



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, May 5, 2022
Approved June 2, 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 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cheri Derohanian.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Twelve of the 17 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto (President), Launa Bogartz, Cheri Norum Derohanian, John Horn, Michael Jordan, George Karam, Christine LaMonica (Secretary), Carolyn Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Christina Wallis arrived later. Verej Isanians (unexcused); Sally Kolstad (excused); Abbey Ronquillo (excused) and Chantal Serrano (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), so the Board could take such votes. All 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seat was vacant. Also attended: at least 21 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

Board Member Christina Wallis arrived online at this time (6:46), making 13 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

Resident Mark Hovatar filmed City Council District 12's work starting "over a year of watering" the Cedar Deodar trees on White Oak Ave. Resident Richard Fisk reported that CD12 allocated \$94,000 for that. John Hales said Kaiser is reducing mental health coverage. Bonnie, of Granada Hills Charter High School, thanked Mr. Hovatar for the video. She encouraged avoiding the School area on the evening of

June 2nd, as they will have a well-attended graduation. Resident Candice opposed the Home Depot proposed for Balboa and Devonshire.

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

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; <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.
- 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>], reported that the Assemblywoman supported reducing the gas tax. The Assemblywoman authored legislation for the State Department of Education to send a letter to schools regarding best practices to address students' food allergies. The 118 Freeway Reseda westbound off-ramp will be closed for repairs for up to six months.
- 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.

Board Member Launa Bogartz left by 7:11, making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).

H. DONE, (NEA Marilu Guevara).

Marilu Guevara, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE; 818-374-9890; Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], reviewed the voting recusal procedure. The Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be Saturday, September 24th via Zoom. June 28th will be the bank card transaction deadline. Up to \$10,000 in funding can be rolled over to the next Fiscal Year.

I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).

Mr. Allen, of the Budget Advocates [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org], formally requested Ms. Guevara to clarify, if a Board Member has a possible or known conflict of interest, what else they need to do besides recuse from voting. He noted that there is no requirement stated anywhere in writing to contact the City Attorney; Ms. Guevara did not disagree.

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], reported that residential and theft of and from motor vehicles, and catalytic converter thefts, all have increased.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IX. Sustainability A.

V. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting for April 7, 2022.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. LaMonica): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 7, 2022 Regular Board Meeting:

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

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

[This is copied from the Agenda.] NONE

VII. Budget Issues

A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) for Feb 3, March 3 & April 7, 2022.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by MBS): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for February 3, 2022.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Karam, LaMonica, Brad Smith, Toumayan and Wallis); zero opposed; six abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Amador, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Sanderson and Chavon Smith).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for March 3, 2022.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith, Toumayan and Wallis); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Derohanian).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by MGK): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for April 7, 2022.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Derohanian, Karam, LaMonica, Brad Smith and Wallis); zero opposed; six abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Amador, Horn, Jordan, Sanderson, Chavon Smith and Toumayan).

B. Reimbursement To Mike Benedetto for 317.47 for payment to Public Storage.

Mr. Benedetto explained that supplies were needed for the Egg Hunt but accounts were frozen. A receipt is available from Ms. Guevara.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Wallis): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council reimburses Mike Benedetto for \$317.47 for payment to Public Storage.

Board Member Cheri Derohanian was unavailable to vote at this time, making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith, Toumayan and Wallis); zero opposed; zero abstained.

C. Motion and possible action to transfer \$500 from Outreach budget to NPG’s especially in the event that the VFW NPG is approved.

Mr. Benedetto withdrew this Item, indicating it was not needed.

VIII. Board Issues

A. Discussion and possible action to approve a Revised Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$1905.30 to the VFW for umbrellas – Brad Klemovich.

