



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, August 4, 2022
Approved March 2, 2023

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 6:38 p.m. and explained procedures. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Colleen Toumayan.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Nine of the 17 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Mike Benedetto (President), Michael Jordan, George Karam, Christine LaMonica (Secretary), Abbey Ronquillo, Carolyn Sanderson, Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President) and Christina Wallis (Treasurer). Cheri Norum Derohanian, Sally Kolstad and Chavon Smith arrived later. Launa Bogartz (excused), Carlos Amador (excused), John Horn (excused), Verej Isanians (unexcused) 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 <https://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 18 Stakeholders and Guests.

Board Member Cheri Derohanian arrived online at this time (6:44), making 10 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

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

Lionel, of Sun Valley, commented regarding homeless encampments.

Board Member Chavon Smith arrived online at this time (6:48), making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

LAWA representative Matt Reyes commented regarding homelessness.

IV. Community Speakers

- A. Safety enhancement project that SoCalGas is working on, on San Jose Street and Yarmouth Avenue. Presentation by Ben Steinberger.

Project Manager Josh Torres showed slides and presented. In October, a pipeline will be retrofitted. Work is expected to take approximately four months, with most work done weekdays between 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Contact Mr. Steinberger at BSteinbe@SoCalGas.com for more information.

- B. 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.

- C. County Supervisor's Office Sheila Kuehl reps Myrna Gutierrez or Tessa Chanosky
Neither 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), nor Tessa Charnofsky, District Director for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (818-901-3831; TCharnofsky@bos.LACounty.gov), were present and there was no report.

- D. 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 "ghost guns," women's healthcare, pet ownership, electrical transmission lines maintenance, homelessness, water use efficiency, and clean energy transmission. Some people may qualify for a "middle-class tax refund"; see <https://www.ftb.ca.gov>. Mr. Amaya encouraged contacting him for help.

Board Member Sally Kolstad arrived online at this time (7:31), making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

- E. 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.
- F. 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.asnrc.org>], was not present and there was no report.

G. 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.

H. 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.

I. 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], reported on outreach. Civic University will return in October. A "pilot program" started for internships.

J. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).

Garry Fordyce [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org], reported.

K. 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.

L. 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.

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

Neither resident Richard Fisk nor 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], were present and there was no report.

V. Approval of the Minutes

A. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 7, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of July 7, 2022:

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

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

A. None

VII. Budget Issues

A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) June 2022.

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

DISCUSSION: Ms. Wallis showed a slide and reviewed the MER.

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

MOTION to TABLE PASSED; one opposed; zero abstained.

B. Discussion and possible action to reimburse Colleen Toumayan in the amount of \$48.57 for approved VCC expenditures who had prior approval.

Mr. Benedetto explained the need.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Wallis): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council reimburses Colleen Toumayan in the amount of \$48.57 for approved VCC expenditures who had prior approval.

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

C. Discussion and possible action to reimburse Mike Benedetto in the amount of \$317.45 for public storage payment who had prior approval.

Mr. Benedetto explained that “this was already voted on in the last term.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Derohanian, seconded by Ms. Wallis): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council reimburses Mike Benedetto in the amount of \$317.45 for public storage payment with prior approval.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Derohanian,

Jordan, Karam, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith, Toumayan and Wallis); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- D. Discussion and possible action for \$143.36 to Mike Benedetto for expenditures of \$21.89 for public storage locks and keys, \$65.70 more hundred flyers for the tree lighting, \$6.56 for harbor freight batteries or wires microphones and \$49.21 or Walmart tub container for PA system who had prior approval; we had already voted on this last term.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. LaMonica, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council reimburses \$143.36 to Mike Benedetto for expenditures of \$21.89 for public storage locks and keys, \$65.70 more hundred flyers for the tree lighting, \$6.56 for harbor freight batteries or wires microphones and \$49.21 or Walmart tub container for PA system who had prior approval.

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

- E. Discussion and possible action to reimburse \$580.60 to Mike Benedetto to payments for 2 public storage (\$327.60 & \$253 respectively) who had prior approval: which was voted on last term.

