



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, July 7, 2022
Approved August 4, 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.

Document copies were available at www.ghsnc.org and shown online.

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 6:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Colleen Toumayan.

II. Roll Call

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). Abbey Ronquillo and Chantal Serrano arrived later. Verej Isanians (unexcused), Sally Kolstad (excused) and Christina Wallis (Treasurer) (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.

III. Public Comment

Mikkie Loi, volunteer with the LAPD Devonshire Division, announced that National Night Out will be August 6th, 6-8 p.m. Resident Mark Hovater complimented the City about tree watering.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived online at this time (6:43), making 13 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

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.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IV. H.] Myrna Gutierrez, a Caseworker for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (213-440-0927 or 818-901-3831; MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov; www.SupervisorKuehl.com), reported that September 1st is the discretionary funding application deadline for non-religious 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. The Affordable Connectivity Program provides up to \$30 per month for "income-eligible households" unable to afford home Internet service; see www.InternetForAllNow.org.
- 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).
Garrett Henry, Field Representative for U.S. 25th District of California Congressman Mike Garcia [ofc. 661-568-4855; Garrett.Henry@mail.house.gov; <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.asmr.org>], reported on recent legislation.
- F. Council District 12 (Matt Vallecilla).
Mr. Benedetto noted that Matthew Vallecilla, former Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; www.CD12.org], left their office in June.
- 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, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE; 818-374-9890; Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], reminded Board Members of the conflict of interest procedure and provided election information. BONC [the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org;

www.EmpowerLA.org] is deciding “on a monthly basis” when to again have in-person meetings. She stated that “It is possible to have an intern for a Neighborhood Council”; DONE awaits more information from the City Personnel Department.

- I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).
Mr. Allen [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; 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; <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; DevonshireSLO@LAPD.Online; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station], reported that “all crimes are up,” including “auto-related.”

V. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Discussion and possible action on a Consent Calendar Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council re-approves the Minutes of its April 7, 2022 Regular Board Meeting as corrected, and approves the Minutes of the April 28, May 24 and May 27, 2022 Special Board Meetings and the June 2, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Benedetto explained the need to re-approve the April 7th Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the revised April 7th meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes for April 28th.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the May 24th Minutes.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto explained that draft Minutes should appear on the website; he had sent all meeting documents to the webmaster and the Chamber.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Special Board Meeting Minutes for May 27th.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes for June 2nd.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 12 in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Horn).

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

A. Approval of the Appointment of Chavon Smith to the Bylaws Committee.

MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Appointment of Chavon Smith to the Bylaws Committee.

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

B. Approval of the Appointment of Michael Jordan to the Bylaws Committee.

MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Appointment of Michael Jordan to the Bylaws Committee.

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

C. Approval of the Appointment of Cheri Norum Derohanian to the Bylaws Committee.

MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Appointment of Cheri Derohanian to the Bylaws Committee.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Derohanian noted her Bylaws experience.

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

- D. Approval of the appointment of Colleen Toumayan to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, to fill the currently vacant fifth seat of the committee.

MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the appointment of Colleen Toumayan to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, to fill the currently vacant fifth seat of the Committee.

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

VII. Budget Issues

- A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) for May & June 2022.

Ms. Toumayan showed slides of and reviewed the GHSNC May “Monthly Expenditure Report.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for May 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, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan.

Ms. Toumayan showed slides of and reviewed the GHSNC June “Monthly Expenditure Report.” Mr. Benedetto described work with the City Clerk to process funding items. Mr. Amador noted that VCC (Volunteer Cleaning Committee) funding was approved last August by the GHSNC.

Board Member Chantal Serrano arrived online at this time (7:25), making 14 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

The Monthly Expenditure Report for June 2022 was **PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- B. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2022/2023 Admin Packet submitted by the Executive Committee.

Ms. Toumayan showed slides of and explained items. Mr. Benedetto added that there will be \$10,000 in rollover funding.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the 2022/2023 Admin Packet submitted by the Executive Committee.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Smith suggested revisions. Mr. Benedetto suggested considering the revisions along with adjustments soon needing to be made.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the 2022/2023 Admin Packet submitted by the Executive Committee with the recommended changes to page nine, to split the Halloween and Easter Egg Hunt allocation listings into two listings of \$500 each, instead of \$1,000 combined; also on page nine, replace “outreach and other related events” with “outreach”; and, on page 10, combine the listings for “VCC” at \$1,175 and “other” at \$650 in “Community Improvement Projects” into one item at \$1,825.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Sanderson).

C. Treasurer's Report of balances and expenditures, as well as any pending disbursements.

Mr. Benedetto explained that the balance is \$31,722.

