



## CITY OF LOS ANGELES



### **GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Thursday, January 4, 2024**

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]\_"]

Document copies were available at the Meeting.

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 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Abbey Ronquillo.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Twelve of the 15 Board Members were present at the Roll Call: Mike Benedetto (Vice-President), Carol Hart, John Horn, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Mark Morris (President), Ashley Pena, Abbey Ronquillo (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Colleen Toumayan (Secretary), Michelle Waldenmeyer and Linda Williamson. Launa Bogartz (excused), Michael Koch (unexcused) and Rox Poon (unexcused) 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](http://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](http://www.ghsnc.org). Also attended: 11 Stakeholders and Guests.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER , 2023 BOARD MEETING.**

No corrections or amendments were made.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Ms. Toumayan): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 2, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

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

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. E.*

#### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS/ FUNDING MOTIONS.**

- A. Nominations are open for the GHSNC Presidency.
- B. Nominations are open for Vice President.
- C. Nominations are open for Secretary.
- D. Motion to appoint of Colleen Toumayan to cochair the Outreach committee.

Mr. Benedetto explained that Mario Hernandez, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE; 818-374-9890; [Mario.Hernandez@LACity.org](mailto:Mario.Hernandez@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)], said to agendaize Item numbers IV. A. – D. as shown. It was agreed to TABLE above Item #s IV. A. - D. until later in this Meeting. Later, it was agreed to address the above Items at the February Board Meeting.

- E. Motion for Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for October, November and December 2023.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benedetto): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for October, November and December 2023.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Hart, Horn, Karam, Kolstad, Morris, Pena, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan, Waldenmeyer and Williamson); zero opposed; zero abstained.

*Mr. Morris resigned as President at this time. Mr. Benedetto became the presiding Officer. The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. A.*

- F. Approval of the Minutes for Nov. 2, 2023.  
It was noted that this Item #IV. F. is a duplication of above Item #III.

#### **V. ELECTED OFFICES/ DEPARTMENTS/ ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Gabby Gurrola, a Deputy for State 40th District Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo [[Gabby.Gurrola@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Gabby.Gurrola@asm.ca.gov); <https://ad38.asmmrc.org>], reported that intern opportunities are available for high school students and older. Nominate a Small Business of the Month through their website. She provided information regarding preventing and reporting elder abuse; identity protection; disaster preparedness; veterans services; State agencies contacts; and water conservation.

[*The following was addressed after Item #VIII. J.*] Dan Rosales, Planning Director for L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; [Dan.Rosales@LACity.org](mailto:Dan.Rosales@LACity.org); <https://councildistrict12.lacity.gov>], reported that developers, including for the proposed daycare center, will be required to first present to Neighborhood Councils before they have a Hearing. He offered to speak about Senate Bills 9 and 10, and Assembly Bills 2334 and 2335. Councilmember Lee wants Home Depot to submit an EIR [Environmental Impact Report]. There will not be a public Hearing about the Aldea development because the State allowed the development.

**VI. PRESENTATION** BY Lydia Grant on Declaration of Neighborhood Council Rights.

A. Discussion and possible motion to adopt the Declaration of Neighborhood Council Rights.

Whereas, the people of the City of Los Angeles enacted, in the charter of 1999, a system of Neighborhood Councils, whose missions are “to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs” and, Whereas, in order to fulfill these missions, Neighborhood Councils must be empowered to operate as independently as possible of the City’s officials, departments, and agencies and not subject to undue influence or control by those officials, departments, and agencies, Therefore, the Neighborhood Councils of the City of Los Angeles declare: Neighborhood Councils’ Board members are elected officials of the City of Los Angeles. The method by which Board members are chosen shall be determined solely by the Bylaws of each Neighborhood Council. The sole authority to censure, suspend, remove, or otherwise discipline a Board member is vested in the Neighborhood Council of which that individual is a Board member. Each Board shall determine the composition of its Bylaws and no other agency or commission of the City, with the exception of Board composition and boundaries of the Neighborhood Council, may alter or amend those Bylaws following initial Council certification and approval by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. No official or agency of the City of Los Angeles may delay or otherwise impede the action of a Neighborhood Council to amend its Bylaws or rules. Neighborhood Councils shall be meaningfully consulted prior to the appointment of individuals to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and the appointment of any individual as the general manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Motion: the Granada Hills Council moves to adopt and support The Declaration of Council Rights.

