



CITY OF LOS ANGELES



GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, November 2, 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 6:44 p.m. and explained the NC's role. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brad Smith.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Ten of the 15 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Mike Benedetto (Vice-President), Launa Bogartz, Carol Hart, John Horn, George Karam, Mark Morris (President), Abbey Ronquillo (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan (Secretary) and Linda Williamson. Michael Koch (unexcused), Sally Kolstad (excused), Ashley Pena (excused), Rox Poon (unexcused) and Michelle Waldenmeyer (excused) were absent. 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 25 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 5th, 2023 BOARD MEETING.

No corrections or amendments were made.

MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 5, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with eight in favor; zero opposed; two abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Morris and Smith)

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE/FUNDING MOTIONS

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

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

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

- B. Discussion and possible action to approve an NPG for DEVONSHIRE IS S.O.L.I.D. in the amount of \$5000.00 to renovate and furnish the area formerly used for training to be used as a meeting room for the community volunteers now serving the LAPD Devonshire Division. Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will approve an NPG for DEVONSHIRE IS S.O.L.I.D. in the amount of \$5000.00 to renovate and furnish the area formerly used for training to be used as a meeting room for the community volunteers now serving the LAPD Devonshire Division.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves an NPG for DEVONSHIRE IS S.O.L.I.D. in the amount of \$5,000.00 to renovate and furnish the area formerly used for training to be used as a meeting room for the community volunteers now serving the LAPD Devonshire Division.

DISCUSSION: Officer Sandra, and Officer 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; <https://www.lapdonline.org/lapd-contact/valley-bureau/devonshire-community-police-station>] presented. Officer Parker reviewed crime statistics and said “our greatest challenge right now is with residential burglaries.” It was encouraged to “know your neighbors . . . Know what’s happening in your neighborhood . . . We can’t solve this with overtime; we can’t solve this with flooding with officers.” When leaving home, watch for people sitting in a vehicle near your home; “all they need is 15 minutes” to break in, steal and leave. Criminals drive high end rentals to fit into the area; look for vehicles with no license plates or someone sitting in the vehicle. If possible, report their vehicle license plate number and a photo of the suspect.

You can put Apple air tags in purses and other items; the air tags can help locate them. The vast majority of criminals are burglars, not robbers; they're not after you, they want your property and may be armed. Burglars are spraying people with pepper spray while trying to run. Video helps identify package thieves. He reported that the Police meet with local religious leaders to answer questions and coordinate plans. Officer Sandra explained S.O.L.I.D. and that she and other Officers worked out of a donated trailer that was in bad condition, photos of which were shown to Board Members. She detailed problems with and renovations done to the trailer. The Devonshire Division wants to have a community room like other LAPD Divisions have. The room would be "outside, across from the trailer." She believed that the Division has requested funding from all other Neighborhood Councils in the Division and that several already allocated funding.

Laurie, the S.O.L.I.D. Board NC Liaison, was present. Officer Sandra indicated that the City will not budget funding for this. The community room would be "created for Officers' use and for public use." She explained why the room no longer will be used for Officer training. Also, the volunteer surveillance team needs a place to meet.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benedetto, Bogartz, Hart, Horn, Morris, Ronquillo, Smith and Toumayan); two opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Karam and Williamson); zero abstained.

- C. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$400 for the purchase of plastic storage bins for inventory in the public storage unit. Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$400 for the purchase of plastic storage bins for inventory in the public storage unit.

Mr. Morris explained the above.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Toumayan, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$400 for the purchase of plastic storage bins for inventory in the public storage unit.

It was agreed to delete the word "plastic" from the main Motion.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Karam, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council amends the Motion wording "plastic storage bins" to "storage bins" so that the Motion reads "approves up to \$400 for the purchase of storage bins for inventory in the public storage unit."

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

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Bogartz, Horn, Karam, Morris, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan and Williamson); zero opposed; zero abstained.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bogartz, Horn, Karam, Morris, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan and Williamson); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Benedetto); zero abstained.

