



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, April 6, 2023

Granada Hills Charter H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344
Approved May 4, 2023

Document copies were available at https://ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Agenda_2023-04-06.pdf.

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 in-person Meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. He explained comment procedures.

II. Roll Call (Secretary)

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Ten of the 14 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Carlos Amador, Dave Beauvais, Mike Benedetto (President), Cheri Norum Derohanian, Sally Kolstad, Christine LaMonica (Secretary), Mark Morris, Abbey Ronquillo, Brad Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). John Horn arrived later. Launa Bogartz (excused), Chavon Smith (unexcused) and Christina Wallis (Treasurer) (excused) were absent. Carolyn Sanderson 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 the Board could take such votes. Thirteen of the 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Four Board Seats were vacant [all At Large]; to apply, see www.ghsnc.org. Also attended: approximately 15 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

Ms. Derohanian announced a Museum of the San Fernando Valley Easter event.

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 Shiva rep Gabby Guerrilla.
Gabby Guerrilla, a Deputy for State 40th District Assemblywoman Pilar Shiva [Gabby.Gurrola@asm.ca.gov; <https://ad38.asmrc.org>], was not present and there was no report.

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

- 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], reported that the Councilmember submitted a Motion to keep live trees from getting cut to address sidewalk issues and is seeking information from the City Forestry Department on sustainable solutions. Mr. Coto said they are working to fix sidewalks. Notify Kathy [Lettieri, CD12 Public Works Deputy, Kathy.Lettieri@lacity.org] if a streetlight is out. Mr. Smith requested and Mr. Coto agreed to update about the Petit Park pool replacement project Mr. Smith noted that the City has graded the pool as being in "D" condition since 2004; the GHSNC has many times requested repair or a replacement project; he said "it's been closed for two summers in a row." Guest Brian Allen said that "\$11 million" was paid five years ago" to help fix the pool; "we've been asking for an accounting for that for years . . . Granada Hills North and South want to know what the hell's going on." Mr. Smith said "this is an area with a lot of young children." Mr. Coto said "I will follow up." He encouraged contacting him regarding issues. Mr. Benedetto reported that the Park's front door and some equip is broken, and sharp edges are on some playground equipment. Mr. Beauvais said "a huge pothole" on Balboa Blvd. north of San Fernando Mission Rd. was fixed: Ms. Lettieri's work got results. Resident Maria Fisk said she's been requesting for a long time that CD12 create a Design Review Board (DRB); Mr. Coto agreed to ask Councilmember Lee regarding the status and appointing DRB Members to the seven to 11 seats to be appointed, and will update the GHSNC.

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], reported that new meeting Agenda templates without the AB 361 language were sent to Board Members. There are also teleconferencing language agendas in accordance with AB 2449. There will be a Community Impact statement training; the portal is being updated and feedback is sought. The City Clerk will determine if there will be a GHSNC election or not; so far 14 people applied as Candidates. If there will be an election, it will be Saturday, June 10th. The Congress of Neighborhoods will be in-person on Saturday, September 23rd; it's free and open to the public; contact her to be on the planning committee. Mr. Benedetto reported that he spoke with City Clerk Elections Administrator Shauna Dungo, who said that City Clerk will allow the 14 candidates to join the Board by acclamation; then the Board can select the rest of the Board Members.

I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).

Mr. Allen reported that the Budget Advocates [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com; www.BudgetAdvocates.org] concluded evaluation of City Department budgets; the Advocates' report should be available by the April 20th. Budget Day "will be virtual" in June.

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

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 representative.

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](#)]], and John Parker, a Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer for the north side (north of Chatsworth St.) of Granada Hills [mobile/text phone 424-364-9377; office 818-832-0633; 36560@LAPD.online; <https://www.lapdonline.org/lapd-contact/valley-bureau/devonshire-community-police-station>], were not present and there was no report.

V. Approval of the Minutes.

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

Mr. Benedetto noted that only the March 2nd Minutes needed to be approved; the others already had been approved.

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 2, 2023 Regular Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote of all 10 Board Members present; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

- A. Appointment of Maria Fisk to PLUM as a stakeholder.

Mr. Benedetto appointed Ms. Fisk to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (applause).

VII. Budget Issues

- A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) for Dec. 2022, Jan. and Feb, 2023.

Mr. Beauvais distributed and reviewed the December Report.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Morris): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council accepts its Monthly Expenditure Report for December 2022.

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

Mr. Beauvais distributed and reviewed the January Report.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Morris): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council accepts its Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2023.

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

Mr. Beauvais distributed and reviewed 2 MER

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for February 2023.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto explained that, at one time, the Purchase Card was frozen; so that the GHSNC would not lose around \$20,000 in equipment stored there, he paid the storage fee out of pocket. The card is now active.

