



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD DISCUSSION NOTES*, Thursday, February 2, 2023
Approved March 2, 2023

* No quorum (required minimum number) of Board Members was present, so no Motions were made or votes taken. The City Attorney has designated such events as “discussions,” not “Meetings” and the record of them as “notes,” not “Minutes.”

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 started the discussion at 6:41 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark Morris.

II. Roll Call

The Secretary noted that seven of the 14 Board Members were present online, which is not a quorum: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto (President), Cheri Norum Derohanian, Michael Jordan, Christine LaMonica (Secretary), Carolyn Sanderson and Brad Smith. Launa Bogartz, Sally Kolstad and Abbey Ronquillo arrived later. John Horn (unexcused), Chavon Smith (unexcused), Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President) (excused) and Christina Wallis (Treasurer) (excused) were absent. George Karam had resigned. 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 at this time the Board could only take public comments, could not have any official discussions, and could not make any Motions or take any votes. Fourteen of the 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Three Board Seats were vacant [all At Large]; to apply, see www.ghsnc.org. Also attended: at least 12 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

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

There were no comments at this time.

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 Lindsay Horvath – Rep Myrna Gutierrez.
Myrna Gutierrez, a Caseworker for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (213-440-0927 or 818-901-3831; MGutierrez@bos.LACounty.gov; <https://lindseyhorvath.lacounty.gov>), was not present and there was no report.
- C. Senator Caroline Menjivar District 3.
No Representative for State 3rd District Senator Caroline Menjivar [ofc. (818) 901-5588; <https://senate.ca.gov/Menjivar>], was present and there was no report.
- D. Congressional District 25 -Congressmen Mike Garcia's office (Garrett Henry).
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 40 – Pilar Schiavo rep Gabby
Gabby Gurrola, a Deputy for State 40th District Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo [Gabby.Gurrola@asm.ca.gov; <https://ad38.asmr.org>], encouraged attending the February 7th PUC public hearing regarding natural gas cost. SoCalGas has payment plans and will, for free, show home gas savings ideas.
- F. Council District 12 (John Lee)
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11 Roll Call.] Councilmember Lee thanked those who participated in the Homeless Count. He introduced Special Projects Deputy Jonathan Coto. Mr. Lee encouraged asking about the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Fund. The Caltrans' contractor for the 118 Freeway Reseda Blvd. off-ramp didn't have all their Permits before closing the freeway; CD12 and others in the City helped them get the Permits. They expect to complete phase one by the end of March; at least one off-ramp lane will be opened. The Councilmember Motioned the City Council to help low and middle-income families with high natural gas prices. He spoke against the Home Depot project and encouraged public comment, saying "this project is inappropriate at this location" because of noise, air quality, traffic and more reasons; "I don't think it's a good fit." He encouraged reading the Granada Hills Community Plan <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/community-plan-area/granada-hills-knollwood>. He will have Mr. Coto report back regarding the number of businesses impacted by the Home Depot project. He reminded that Home Depot has a right to be there because the property is zoned for business. Mr. Lee said "I'm asking for a complete EIR [Environmental Impact Report] of the project." Also, "we have a lot of overtime funding going for extra patrols."

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #III.

Jonathan Coto, Special Projects Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; Jonathan.Coto@LACity.org; www.CD12.org], encouraged contacting him with questions.

G. Mayor's Office -- Karen Bass (Erin Seinfeld)

Erin Seinfeld, West Area Representative for Mayor Karen Bass (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 the interest procedure. The City is transitioning in March back to in-person meetings; March Committee meetings "may not take place." Information sessions will be on Thursday, Feb. 23rd from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 25th from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. regarding returning to in-person meetings.

I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).

Mr. Allen reported [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.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived online by around this time (7:26), making eight Board Members present online, one short of the GHSNC quorum of nine.

L. LAPD Senior Lead Officer or alternate representative.

Resident Richard Fisk, for Alan Sellers, an LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer for the east and south (of Chatsworth St.) sides of Granada Hills [office 424-364-5568; 31934@LAPD.LACity.org; DevonshireSLO@LAPD.Online; <https://www.lapdonline.org/lapd-contact/valley-bureau/devonshire-community-police-station>], reported that crime was down 28% from the previous quarter in

Devonshire. He cautioned that, if you're in a collision, towing "pirates" may offer to tow but it will cost an "exorbitant" amount.

Brian Dameron, L.A. Fire Dept. Battalion 15 Chief (ofc. 818-756-8615; LAFDBatallion15@LACity.org), encouraged using AAA or a similar organization for vehicle towing.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IX.

V. Approval of Minutes

A. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its Jan. 5, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Benedetto explained that no Motion could be made or vote taken to approve the Minutes because a voting quorum of Board Members was not present.

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

A. Discussion and possible action to elect Mark Morris to the GHSNC General Board.

Mr. Benedetto explained that no Motion could be made or vote taken because a voting quorum of Board Members was not present.

B. Discussion and possible action to removed Mark Morris as Parliamentarian.

Mr. Benedetto explained that no Motion could be made or vote taken because a voting quorum of Board Members was not present.

VII. Budget Issues

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

Mr. Benedetto explained that no Motion could be made or vote taken because a voting quorum of Board Members was not present.

VIII. Board Issues.

A. Update Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences Parent Teacher Student Association (VAAS PTSA) for the amount of \$5,000.

Mr. Benedetto explained that no Motion could be made or vote taken because a voting quorum of Board Members was not present.

B. Report on: Current and Past NPGs and other payment requests
The above Item was skipped.

C. Date for Election committee
The above Item was skipped.

D. Date for By-laws Committee
The above Item was skipped.

Board Member Carolyn Sanderson left at this time (8:14), making seven Board Members present online, one short of the GHSNC quorum of nine.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions.

A. Planning and Land Use

Interim Chair Mr. Smith reported on the Home Depot project.

B. Outreach

Mr. Benedetto indicated that there was no report at this time.

C. Homelessness

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

D. Education

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

E. Youth

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

F. Cultural Affairs

There was no report at this time.

G. Seniors

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

H. Beautification

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

I. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Chair Mr. Smith reported that Officer Parker will attend the Committee meeting.

Mr. Benedetto reported budget statistics and explained Board Action Certification (BAC) form approval challenges. Ms. Guevara encouraged using the Purchase Card only for emergency purchases, rather than personally paying and applying for reimbursement. There was extensive discussion regarding NPG [Neighborhood Purposes Grant] allocations processing. Mr. Benedetto will Agendize for the March Board meeting to consider allocating an NPG for Mayall Elementary School.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #V.

J. Sustainability

There was no report at this time.

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

There were no comments or submissions at this time.

XI. Adjournment

NOTE: Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council -
Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 6:30 PM

Mr. Benedetto ended the discussion at 8:14 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>.