



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, October 5, 2023
Granada Hills Charter H.S., Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344
DRAFT Minutes [to be replaced by "Approved __[Month]__ __[date]__, 202__[year]__"]

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 called the Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and explained the GHSNC's role. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Eleven of the 15 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Mike Benedetto (Vice-President), Launa Bogartz, Carol Hart, John Horn, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Mark Morris (President), Ashley Pena, Abbey Ronquillo (Treasurer), Colleen Toumayan (Secretary) and Michelle Waldenmeyer. Michael Koch (unexcused), Rox Poon (unexcused), Brad Smith (excused) and Linda Williamson (excused) were absent. New At Large Seat Board Member Angela Yang was appointed to the Board during below Item #IV. H. 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: 11 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14th, 2023 BOARD MEETING.

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Board Minutes as written for September 14, 2023.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 10 in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either "yes" or "no" votes) (Kolstad).

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE/FUNDING MOTIONS

A. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for July 2023 Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves of Monthly Expenditure Report for July 2023.

Copies were available.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Karam): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for July of 2023.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Bogartz, Hart, Horn, Karam, Morris, Pena, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Waldenmeyer); zero opposed; zero abstained. One was ineligible (Kolstad) to vote due to not having completed one or more of the required trainings and/or not having signed the Code of Conduct.

- B. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for August 2023 Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves of the Monthly Expenditure Report for August 2023.

Copies were available.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report for the month of August 2023.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Bogartz, Hart, Horn, Karam, Morris, Pena, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Waldenmeyer); zero opposed; zero abstained. One was ineligible (Kolstad) 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 (Morris).

Board Member Mark Morris recused from voting (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest [he is a Granada Hills Community Foundation Board Member]) and left the room, making 10 Board Members present 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." Mr. Morris turned over the Presiding Officership to Mr. Benedetto at this time.

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

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Bogartz): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves 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 to the Granada Hills Community Foundation In the amount of \$2,500 for the 2023 Granada Hills Street Faire.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto reported that he confirmed with the City Attorney that he (Mr. Benedetto) was eligible to vote on this Motion.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Bogartz, Hart, Horn, Karam, Pena, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Waldenmeyer); zero opposed; zero abstained. One (Kolstad) 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. One recused (Morris).

Board Member Mark Morris had recused from voting (self-declared as ineligible to vote on the below Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest [he is a Granada Hills Community Foundation Board Member]) and had left the room, making 10 Board Members present 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 to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Hart): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approve an NPG for Granada Hills Community Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 for the 2023 Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will approve an NPG in the amount of \$2,500 to the Granada Hills Community Foundation for the 2023 Granada Hills Holiday Parade.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Bogartz, Hart, Horn, Karam, Pena, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Waldenmeyer); zero opposed; zero abstained. One (Kolstad) 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. One recused (Morris).

Mr. Benedetto returned the Presiding Officership to Mr. Morris at this time.

E. Discussion and possible action for the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Karam explained the survey’s purpose. The survey would be conducted in the next two weeks.

MOTION (by Mr. Karam, seconded by Ms. Hart): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will distribute a community survey ("A More Sustainable Granada") related to sustainability issues in the Granada Hills community on its digital platforms. The purpose of the survey is to collect comments and feedback on a range of sustainability issues and potential programming. The results of the community survey will be presented and discussed at the Sustainability Committee meeting immediately following the closure of the survey

DISCUSSION: Ms. Ronquillo encouraged coordinating this with the Outreach Committee, especially regarding outreach to non-Internet-connected Stakeholders.

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

- F. Discussion and possible action for the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Karam explained this.

MOTION (by Mr. Karam, seconded by Ms. Hart): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will conduct an internal feasibility study of the establishment of a local farmers market in Granada Hills. The study will be coordinated by the Sustainability Committee (and other Committees as applicable) and involve (1) reaching out to city and county entities, (2) identifying possible locations for the farmers market, (3) conducting community outreach and engagement, (4) identifying funding for the initial establishment and/or operation of the market, (5) identifying a nonprofit to manage the market, and (6) providing the GHSNC board with quarter updates on the progress of the study.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kolstad urged doing the survey in the parking lot of either DIY (formerly OSH) or HomeGoods because she previously tried and couldn't get a Street Permit. Mr. Benedetto suggested doing the survey at the Little League field.

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

- G. Appointment of Linda Williamson to the Sustainability Committee. Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves of Linda Williamson to become a member of the Sustainability Committee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Karam said he spoke with Ms. Williamson, who's excited to join the Committee.

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

- H. Discussion and possible appointment of Angela Yang to the GHSNC Board
Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Ms. Ronquillo, seconded by Ms. Hart): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves of the appointment of Angela Yang to its Board.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Yang introduced herself and described her qualifications and experience. Bonnie Lallouz, of Granada Hills Charter High School, endorsed Ms. Yang.

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

Ms. Guevara (of DONE) led Ms. Yang in saying aloud the Oath of Office. New Board Member Angela Yang was Seated at this time and Board Member Launa Bogartz had left by this time, keeping 11 Board Members present, (the GHSNC Board quorum was nine).

- I. Appointment of Angela Yang to the Youth and Education Committees. Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Karam): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves of the appointment of Angela Yang to the Youth and Education Committees.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Ronquillo reported that she and Mr. Morris interviewed multiple candidates.