Mr. Klimovitch, Commander of Granada Hills VFW [Veterans of Foreign Wars; www.vfw.org] Post 2323, described some of their extensive community work. The Post is open to the public.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. LaMonica): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a revised Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$1,905.30 to the VFW for umbrellas.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Klimovitch reported that “we are not serving just our members . . . [but] also the public . . . around 3,000 [total] per year” and the VFW gives around \$30,000 per year in student scholarships and teacher stipends. He said “we open our doors to the Chamber” of Commerce . . . “We’re not government funded . . . we’re a facility . . . we’re not charging” the Rotary Club. LAPD “Devonshire Division was using us as a command post” during civil unrest.

Board Member Cheri Derohanian had returned by this time, making 12 Board Members present online.

FUNDING MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of 11 of the 12 eligible voters present with one in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Brad Smith); nine opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Amador, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Sanderson, Chavon Smith, Toumayan and Wallis); one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Derohanian). President Benedetto did not vote.

- B. Discussion and possible action to approve a NPG to S.O.L.I.D. in the amount of \$5000 to replace the furniture and renovate the Senior Lead Officers Trailer.

Tapio Kartiala, of SOLID, presented, showed photos and explained the need. "A lot of [furniture] is broken" in the trailer with "severely limited . . . storage space . . . this is a . . . donated building"; the City does not fund it. The total cost is \$72,012. SOLID is asking for funding from all nine Devonshire-area NCs.

FUNDING MOTION (by M. . ., seconded by M. . .): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves an NPG to S.O.L.I.D. in the amount of \$5,000 to replace the furniture and renovate the Senior Lead Officers Trailer.

DISCUSSION: There was very extensive discussion and many comments both supporting and opposing the funding. LAPD Commander Don Graham noted Police support of the community.

Board Member Cheri Derohanian was unavailable to vote at this time, making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

FUNDING MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with four in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Horn, LaMonica, Brad Smith); seven opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Amador, Jordan, Karam, Sanderson, Chavon Smith, Toumayan and Wallis); zero abstained.

- C. Discussion on meeting facilitation and member retention

Ms. Smith mentioned concerns regarding Agendizing and meeting facilitation. Mr. Benedetto offered for Board Members to email him about this.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

PLUM

Interim Chair Mr. Smith reported that he awaits a reply regarding the Home Depot store proposed for Balboa and Devonshire. "Lisa" said "Home Depot does not belong in a residential community"; "PeaceKeeper" and Mr. Hovater agreed. Mr. Allen offered for the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council to co-host a Town Hall Meeting regarding the proposed Home Depot. Mr. Smith encouraged Board Members to not yet decide or make supporting or opposing statements about the proposed Home Depot until the Board does its "due diligence" so that the Board can "do it by the book."

Outreach

- A. GHSNC to host a Movie Night at the Granada Hills Recreation Center on May 28th, volunteers requested

Board Member Cheri Derohanian had returned by this time, making 12 Board Members present online.

Ms. Toumayan said the movie title is not yet decided. Ms. Smith and Ms. Derohanian volunteered. Mr. Benedetto said there will be free admission and popcorn. No Motion was made or vote taken.

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

No Motion was made or vote taken.

- C. Discussion and possible action of GHSNC to approve up to \$10,000 for outreach giveaways and materials along with refilling the helium balloon tanks.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$10,000 for outreach giveaways and materials along with refilling the helium balloon tanks.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Toumayan and Mr. Benedetto described some of the outreach items that'd be purchased; Mr. Benedetto noted that some of them would be used after this Fiscal Year. Mr. Horn was concerned that there was "no itemized list."

Board Member Christina Wallis had left by 10:03, making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).

MOTION to TABLE (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Mr. Horn): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council TABLES Item #IX. Outreach C. to a Special Board Meeting or the next Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION to TABLE PASSED by a vote of the 11 eligible voters present with eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye"); three opposed ("No" or "Nay"); zero abstained.

MOTION to TABLE (by Mr. Horn, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council TABLES remaining funding Motions to the next Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION to TABLE PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Amador, Benedetto, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IX. Beautification C.

Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn indicated that there was no report.

