

Minutes of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Thursday, June 14, 2007
Tulsa Street Elementary School, Auditorium
10900 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Jim Summers, Presiding Officer, introduced himself and called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. He asked Ernie from North Hills Neighborhood Council to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call was taken by Glen Chester.

Board Members Present:

John Seletos
Robert Norris
Glen Chester
Jim Summers (Presiding Officer – 1st)
Eric Mansker (Presiding Officer – 2nd)
Bonnie Bursk
David Beauvais
Brad Smith
Mark Barrionuevo
Troy Seletos
Christopher Silvers
Alexia Cirino
Sean Rivas
Julie Carson
Shamica Doty
Jim Yoder
Karessa Silvers
Amelia Herrera-Robles (D.O.N.E. representative)
Mike Kabo (Parliamentarian)

Board Members Absent:

Sylvia Witteman
Debi Orrico
Norbert Soski (excused)
Randall Neudeck
Lottie Van Emden (excused)
Pamela Finn (excused)

Also present were ten constituents; a total of 13 eventually attended.

III. The Minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting were approved by a voice vote. Glen Chester moved and Brad Smith seconded a motion to approve the minutes from May with no amendments. Unanimous approval by Board Members.

IV. Community Speakers

- A. Amelia D. Herrera-Robles, D.O.N.E. NC Coordinator spoke about Board of Director (BOD) Duties and the meaning of representation, and the Brown Act. The Land Use Advocacy Workshop, about land-use issues, is open to all. The Neighborhood Council (NC) system is under review by the City of Los Angeles. Recommendations are being sought. See the NC website at www.ghsnc.org. Training and capacity-building ideas will be presented. Some NCs consist of only at-large members; some, like Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC), have categories. Issues covered by other NCs are like GHS, including education and business. A videocassette regarding the Brown Act is available for viewing; contact Amelia D. Herrera-Robles to obtain a copy.

Discussion followed regarding NC responsibilities, soliciting special interest support and presenting neighborhood issues. NC By-Laws, standing procedures, and operational guidelines may need clarification. A Board Retreat could help discussion. Retreats are usually done to develop strategic plans and standing committees, The Brown Act requirements will be met, as long as the NC meeting times and locations are posted in at least five locations with clear descriptions.

- B. John Bwarie, L.A. City Council District 12 Liaison to the GHSNC, spoke about Emergency Heat Plan. Councilman Smith has introduced heat-related legislation regarding power outages, emergency procedures, and cooling procedures; a plan is in place. A report about this will be available with three weeks. There will be a free Movie Night event in Porter Ranch at the Holly Bernson Park. Activities will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the movie "Shrek 2" will begin at 8:00. More information is available at the website www.cd12.org. Thank you to the Valley Relay for Life, which raised around \$250,000 for the American Cancer Society at Birmingham High School. A new Personal City Services has been developed by Councilman Smith which can enable residents to have special City services done. For example, trees are usually trimmed every eight years, but the NC could request that a City crew trim the trees earlier than that. Other services can also be done, including pothole-filling, spot cleaning, weeding, street lighting, and purchases of library books and park equipment. Councilman Smith hasn't publicly declared his position yet regarding the Kohl's issue. Matching grants are available for community improvements. The Northridge Recreation Center Park pool renovation cost \$7 million, which was obtained from seven sources; no discretionary funds were used. Councilman Smith and his liaison, Phyllis Winger, met regarding Sober Living advocates neighbors on Aldea Avenue. The NC will be advised of current and future news regarding this issue.
- C. Joseph Pina, L.A. Unified School District (LAUSD) Community Liaison, and Mr. Pina's associate Ralph, spoke. Mr. Pina spoke about the progress of the new High School IV. There is a "We Build" program for construction projects at LAUSD; and a Small Business Boot Camp program for small businesses to contract to build schools. Ralph said that approval of the Hospital High EIR is probable by July or August, with construction starting by this December 2007 and expected to last three years. Currently, security and graffiti removal are being maintained as soon as possible. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was done, and the site has been cleaned of asbestos and lead as much as possible. The wall that the contractor inadvertently knocked down is expected to be completed by the end of July. The LAUSD wants to be good neighbors; please call them if needed. Mr. Pina's cell phone number is 213-276-7404.

V. Public Comment

John Hegedes of Aldea Avenue gave an update about Sober Living Ordinance. Phyllis Winger, Councilman's Smith's aide, was totally unaware of the situation. Mr. Hegedes sent information to Ms.

