



CITY OF LOS ANGELES



GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**, Thursday, September 14, 2023 Granada Hills Charter H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344 Approved October 5th, 2023

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 Mark Morris explained the GHSNC’s role and called the Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Benedetto.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Nine of the 15 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call: Mike Benedetto (Vice-President), Carol Hart, John Horn, George Karam, Mark Morris (President), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan (Secretary), Michelle Waldenmeyer and Linda Williamson. Six Board Members were absent: Launa Bogartz, Sally Kolstad, Michael Koch, Ashley Pena, Rox Poon and Abbey Ronquillo (Treasurer), all excused except Poon (unexcused). 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. Fifteen of the 17 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats were vacant [all At Large]; to apply, see www.ghsnc.org. Also attended: approximately 30 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 3rd, 2023 BOARD MEETING.

The following correction was made: page eight, Item #VI. A. 3. a): “Les Claypool” should be “Jes Claypool.”

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 3, 2023 Regular Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VI. A.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE/FUNDING MOTIONS

A. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for July 2023.

It was agreed to POSTPONE the above to the October Board Meeting.

B. Appointment of Standing Committee Members.

1. Beautification-John Horn- Chair
Michelle Waldenmeyer and Michael Koch
2. Cultural Affairs-Launa Bogartz- Chair
Colleen Toumayan and Michael Koch
3. Education-Abbey Ronquillo-Chair
Launa Bogartz- Co Chair and Sally Kolstad
4. Homelessness-John Horn- Chair
Ashley Pena and George Karam
5. Outreach-Michael Benedetto- Chair
Carol Hart, Michael Koch, Colleen Toumayan, and Sally Kolstad
6. Planning and Land Use- Brad Smith- Chair
George Karam, Linda Williamson, Colleen Toumayan and Michael Benedetto
7. Public Safety-Brad Smith- Chair
John Horn and Carol Hart
8. Youth-Abbey Ronquillo- Chair
Ashley Pena and Michelle Waldenmeyer
9. Sustainability-George Karam- Chair
Ashley Pena, Carol Hart, and Michelle Waldenmeyer
10. Seniors-Sally Kolstad- Chair
Abbey Ronquillo and Michael Benedetto

The above appointments were unanimously **APPROVED** by a voice vote of all nine Board Members present; zero opposed; zero abstained.

C. Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will contact other Neighborhood Councils in the San Fernando Valley to determine their interest in co-sponsoring a joint public forum, possibly on a quarterly basis, on issues regarding the management of city resources across the northern and northwestern region of the San Fernando Valley, at a date and location to be determined.

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

D. Discussion and possible action to approve an NPG for DeDe Dance in the amount of \$5,000 for a youth leadership and cultural development event. Motion:

The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will approve an NPG for DeDe Dance in the amount of \$5,000 for a youth leadership and cultural development event.

The event would be November 11th at the Double Tree. So far, 25 couples have signed up; the goal is forty.

MOTION to REFER (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council REFERS Item number IV. D. to the Outreach Committee.

MOTION to REFER PASSED unanimously by a vote of all nine Board Members present; zero opposed; zero abstained.

E. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

The Y's Maithili Patil said many Neighborhood Councils are participating in the November 12th and 13th event. She explained how it works. Mr. Benedetto noted that Neighborhood Councils were asked for \$2,500 each.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Hart): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council approves an NPG for the North Valley YMCA for \$2,500 for their Thanksgiving day basket giveaway for needy families in the North San Fernando Valley. Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will approve an NPG in the amount of \$2,500 for the North Valley YMCA for their Thanksgiving Day basket giveaway for needy families in the North San Fernando Valley.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Hart, Horn, Karam, Morris, Smith, Toumayan and Williamson); zero opposed; zero abstained. One (Waldenmeyer) 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.

F. Discussion and possible action to approve an NPG for Granada Hills Community Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 for the 2023 Granada Hills Street Faire. Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will approve an NPG in the amount of \$2,500 for the 2023 Granada Hills Street Faire.

Board Members Mark Morris and Mike Benedetto recused from voting (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest [Mr. Morris is a Foundation Board Member; Mr. Benedetto is a Chamber of Commerce Board Member]), making seven Board Members present and eligible to vote on funding Motions (the GHSNC Board quorum is nine), therefore no quorum was present. Recusing is different from abstaining, which is declining to vote "yes" or "no."

MOTION to POSTPONE (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council POSTPONES Item #IV. F. to the next Board Meeting.