Ms. Grant, a former BONC [L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; 213-978-1551; [Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:Commissioners@EmpowerLA.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)] Commissioner, explained who LANCC [the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition; [LANCC@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:LANCC@EmpowerLA.org); [www.LANCC.org](http://www.LANCC.org)] is and why the Declaration was created by the Working Group for Constructive Change (WG4CC) [[LANCCwg4cc@gmail.com](mailto:LANCCwg4cc@gmail.com)]. She said “we, as Neighborhood Councils [NCs], want to be treated with respect.” She read aloud the above paragraph beginning with “Whereas.” She believed that NCs should have a say in the hiring of the DONE General Manager. She said that L.A. City District 12 Councilmember John Lee [ofc. 818-882-1212; [Councilmember.Lee@LACity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Lee@LACity.org); <https://CouncilDistrict12.LACity.gov>] said that the last General Manager (Raquel Beltran) said that “Neighborhood Council Board Members are volunteers for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.” She was let go the next day. Ms. Grant encouraged Board Members to think and act as “elected officials,” not volunteers. It was noted that the word “Counsel” should be spelled “Council.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Hart): The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council adopts and supports The Declaration of Council Rights.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benedetto, Hart, Horn, Karam, Kolstad, Morris, Pena, Ronquillo, Smith, Toumayan, Waldenmeyer and Williamson); zero opposed; zero abstained.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #V.*

**VII. Discussion and possible action** on a Board motion that the Granada Hills Neighborhood Council contact other Neighborhood Councils in the San Fernando Valley to determine their interest in cosponsoring 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.

- a. Note this motion was passed Sept. 14, 2023 unanimously by a vote of all nine Board Members present; with zero opposed and zero abstentions.
- b. If any new information is available by the Board meeting, the above item shall serve as a placeholder for any necessary board action.

Mr. Benedetto noted the above. Mr. Morris reported that BONC Commissioner Keren Waters is working to organize the forum to be here this quarter, for all NCs in this area. No Motion was made or vote taken.

### **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

ACTING PRESIDENT - We need to move our storage from public storage to nova storage at the end of January; as previously passed.

Mr. Benedetto noted the above. Ms. Toumayan volunteered to help.

*[Note: numbered/lettered paragraphs are copied directly from the Agenda.]*

#### **A. Public Safety**

1. Need commitments from committee members regarding their availability for a committee meeting in January for committee action on the following, as soon as possible:

Mr. Smith noted the above.

2. Discussion and possible Board action 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.

- a) 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 ongoing

security and safety issues at the recreation center at regular monthly meeting of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council.

- b) 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.
- c) On Oct. 26, 2023, the PSEP committee approved a motion to the board to provide such funding. On Nov. 2, 2023, the Board approved the following:
  - a. 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.
- d) Note the above occurred at the same meeting the Board voted to provide \$5,000 in GHSNC funding to the LAPD DEVONSHIRE IS S.O.L.I.D. 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.
- e) Note that the PSEP chair has informed representatives of CD 12, LAPD Devonshire, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Library, and DONE of this vote. In addition, the chair has requested Mr. Mario Hernandez, the GHSNC’s DONE NEA, provide a briefing at this meeting on how to move forward with this funds transfer.
- f) If any new information is available by the Board meeting, the above item shall serve as a placeholder for any necessary board action.

Mr. Smith noted the above and reviewed recent history. He reported that the City Clerk said that the allocation cannot be made because “security improvements are not capital improvements.” Mr. Smith is working on this with Mr. Hernandez. Mr. Smith said that “four different City Agencies said we could do this” and that “we’re just asking for security,” nothing specific. No Motion was made or vote taken.

B. Cultural Affairs

There was no report.

C. Education

Chair Ms. Ronquillo indicated that there was no report.

D. Homelessness – Report

Chair Mr. Horn reported that the annual homeless count [#TheyCountWillYou] would be January 23-25.

