

## July 11.2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Start 7:05 PM

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE- Michael Benedetto and Flag Salute by Colleen Toumayan

Roll Call- Ashley Pena

### **In attendance**

Michael Benedetto, Colleen Toumayan, Ashley Pena, Mark Morris, John Horn, George Karam, Sally Kolstad, Brad Smith, Linda Williamson, and Kayla Owens

### **Late**

Abbey Ronquillo and Launa Bogartz

### **Excused**

Carol Hart and Angela Yang

### **Not in attendance**

Michael Koch and Rox Poon

10 present

## **ADMINISTRATIVE/FUNDING MOTIONS**

### **A. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) June 2024-**

Mark Morris seconds- No Public or Board discussion

Michael Benedetto- yes

Colleen Toumayan-yes

Ashley Pena-yes

Mark Morris-yes

John Horn-yes

George Karam-yes

Sally Kolstad-yes

Brad Smith-yes

Linda Williamson-yes

Kayla Owens- ineligible

9 yes/one ineligible-passes

### **B. Approval of Board minutes for May 2, 2024 and June 6th, 2024- Table**

### **C. Appointments of Mike Benedetto as 2nd signer-**

Sally Kolstad seconds and no board or public comment

9 in favor and one ineligible-passes

### **D. Appointment of Colleen Toumayan as Alternate signer**

George Karam seconds

9 in favor and one ineligible-passes

**E. Approval of the 2024-2025 Annual Admin Budget**

Brad Smith seconds

Brad questions the just wanted to check with us, the \$1,900. All the \$1,900 rollover. The only rollover we're getting Michael Benedetto- since it was voted on last term. I talked with Mario and I've made sense to include it. But I will tell you that where we're supposed to get most of the money that we had leftover, pulled over into this year.

So that's about \$20,000. Brad-That would be on top of the 33,000 Well, on top of the 32,000

Brian Allen: You're rolling over 14,006 20.

Abbey arrives brings up to 11 at 7:15

10 approve one ineligible- passes

**F. Discussion and possible action to approve a NPG for SOLID up to \$5,000 t**

**Motion- approve an NPG for SOLID for up to \$5,000 to renovate their trailer for community volunteers and as a training unit**

Sally Kolstad seconds

Dale Penn explains the need for a new training trailer for police officers, citing outdated technology and insufficient space.

The cost of the trailer renovation is approximately \$40,000, and the longer they wait to begin work, the more expensive it becomes.

Brad Smith- So we voted on this prior and wanted to clarify that

Michael Benedetto: City didn't process previous request. The issue was at the City Clerk's office so we do somewhat owe this

John Horn- Wanted to clarify City attorney's actions caused frustration, but council doesn't owe anyone anything.

Brain Allen- Just make a little clarification just so the board knows. It is a fire solid is a 501 C three. And even though they're in contact with the captain. The captain has no say whatsoever. What SOLID does the solid can do whatever it wants to do with his money? It is a collaborative effort in working with the police and providing them what they need to support their services, but they are a totally independent operation.

No further comments

Roll call vote

Michael Benedetto- yes

Colleen Toumayan-yes

Ashley Pena-yes

Abbey Ronquillo-yes

Mark Morris-yes

John Horn- yes

George Karam-yes

Sally Kolstad-yes

Brad Smith-yes

Linda Williamson-yes

Kayla Owens-ineligible

10 yes and 1 ineligible- Motion passes

**G. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$500 for Congress of  
Neighborhoods which will be held downtown at City Hall on September 28, 2024**

Motion- Approve up to \$500 for Congress of

Neighborhoods which will be held downtown at City Hall on September 28, 2024

Second- Mark Morris

Brain Allen- Years ago, I was I was involved with them. I was a member of their organization. They are a group of individuals from the NC system who put on an annual event at city hall in which they have workshops for various reasons. All of them involved with some issue with the city or with some operations. It's a good thing.

Congress neighborhoods is a good event. And if you go to it, you will learn something and then that's a good thing. It's, I would say it's worth funding. We funded it or not it was now Granada Hills North funded. And I was I don't think there's much more to say. Is there any questions that somebody might have about it? I'll be happy to answer them. But that's who they are.

Mark Morris- Asks about food and parking and confirmed there will be from Brian Allen

Roll Call Vote

Michael Benedetto- yes

Colleen Toumayan-yes'

Ashley Pena-yes

Abbey Ronquillo-yes

Mark Morris-yes

John Horn-yes

George Karam-yes

Sally Kolstad-yes

Brad Smith-yes

Linda Williamson-yes

Kayla Owens-ineligible

10 yes and 1 ineligible- Motion passes

#### ELECTED OFFICES/DEPARTMENTS/ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Benedetto talks about GHSNC elections for next term

Candidates filing periods from January 17 2025, March 3 2025/ Voting online only March 21 2025 to May 11 2025. And Election Day is May 28 2020

Council District 12 (John Lee)- My name is Lorena Espinal as the President just mentioned.

