



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, November 3, 2022
Approved December 1, 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_2022-11-03.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 6:52 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Christine LaMonica.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Nine of the 16 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Mike Benedetto (President), Cheri Norum Derohanian, Michael Jordan, Sally Kolstad, Christine LaMonica (Secretary), Carolyn Sanderson, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). John Horn and Abbey Ronquillo arrived later. Five Board Members (Carlos Amador, Launa Bogartz, Verej Isanians, George Karam and Christina Wallis (Treasurer)) were absent (all excused). 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. 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. Also attended: at least 15 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. Public Comment:

Mr. Benedetto explained the comment procedure. Guest Lionel Mares reported that the DWP Credit Union's Sun Valley office soon will close and he opposes the Home Depot project.

Board Member John Horn arrived online at this time (6:58), making 10 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 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 (213-440-0927 or 818-901-3831; MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov; www.SupervisorKuehl.com), 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).
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.asmrc.org>], was not present and there was no report.
- F. Council District 12 (John Lee) ***
No Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; www.Ms.Derohanian12.org], was 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.
- 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], reported that monthly updates were sent to Board Members. The GHSNC election will be Saturday, June 10, 2023; candidate filing begins February 10th. She said the State Brown Act requires that public commenters get "equal time" but they must "stick to the subject matter . . . if they don't speak to the item" they can be muted. At Mr. Benedetto's request, she will notify ITA that the GHSNC and the GHNNC are getting some emails meant for the other NC.

- I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).
Mr. Allen, a Budget Advocate [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com;
www.BudgetAdvocates.org], reported that “we are starting to do meetings” with
City departments. He noted that the Budget Advocates “don’t have the authority
to change anything” regarding the City budget.
- 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).
Neither resident Richard Fisk or 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
October, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote with all 10 in favor; 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) Aug, Sept. and Oct. 2022.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE consideration of approving
all three MERs, noting that the City Clerk is having some problems with the
funding operation. He relayed that it won’t negatively affect GHSNC funding. He

reported that \$28,312.38 in funding is available and that all payments have been made. Some reimbursements are outstanding. No Motion was made or vote taken.

VIII. Board Issues and Updates:

A. Update on the Granada Hills Street Faire of Oct 22, 2022 and how it went.

Ms. Toumayan and Mr. Benedetto thanked volunteers for helping with the successful event.

B. Up-coming events-

- Granada Hills Tree lighting Dec. 2nd at 6:30 pm

Mr. Benedetto encouraged attending.

- Holiday Parade Dec. 4th from 1pm until it ends- who wants to participate and ride in Parade.

Mr. Benedetto reported that he and Mr. Smith will provide convertible cars in which to ride in the Parade and encouraged participating. Ms. Derohanian, Ms. Toumayan and Ms. Kolstad (if she's available) volunteered to ride.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo had arrived online by this time (7:26), making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

C. Discussion and possible action to re-approve an NPG in the amount of \$1000 to Granada Hills Charter High School to help the Choir with bus transportation to go on tour for various engagements along with uniforms and accessories.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE the above Item because a representative was unable to attend.

D. Discussion and possible action to set up an election committee.

Ms. Smith and Mr. Horn volunteered to serve on the Committee. Ms. Guevara clarified that NC election committees are not supposed to engage in "partisan activities," but work with DONE to engage the community to vote. Voting can be in-person or "vote by mail." No Motion was made or vote taken.

E. By-laws Committee TBA

Mr. Benedetto noted that the Committee Members are himself, Cheri Derohanian, Michael Jordan, Chavon Smith and Colleen Toumayan. Mr. Benedetto thanked Mr. Jordan for his Bylaws work.

- F. Discussion on drafting a letter to Councilman Lee start sending representative to our meetings again.

Ms. Kolstad reported that she spoke with City Councilmember Lee about speaking to the GHSNC. Mr. Morris said that the GHSNC never motioned to remove the Councilmember from office. Ms. Guevara will follow up on Mr. Morris' question regarding City Councilmembers' obligation to work with Neighborhood Councils and enforcement if they don't do that work. Mr. Horn and Mr. Smith spoke about the GHSNC's relationship with Councilmember Lee. Mr. Benedetto noted that Councilmember Lee is the Chair of the City Council Committee that is in charge of Neighborhood Councils. The Board agreed to TABLE this Item; Ms. Kolstad opposed Tabling it.

- G. Discussion and possible action to have a Holiday event if we can find a location within Granada hills boundaries of up to \$1,000 for said event.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council a Holiday event if we can find a location within Granada Hills boundaries of up to \$1,000 for said event.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): to add the words "in December" so that the Motion would say ". . . Holiday event in December if we can find . . ."

AMENDMENT to the MOTION "was not accepted."

FUNDING MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with five in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Derohanian, Kolstad, LaMonica, Toumayan); five opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Horn, Jordan, Ronquillo, Sanderson and Brad Smith); one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either "yes" or "no" votes) (Chavon Smith).

- H. Discussion and possible action on taking December off for the Holidays.

There was extensive discussion. Ms. Smith noted that "taking December off" is different from cancelling or rescheduling the December Board meeting, and that other business can and needs to be conducted in December.

Mr. Benedetto said he "withdrew the Motion." No Motion was made or vote taken.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

A. PLUM

Interim Chair Mr. Smith reported and asked that Home Depot project material be on the website front page. He encouraged contacting City Planner Tim Fargo (Tim.Fargo@LACity.org) with comments. Resident Maria Fisk encouraged the GHSNC to soon take a position about the Home Depot project.

B. Outreach

Chair Ms. Toumayan indicated that there was nothing additional to report.

C. Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn reported that the Committee will try to meet before the end of the month. On November 17th at 6:00 p.m. the LA Homeless Services Authority will have a State of Homelessness Panel; register to attend.

D. Education

Ms. Kolstad reported.

E. Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that the Committee is drafting a letter for the GHSNC to send to Granada Hills Charter High School regarding safety at Chatsworth and Zelzah; students have been running into the street.

F. Cultural Affairs

Chair Ms. Smith reported that the Committee typically meets second Fridays and would next meet on the third Friday this month; volunteers are welcome.

G. Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad reported on outreach to local senior centers and convalescent homes.

H. Beautification

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

I. Public Safety

Chair Mr. Smith reported that the Committee would meet Thursday, November 10th at 6:30 p.m., and discuss the SoCal Gas pipeline safety mandate and the project on San Jose between Zelzah and Encino. On November 8th at 6:00 p.m. Senior Lead Officer Parker will have a community meeting at St. Euphrasia Church.

J. Sustainability

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

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Mr. Benedetto wanted all Board Members absent from this meeting to have their absence excused due to technical difficulties. Ms. Derohanian urged attending the Tree Lighting and December 4th Parade, noting the community outreach value.

Board Member Michael Jordan had left by this time (9:05), making 10 Board Members present online (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).

Ms. Ronquillo thanked everyone for their outreach efforts and encouraged staying safe and protecting themselves and their valuables. Ms. Smith wanted to be sure that the Bylaws are revised in time to be changed, including meeting criteria. Several Board Members noted the successful Street Faire and urged voting in next Tuesday's general election.

XI. Adjournment

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

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

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:15 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>.