#### E. Outreach

1. Report on tree lighting held on December 1, 2023  
Mr. Benedetto reported that “this was a tremendous event.”
2. Report on Holiday Parade held on December 3, 2023  
Mr. Benedetto reported that this was “another tremendous success.”

#### F. Planning and Land Use

1. Update on conditional use permit for daycare center located at 17345 W. Chatsworth St., Granada Hills/Knollwood community plan area.

Interim Chair Mr. Smith reported that the CUP was granted.

2. Letter of correction regarding conditional use permit for the above stated daycare center as described in item 6a above

Interim Chair Mr. Smith noted the above.

3. Need for PLUM committee commitments

Interim Chair Mr. Smith noted the above.

*[This was the second Item #VIII. F. 1. on the Agenda.]* 1. Need commitments from committee members regarding their availability for a committee meeting in January for committee action on the following, as soon as possible:

Interim Chair Mr. Smith noted the above.

*[This was the second Item #VIII. F. 2. on the Agenda.]* 2. Discussion and possible action by 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), as submitted to the City by representatives of the applicant. Note that on May 11, 2023, the PLUM Committee voted 4-0 to recommend the following to the GHSNC Board; on Aug. 3, 2023, the GHSNC Board voted unanimously by a voice vote to approve the motion below (note: zero opposed; zero abstained.)

- a. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council accepts the recommendation of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUMC) to request the City of Los Angeles require a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on 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), in order to comply with all requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- b. The above request, and a link to the minutes from the Aug.3 meeting, have been submitted as part of the public record to the City Planning Department, directly to Ms. Renata Ooms, the city planner assigned to this project.

- c. Before the holidays, Ms. Ooms informed the PLUM committee chair that no action was expected on this matter before the New Year. As of the week of Dec. 24-31, no approved documents are posted at the above link, and the project is listed as being “on hold.”
- d. If any new information is available by the Board meeting, the above item shall serve as a placeholder for any necessary board action.
- e. If any new information is available by the Board meeting, the above item shall serve as a placeholder for any necessary board action.

Interim Chair Mr. Smith noted the above. No Motion was made or vote taken.

*[This was the third Item #VIII. F. 2. on the Agenda.]* 2. Discussion and possible action by the Board regarding Los Angeles City Planning Case Number ADM-2023-7417-DB-HCA-ED1 (i.e. a proposal to demolish two existing single family residences, at 17188 and 17184 Chatsworth Street, respectively, and replace them with a 39,528 sq ft, six floor, 49 unit 100% affordable housing project).

- a. Note that these two adjoining properties are on the south side of Chatsworth Street; 17188 is the southeast corner of the intersection of Chatsworth and Aldea, and 17184 is the property immediately east of the corner. Other properties on the same block include both single family residences and multi-unit-apartment buildings.
- b. Note the above project site is one block east of a proposed child care facility at 17247 Chatsworth Street, which the applicants have said publicly would serve as many as 60 children and 14 staff M-F. See item #5, below.
- c. Next steps would be, as per regular order, to invite the developer to present to the community on this project at a committee meeting, and for the committee to make a recommendation to the board regarding the applicant’s request.
- d. Before the holidays, Ms. Ooms informed the PLUM committee chair that no action was expected on this matter before the New Year. As of the week of Dec. 24-31, no approved documents are posted at the above link, and the project is listed as being “on hold.”
- e. If any new information is available by the Board meeting, the above item shall serve as a placeholder for any necessary board action.

Interim Chair Mr. Smith noted the above and will invite the applicant to present to the Committee. No Motion was made or vote taken.

*[This was the second Item #VIII. F. 3. on the Agenda.]* 3. Discussion and possible action by the Board regarding Los Angeles City Planning Case Number

ADM-2023-8062-DB-VHCA-ED1, (i.e. a proposal to demolish an existing 1,234 sq ft single-family dwelling at 16136 West Devonshire Street - and construction of a 10,647 sq ft three-story, 44- foot, 100% affordable housing apartment building development with 15 total units.

