



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, March 2, 2023
Approved April 6, 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 6:43 p.m. and explained comment procedures. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dave Beauvais.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Ten of the 14 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Mike Benedetto (President), Launa Bogartz, Cheri Norum Derohanian, Sally Kolstad, Christine LaMonica (Secretary), Mark Morris, Brad Smith, Chevron Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Abbey Ronquillo arrived later. John Horn (excused), Carolyn Sanderson (unexcused) and Christina Wallis (Treasurer) (excused) were absent. Michael Jordan had resigned. New At Large Seat Board Member Dave Beauvais was appointed to the Board during below Item #VI. B. 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. 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 16 Stakeholders and Guests.

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.
There was no report for State 3rd District Senator Caroline Menjivar [ofc. (818) 901-5588; <https://senate.ca.gov/Menjivar>].
- 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 Shiva rep Gabby Guerrilla.
Gabby Guerrilla, a Deputy for State 40th District Assemblywoman Pilar Shiva [Gabby.Gurrola@asm.ca.gov; <https://ad38.asmtc.org>], was not present and there was no report.
- F. Council District 12 (John Lee) Jonathan Coto.
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], had told Mr. Benedetto that he could not be present and there was no report.
- 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 Guevara).
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 interest procedure. She reported that, starting March 30th, NC meetings must be in-person. She will send "updated Agenda templates" to the Board. She reminded the Board that it must post its meeting Minutes.
- I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).
Glenn Bailey reported [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org]. See the "NC Reports" tab to see the update sent at the end of January. The Advocates met with Mayor Bass, who wanted to hear from them about what NCs want. One issue was NC funding; he reminded that NCs used to receive \$50,000 per year in funding [\$32,000 is the current funding]. The City annual budget Council File number is CF 23-0600.
- 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;

Oswaldo.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 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](https://www.lapdonline.org/lapd-contact/valley-bureau/devonshire-community-police-station)], reported that northern Granada Hills recently experienced a
number of burglaries.

V. Approval of Minutes

- A. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes for Aug. 4, 2022, Jan. 5, Feb 2 Special Meeting notes and Feb 17, 2023 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 August 4, 2022 Regular Board; January 5, 2023 Regular Board; February 2, 2023 Special Meeting notes and February 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with nine in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Toumayan).

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo arrived online by this time (6:55), making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

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

- A. Swearing-in Mark Morris to the GHSNC General Board.

[This Item was addressed after #VI. B.] Mr. Morris and Mr. Beauvais were sworn in, making 13 Board Members present. *[Mr. Morris already had been voted onto the Board at the February 17th Board Meeting.]*

- B. Discussion and possible action to add Dave Beauvais to the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Board; and swearing-in.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council adds Dave Beauvais to the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Board.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote with all 11 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

New (returning) Board Member Dave Beauvais was Seated at this time, making 12 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

VII. Budget Issues

A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) for Jan. 2023.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to Table the above Item. Explained receipt for POB didn't say what it was for.

B. Discussion and possible action to re-allocate funds per our admin package for \$11,000 to cover NPG's, Co-sponsorships and increased payments, over budget, for public storage \$278 more and \$636.15 webmaster. As follows:
\$1,000 from meeting refreshments
\$2500 from outreach
\$3500 from office expenses
\$4000 from general operating expense

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council re-allocates funds per our admin package for \$11,000 to cover NPG's, Co-sponsorships and increased payments, over budget, for public storage \$278 more and \$636.15 webmaster, as follows: \$1,000 from meeting refreshments; \$2,500 from outreach; \$3,500 from office expenses; and \$4,000 from general operating expense.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto explained the Motion. Budget information was shown online. There was extensive discussion about the re-allocations.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with six in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Derohanian, Kolstad, LaMonica, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; four abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either "yes" or "no" votes) (Amador, Bogartz, Ronquillo and Chavon Smith). Two (Beauvais and Morris) were ineligible to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct.

[This Item had no Agenda number.] Discussion and possible action to allocate up to \$1000 to be added to our admin package for elections.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council allocates up to \$1,000 to be added to our admin package for elections.