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]), turned over the Presiding Officership to Mr. Benedetto at this time, and left the room, making at least eight 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 for Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to approve up to \$5,000 to co-sponsor the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$5,000 to co-sponsor the Granada Hills Holiday Parade.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Karam): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves up to \$5,000 to co-sponsor the Granada Hills Holiday Parade.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benedetto said the invoice says “\$4,999,” so he wanted to change the Motion to that amount. He said the Parade will be December 3rd. There was discussion of the amount and parliamentary procedure. It was noted that CD12 funded much less than the GHSNC was being asked to fund.

Board Member Carol Hart had returned at this time, making nine Board Members present.

FUNDING MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with four in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Hart, Smith and Toumayan); four opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Bogartz, Horn, Ronquillo and Williamson); one abstained (the GHSNC does not count abstentions as either “yes” or “no” votes) (Karam). One recused and was ineligible to vote (Morris).

Mr. Morris’ recusal ended and he returned to the room at this time, making 10 Board Members present and eligible to vote. Mr. Benedetto returned the Presiding Officership to Mr. Morris at this time.

- E. Discussion and possible action to approve Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to be the Granada Hills sponsor for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count on January 23, 2024 and work to both secure a site location and recruit 30-40 volunteers Motion: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council agrees

to be the Granada Hills sponsor for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count on January 23, 2024 and work to both secure a site location and recruit 30-40 volunteers.

MOTION (by Ms. Ronquillo, seconded by Ms. Williamson): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council agrees to be the Granada Hills sponsor for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count on January 23, 2024 and work to both secure a site location and recruit 30-40 volunteers.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Horn explained the sponsorship and that “there’s no cost.”

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

- F. Discussion and possible action to amend article V of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council bylaws to create a Youth Board Member position on the governing board. Motion: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Hart): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council agrees to amend Article V Bylaws to create a Youth Board Member position open to stakeholders 16 years to 17 years old who will be precluded from voting on matters regarding the expenditure of funds, contracts, or recommendations on age restricted issues. A change will also be made from 17 to 16 At-Large Directors.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Morris explained the need and that he worked on this with DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment; 818-374-9890; www.EmpowerLA.org] and BONC [the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; 213-978-1551; Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org; www.EmpowerLA.org]. Freddy Cupen-Ames, a DONE Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate [Freddy.Cupen-Ames@LACity.org] confirmed that the GHSNC, like other NCs, can submit other Bylaws changes up to April 1, 2024.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Karem, seconded by Ms. Hart): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council amends the Motion wording “open to stakeholders 16 years to 17 years old” to “open to stakeholders 14 years to 17 years old” so that the Motion reads “agrees to amend Article V Bylaws to create a Youth Board Member position open to stakeholders 14 years to 17 years old who will be precluded from voting on matters regarding the expenditure of funds, contracts, or recommendations on age restricted issues. A change will also be made from 17 to 16 At-Large Directors.”

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

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

V. ELECTED OFFICES/DEPARTMENTS/ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Glenn Bailey encouraged attending VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; VANC@EmpowerLA.org; <http://empowerla.org/vanc-2>] meetings on second Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

VI. PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

Mr. Cupen-Ames reported that the City Council voted “to allow Neighborhood Councils, based on 2/3 of the Board Seats, to vote for having . . . a teleconferencing option . . . [or] expanded teleconferencing”; for “expanded . . . the Board must meet at least once a year in person.” Also, he stated that “the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council has not endorsed any candidate . . . It’s not the Neighborhood Council itself that supported [a candidate], it was Members of it and they can do so in their own individual capacity . . . identifying themselves as a Board Member, but not representing the Board as a whole.” He announced that he will be leaving DONE. He explained how a Neighborhood Council can endorse (or not) a candidate or ballot measure through other means.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Public Safety

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

- a. Discussion of a recommendation to the Board regarding Capital Improvement Project funding by the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council of security improvements at the Granada Hills Recreation Center (i.e. ‘Petit Park,’) including but not limited to the park, the gymnasium, the pool, and the Granada Hills Library, in the amount of up to \$5000.
- b. Background – On July 19, 2023, there was a homicide at Petit Park. On Sept. 14, 2023, representatives of the Los Angeles Police Department, City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the City of Los Angeles Public Library system, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment spoke in regards to the murder and on-going security and safety issues at the recreation center at regular monthly meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council. During the meeting, city staff reported there is no security camera system at the park; the same city staff members suggested the GHSNC consider supporting installation of such a system through a designated Capital Improvement Project. Note that at a PLUM Committee meeting held Oct. 64, the Committee voted 2-0 (with one absence) to support this proposal. Motion from Committee, as follows: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (“Neighborhood Council” or “GHSNC”) supports allocating Capital Improvement Project funding from the GHSNC for security improvements at the Granada Hills Recreation Center (i.e. ‘Petit Park,’) including but not limited to the park, the gymnasium, the pool, and the Granada Hills Library, in the amount of up to \$5,000.

