



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, December 1, 2022  
Approved January 5, 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.

Document copies were available at [https://ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Agenda\\_2022-12-01.pdf](https://ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Agenda_2022-12-01.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 6:43 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sally Kolstad.

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

**II. Roll Call** (Secretary).

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Nine 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 and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Cheri Norum Derohanian and Abbey Ronquillo arrived later. Verej Isanians (unexcused), George Karam, Christine LaMonica (Secretary), Chavon Smith and Christina Wallis (Treasurer) were absent (all but Isanians 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](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.

*Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived online at this time (6:54), making 10 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

**III. Public Comment.**

Guest Glenn Bailey invited everyone to LANCC's [the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition; LANCC@EmpowerLA.org; www.LANCC.org] usual first Saturday meeting. Guest Keren Waters reported that the Granada Hills North NC recessed until February 6<sup>th</sup>. Guest Lionel Mares urged Valley NCs to "stick together" and

attend VANC's [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; [VANC@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:VANC@EmpowerLA.org); <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>] next meeting.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #II.*

#### **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 Lindsay Horvath.  
Myrna Gutierrez, a Caseworker for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (213-440-0927 or 818-901-3831; [MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov); [www.SupervisorKuehl.com](http://www.SupervisorKuehl.com)), reported that she will be there for 90 more days to assist with the transition.

C. 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.

*[There was no Agenda Item #IV. D.]*

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

F. Council District 12 (John Lee)  
Colin Crews, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; [Colin.Crews@LACity.org](mailto:Colin.Crews@LACity.org); <https://CouncilDistrict12.LACity.gov>], reported.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #III.*

G. Mayor's Office (Karen Bass).  
No representative was 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)], reported that she sent student internship program information to Board Members. The program, not the City, pays the interns. Election representative Shawna Dungo will contact Mr. Benedetto. Ms. Guevara noted that Mr. Amador completed his training and is eligible to vote on funding items.

- I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).  
Mr. Allen reported that the Budget Advocates [[LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com](mailto:LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com); [www.BudgetAdvocates.org](http://www.BudgetAdvocates.org)] are meeting with City Departments. The next Budget Day will be in June. The Budget Advocates will be submitting monthly financial statements available to everyone.
- 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 representative  
Phillip Sellers, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer for the east and south (of Chatsworth St.) sides of Granada Hills [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 “there’ve been a lot of commercial burglaries . . . smash and grab,” etc. and an “increase in burglaries . . . robberies . . . [and] aggravated assaults.” He reminded individuals and businesses not to keep valuables, including cash, exposed or in stores.
- John Parker, a Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer for the north side (north of Chatsworth St.) of Granada Hills [mobile/text phone 818-832-0773; office 818-832-0633; [36560@LAPD.LACity.org](mailto:36560@LAPD.LACity.org); [http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.LAPDOnline.org/devonshire_community_police_station)], reminded to “be mindful of your surroundings . . . not leaving any packages visible in your vehicle . . . not to wear high-end jewelry” in public.

*Board Member Cheri Derohanian arrived online at this time (7:20), making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).*

**V. Approval of the Minutes.**

- A. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its Nov 3, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

No corrections or amendments were made.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 3, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

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

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

A. None

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council appoints Mark Morris to the Cultural Affairs Committee.

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

B. Approve affidavit on lost receipt for the \$.99 store in the amount of \$5.48. 45 clipboards for the Town Hall event & etc. To be submitted to city clerk which has been holding up our MERs.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the affidavit on lost receipt for the \$.99 store in the amount of \$5.48 for five clipboards for the Town Hall event and etc.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Benedetto explained the need.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Derohanian, Horn, Jordan, Kolstad, Ronquillo, Sanderson and Brad Smith); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Toumayan 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.

**VII. Budget Issues.**

A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) Aug., Sept. and Oct. 2022. - Tabled.

Mr. Benedetto noted the above.

**VIII. Board Issues.**

A. Presentation by LAWA (Los Angeles World Airports) is to discuss the Home Depot site at Van Nuys Airport; 7-minute presentation followed by up to 15-20 minutes for questions and answers

*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VIII. B. Mark Adams LAWA Government Affairs Director, presented. Home Depot has subleased at Van Nuys Airport “for many years.” A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued because “a competitive process” is required by “federal and City guidelines.” The site is zoned “for commercial use,” not “aviation use.” He hoped that Home Depot will soon sign a long-term lease, before the 2026 end of current lease. He*

said it's "possible" that the Home Depot lease could be "terminated" before 2026 and another lessee start. A tenant who indicates "a higher level of investment" is considered for a longer-term lease. They usually lease for 20-50 years, depending upon the level of investment. "A master leaseholder" (Mr. Adams didn't remember their name) holds the lease; Home Depot is the sublessee. RFPs usually are open for 60-90 days. RFP consideration "can take some time, typically "12 months . . . something like that." Mr. Smith requested an Airport presentation regarding their "land use and operations."

B. Up-coming events-

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

Mr. Benedetto noted the above.

- Holiday Parade Dec. 4th update

Mr. Benedetto noted the above.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VIII. A.*

C. Discussion and possible action to finish setting up an election committee, including meeting date

Mr. Benedetto noted that Ms. Smith and Mr. Horn also wanted to be on the Election Committee. No Motion was made or vote taken.

D. By-laws Committee TBA (let's try and pick a date)

Ms. Smith, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Toumayan and Mr. Benedetto wanted to be on the Committee. Ms. Derohanian removed herself from the Committee. Mr. Benedetto will work on setting a meeting date.

**IX. Committee Reports and Motions.**

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

A. Planning and Land Use

Interim Chair Mr. Smith will work with an applicant.

B. Outreach

Chair Ms. Toumayan encouraged attending the Tree Lighting.

C. Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn reported that the annual Homeless Count [[www.TheyCountWillYou.org](http://www.TheyCountWillYou.org)] begins January 24<sup>th</sup>. He will have more information at the next Board meeting.

D. Education

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that the Committee will meet in January.

E. Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo indicated that there was no report. Mr. Benedetto thanked Ms. Ronquillo and her students for doing parade outreach.

F. Cultural Affairs

Chair Ms. Smith was not present and there was no report.

G. Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad will ask in the Spring if a Senior Dance is possible.

H. Beautification

Chair Mr. Amador reported that the Committee soon will meet again

I. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Chair Mr. Smith reported that the SoCal Gas Pipeline Safety Project on Santa Fe will start in February. He will try to arrange a January meeting presentation.

J. Sustainability

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

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

Board Members wished everyone happy holidays and encouraged attending the Tree Lighting; Mr. Benedetto noted that many organizations will be represented there.

**XI. Adjournment.**

*[This paragraph was on the Agenda.]* NOTE: Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council - Thursday, Jan 5, 2023, at 6:30 PM

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:16 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>.*