



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, October 6, 2022  
Approved November 3, 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 [https://ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Agenda\\_2022-10-6.pdf](https://ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Agenda_2022-10-6.pdf) 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 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Launa Bogartz.

**II. Roll Call (Secretary)**

Roll Call was taken by the Minutes Writer. Ten of the 16 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto (President), Launa Bogartz, John Horn, Michael Jordan, Sally Kolstad, Carolyn Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Cheri Norum Derohanian arrived later. Verej Isanians (unexcused), George Karam (excused), Christine LaMonica (Secretary) (excused), Abbey Ronquillo (unexcused) and Christina Wallis (Treasurer) (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. Sixteen of the 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant [At Large]; to apply, see [www.ghsnc.org](http://www.ghsnc.org). Also attended: at least 21 Stakeholders and Guests. Mr. Benedetto explained comment procedures.

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

Resident Bonnie Lallouz announced the October 21<sup>st</sup> Granada High School Homecoming Game and other events, to which alumni and others were invited.

Pilar Schiavo, State Assembly District 40 Candidate [Pilar@Pilar4CA.com; <https://pilar4ca.com>], introduced herself and noted her support for permanent supportive housing for homeless people

Mark Hovater thanked the GHSNC for having the recent Home Depot Town Hall meeting.

#### **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.  
[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IV. E.*] Tessa Charnofsky, District Director for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (818-901-3831; [TCharnofsky@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:TCharnofsky@bos.LACounty.gov); <http://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/sheila-kuehl>), reported that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month; call 800-978-3600 for help.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. H.*

- 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](mailto: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).  
State 38<sup>th</sup> District Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares (661-286-1565; <https://ad38.asmrc.org>) reported that the 118 Freeway Reseda Blvd. off-ramp has been closed almost eight months; she believed “it is a public safety hazard . . . [she is] put[ing] pressure on Caltrans” to work on it; Caltrans said they got the Permit and soon will start work. She reported on recent legislation including reducing wildfire insurance prices; suspending the gas tax; and establishing a Care Court regarding homeless people. Diana Oganessian, a Deputy for the Assemblywoman [[Diana.Oganessian@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Diana.Oganessian@asm.ca.gov)], reported that a “middle-class tax refund” will be sent by State by direct deposit or debit card; contact her if you haven't received it by end of November.
- F. Council District 12 (John Lee).  
Mr. Benedetto reminded that Matthew Vallecilla, a former 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)], 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](mailto: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](mailto:Marilu.Guevara@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)], reminded Board Members of the conflict of interest procedure. She reported that Congress of Neighborhood Councils recordings are available at NeighborhoodCongress.LA. An NC elections information link was emailed to Board Members. She offered assistance to help complete Board Member trainings.

*Board Member Cheri Derohanian arrived online at this time (7:11), making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).

Mr. Allen [[LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com](mailto:LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com); [www.BudgetAdvocates.org](http://www.BudgetAdvocates.org)] reported.

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.

*Board Members Michael Jordan stepped away at this time (7:00) and Launa Bogartz had left by this time, making nine Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).*

L. LAPD Senior Lead Officer or alternate representative.

Resident Richard Fisk, for Phillip Sellers, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer [office 818-756-9011; [31934@LAPD.LACity.org](mailto:31934@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)], reported that the Division “trailer is being renovated and rebuilt.” Crime statistics are available on the Police website.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. I.*

V. **Approval of the Minutes**

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

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote with six in favor; zero opposed; three abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Derohanian, Brad Smith and Toumayan).

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

A. None

## **VII. Budget Issues**

A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) Aug.& Sept 2022.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE consideration of both the August and September MERs.

B. Discussion and possible action to reimburse Mike Benedetto in the amount of \$31.45 for town hall event waters purchased at Costco; who had prior approval.

Mr. Benedetto explained that Costco didn't take the GHSNC's credit card and the water was needed, so he paid for it.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves reimbursing Mike Benedetto in the amount of \$31.45 for town hall event waters purchased at Costco; who had prior approval.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Derohanian, Horn, Kolstad, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. One (Amador) was ineligible 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 for up to \$500 to support Parks and Rec's Halloween event.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$500 to support Parks and Rec's Halloween event.

**DISCUSSION:** Thara Innocent, of the Granada Hills Recreation Center, explained the October 29<sup>th</sup> event having a costume contest, games and a snack bar. Donations can be made to the Recreation Center Mondays-Fridays from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Derohanian, Horn, Kolstad, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. One (Amador) was ineligible to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct.

- D. Discussion and possible action to change our storage unit from Public Storage to Nova Storage.

Mr. Benedetto explained that the Public Storage charge will increase to \$360 per month and that Nova Storage costs less and is on Rinaldi between Sepulveda and Laurel Canyon.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves changing our storage unit from Public Storage to Nova Storage.

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

### **VIII. Board Issues**

- A. Home Depot Town Hall for September 18, 2022 - Update on how it went and what’s to come.

