



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, May 4, 2023

Granada Hills Charter H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344

Approved July 6, 2023

Document copies were available at https://ghsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Agenda_2023-05-04.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 Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. 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 at the Roll Call: Dave Beauvais, Mike Benedetto (President), Launa Bogartz, Cheri Norum Derohanian, John Horn, Christine LaMonica (Secretary), Mark Morris, Abbey Ronquillo, Brad Smith and Colleen Toumayan (Vice-President). Four Board Members were absent: Carlos Amador (excused), Sally Kolstad (unexcused), Chavon Smith and Christina Wallis (Treasurer) (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. 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: 20 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

Guest David believed it's discriminatory to force attendees to show proof of their COVID-19 vaccination. Mr. Benedetto noted that "this is not our rule; it's part of [the School's] rule." Guest Jennifer Kennedy believed the School "is continuing to discriminate against its own students." Later, resident Barbara encouraged contacting her if you are concerned about the proposed Van Nuys Airport expansion.

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.asmr.org>], was not present and there was no report.
- F. Council District 12 (John Lee) Jonathan Coto.
Myrka Martinez, Deputy District Director for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; Myrka.Martinez@lacity.org; www.CD12.org], reported that legislation starts June 5th regarding catalytic converter theft. Construction starting soon on the Petit Park pool is expected to finish within one to 1 ½ years. Broken equipment was reported and job orders were submitted. Reseda Blvd. 118 Freeway off-ramp work will be complete by mid-June. They will monitor progress of creating a Design Review Board. She said “we’re doing everything we can do” and described cleanups, enforcement and services outreach regarding encampments blocking sidewalks at the Devonshire/405 intersection and Devonshire east of Balboa. She explained limits on enforcement. “Anti-camping signs” were installed at the Gothic/118 intersection.
- 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], confirmed that the GHSNC will have an affirmation, not an election. She offered outreach help. The Congress of Neighborhoods, with workshops open to the public, will be Saturday, September 23rd at City Hall. This Fiscal Year's check-issuing deadline is June 1st; the bank card use deadline is June 20th. The new Fiscal Year starts July 1st; the GHSNC “can rollover up to \$10,000” in funds. She noted that “when a vendor does not cash a check, it will continue to appear on your MER.” She knows that the GHSNC wants to host an intern.

- I. Budget Advocate (Brian Allen).
Mr. Allen, a Budget Advocate [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com;
www.BudgetAdvocates.org] said that “there isn’t much to tell you about the Budget Advocates . . . the Budget Advocates had their meetings” with the City. “A report has been prepared.” Budget Day will be June 17th.
- 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.
Neither 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>], or John Parker, a Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer for the
north side (north of Chatsworth St.) of Granada Hills [cell/text phone 424-364-
9377; office 818-832-0633; 36560@LAPD.online], was present and there was no
report.

V. Approval of the Minutes.

- A. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes for April 6,
2023 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION (by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Derohanian): The Granada Hills South
Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 6, 2023 Regular Board
Meeting as written.

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

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

- A. Discussion and appointment of Michael Benedetto to the PLUM Committee.

MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Ms. Bogartz): The Granada Hills
South Neighborhood Council appoints Michael Benedetto to the PLUM
Committee.

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

VII. Budget Issues

- A. Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MERs) for March & April, 2023 if ready.

Copies were available of the March MER.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Morris): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2023.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais reviewed the MER.

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

Mr. Benedetto indicated that the April MER was not ready for approval; no Motion was made or vote taken on the April MER.

VIII. Board Issues and Updates.

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

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

DISCUSSION: Slides were shown. Students described the Team and its accomplishments and program, and gave a robot demonstration. They described outreach to various Neighborhood Councils and fundraising work with parents. Funds will be used to build a “pine needle robot . . . [it’s] a year-long class, not just six weeks.” The GHSNC logo will be on the robot. The Team will report back.

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

Board Member Cheri Derohanian 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 Museum Board Member]) and stepped away from the meeting at this time, making nine 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.”

- B. Discussion and possible action for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the San Fernando Art Museum in the amount of \$1500.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) to the Museum of the San Fernando Valley in the amount of \$1,500.

DISCUSSION: Museum President Jacky Langa described that the Museum is about “the history, culture and arts of the San Fernando Valley.” They host cultural events “free to the public.” They’re only asking the GHSNC for funding. Guest Garry Fordyce insisted that Ms. Derohanian was required to check with the City Attorney. There was discussion of a need to revise the NPG to make it eligible for funding.

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

Ms. Derohanian’s recusal ended and she returned online at this time, making 10 Board Members present and eligible to vote.

- C. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$500 in additional funds for a Movie Night on May 27th at Petit Park since prices have gone up.
Mr. Morris requested and it was agreed to strike this Item from the Agenda.
- D. We need volunteers for movie night on May 27, 2023 starting at 6:30 PM. We are co-sponsoring this event with Parks and Rec.
Ms. Toumayan requested volunteers; Mr. Smith and Ms. Bogartz volunteered.
- E. Up-Date for By-laws Committee- most likely after the new board is sworn in July.
Ms. Toumayan reported that the Committee will meet in July.
- F. We still need to move our storage unit from public storage to Nova storage; volunteers needed.
The above was noted.

IX. Committee Reports

A. PLUM- Report

- 1. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board regarding the status on the Design Review Board and GH Specific Plan.
Interim Chair Mr. Smith reported that the Committee would meet May 11th.
Resident Maria Fisk described the DRB and requested the GHSNC’s help to recruit volunteers.

B. Outreach- Report

Chair Ms. Toumayan reported that the Committee met and was working on a May 27th Movie Night at the Park.

C. Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn said he'll provide homeless services access information at the next Board Meeting.

D. Education

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that, in July, the Committee will advertise more opportunities.

E. Youth

See the above Education report.

F. Cultural Affairs

There was no report at this time.

G. Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken.

H. Beautification

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

I. Public Safety

Chair Mr. Smith will contact Board Members about a public safety issue.

J. Sustainability

There was no report at this time.

X. Board Members Comments and Submission of Agenda Items.

Ms. Ronquillo noted that this was AAPI and Mental Health Awareness Month. Mr. Smith encouraged attending the PLUM meeting and noted that May 29th would be Memorial Day; there's a veterans recognition plaque on a School wall. Ms. Toumayan noted that May 14th would be Mother's Day. Mr. Benedetto requested adjournment in memory of veterans who didn't return.

XI. Adjournment

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

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

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:29 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>.