



**Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council**  
 11024 Balboa Blvd., Box 767  
 Granada Hills, CA 91344  
 818-723-8087  
 Website: [www.ghsnc.org](http://www.ghsnc.org) Email: [board@ghsnc.org](mailto:board@ghsnc.org)

**Board Meeting Minutes  
 August 17, 2025  
 4:24PM-7:52PM  
 (DRAFT)**

**Special Meeting Location:**  
**Los Angeles Fire Department**  
**Station 87 Conference Room**  
**10124 Balboa Blvd.**  
**Granada Hills, CA 91344**  
*(MAIL NOT ACCEPTED AT THIS ADDRESS)*

Boardmember	Roll Call	Funding Vote Eligible*	Category
Michael Benedetto	Present		At Large Director
Anush Danielyan	Excused		At Large Director
Brendel Geddes, Treasurer	Present		At Large Director
Carol Hart	Absent		At Large Director
John Horn, Secretary	Present		At Large Director
Sally Kolstad	Excused		At Large Director
Amanda Mercado-Nguyen	Present		At Large Director
James Mercado-Nguyen	Present		At Large Director
Mark Morris	Present		At Large Director
Jeremy Oberstein, Vice President	Present		At Large Director
Abbey Ronquillo, President	Present		At Large Director
Brad Smith	Present		At Large Director
Emily Tarverdyan	Present		At Large Director
Vacant			Youth Boardmember
Vacant			At Large Director
Vacant			At Large Director
Vacant			At Large Director
Total Board Members -17	10 Present 03 Absent		At Large Director

\*Funding vote eligibility key: **A**=age less than 18 yrs.; **E**=Ethics training; **F**=Funding training; **N**=not taken; **X**=expired  
\*\* Advance notice given for absence (VOTE KEY: Yes, No, Abstain, Ineligible, Recuse, Absent)

I. CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE **The meeting was called to order by Abbey Ronquillo at 4:24PM.**

II. FLAG SALUTE AND ROLL CALL

**Abbey Ronquillo led the Pledge of Allegiance**

GHSNC ITEM II. Roll Call		
Present –10	Absent 01	Excused-02
Benedetto, Geddes, Horn, A. Mercado-Nguyen, J. Mercado-Nguyen, Morris, Oberstein, Ronquillo, Smith (Tarverdyan arrived at 4:43)	Hart	Danielyan, Kolstad

III. DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL PRESENTATION

- a. Jose Galdamez, NEA presented to the board and discussed the City Departments and Roles, The Brown Act, Law vs Policy, Agendas, Committees, Data, CRPAS, CIS, Bylaws, Etiquette, and NC Resources. Jose also answered questions accordingly.
  - A. Mercado Nguyen asked if talking to one other person would be a violation of the Brown Act to which Galdamez said no, if it involved additional members then yes.
  - A stakeholder asked how many members a serial meeting would be and Galdamez stated five
  - Oberstein asked about social media and the Brown Act. Galdamez stated that having followers on the board and by simply liking a post could be considered a violation. Galdamez suggests avoiding commenting and liking posts on things.
  - Morris asked about specifically commenting on political issues and if it ran the risk of being a Brown Act Violation. Oberstein added that it is within the jurisdiction. Galdamez suggests stating you are not speaking in your capacity as an elected board member, and if there is a hot issue item to be mindful of what you discuss. There are guidelines and policies available online.
  - Galdamez mentions if you are unsure that DONE is there to support and that you can reach out to him at any time.
- b. Shawna Priscilla Dungo, Representative from City Clerk Neighborhood Funding Program joined the meeting virtually. Dungo provided a general overview of the funding program and went over the mission of the Neighborhood Funding Program, Accessing NC Funds, NC Financial Officers, Spending NC Funds, Contracts, Inventory, MERs, Conflicts of Interest, Unacceptable Purchases, Corrective Measures, as well as how to contact them.
  - Dungo mentioned that the department is working on creating Policy and Guidelines.
  - Geddes asked if the city needs to be an additional insurer. Dungo states that they would request for this but there are some cases where they are not listed, and they work with the office of risk management to check.
  - Benedetto mentioned that Geddes as Treasurer will have additional training he will need to take.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

## **No public comment**

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Board of Director Appointments**

**At-Large Director Seat, whose term ends in 2027. (3 vacant seats)**

- Galdamez states per the bylaws we must put them in the agenda for consideration. The candidates must provide proper documentation to be eligible for a seat.**
- Geddes states he would like to interview individuals and see people from different walks of life on the board.**
- Benedetto mentioned that there are two members in the crowd, Steven and Maria who showed interest in joining the board. He met Steven in May, introduced by Colleen and she says he is a good guy.**
- Steven states he is interested in joining the board and asks where he goes to apply. Galdamez states he will create and send an application since the Board does not have one currently.**

**Youth Board Member Seat, whose term ends in 2027. (1 vacant seats)**

- Galdamez states they must be between 14-17 during their time on the Board.**

### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Introductions - share about yourself. Fun fact, interests, why you joined the Neighborhood Council, favorite thing about Granada Hills South.**