MOTION to POSTPONE PASSED unanimously by a vote of all nine Board Members present; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- G. Appointment of Community Impact Statement Filers Mark Morris, Michael Benedetto, Colleen Toumayan, and Brad Smith.

The above appointments were unanimously **APPROVED** by a vote of all nine Board Members present; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- H. Discussion and possible action for the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to host with The Institute for Nonviolence in Los Angeles for a night of dialogue on Facing Racism and Bigotry in Los Angeles Motion::The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will host with The Institute for Nonviolence in Los Angeles a night of dialogue on Facing Racism and Bigotry in Los Angeles. The date and location are to be determined, which requires the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to provide a space and outreach.

The Institute's Kayla Owens (OwensKayla@gmail.com) presented. Residents and various organizations will be involved. Neighborhood Council representatives will coordinate with her for around two hours. Outreach is being made to High Schools and CSUN.

MOTION (by Ms. Williamson, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council will host with The Institute for Nonviolence in Los Angeles a night of dialogue on Facing Racism and Bigotry in Los Angeles. The date and location are to be determined, which requires the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to provide a space and outreach.

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

V. PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT.

Freddy Cupen-Ames, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE; 818-374-9890; Freddy.Cupen-Ames@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], distributed information to Board Members. The Bylaws amendments deadline is April 1, 2024. Senate Bill 411, regarding virtual/hybrid meetings, is on the Governor's desk. Mr. Cupen-Ames reminded about the September 23rd Neighborhood Councils Congress.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Public Safety
 - a. Update on Granada Hills Park Shooting.

LAPD Officer Michael Briano said the recent Petit Park shooting was a gang member confrontation regarding rival gang tagging; it's still being investigated. A gang member was filmed painting information about a dead gang member; the painter was apprehended. Officer Briano said that, in the Devonshire Division, there are four active gangs. More Officers are needed for the local gang task force. He reported a big uptick in tagging and gun violence with "P-80's" (polymer 80) illegally manufactured guns. A stakeholder noted increased violence and gang retaliation, and that they're not all from here. She mentioned shooters who stole beer and then shot at the San Fernando Mission Blvd. Vons store. She said that gang members sell drugs to homeless people behind the park in that area. She's also seen a motorcycle gang selling drugs to homeless people surrounding Balboa and Devonshire. Officer Briano said this was passed along to the drug unit. A stakeholder said that, at a party in Sherwood Forest, a girl was shot in the leg. It was noted that, even if people are apprehended, they're often out by the next day and stolen vehicles may be totaled.

Mr. Smith later thanked Committee Members.

b. Update on Possible City Liability Regarding Pedestrian Safety on Blocked Sidewalks.

Mr. Smith indicated that the Committee is seeking more information from the City Attorney.

2. Beautification

Mr. Horn reported that the Committee will focus on dealing with illegal dumping.

3. Cultural Affairs

Mr. Morris reported for Ms. Bogartz that she is connecting with neighborhood schools to collaborate in authentic cultural celebrations throughout this year. She will have more information next month.

4. Education

Mr. Morris reported for Ms. Ronquillo that Granada Hills Charter High School identified six students to be interviewed for the GHSNC Board Youth Seat; those not chosen will be invited to join the Committee.

5. Homelessness

Mr. Smith reported for Mr. Horn that the Committee will discuss with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) the services that LSS has.

6. Outreach

There was no report.

7. Planning and Land Use

a. Update on Home Depot Project

Mr. Smith reported that City Planner Renata Ooms indicated that no Hearing date has been set and that the City Planning Department is working on “an environmental document.” The applicant asked to present to the GHSNC. Mr. Smith indicated that, when there is new information, the GHSNC “will take it up.” The GHSNC’s request for a full EIR (Environmental Impact Report) to be done was sent to the City Planning Department, the Planning Commission, City Hall, and CD12.

b. Update on Van Nuys Airport

Mr. Smith reported that the GHSNC will help organize a Town Hall Meeting.

8. Youth

There was no report.

9. Sustainability

Mr. Karam reported that the community will be surveyed about sustainability; the Committee will then discuss the results.

10. Seniors

There was no report.

VII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OF NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS.

Petit Park Director Michelle De La Hoya commented.

Board Member Linda Williamson had left by this time, making eight Board Members present, one short of the GHSNC Board quorum of nine.

VIII. ELECTED OFFICES/DEPARTMENTS/ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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 more Police funding was approved.

There were no other such announcements.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Mr. Benedetto noted that the Street Faire will be October 21st; the tree lighting ceremony will be December 1st; and the Parade will be December 3rd. He suggested that the GHSNC consider funding the installation of cameras at the Park.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:55 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>.