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, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and

Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. Two (Beauvais and Morris) were 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. Discussion and possible action for [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences Parent Teacher Student Association (VAAS PTSA) for up to \$5,000 to support the teacher appreciation efforts that take place at the high school. The community recognizes the important role that teachers play serving the community. The Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences sits at the heart of our neighborhood preparing young minds to go to college. This request is in recognition of the teachers' contributions to this community,

DISCUSSION: Diane Eatmon, of the VAAS PTA, explained what the funding would be used for.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council ___

Mr. Beauvais withdrew his amended Motion.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) in the amount of \$5,000 to the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences Parent Teacher Student Association (VAAS PTSA) to include \$2,500 for Teacher Appreciation Week and \$2,500 for VAAS PTSA General Fund and Teacher reimbursement.

Board Member Launa Bogartz recused from voting (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest [she is a VAAS PTA Board Member & parent]) and stepped away from the meeting at this time, making 10 Board Members present online and eligible to vote on funding Motions (the GHSNC Board quorum is nine). Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote "yes" or "no."

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") (Amador, Benedetto, Derohanian, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. Two (Beauvais and Morris) were ineligible to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct. One recused (Bogartz). Mr. Beauvais and Mr. Morris were ruled ineligible to vote.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Amador,

Benedetto, Derohanian, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. Two (Beauvais and Morris) were ineligible to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct. One recused (Bogartz).

Ms. Bogartz' recusal ended and she returned online at this time, making 12 Board Members present and eligible to vote.

- B. Discussion and possible action for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to Mayall school in the amount of \$5000 to paint murals throughout the school based on the book *The Road Less traveled*; includes materials and artist fees.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, and seconded): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to Mayall School in the amount of \$5,000 to paint murals throughout the school based on the book "The Road Less Traveled"; includes materials and artist fees.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Amador explained the Motion. Parent Linda Kim explained how the funding would be used. Ms. Bogartz reported that the City Attorney indicated that she did not have a conflict of interest regarding this Motion.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Amador, seconded by Mr. Morris): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for Mayall Academy of Arts & Technology in the amount of \$5,000 to paint murals throughout the school based on children's literature characters; includes materials and artist fees.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kim explained that the muralist is a paid professional.

AMENDED 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, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. Two (Beauvais and Morris) were 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 a Neighborhood Purpose Grant for the YMCA in the amount of \$2 500 for holiday giveaways.

Mr. Benedetto explained that this NPG was already approved by the GHSNC and submitted by himself and Ms. Wallis to the City Clerk, but apparently never processed by the City Clerk.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Bogartz): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council gives a Neighborhood Purpose Grant for the YMCA in the amount of \$2 500 for holiday giveaways.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto clarified that the YMCA is in Porter Ranch. Resident Candace Stein opposed this because the YMCA is in Porter Ranch, not

Granada Hills South. Mr. Benedetto noted that some of the low-income families are in Granada Hills South. Ms. Guevara clarified that “this is not reimbursement for any past expenses.”

Mr. Benedetto withdrew his Motion.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will provide a \$2 500 Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the North Valley YMCA to support the Y’s spring food program. The program will benefit families at area elementary schools including’ Tulsa St. Elementary School, Granada Elementary School and Granada Hills High School.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Derohanian, Kolstad, LaMonica, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Bogartz); two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Amador and Ronquillo). Two (Beauvais and Morris) were 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 Members Dave Beauvais and Mark Morris recused from voting (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest [both are Granada Hills Community Foundation Board Members]) and stepped away from the meeting at this time, making 10 Board Members present online and eligible to vote on funding Motions (the GHSNC Board quorum is nine). Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote “yes” or “no.”

D. Discussion and possible action approved a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Granada Hills Community foundation for the GH street fair in the amount of \$1500.

Mr. Benedetto reported that the City Attorney indicated that he did not have a conflict of interest regarding this Motion.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Granada Hills Community Foundation for the Granada Hills Street Fair in the amount of \$1,500.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Derohanian, Kolstad, LaMonica, Ronquillo, Brad Smith and Toumayan); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Amador and Chavon Smith); one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Bogartz). Two recused (Beauvais and Morris).