D. Update on GHSNC payments submitted to City Clerk.

Mr. Benedetto indicated that he will submit additional payments and follow up as soon as possible. He explained that the City Clerk said that two items needed to be re-approved during this Fiscal Year [2021-2022] because they first were approved during the previous Fiscal Year [2020-2021].

VIII. Board Issues

A. Discussion and possible action to re-approve an NPG in the amount of \$5000 to Granada Hills Charter High School band to purchase instruments.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council re-approves an NPG in the amount of \$5,000 to Granada Hills Charter High School band to purchase instruments.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of what amount to approve.

MOTION to TABLE (by Ms. Derohanian, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council TABLES this Item to September.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Serrano suggested, instead, funding Patrick Henry School.

MOTION to TABLE PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Bogartz); zero abstained.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

[The following sub-section first paragraphs are copied from the Agenda.]

1. PLUM

- A. Approval of a motion to authorize, under the GHSNC FY 2022-23 budget, an allocation of not more than \$2500.00 from the GHSNC budget for various needs to support the pending July 17 meeting of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, to be advertised as a “town hall” event to discuss Los Angeles City Planning Case Number Case Number: CPC-2022-1981-CU-SPP-SPR (note: previously filed as ZA-2022-1981-CU-SPP-SPR), i.e. “the proposed Granada Hills Home Depot project,” including but not limited to outreach, professional services, and ancillary expenses. This request is the same as that approved by the GHSNC Board on April 28, 2022; this is not an additional expenditure. The vote to re-affirm this allocation has been requested by the Office of the City Clerk, and is entirely for bookkeeping purposes.

Mr. Smith noted that the event is scheduled for August 14th, not July 17th.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council authorizes, under the GHSNC FY 2022-23 budget, an allocation of not more than \$2500.00 from the GHSNC budget for various needs to support the pending August 14th meeting of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, to be advertised as a “town hall” event to discuss Los Angeles City Planning Case Number Case Number: CPC-2022-1981-CU-SPP-SPR (note: previously filed as ZA-2022-1981-CU-SPP-SPR), i.e. “the proposed Granada Hills Home Depot project,” including but not limited to outreach, professional services, and ancillary expenses.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Mr. Smith noted that the event will be Sunday, August 14th at 2:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School; information is on the website.

Board Member Brad Smith left at this time (8:20), making 13 Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).

2. Outreach

Chair Ms. Toumayan indicated that there was no report at this time.

3. Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn will convene a late-August meeting; he requested Committee Members to contact him with best times. There will be a speaker.

4. Education

Chair Ms. Ronquillo invited everyone to submit ideas and to attend their Thursday, August 18th 7:00 p.m. meeting.

5. Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo invited everyone to submit ideas.

6. Cultural Affairs

Chair Ms. Smith reported that the Committee's next meeting will be in August.

7. Seniors

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

8. Beautification

- A. Discussion and possible action on a motion coming from the Beautification committee related to the potential purchase of refreshments and supplies - if necessary - for the upcoming July Beautification Day organized in coordination with Volunteers Cleaning Communities. Refreshments may include pastries, fruit, coffee, and water. If needed, the neighborhood council purchases supplies like trash bags, gloves, picker sticks, vests, among others. The motion for consideration states: GHSNC approves the allocation of up to \$200 to support the upcoming Beautification Day on Sunday, July 10th, 2022 in Granada Hills. The money will be used to purchase refreshments and supplies - if necessary - for volunteers.

Chair Mr. Amador modified the Motion as noted below.

FUNDING MOTION (by the Beautification Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the allocation of up to \$200 to support the upcoming Beautification Day on Sunday, July 10th, 2022 in Granada Hills. The money will be used to purchase refreshments for volunteers.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Amador explained that the event would start at 8:00 a.m.

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, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Karam, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Serrano, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Report on the caring of the Cedar Deodar Trees on White Oak Avenue.

Mr. Amador reported that he will work with the City regarding watering. Resident Maria Fisk reported that, in 1966, there was work to have the trees designated as a Historic Cultural Monument; she noted other history of the community working to protect the trees and that five new trees are growing.

C. Report on discussion related to the education and engagement with neighborhood residents related to the proper disposal of bulk trash items.

The above Item was not addressed.

9. Public Safety

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

10. Sustainability

Mr. Benedetto indicated that there was no report.

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Ms. Derohanian announced a “monthly artist lecture speaker series” at the Museum of the San Fernando Valley [818-347-9665; <https://themuseumsvnow.org>] on the southwest corner of Wilbur and Nordhoff. Ms. Sanderson volunteered to help review NPG applications. Ms. Smith thanked Mr. Benedetto for posting meeting documents in one location on the website.

Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council - Thursday August 4, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. LaMonica, seconded by Ms. Derohanian).

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:46 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>.