpowerLA.org]. Mr. Benedetto noted the Board’s recent progress, despite the challenges of meeting online and getting volunteers.

[This is copied from the Agenda.] Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council - Thursday May 5, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Smith).

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:26 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>.