



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, June 2, 2022  
Approved July 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 called the Meeting to order at 6:33 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 17 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto (President), Cheri Norum Derohanian, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Carolyn Sanderson, Chantal Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith, Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President) and Christina Wallis (Treasurer). Michael Jordan arrived later. Launa Bogartz (excused), John Horn (unexcused), Verej Isanians (unexcused), Christine LaMonica (Secretary) (excused) and Abbey Ronquillo (unexcused) 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 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 10 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

Pam Rhodes, Granada Hills Branch Library Manager ([www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)), announced that it will reopen June 6<sup>th</sup> with new carpeting and new flooring. She reported upcoming events and programs.

**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. 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](mailto:MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov); <http://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/sheila-kuehl>), was not present and there was no report.

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](mailto:Diana.Oganessian@asm.ca.gov); <https://ad38.asmrc.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](mailto:Matthew.Vallecilla@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://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](mailto:Erin.Seinfeld@LACity.org); <https://www.lamayor.org/WestValleyAreaRep>), was not present and there was no report.

H. DONE, (NEA Marilu Guevara).

Marilu Guevara, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the 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 Board Members of the conflict of interest procedure. BONC [the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; [Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)] approved the Digital Communications Policy, which takes effect in October "and will be revisited in April 2023."

I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).

Mr. Allen, one of the Budget Advocates [[LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com](mailto:LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com); [www.BudgetAdvocates.org](http://www.BudgetAdvocates.org)], was not present and there was no report.

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).

Sandra Zamora, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer [office 818-756-9011; [35947@LAPD.LACity.org](mailto:35947@LAPD.LACity.org); [DevonshireSLO@LAPD.Online](mailto:DevonshireSLO@LAPD.Online); [http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.LAPDonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station)], showed slides and presented. She cited recent crime statistics. Some burglars break windows to get in; she recommended adding lighting, cameras, photographing valuables and recording serial numbers. She cautioned not to leave keys in vehicles, and to secure both license plates to your vehicle(s). Resident Richard Fisk noted that Officers Parker and Sellers usually cover this area.

V. **Approval of Minutes** of the Regular Meeting for May, 2022.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 5, 2022 Regular Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote with 10 in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Chavon Smith).

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

A. Appointment of Sally Kolstad to the Education Committee

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Sally Kolstad to the Education Committee.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote with all 11 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

VII. **Budget Issues**

A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) for May, 2022.

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

B. Discussion and possible action to possibly approve our new admin package for the upcoming term.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves our new admin package for the upcoming term.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Amador asked if Board Members had reviewed the package. Mr. Benedetto showed slides and reviewed the package, and noted the short time available to complete the proposed budget.

*Board Member Michael Jordan arrived online at this time (7:25), making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

Ms. Guevara noted that the packet is due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. She reported that Executive Committee meetings usually are publicized and public comment allowed; she recommended doing that. Mr. Amador, Ms. Sanderson and Ms. Smith indicated that they did not know the annual budget would be discussed. Ms. Kolstad noted and Mr. Benedetto confirmed that the budget is “not set in stone” and can be changed throughout the year. Ms. Smith recommended that budget changes be discussed in a Committee meeting.

**MOTION to TABLE** (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Mr. Jordan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council TABLES Item #VII. B. to discuss it at the next Board Meeting in July.

**MOTION to TABLE PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Jordan, Karam, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith, Toumayan and Wallis); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Derohanian and Kolstad); zero abstained.

## **VIII. Board Issues**

### A. Update on GHSNC payments submitted to City Clerk

Mr. Benedetto updated. He reported that the Neighborhood Purposes Grant applications from the YMCA and Granada Hills Charter High School Robotics were rejected by the City Clerk, however, both can again be approved and then funding allocations made.

### B. Discussion and possible action to appoint Mark Morris as the Parliamentarian for the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Mark Morris as the Parliamentarian.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Morris reported that he has professional Parliamentarian training and would follow the GHSNC Bylaws.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote with all 11 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

### 1. PLUM

- A. Discussion and possible action to be approved the Home Depot town Hall to be scheduled sometime in July 2022

Mr. Benedetto noted that this already was approved. Interim Committee Chair Mr. Smith reported that “there’s a lot of interest in the community.” No Motion was made or vote taken.

### 2. Outreach

No report or Motion was made or vote taken.

### 3. Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken.

### 4. Education

#### A. Retreat Update

Chair Ms. Ronquillo was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken. Ms. Guevara noted that the Retreat must follow the same Agenda posting requirements as other public meetings.

### 5. Youth

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

### 6. Cultural Affairs

Chair Ms. Smith indicated that there was no report; no Motion was made or vote taken.

### 7. Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad indicated that there was no report; no Motion was made or vote taken.

### 8. Beautification

- A. South Neighborhood Council, in collaboration with Volunteers Cleaning Communities, agrees to host a Beautification Day in Granada Hills on Sunday, July 10th, at 8 AM. Discussion and possible action on a motion to participate in a Beautification Day with the organization Volunteers Cleaning Communities. The goal is for the neighborhood council to vote on adopting a date and time for a Beautification Day in July. Planning for the day, including selecting a location, will be done at the next Beautification Committee meeting. Proposed motion: The Granada Hills [*Agenda wording stopped here.*]

**MOTION** (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, in collaboration with Volunteers Cleaning

Communities, agrees to host a Beautification Day in Granada Hills on Sunday, July 10th, at 8 a.m.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Amador requested that Board Members participate. Ms. Derohanian was concerned that the Town Hall also will be on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Smith encouraged having events on other than Sunday mornings.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote with all 12 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

9. Public Safety

Chair Mr. Smith indicated that there was no report; no Motion was made or vote taken.

10. Sustainability

No report or Motion was made or vote taken.

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

Mr. Amador “wanted a regular participatory process” to discuss the budget. Ms. Sanderson reported that she was not getting any meeting notifications. Ms. Smith requested that Committee rosters be posted on the website. Ms. Toumayan invited everyone to the Executive Committee meeting to discuss the budget. She, Mr. Smith and Mr. Benedetto thanked Mr. Morris for volunteering to be the Parliamentarian. Mr. Benedetto will again post Committee Members on the website.

**XI. Adjournment**

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

**MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED** unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:40 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>.*