Mr. Benedetto explained this.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Wallis, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council reimburses \$580.60 to Mike Benedetto for payments for public storage, who had prior approval.

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

- F. Discussion and possible action to reimburse too Sally Kolstand for \$340.27 for cards to seniors in convalescent homes who had prior approval; again this was already approved in. Last year’s term

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Sanderson): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council reimburses \$340.27 for cards to seniors in convalescent homes to Sally Kolstad, which was previously approved.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kolstad explained about the cards.

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

- G. Discussion and possible action to reimburse too Sally Kolstand for \$348.21 for cards to seniors in convalescent homes who had prior approval; again this was already approved in. Last year’s term

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Sanderson): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council reimburse Sally Kolstad for \$348.21 for cards to seniors in convalescent homes who had prior approval.

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

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

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

- I. Update on GHSNC payments submitted to City Clerk

Mr. Benedetto updated.

VIII. Board Issues

- A. Discussion and possible action to move the Home Depot town Hall from August 14 to sometime in September. This motion was approved by the executive board as a necessity since the city attorney has not completely approved our 30-day event form yet and 1 to 2 weeks is simply not enough to properly advise the community /outreach in order to have a successfully event

Mr. Benedetto reported that the Town Hall will be held September 18th.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council moves the Home Depot Town Hall from August 14 to September 18th.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto explained extensive work with the City Clerk’s Office. The event would be September 18th from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School. There were comments supporting and opposing having the Town Hall in-person.

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

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

- B. Discussion and possible action to re-approve an NPG in the amount of \$3500 to Granada Hills chamber/Granada Hills Foundation for the Granada Hills Street fair- only.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by MSK): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves an NPG in the amount of \$3,500 to the Granada Hills Foundation for the Granada Hills Street fair.

DISCUSSION: Chamber Member Bonnie Bursk and resident Larry Fleck supported it.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Derohanian, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves giving \$1,500 to the Granada Hills Foundation for the Granada Hills Street Fair in October.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Benedetto).

DISCUSSION: Ms. Derohanian noted that other organizations can contribute.

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

- C. Discussion and possible action to re-approve an NPG in the amount of \$1500 to VCC. This NPG was approved by a board in our last term but for some reason it wasn’t picked up by the city clerk for some reason.

Mr. Benedetto explained this. Ms. Smith clarified that “VCC” is Volunteers Cleaning Communities.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council re-approves an NPG in the amount of \$1,500 to VCC.

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

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

A. PLUM discussion and possible action regarding the Los Angeles City Planning Case CPC-2022-1981-CU-DRB-SPP-SPR be included as an agenda item on this week's (Aug. 4) GHSNC agenda,
Interim Chair Mr. Smith reported.

B. Outreach

Chair Ms. Toumayan indicated that there was no report.

C. Homelessness

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

D. Education

Discussion and possible approval of the board retreat for September 1.

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that Board Members will be surveyed; the Retreat will be online, not in-person.

Mr. Benedetto explained that the Board will briefly meet, then have the Retreat, which will be Agendized.

MOTION (by Ms. Ronquillo, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will hold a Board Retreat meeting on September 1, 2022.

Board Member Christina Wallis was again available to vote at this time, making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

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

J. Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported.

K. Cultural Affairs

Chair Ms. Smith reported.

L. Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad reported.

M. Beautification

1. Update on last VCC evet

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

2. Report on the caring of the Cedar Deodar Trees on White Oak Avenue.
Chair Mr. Amador was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken.

N. Public Safety

Chair Mr. Smith will contact Committee Members.

O. Sustainability

Chair Mr. Karam reported that the Committee will meet August 24th or 25th.

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Ms. Derohanian announced a Museum of the San Fernando Valley [818-347-9665; <https://themuseumsfnow.org>] August 13th event. Ms. LaMonica reported that the Cedar Deodar trees on White Oak are being watered. Ms. Ronquillo invited everyone to the August 16th Education Committee meeting.

[*This is copied from the Agenda.*] Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council - Thursday September 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM

XI. Adjournment

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:42 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>.