Mr. Benedetto reported thanked those who attended and helped with the Town Hall. Brad Smith reported that around 100 attended in person and media covered it. The City Planning Dept. agreed to give at least 24 days notice of their Hearing. Home Depot’s representative has “not responded” to an invitation to present to the LUC. He encouraged that public comments be directed to City Planner Tim Fargo at [Tim.Fargo@LACity.org](mailto:Tim.Fargo@LACity.org), 818-374-9911. Resident Richard Fisk reported that Home Depot has a lease with LAWA until January 31, 2026. Resident Maria Fisk urged the Board “to move quickly on this”; she is “completely and totally opposed” to the project. Brad Smith reminded that the Board “has not taken a position yet.”

*Board Member Michael Jordan returned at this time (7:44, making 10 Board Members present online.*

- B. Volunteers needed for the Granada Hills Street Faire Oct 22, 2022 8:30 am to set-up, event is 10 am to 4:30 pm so would like 2 shifts; also need help with Storage in picking up all giveaways and etc.

Mr. Benedetto requested volunteers. Ms. Derohanian, Mr. Horn, Ms. Kolstad, Mr. Smith, Ms. Toumayan and others volunteered.

- C. Up-coming events- Granada Hills Tree lighting Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm Holiday Parade Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> from 1pm until it ends.

Mr. Benedetto noted the above. Ms. Derohanian and Ms. Toumayan volunteered to ride in the GHSNC car.

- D. Discussion and possible action to re-approve an NPG in the amount of \$1500 to Granada Hills Charter High School for instruments and etc. which was tabled.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE the above Item as the presenter was not ready.

- E. Discussion and possible action to re-approve an NPG in the amount of \$2500 to GHSNC Robodox. This NPG was approved by a board in our last term but was not picked up by the city clerk.

Mr. Benedetto noted that the NPG application should say "GHSNC," not "GHCHS."

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council re-approves an NPG in the amount of \$2,500 to GHSNC Robodox.

**DISCUSSION:** Robotics President Danielle Trinh showed slides and presented. There'll be October 28th and early November competitions. She said that "funding covers the frame and all the raw materials." Mr. Benedetto noted that around \$6,500 in funding was available and that this was approved last year.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Kolstad, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- F. Discussion and possible action to re-approve an NPG in the amount of \$2500 to Granada Hills Chamber/Granada Hills Foundation for the Granada Hills Street Parade- only.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves an NPG in the amount of \$2,500 for the Granada Hills Chamber/Granada Hills Foundation for the Granada Hills Street Parade- only.

**DISCUSSION:** Resident Bonnie Bursk described the long-time well-attended family event and said that "the budget is about \$35,000." Resident Mark Morris said that "this is a tradition for Granada Hills . . . a very good cause." Mr. Benedetto noted that \$1,500 was budgeted for this.

**MOTION to AMEND** (by Ms. Derohanian, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council amends the main Motion to say "in the amount of \$1,500 for the Granada Hills Street Parade through the Granada Hills Chamber/Granada Hills Foundation.

Ms. Guevara clarified that amending the Budget would need to be Agendized and that "NCs will receive notification sometime in October" about rollover funding.

**AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Kolstad, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. One (Amador) was ineligible to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct.

**AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Kolstad, Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. One (Amador) was ineligible to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct.

*Board Member Carlos Amador left at this time (8:42), making nine Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).*

- G. Discussion and possible action to approve an NPG in the amount of \$2500 to YMCA.

North Valley YMCA Executive Director David Hartmire presented. They’ve worked with schools for 20 years identifying needy families. Other Neighborhood Councils help fund the program. Volunteers are needed November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by MCSMITH): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves an NPG in the amount of \$2,500 to YMCA.

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

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

### **A. PLUM**

Interim Chair Mr. Smith reported that the Committee would meet October 13<sup>th</sup> and consider a construction and two liquor license applications. The Board indicated by voice that it is interested in knowing more about the proposed Home Depot on LAWA property.

### **B. Outreach**

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

### **C. Homelessness**

Chair Mr. Horn reported that LAHSA released 2020 Homeless Count numbers.

D. Education

Mr. Morris indicated for Ms. Ronquillo that there was no report at this time; a Chair will be appointed.

E. Youth

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

F. Cultural Affairs

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

G. Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad reported on outreach regarding the Home Depot Town Hall.

H. Beautification

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

I. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Chair Mr. Smith reported on the SoCal Gas pipeline safety project at San Jose and White Oak; they offered to present to the Committee.

J. Sustainability

Chair Mr. Karam indicated that there was no report at this time.

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

Ms. Derohanian announced a Museum of the San Fernando Valley [818-347-9665; <https://themuseumsfvnow.org>] Richie Valens display to be on October 8<sup>th</sup>. It's at Wilbur and Nordoff and is free; park opposite it in the office building. They'll have a free artist/speaker series lecture October 15th. Mr. Jordan wanted to Agendize having in-person Board meetings. Mr. Smith thanked all you help with the Town Hall. Ms. Toumayan was happy to be back and thanked the Board for its support.

**XI. Adjournment**

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 909 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council -  
Thursday November 3, 2022 at 6:30 PM

*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>.*