- Geddes grew up in San Francisco. He likes to play guitar and likes The Beatles. Joined the GHSNC because when he moved here it was a quiet place. He has seen legislation made for big cities that is impacting Granada Hills. He also appreciates the small businesses and prefers to shop at those places. He would like to attract more of that. He loves the community that he has found here and is looking forward to working with everyone.**
- Horn was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and has lived all over. He moved to Granada Hills in 1994. He currently lives in the Old Granada Hills area and really enjoys it. This is where he and his wife raised their three sons. He was recently hired in a new position. He joined in 2019 to get involved and is looking forward to continuing to serve.**
- A. Mercado Nguyen has lived in the area since 2017. She helps Hopia Like It in many capacities and has been a student at Aloha Hula for many years. She loves the space that Granada Hills has for the community to come together. She also states that she Freelances and does social media and feels that she has the energy and opportunity to help the community.**
- J. Mercado Nguyen owns a local business a Filipino bakery. I found out there was an opportunity on the board and had no idea it was a thing. He is really hoping that he can make a difference.**
- Morris reports he was born in Inglewood and raised the South Bay. Made his way out to the Valley and was blown away by how it felt like a small town in a big city. He was excited about the Holiday Parade. He wanted to contribute any way he could.**
- Oberstein was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. Attended schools all around the Valley. He moved to the area in 2017 with his wife. It has given him a sense of community and a sense of purpose. He was raised with the expectation that you would give back to the community. He worked for the City of LA for many years. The**

thing he loves about Granada Hills is the trees.

- Ronquillo has been part of the council since 2019. Her family moved here in 1994 after the Northridge earthquake and has never moved. She considers Granada Hills her forever home. She is a mental health practitioner and believes in community care and hopes to continue to help support the board and encourage others to join as well.
- Smith is a native Angelino and was born and raised in the Valley. Was in the service, came back from the service and went to school at CSUN. Raised his family here. He believes this is a unique part of Los Angeles. Sixty percent of folks in this area own their homes and forty percent rent. This is the opposite of other parts of the city. There are significant issues in this community that are different from the rest of the city. He joined the GHSNC all those years ago in order to help maintain the quality of life.
- Tarverdyan It is her first time on the board but some of you may know her from when she helped create the first youth commission. Her idea was to have young people get involved in local government. It felt like a natural progression to run for Neighborhood Council. She loves Granada Hills and loves living in LA, a big metropolitan area and also knowing her neighbors names.
- Benedetto was born and raised in New York City. He came out here and went to school here. He always believed in teamwork and was an olympic weightlifter. He always believed in service; he was the President for multiple organizations working with children. He loves this council and has put his heart and soul into it.

**b. Discussion on engaging stakeholder engagement**

- Morris when he was going through the bylaws he realized that the stakeholders can contribute and be a part of committees. He suggests we can invite prior board members to join. Also suggests we set up a table at the Farmers Market the last Friday of the month to invite stakeholders to our meetings
- Oberstein he would love to see more participation from stakeholders during meetings. He suggests time during meetings for the public to present about their businesses and other things that are happening in the community.
- Horn suggests in order to engage the public at the meetings that the council needs to provide something back to the community. Right now he feels that we are only approving NPGs. He feels we need to do more and be more committed to the committees and also attending each other's committee's meetings.
- Smith says the community involvement blows hot and cold depending how big the issue is. There are other civic organizations, places like schools, churches, etc. where you may also be involved already and connected with and introduce yourself and the NC to them.
- Morris suggests that we may not need to meet monthly, and instead meet with committees on the other months.
- Michael states that the board should meet monthly in order to get things done. He also feels a lot of the new people need to experience that. He also does not feel Zoom would be good as you do not get the feeling of camaraderie from that. He would like to see more council participation at Outreach events.
- Stakeholder comments that there are thirteen members on the board and suggests that they all know 3-5 individuals. She suggests there is an incentive for people who recruit the most people. She would also like to see a faith based aspect to the board. Some churches have thousands of people that attend their meetings. Stakeholder mentions there needs to be training on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Geddes left the meeting at 6:33pm

-Maria, the stakeholder said that she looks up to the board. She has served on the board and would like to see more regular meetings. When the public sees the volunteers get involved in meetings they are engaged. She mentions preferring monthly in person meetings and states momentum would be lost if it went to bimonthly.

**c. Discussion of the GHSNC bylaws**

-Oberstein does not think that this copy of the bylaws is on the website. It needs to be fixed. He would also like to see the updates to the committees and the descriptions.

-Horn would like to discuss changing the committee schedule and utilizing the virtual option.

-Morris would like to explore standing rules that are included in the bylaws.

-A. Mercado Nguyen would like to see the positions spelled out and be more clear.

**d. Discussion of the committees**

-Board would like to see Beautification and Sustainability together versus Beautification and Outreach.

-John would like to be added to the Emergency Services and Homelessness

-Board would like to see Beautification and Sustainability together versus Beautification and Outreach.

-John would like to be added to the Emergency Services and Homelessness

**Motion: Passed**

e. Discussion and possible action to appoint a parliamentarian and add up 2,000.00 amount to the Office/Operational Expenditures Category in the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Administration Packet (motion Ronquillo, second Horn)				
Yes-8	No-00	Abstain-01	Ineligible-00	Absent-04
Horn, A. Mercado Nguyen, J. Mercado-Nguyen, Morris, Oberstein, Ronquillo, Smith, Tarverdyan	None	Benedet to	None	Danielyan, Hart, Geddes, Kolstad

**f. Discussion and possible action to appoint positions for Empower LA**

**1. Homelessness Liaison**

The board unanimously votes to post the position on the website

**2. Five Community Impact Statement Filers**

Brendel Geddes, Michael Benedetto, John Horn, Jeremy Oberstein, Abbey Ronquillo

**3. Regional Grievance Panelist**

-Oberstein will get clarification on this position from Empower LA

**g. Discussion and possible action to change the General Board Meeting time from 7:00pm to 6:30pm.**

-Board agrees to wait until the September meeting to further this discussion.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING WILL BE: September 11, 2025