Board Members Dave Beauvais and Mark Morris recused from voting (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest [both are Granada Hills Community Foundation Board Members]) and stepped away from the meeting at this time, making 10 Board Members present online and eligible to

vote on funding Motions (the GHSNC Board quorum is nine). Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote “yes” or “no.”

- E. Discussion and possible action reapproved a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Granada Hills Community foundation for the GH Parade in the amount of \$1500.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council shall provide a \$1,500 Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Granada Hills Community Foundation for support of the 39th annual Granada Hills Holiday Parade.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Smith believed that it was important to state that, because the application was incomplete, this would be a re-approval. Resident Bonnie Bursk described Parade work by many organizations. It was clarified that this is for the 2022 Parade.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo had stepped away from the meeting by this time, making nine Board Members present online and eligible to vote on funding Motions (the GHSNC Board quorum is nine).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Derohanian, Kolstad, LaMonica, Brad Smith and Toumayan); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Amador, Bogartz and Chavon Smith); zero abstained. Two recused (Beauvais and Morris).

Mr. Beauvais’ and Mr. Morris’ recusals ended and they returned to the meeting at this time, making 11 Board Members present and eligible to vote on non-funding items (the GHSNC Board quorum is nine).

- F. Discussion and possible action for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to Granada Hills Robotics team in the amount of \$2,500.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Kolstad): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to Granada Hills Robotics team in the amount of \$2,500.

DISCUSSION: Danielle Trinh, GHCHS team President, explained what the funding would be used for and showed brief videos of their robot. Funding from SoCalGas in previous years; this year, NASA, ElCom, Aerojet, RocketDyne and others, and “some family donations.” Former Team President Will Kalman, described the “fantastic program” that also teaches outreach, marketing, administration and more.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amador, Benedetto, Bogartz, Derohanian, Kolstad, LaMonica, Brad Smith, Chavon Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; zero abstained. Two (Beauvais and Morris) were

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 Chavon Smith was unavailable to vote at this time, making 10 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

- G. Discussion and possible action to a co-sponsorship for the holiday egg hunt in the amount of \$800 with Parks & Rec.

Granada Hills Petit Park Director Michelle De La Hoya, described the event and thanked the Board for previous support. She added that pool construction will take 18 months and “be closed this summer and next summer . . . then we’ll have a brand new pool . . . a splash pad” and more.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Amador): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will co-sponsor the holiday egg hunt in the amount of \$800 with Parks & Rec.

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

- H. Date for By-laws Committee
Committee Members are Ms. Smith, Mr. Smith, Mr. Benedetto, Ms. Toumayan and Ms. Derohanian. No date was set for the next Committee meeting.

- I. Date for Election Committee
Mr. Benedetto noted that Ms. Smith and Mr. Horn are Committee Members.

- J. We still need to move our storage unit from public storage to Nova storage; volunteers needed; possibly for March 29, 2023.
Mr. Benedetto explained the above.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

A. PLUM

Mr. Smith reported that there was nothing new regarding the Home Depot project. He urged Board Members not to act on any information that’s not in the public record. He said that Home Depot is “committed” to presenting to the GHSNC.

B. Outreach

Ms. Toumayan indicated that there was no report.

C. Homelessness

Mr. Amador reported that January 24th Homeless Count volunteers included himself, Mr. Horn, Ms. Toumayan, Ms. Smith, Ms. Sanderson and around 28 other volunteers, with support from CD12.

Board Member Abbey Ronquillo had returned at this time (9:56), making 11 Board Members present online.

D. Education

Ms. Ronquillo reported.

E. Youth

Ms. Ronquillo indicated that there was no report.

F. Cultural Affairs

There was no report.

G. Seniors

Ms. Kolstad was looking forward to event planning.

H. Beautification

Mr. Amador reported.

I. Public Safety

Mr. Smith reported that the Committee will meet.

J. Sustainability

Mr. Benedetto reported that he discussed this with former City Councilmember Greig Smith.

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Mr. Benedetto said the next Board Meeting will be April 6th.

XI. Adjournment

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:01 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>.