Chair Mr. Smith noted that the above wording “at a PLUM Committee meeting held Oct. 64” should be “at a Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting held Oct. 26th.”

FUNDING MOTION (by the Public Safety Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council supports allocating Capital Improvement Project funding from the GHSNC for security improvements at the Granada Hills Recreation Center (also known as ‘Petit Park’), including but not limited to the park, the gymnasium, the pool, and the Granada Hills Library, in the amount of up to \$5,000.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith gave background and explained the need. GHSNC funding would be reallocated as needed.

Board Member Launa Bogartz had left the meeting at 7:40, making nine Board Members present and eligible to vote on funding Motions (the GHSNC Board quorum is nine).

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

2. Beautification

Chair Mr. Horn reported that the Committee will meet in January and discuss 3-1-1 phone service and bulky item pickup.

3. Cultural Affairs

Chair Ms. Bogartz was not present; there was no report.

4. Education

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that the Committee will meet in late November.

5. Homelessness

Chair Mr. Horn reported that the Committee would meet November 6th and receive an update on the Inside Safe program.

6. Outreach

Chair Mr. Benedetto reported that the Petit Park Halloween event was “tremendous.” The tree lighting ceremony will be December 1st at “about 6:30” p.m.

7. Planning and Land Use

a. Discussion of a Committee recommendation to the Board regarding Los Angeles City Planning Case Number ZA-2023-3912-CU, (related: ENV-2023-3913-EAF) i.e.: a proposed “new child care facility with 60 children on-site” at 17345 Chatsworth Street, Granada Hills. This site, east of the intersection of Andasol Avenue and Chatsworth Street, is on the north side of Chatsworth. Note that all project details are drawn from materials submitted by the applicant’s consultant (Mailian & Associates, 4447 Sunset Avenue, Montrose, CA 91020) to the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and/or the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council. The project site is currently a

residentially zoned, single-family dwelling, (1,749 square feet, in an RD1.5-1 zone) and in the CUP-related material submitted by the applicant, the applicant has proposed adding a 1,676 addition, making the resulting structure 3,425 square foot in total.

1. The applicant, Gohar Vardanyan, is seeking a new conditional use permit, pursuant to LAMC 12.24 W.51, to adapt the existing property to the above use. The current project plan includes four on-site parking spaces.
2. The project is designed to serve 60 children, from 1.5 to 6 years of age, in four classrooms with eight teachers and three administrative staff, for a total of 11 employees on site.
3. Proposed operating hours are 8 am to 6 pm, M-F.
4. Buses will not be used.
5. Loading and unloading of children will be from two locations. One location is off Chatsworth (Street) and the other will be from the rear alley. Morning loading and unloading hours will be from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM and the afternoon hours will be from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. There could be approximately 50 to 60 cars in total.
6. There will be a graduation ceremony once a year. Process-related Background: Note that at the request of the GHSNC, the City Associate Zoning Administrator, Henry Chu, has said he will keep the record open for the Neighborhood Council to submit comments. The above was communicated to the GHSNC by David Woon, with the City planning staff. Note that at a PLUM Committee meeting held Oct. 24, the Committee voted 3-0 (with one absence and one abstention) to oppose this application because of the traffic impact of the project and lack of any traffic management plan being on file with the City. Motion from Committee, as follows: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (“Neighborhood Council” or “GHSNC”) Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUMC), opposes the requested CUP because of the impact of traffic this project would have on Chatsworth Street and the surrounding community.

Chair Mr. Smith said that the above “Motion from Committee, as follows: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (“Neighborhood Council” or “GHSNC”) Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUMC) . . .” wording should only be “Motion from Committee, as follows: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (“Neighborhood Council” or “GHSNC”) . . .” He gave background on the pending application made to the City Planning Department. He noted that the application’s “transportation assessment” section was “blank.”