Education

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

Youth

A. VFW and Bikers Against Child Abuse, (BACA), during 5k run for ending child abuse on May 7, 2022, in conjunction with GHCHS Kids- update.

The above Item was skipped.

B. Support conjoint beautification project with the VCC and Granada Hills Charter High School on May 15, 2022 - update.

The above Item was skipped.

Cultural Affairs

Chair Ms. Smith indicated that there was no report.

Seniors

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

Beautification

A. Discussion and possible action on the recommended motion from the Beautification Committee to rescind the motion passed in the September 2021 general board meeting that allocated \$3,864 and requested the Los Angeles City Forestry Division to water the Cedar Deodar Trees on White Oak Avenue. Recommended motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council rescinds the approved allocation of \$3,864 passed on September 2nd, 2022, to have the Los Angeles City Forestry Division water the Cedar Deodar Trees.

The above Item had been Tabled to the next Regular Board Meeting.

B. Discussion and possible action on recommended motion from the Beautification Committee to allocate up to \$3,864 to receive tree watering services by the J & B Landscaping Company, a company based in the San Fernando Valley. The Granada Hills Business Improvement District (BID) has used the watering services of J & B Landscaping Company for the watering of the Cedar Deodar Trees. Recommended motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a payment of up to \$3,864 to J & B Landscaping Company to provide a series of watering cycles to the Cedar Deodar Trees on White Oak Avenue.

The above Item was skipped. No Motion was made or vote taken.

C. Discussion and possible action on a recommended motion from the Beautification Committee to participate in a Beautification Day with the Volunteers Cleaning Communities. The goal is for the neighborhood council to

spread the word, recruit volunteers, and show up to the Beautification Day. Recommend motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will participate in a Beautification Day with Volunteers Cleaning Communities in Granada Hills on Devonshire Boulevard from the 405 Freeway west on Saturday, May 15th, from 8 am to 10 AM.

Mr. Amador explained this.

MOTION (by the Beautification Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will participate in a Beautification Day with Volunteers Cleaning Communities in Granada Hills on Devonshire Boulevard from the 405 Freeway west on Saturday, May 15th, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor.

Public Safety

Chair Mr. Smith indicated that there was no report.

Sustainability

- A. Discussion and possible action to support the Healthy Streets LA ballot measure, which requires the City of LA to implement its Mobility Plan 2035, in the form of a support letter addressed to the Healthy Streets LA initiative. Prior to the board discussion, Michael Schneider from Streets For All will give a short presentation to the board. His email is michael@streetsforall.org.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IV. L.*] Mr. Schneider (HealthyStreets.com) explained the issue about pedestrian and motorist safety. So far, 30 Neighborhood Councils have supported this. Resident Mark Morris and "PeaceKeeper" supported this. Mr. Schneider clarified that the City passed the Mobility Plan in 2015 and that it also applies to mobility for public transportation vehicles and for pedestrians. Mr. Allen opposed slowing private vehicle traffic. Ms. Sanderson said "we have an environmental issue with the exhaust and the air that we breathe." Mr. Schneider said "it's mostly a lack of political will" that the Plan has only been implemented an estimated 3% in seven years.

MOTION (by the Sustainability Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports the Healthy Streets LA ballot measure, which requires the City of LA to implement its Mobility Plan 2035, in the form of a support letter addressed to the Healthy Streets LA initiative.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Amador, Benedetto, Derohanian, Karam, LaMonica, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith, Toumayan and Wallis); zero opposed;

two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Horn and Jordan).

Mr. Schneider offered and Mr. Benedetto agreed to use a template letter.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #5.

B. Discussion and possible action to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant in the amount of \$3,500 to [Environmental Health Research](#) (EHR), to address the 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. As for the EHR NPG, Brian Allen requested a list of questions from the Board in order to expedite the discussion on Thursday.

Mr. Allen requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. No Motion was made or vote taken.

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Ms. Toumayan thanked everyone for their work.

[*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. Horn).

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:31 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>.