I do have some updates and announcements today. I sent out, we have our conversations with counsel coming up on Monday, August 5. This meeting is for board members. And it will be with the general manager for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Her name is Carmen Chang. Please send your RSVPs we hope to see you there. As you all may have heard as well. The homeless count numbers were released by Lhasa. And for the first time in six years. The city of LA is numbers are down for enhanced numbers from 2023 to 2024. In our district specifically, we saw numbers decrease as well specifically relating to RV dwellings. Update was I'm sure as you all have heard as well the Supreme Court ruling on the grant pass and ability to enforce laws, restricting encampments on sidewalks and public property. That following Friday, Councilmember John Lee co introduced a motion with essentially asking the city attorney to provide an analysis on the rulings impact of the state's existing rules relative to sleeping line and storage of property in the public right of way, and other public settings. Additionally, the city attorney asks was asked to have a confidential analysis regarding really impact on any existing litigation against city related excuse me, the litigation against the city related to homelessness. Those are my update dates for this evening.

Questions

Brad Smith- Question on the pool- No updates

Sally Kolstad-Showing just something that I've noticed within the last three weeks. Sessnon, there's in the middle of the street, it's wet, and there's no, there's no, no rain, no puddle. This whole this whole section in the middle of the room, is what I've called the city and have called the fire department. I've called the police department. What do I do? I'm just afraid that they're gonna get a big old truck that's going to go through there. And it's going to end up being a big pothole. It's just I mean, it's in the middle of the streets. I'll pass that along to you. But it's been there for a couple of weeks.

Maria Fisk- Any updates or any movement on the DRP? And appointing volunteer members? We talked about that last time. Any movement on that? Have you heard anything? Lorena- I did check in with Dan. And I did not receive any new updates. With the exception of I know that some members met with him

There were several comments from Michael Benedetto, Brad Smith, Linda Williamson, Mark Morris, and Colleen Toumayan all related to the Home Depot project that the board has not received a response to- Lack of response from council member to community concerns. Home Depot project in Granada Hills, concerns about impact on community. Speakers express frustration with lack of city council interest in major project impacting Granada Hills community. Council member Lee and Daniel invited to meeting to discuss Home Depot project's impact on city decisions. Brad Smith suggests regular meetings with community members and Home Depot representatives to address concerns

DONE

You should have received a an email from Empower LA saying that it is our pleasure to invite you to meet the Empower LA new General Manager at the North Valley neighborhood council listening session on Monday, August 12. From 630 to 8pm. The Gathering will bring neighborhood council presidents and vice presidents from across the North Valley to introduce yourself and share about your neighborhood council experiences and provide insight into the ways in Empower LA in your neighborhood council can call or collaborate to best serve your community. The session will be held virtually and in an effort to ensure all guests have time to share about the neighborhood councils. We have limited this invite neighborhood council presidents and or vice presidents only. Over the next coming months, Joan, General Manager Chang will attend they were Council board meetings and meet the wider neighborhood council community.

And see a couple more problems. Again, the department is excited to announce the launch of the 2024 neighborhood council perception and insight survey. Your thoughts and feedback are invaluable to us and the survey is your opportunity to share your experiences with your neighborhood council. Your input is essential in helping us continue to support the neighborhood councils effectively. The insights gathered will guide us in making informed decisions and enhancing our community engagement strategy.

Brain Allen on Budget-

Not much to say on budget advocates. Right now, we just had our Budget Day, the Budget Day, created a new venture for his first time also, in five years, we had a live Budget Day. And we are all new budget advocates, we are still trying to ensure that we have a solid list of all budget reps in the city that 99 and seasons are supposed to be to budget reps from every NC which would be 198 budget reps. I'm not sure right now who your budget reps are. And if you could, somebody could forward that to me, I will pass that on. And we will keep track of that. But we do want if we can to get to budget reps from every NC. And all of them are welcome to attend any of our meetings and join in with us many of our meetings with the different departments and contribute to the development of the white paper and any other issues that we bring forward. If anybody doesn't know what the budget advocates do, I'll be happy to share that information with you. And I think that's about it

The Gas leak study and community engagement. Study team from UCLA's Graduate School of Public Health is conducting a \$21 million multi-year study on the long-term health impacts of the gas leak, with potential presentation to the neighborhood council in September.