Savannah, of Mailian & Associates, who also spoke at the Committee meeting, spoke here. She reported that they “have submitted every document that the City has required us. We haven’t left anything blank . . . If we were asked to do a traffic study we would. We have been exempt environmentally . . . We have gotten confirmation” from the DOT that “we can get loading/unloading the width of the property.” She explained their loading/unloading capacity. “The Department has determined that we are categorically exempt . . . We are

following the Department's order. Whatever they've asked us [to do] we've done."

Public comments were made opposing, questioning and supporting the project. Savannah said "childcare is in the Community Plan of Granada Hills" [<https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/community-plan-area/granada-hills-knollwood>]. Resident Maria Fisk believed this was about more than parking -- that it was a licensure issue. She said that a "large" facility is 14 or less children, while the applicant proposes to have 60, and that more outdoor and indoor space per child would need to be provided. That information is from the California State Licensure Board website, which she verified by phone.

MOTION (by the Planning and Land Use Committee): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council ("Neighborhood Council") opposes the requested CUP because of the impact of traffic this project would have on Chatsworth Street and the surrounding community.

MOTION was declared to have FAILED by a voice vote of the nine eligible voters present with three in favor ("Yes" or "Aye").

- b. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board regarding Los Angeles City Planning Case Number CPC-2022-1981-CU-DRB-SPP-SPR; (i.e. proposed Home Depot development located at 16830 West Devonshire Street (CPC-2022-1981-CUSPP-SPR/ENV-2022-1982-EAF). For background, note that as of Oct. 19, 2023, no new information regarding this project has been posted on the City Planning Department website, but this item is being included as old business for potential consideration if new information is posted between that date and this meeting. Also, note that a limited amount of applicant's material is currently posted under the first link, while additional background information on this project is available here: All the Info We Have about the Proposed Granada Hills Home Depot Project | Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (ghsnc.org). DRAFT Motion as follows: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council ("Neighborhood Council" or "GHSNC") recommends the following: (TBD)

Chair Mr. Smith reported that, this day, the Planning Deputy told him there were "no new items or materials filed on the Home Depot" application.

- c. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board regarding the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) "SOCALSFV Community Airport Plan," regarding capacity expansion proposals; at Van Nuys Airport; note that all three alternatives include aviation capacity expansion (i.e. from 2-4 new "change to Aviation Area," options, all beyond current uses, at the airport). Also note that the "Vision Study" is the first step for future planning," at Van Nuys Airport, according to LAWA, and that LAWA is at the "select Vision Study Preferred Land Use Alternative" as of May, 2023.

- i. See “Van Nuys Airport History of Aircraft Operations” (2017: 231K; 2021: 301K); and “Santa Monica Airport 2021 Annual Operations Report, Jet Aircraft Trend” (2017: 15,360); 2021: 2,725.
- ii. Note the Los Angeles City Council in 2022-23 has adopted three motions (22-1125, 22-1127, and 22-1489) dedicated, in part, to investigating and addressing the: (aa) increased jet charter activity at VNY airport, (bb) a new specific plan for the airport, and (cc) projects that have allegedly allowed for changes in aviation capacity at VNY. DRAFT Motion as follows: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (“Neighborhood Council” or “GHSNC”) recommends the following: (TBD)

Chair Mr. Smith reported that there were no updates.

8. Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that “a lot of our students are looking for volunteer opportunities . . . If anyone knows of any opportunities . . . suitable for children under the age of 18 . . . let me know.”

10. Seniors

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

9. Sustainability

- a. Update on A More Sustainable Granada Hills survey and farmers market feasibility study.

Chair Mr. Karam reported Sustainable survey results, “which will guide our programming going forward”; main concerns were green space, air quality and recycling. Farmers Market study results indicated several possible sites. Possible partnerships were explored. The Committee will report again in January.

VIII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OF NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Guest Pat spoke and believed that City Councilmember John Lee should resign. Serena Oberstein, CD12 candidate, spoke and described her background and desire to serve.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Benedetto wanted to have a Special Board Meeting. Mr. Smith announced the November 11th Valley Veterans Day Parade. Mr. Morris announced that he will be unavailable as President “for the next couple of months”; Mr. Benedetto, as Vice-President, will be taking over . . . In January, we’ll revisit an appointment to President.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:25 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>.