- a. Note that this property is on the south side of Devonshire, three parcels east of Woodley Avenue. There is a commercial property at the southeast corner of Woodley and Devonshire, but the remainder of the block – ~12 homes, including one west of this property and separating it from the existing commercial development – is entirely singlefamily, as is most of the same the block on the north side of the street (~10 homes). Similar zoning and uses are in place east to Haskell (south side, ~21 homes) and Aqueduct (north side, ~31 homes).
- b. Next steps would be, as per regular order, to invite the developer to present to the community on this project at a committee meeting, and for the committee to make a recommendation to the board regarding the applicant's request to waive the City's development standards to permit this development.
- c. Note that among others, this includes a request to permit a 19-foot height increase from the LAMC 12.21.1-A, 10 limit of 25 feet within 49 feet of an RS zone to 44 feet, a 100% reduction of required parking from 23 spaces to 0 spaces, an 80% reduction of the required building line setback from 25 feet to 5 feet, and a 100% reduction of required open space from 1,800 sf. to 0 sf.
- d. As of the week of Dec. 24-31, no approved documents are posted at the above link; however, the project is not listed as being "on hold."
- e. If any new information is available by the Board meeting, the above item shall serve as a placeholder for any necessary board action.

Interim Chair Mr. Smith noted the above and will invite the applicant to present to the Committee. No Motion was made or vote taken.

*[This was the third Item #VIII. F. 3. on the Agenda.]* 3. Discussion and possible action by 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, on the north side of Andasol. 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.

*[There were no Item #'s VIII. F. 3. (third instance) a. - e.]*



- f. Note that on Dec. 4, 2023, the City of Los Angeles, Office of Zoning Administration, announced this project could forward, with multiple conditions. See attached letters of Dec. 4, 2023 and Nov. 15, 2023.
- g. Request these letters should be included as elements of the agenda and minutes for the GHSNC, to preserve them as an element of the public record regarding this project.
- h. If any new information is available by the Board meeting, the above item shall serve as a placeholder for any necessary board action.

Interim Chair Mr. Smith noted the above and will invite the applicant to present to the Committee. No Motion was made or vote taken.

- 4. Discussion and possible action on a Planning and Land Use Management Committee recommendation to the Board regarding testimony and information presented by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to the Van Nuys (VNY) Airport Citizens Advisory Council.
  - a. See “Vision Study,” regarding the capacity expansion proposals; 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.
  - b. Note that the LAWA Board of Airport Commissioners’ regular meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 10:00 am has been cancelled.
  - c. Note that in May 11, 2023, the PLUM Committee voted 4-0 to recommend the following to the GHSNC Board; the motion was approved by the Board on Aug. 3, MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.
  - d. The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (“Neighborhood Council” or “GHSNC”) accepts the recommendation of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUMC) to contact other Neighborhood Councils in the San Fernando Valley to determine their interest in co-sponsoring a joint public forum on issues regarding the management of Van Nuys Airport, at a date and location to be determined.
  - e. If any new information is available by the Board meeting, the above item shall serve as a placeholder for any necessary board action.

Interim Chair Mr. Smith noted the above and will invite the applicant to present to the Committee. No Motion was made or vote taken.

G. Sustainability - Report

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

Chair Mr. Karam reported that the Committee will meet this month.

H. Seniors

Chair Ms. Kolstad reported that the Committee will work on having a GHSNC Open House here in late Spring; she wanted to include the Police and Fire Departments. Board Members, contact her with availability to volunteer.

I. Youth

Chair Ms. Ronquillo reported that the Committee will have a joint meeting with Education to discuss youth volunteer opportunities.

J. Beatification - Report

Mr. Horn reported that a City recycling ambassador will speak at the Committee's January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #V.*

**IX. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OF NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS.**

There were no such comments at this time.

**X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

Mr. Horn requested agendizing about non-attending Board Members and whether they need to be removed. Mr. Karam encouraged sustainable practices. Ms. Kolstad said that Tarzana Elementary School and St. Euphrasia students are working on senior greeting cards; she will share some with the Board. Ms. Ronquillo requested support for meetings accessibility. Ms. Williamson encouraged buying loose, not bagged, onions. Ms. Waldenmeyer encouraged renovating the website for more accessibility.

**XI. Next meeting will be held on February 2, 2024.**

The above was noted.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Williamson).

**MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote..

The Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:25 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>.