#### Committee Reports

Beautification- John Horn wants to get a meeting going but does not have many members- Michael Benedetto said that he would assign new board members

Cultural Affairs- No report

Education-Abbey Ronquillo

The Education Committee met earlier this week, and we're discussing continuous conversation about a topic that we brought up earlier, I believe, last month or the month before about potentially getting additional training from DONE in regards to just some of the clerical things, creating agendas, some more additional training for executive board or executive board members. I don't know if this is of interest for other members of the board. But you know, we saw with what has happened with NPG for SOLID and other MPGs in the previous, you know, previously at this past year, there's been a lot, I think, back and forth in regards to how to get things done. And if we're up to date, and up to par with the way that the city wants us to do it. So, you know, we all are all volunteers. And I think our time is very valuable, and want us to have a very streamlined process. And I think that that's what the city wants for us as well. So if anyone is interested in potential additional training, we can have a special meeting for this. If this is something maybe not that many people have interest in, but have additional questions that they would like me to present to that I'm happy to be the representative if you'd like to email me those questions, and we can get that done, hopefully, going into this new year.

Launa Bogartz Arrives- 8: 02

Homelessness- John Horn

As previously mentioned, the homeless count results are out. And a letter that was sent to me by the LA Homeless Services Authority to those who participated in the count, leading provide a little more context. So the number for the city of Los Angeles while it did drop, the climb was estimated as a 2.2%

drop, which really isn't. I think in the margin of error, it's right within that. So at least it wasn't an increase. I think that's what most people are looking at that the number didn't go up across the county, that number dropped by less than 1%. So at least again, the numbers didn't go up. Both the city and the county are reporting that shelter counts are increasing. So more people are being put in shelter than ever before. Whether they're moving out of shelter is another question, but that's an issue. But we do have numbers on housing placements. So across the county permanent housing placements are up 18% to an all-time high. So, over the last seven years, more than 110,000 have been placed in permanent housing. The challenge is how many of those people are still housed. That's part of the reason why you're seeing homelessness not go away because the inflow continues to be quite high. So the goal with our committee will try to be to get some more results to drill down more for Granada Hills specific and see if we can get someone to come out here from LASA or the city to talk a little more about homelessness and what the count means and so forth. But it is a positive that it didn't go up. So that's nice. So and with that said, I am going to make a plug for the homeless count again in January of 25. And I'll make a plug again that it would be wonderful or to partner with our neighbors to the north there. Granada Hills South neighborhood council on the homeless count. As you are so much more familiar with the streets up in the north area than we are down in the south. So I'll bring that up.

Outreach-

Outreach-

A. Discussion and possible action to approve and adopt DONE's Senate Bill 411 to authorize the ability to use teleconference for committee or special meetings. (Two thirds vote or 12 of 17 seats required to pass). The justification for using said teleconferencing for committees would be increased the sensibility and more community engagement, while for special meetings would help facilitate urgent or emergency circumstances making it easier to achieve quorums

Motion- approve and adopt DONE's Senate Bill 411 to authorize the ability to use teleconference for committee or special meetings.

Michel Benedetto seconds

Discussion goes on about using zoom, but reiterated that nit would just be for special meetings and committee meetings when needed.

All in favor with one ineligible

12 in favor- motion passes

B. Discussion and possible action to approve a Community Impact Statement to Council File

23-1114 of the above stated item A for DONEs approval.

Motion: approve a Community Impact Statement to Council File

23-1114 of the above stated item A for DONEs approval

All in favor with one ineligible

12 in favor- motion passes

Michael Benedetto seconds

No Comments

C. Discussion and possible action to approve the cost of \$200 to utilize Zoom meetings for the 2024 – 2025 term.

Motion- Approve the cost of \$200 to utilize Zoom meetings for the 2024 – 2025 term.

Michael Benedetto seconds

No discussion

Michael Benedetto-yes

Colleen Toumayan-yes

Ashley Pena-yes

Abbey Ronquillo-yes

Mark Morris-yes

Launa Bogartz-yes

John Horn-yes

George Karam-yes

Sally Kolstad-yes

Brad Smith-yes

Linda Williamson-yes

Kayla Owens-ineligible

12 yes/1 ineligible motion passes

## **Planning and Land Use**

**Brad Smith discusses Home Deport situation-**

**Brad Smith-**



We have it on the record from the city planning deputy that planning expects to be issuing what's referred to as a mitigated negative declaration, which is not a full DIR. And just to remind everybody this board voted this year to ask DIR. So that's on the record. We have asked for a copy of the draft. We've been told it's not available to the public yet because it's a draft.