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

VIII. Board Issues.

- A. Discussion and possible action for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to Meals in Motion in the amount of \$1,500. This community-based program teaches children how to cook nutritious meals in a safe and fun environment. Presented by Nicholas Doran – Pres. – CEO

Mr. Doran presented, saying their expanding program, which started in October 2022, follows USDA recommendations. Every week a different recipe is used and “hands-on” instruction is given. He said “we’re open to everybody” seven to 12 years of age and “we work out of a central kitchen . . . like a catering service . . .” They work with the LAPD PAL program, the Boys & Girls Club, LAUSD, and the YMCA. Children are referred by those organizations. Mr. Amador was concerned about funding an unproven program; he believed the GHSNC should prioritize funding established organizations. Mr. Allen reported that “Granada Hills North [Neighborhood Council] has approved funding” for the program. Mr. Beauvais noted that the GHSNC needs to allocate all of its funding before the encouraged of this Fiscal Year [June 30th] and that startups need funding.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to Meals in Motion in the amount of \$1,500.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Beauvais, Benedetto, Derohanian, Kolstad,

LaMonica, Morris, Ronquillo, Brad Smith and Toumayan); zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Amador).

- B. Discussion and possible action for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Granada Hills Robotics team in the amount of \$2500.

Mr. Benedetto requested and it was agreed to TABLE the above Item because the application was “not adequate.”

- C. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$2,500 for a Movie Night on May 26 or 27th at Pettit Park.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$2,500 for a Movie Night on May 26 or 27th at Petit Park.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto noted “we have done this before . . . we had 725 people show up . . . “ Mr. Allen encouraged asking the GHNNC “if they want to participate.” Mr. Benedetto reported that the Park agreed to host the event.

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

- D. We need volunteers for the Holiday Egg Hunt on April 8, 2023 starting at 9 AM. We are cosponsoring this event with Parks and Rec.

Mr. Benedetto noted the above. It will be at Petit Park.

Board Member John Horn arrived online by this time (7:52), making 11 Board Members present online (the GHSNC quorum is nine).

Ms. Derohanian reported that balloons and other supplies are ready and that the GHSNC “always get[s] . . . 200 sigs” for the maillist. Ms. Kolstad, Ms. Toumayan, Ms. Derohanian and Ms. LaMonica volunteered.

- E. Status on our elections, affirmation of 12 Certified Candidates.

Mr. Benedetto noted. “14, not `12’.” They would be elected by acclamation.

- F. Date for By-laws Committee.

Mr. Benedetto noted Brad Smith, Ms. Derohanian, Ms. Toumayan, Mr. Benedetto and Chavon Smith are on Committee. He asked about Board

Members' availability to meet at the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Amador suggested and it was agreed to ask Ms. Smith to resign from the Committee so that there would not be a quorum of a quorum [of five] Board Members on the Committee. Ms. Guevara said that, probably, the next opportunity to submit Bylaws amendments will be in June or July. Mr. Beauvais suggested to "postpone any Bylaws Committee meetings" until after the election or affirmation of the new Board, then reconvene around September with "non-Board Members" to avoid a quorum of a quorum Board Members serving on the Committee. Mr. Benedetto confirmed that "all of [former Board Member Michael Jordan's suggestions] will be included."

G. We still need to move our storage unit from public storage to Nova storage.

Mr. Benedetto noted the above and requested for Board Members to email to him their available volunteer times.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

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

A. PLUM

Interim Chair Mr. Smith reported that there was no Home Depot update. There was an alcohol license inquiry. There will be Van Nuys Airport community meetings in-person April 19th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at AirTel Plaza Hotel, and virtually Saturday April 22nd from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The Granada Hills Pool still is out on bid; the Park is working on solidifying funds for the contract.

B. Outreach

Ms. Kolstad recommended allocating more outreach funding.

C. Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn reported that he will see if he can get a Mayor's representative to report on the City's homeless housing program to the GHSNC. Homeless Count results should be released in May or June; he will distribute it.

D. Education

Chair Ms. Ronquillo said their goal is to have youth be more informed in the governance process. They would like to propose some hybrid meetings and are seeking DONE's approval. Ms. Guevara explained "teleconferencing" rules.

E. Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that two Charter High School students asked about having an event for 50-100 students.

F. Cultural Affairs

Ms. Toumayan noted that April 24th is Armenian Genocide Memorial Day. Ms. Derohanian suggested contacting the Armenian Women's Club near Encino and Louise about hosting an event. The Committee will meet again in May.

G. Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad reported that the “flu for the next few weeks will be rampaging . . . really bad” and that seniors 55+ are urged to mask.

H. Beautification

Chair Mr. Amador indicated that there was no report

I. Public Safety

Chair Mr. Smith reported that the SoCalGas San Jose Pipeline Infrastructure Project beneath San Jose St. between Zelzah and Encino may start in August. There are homeless encampments on Devonshire east of Balboa and at the Devonshire/405 interchange, where sidewalks are “almost entirely blocked”, creating “public safety issues . . . it’s been that way for weeks.”

J. Sustainability

Chair Mr. Morris indicated that there was no report

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Mr. Beauvais noted that the High School’s Graduation Night will be on the same night as the GHSNC’s scheduled June Board meeting; he suggested having a Special Board meeting on June 15th after the election. He noted that three Seats are vacant and suggested to “try to solicit students from the High School, VAAS and the college. Mr. Smith requested to Agendize a CD12 presentation regarding the Petit Pool project, and a presentation regarding DONE’s college student internship program. Ms. Fisk suggested having regular PLUM Committee meetings

XI. Adjournment

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

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:39 p.m.

“NOTE: Next Regular Meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council - Thursday, May 4, 2023, 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>.