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

V. PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT.

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], on behalf of Freddy Cupen-Ames (Freddy.Cupen-Ames@LACity.org), said that Roberts Rules of Order training information was emailed to Board Members. Board Members may see referral emails from DONE's 99NCs.com website. Congress workshop videos are available. Bylaws can be amended through April 1st. She will email funding training information. DONE is working with BONC on establishing an internship program.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Public Safety

Mr. Morris relayed for Mr. Smith that there is a plan for the Committee to meet in October and it's important that Committee Members get back to him regarding availability

2. Beautification

Chair Mr. Horn reported that the Committee hopes to have a meeting soon.

3. Cultural Affairs

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

4. Education

Chair Ms. Ronquillo welcomed Angela Yang to the board and reported that the committee is in the process of recruiting and inviting young people to join the committee. The Committee is hoping to meet in October.

5. Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn reported that Lutheran Social Services has outreach and van-based services.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VII.

6. Outreach

a. Update on DeDe Dance.

Chair Mr. Benedetto reported that the Dance representative didn't attend the Committee Meeting.

b. Update on a multi-attended public forum in conjunction with the Institute for Non-Violence in Los Angeles.

Chair Mr. Benedetto reported that the forum representative will try to attend the December 16th Committee Meeting.

c. Approve up to \$2000 for Outreach to buy giveaways, especially for the Granada Hills Street Faire on October 21, 2023, along with volunteers to staff the table.

FUNDING MOTION (by the Outreach Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$2,000 for Outreach to buy giveaways, especially for the Granada Hills Street Faire on October 21, 2023, along with volunteers to staff the table.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto explained the need and that the funding already is budgeted. Mr. Horn wanted more information because he believed that the items already are in GHSNC storage. Mr. Benedetto replied that "we need to replenish" the items. Mr. Karam and Mr. Horn believed the items need to be inventoried. Ms. Kolstad noted that more effective "higher-end" giveaways have been purchased and given away at events. Mr. Benedetto reported that "this is the lowest request we've ever made." Ms. Hart noted that "quite a bit" was given away at the recent National Night Out.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Hart, Karam, Morris, Pena, Ronquillo, Toumayan and Waldenmeyer); one opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Horn); zero abstained. Two (Kolstad and Yang) 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.

d. Halloween participation.

Chair Mr. Benedetto requested volunteers; Ms. Toumayan, Ms. Kolstad, Mr. Benedetto and Mr. Morris volunteered.

e. Tree lighting is December 1st.

Chair Mr. Benedetto encouraged attending.

- f. The holiday parade is on December 3rd, and we will be having two cars in the parade. We would also like a headcount as to who will be riding in the parade.

Chair Mr. Benedetto requested volunteers; Ms. Kolstad, Ms. Pena, Ms. Toumayan, Mr. Benedetto, Mr. Morris and Ms. Hart volunteered.

- g. Approve up to \$500 for board nameplates.

FUNDING MOTION (by the Outreach Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$500 for Board nameplates.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto explained the use. Ms. Guevara will research if DONE can provide nameplates. Ms. Lettieri will see if CD!@ can provide them.

Mr. Benedetto **WITHDREW** the Motion. No vote was taken.

- h. Status on ribbon-cutting and other certificates.

Chair Mr. Benedetto reported that the City Clerk and the City Attorney were researching if the GHSNC can do those things. He will update about it.

7. Planning and Land Use

Mr. Morris requested for Chair Mr. Smith that Committee Members advise Mr. Smith of their meeting availability.

8. Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo indicated that this already was covered.

9. Sustainability

Chair Mr. Karam reported that the next Committee Meeting would be here October 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

10. Seniors

Ms. Kolstad will present a budget for convalescent home greeting cards. A facility asked that all cards be the same. She wants to organize a Spring Open House.

VII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OF NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS.

John Ignatzyk, L.A. City Fire Department Battalion 15 "A" Platoon Chief at Fire Station 70, reminded to clear brush from home and "call 9-1-1 if you see something." He noted that there can be a lot of dried grass below green grass. Battery-powered device fires are increasing; unplug them before leaving home, even small items. Have a plan of what to do if there is a fire.

Ms. Lallouz noted that this room is booked for meetings on the first Thursdays of November and December.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VI. 6.

VIII. ELECTED OFFICES/DEPARTMENTS/ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Kathy Lettieri, Public Works Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; Kathy.Lettier@LACity.org; <https://councildistrict12.LACity.gov>], introduced herself and reported that “a lot of weed abatement” was done. She reminded that retaining walls and up to the curb edge at the street, including the sidewalk, are homeowners’ responsibility. As of last December 31st, 900 street lights were out in CD12; there’s been much copper wire theft that can affect an area within a 10-mile radius. She described a Petit Park cleanup and that 47 of 50 homeless people were housed. She will ask the L.A. Dept. of Transportation to consider installing more solar lights on stop signs. Mr. Benedetto wanted CD12 to examine trees for dangers. Mr. Horn said that the Homelessness Committee will meet with CD12’s [Senior Legislative Deputy] Josh Yeager.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Mr. Benedetto noted that the Outreach Committee is the only GHSNC Committee with its own budget category. Ms. Toumayan asked for people to have concern for the Armenian community. Ms. Ronquillo wanted the GHSNC website to “be more inclusive.” Mr. Morris requested Committees to serve unbottled water.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Karam).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:36 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>.