We have a very, I believe have very good planning committee was people really well educated. But I will just be very blunt. We are not professional planners. We're not planning we're not zoning experts. We're not geotechnical engineers, traffic engineers, So that I was trying to come up with a way that we potentially could get some expertise simply so we're well informed and we can inform the community because there's been a lot of us question that there's been a lack of information going out to the community. And again, just to remind everybody, this board brought this up publicly. In 2022. We had the event at Kennedy HS, we had a planning committee meeting on this that was well attended at both of those meetings, The applicant present, we spoke, took questions. The community was well represented, to the extent that there were literally hundreds of people who spoke over I mean, just simple observation, overwhelmingly in opposition. We had a third meeting, this board had a meeting before we voted to ask for the full EIR, the applicant was present, did not choose to speak. Community spoke again, simple observation overwhelmingly negative towards the proposal. Just having seen how things have occurred in the past without making any judgment. Personally, as a former president of this body, longtime officer, longtime member, longtime Planning, Land Use committee member, I am concerned that something may happen at a time when we are not well prepared to react quickly. What's interesting is I reached out to a couple of people and So I think what I would ask the Board to consider if you want to discuss it, I understand one, but I would request that we allocate up to \$5,000 in funding for the purposes of seeking temporary staffing service for the board generally. So we have someone with some expertise. Who can help us work through this. Obviously, this is simply professional advice. That's the intent. As a neighborhood council, we're part of the city. Response has been very, essentially, it's been no, we can't tell you anything beyond the process. So the processes in work, I think this would be very valuable if you have essentially a planning expert of some appropriate background on call. So if and when something shows publicly, not only can we have someone looking at it with some independence, but we can also if we need to pop a special meeting at the committee level or compliance or the board level. We can do it in a relative as well informed as we can get given the circumstances. So that's my request. I did you know, in a general sense, I've run this by various people, both on the committee and other people with expertise. We're just looking for resources. So we actually can be informed and help inform the community. So that's, that's the discussion, obviously, if there's any questions or we can make an emotion, but I wanted to give that background.

Discussion and possible action by the Board regarding allocation of up to \$5,000 in Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council board funds for the purposes of seeking temporary staffing service for the board generally and/or the Planning and Land Use Management committee specifically. (See documentation on temp staffing services for NC's....)

Note that if approved, any such request will be submitted via the City Clerk's guidelines and process for temporary staffing services, as indicated in the link below:

<https://clerk.lacity.gov/sites/g/files/wph1491/files/2021-09/NCFPTempStaffServicesforNCsFeb2020.pdf>

DRAFT Motion as follows:

The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (“Neighborhood Council” or “GHSNC”) Board recommends the following:

The Board allocates up to \$5,000 in Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council board funds for the purposes of seeking temporary staffing services for the board generally and/or the Planning and Land Use Management and/or Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness committees specifically.

Mark Morris seconds the motion

There is discussion

Michael Benedetto- yes

Colleen Toumayan-yes

Ashley Pena-yes

Abbey Ronquillo,-yes

Mark Morris-yes

Launa Bogartz-yes

John Horn-yes

George Karam- yes

Sally Kolstad-yes

Brad Smith-yes

Linda Williamson-yes

Kayla Owens- Ineligible

11 yes- one ineligible so motion passes

DONE brings up- Lisa Anderson requests public records related to Home Depot project, sparking

Youth Committee- Abbey Ronquillo spoke on

We had a youth committee meeting earlier this week, and we are moving along with our Youth Commission. So thank you so much, everyone for voting to have that in place. We had overwhelming a number of participant candidates. Over 30 plus students, youth from our community are interested in more democratic process. So we myself, Angela Yang, and Emily Targaryen, who were our youth facilitators that have brought this project to us, having met and voted on, essentially voted on participants that we thought were the best candidates. So we had sent out the letters today for commission members and you will meet them on the August 1 meeting.

Seniors- Sally Kolstad- We had talked about I'm talking about this for a long time, long before COVID, about having a open house or resource meeting. And we have talked about doing it in October, I'm going to push it to February, and basically, at either the next meeting, or the meeting after I will explain to everybody what was going to be what I like from them. Basically, I just want an open house, I want everyone to be there. I want everyone to have a booth with not only representing the Granada Hills Council, but the seniors have a booth and the homeless have a booth and I want people to be able to go around and ask questions. Have the gas company there have the fire department, police department, we talked about monitoring services that could be there answer.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OF NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS- None

#### VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-

Abbey pointed out -I just want to quickly say that July is Disability Pride month and I know you've had this conversation prior about putting on the agenda, making sure our website is compliant, that's really something I would like for us to do. And then maybe also a suggestion for this sustainability committee to also do potentially a community walk audit to see how accessible our streets are and how everyone can get around more easily without cars.

Other members thank the board and well wishes

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT- 9:06PM