Winger, Councilman Wesson, and the City Attorney's office. Joel of Valley VOTE contacted the City Attorney's office. There is a new Senior Lead Officer, who will replace the newly-promoted Bob Bishop.

VI. Officer Reports

A. President's Report – Jim Summers. It's not necessary to be a United States citizen to be a NC Board member, as long as you are a resident. Survey responses from Board members regarding leadership improvements have been helpful; please submit more feedback. A conflict-of-interest course is required of board members. As part of sharing leadership, Mr. Summers turned the Chairmanship of the remainder of this Meeting over to Eric Mansker of the Homeowners Committee.

B. Vice-President's Report – Christopher Silvers. No report.

Treasurer's Report – Rob Norris gave an update on our current spending and money left over. Rob Norris was asked to explain about the budget. Dave Beauvais moved Mark Barrionuevo seconded 14 ayes and one nay. Glen Chester preferred to have more capital improvements reflected in the budget as opposed to outreach efforts. Brad Smith noted that the Outreach Committee did not ask for the funds noted in the budget. Brad Smith stated that he preferred giving more money for Outreach. Mark Barrionuevo thought that GHSNC should spend more on capital improvements. Jim Summers felt that we should spend more money on Outreach as opposed to Capital Improvements. Rob Norris went over the forms that are needed to get a reimbursement from the City of Los Angeles.

D. Secretary's Report – Glen Chester. Thanked Sean and Amelia for business card assistance. A new Recording Secretary, David Levin, is contracted through Apple One Employment Agency to take the Minutes and distribute them faster than the previous two to three weeks, and is included in the budget.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Planning and Zoning – Christopher Silvers, Chair. Regional Planning Board meeting is going to take place on 8/2/07. Because of the Sunland Home Depot issue also being on the agenda for 8/2/07 it is likely the Kohl's project vote will be delayed from 8/2/2007.

B. Beautification – Bonnie Bursk, Chair. No report.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness – Jim Yoder, Chair. A Community Emergency Response Team class is scheduled to begin August 28th and will be held once per week for seven consecutive weeks. Once the Bulk Mailing Permit is secured then a mass mailing will go out. To sign up for the CERT class email Jim Yoder at jim.yoder@hotmail.com.

C. Outreach – Brad Smith, Chair Outreach was done at the GH Public Safety and Car Show at GH Recreation Center; thanks to Board members who helped, including Sean Rivas and Jim Summers. The latest San Fernando Valley Business Journal, on page eight, has quotes regarding the NC; so does the North Valley Community Newspaper. Both coverages were free.

D. Budget – Rob Norris, Chair. No report.

VIII. Community Issues - Discussion and Possible Action

A. Request for Funds –

1. Granada Hills Street Faire -- Cheryl Ford of the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce spoke about the seventh annual Granada Hills Street Faire to be held Saturday, October 6, 2007, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The NC can be a special Faire sponsor at the \$2,000 level. For this, the NC would get: their name and website mentioned on major intersection street banners to be installed 30 days before the Faire; a strategically located booth space, with a canopy, that can be used to do a survey, hold elections, or more; booth and Faire entrance banners which can be designed by the Faire graphics staff or by the NC; and mention on 10,000 fliers to be distributed at local businesses such as banks and pizza vendors, and libraries, and schools. All the NC needs to bring are its representatives and materials; the Faire will supply everything else. Chris Silvers moved and Alexia Cirino seconded a motion to approve \$2,000 for the GH Street Faire. (Rob Norris, Jim Summers and Bonnie Bursk recused themselves) The Board unanimously approved \$2000 for the street faire.

2. Veterans Park -- Continuance of previous funding for park maintenance; cost: \$150 per month (Sean Rivas and Carl Melnick).
Bonnie Bursk moved Dave Beauvais seconded a motion to continue funding maintenance of the Veterans Park monument at \$150 per month. Discussion: Sean Rivas commented that this maintenance should be funded by business, not the NC. This is a monument for Granada Hills and for war veterans, and gives Granada Hills more visibility. On the monument's plaque are the names of 17 Granada Hills High School veterans who died in Vietnam. The Rotary Club wants \$1,800 per year to maintain the monument. The Park looked bad before the Rotary Club began immaculately maintaining it. David Beauvais was a classmate of two of the men listed on the plaque. The City owns the property. 14 positive votes and one negative vote. (Rob Norris recused himself)

B. Group homes -- update on status -- Erik Mansker. Item skipped.

C. Regency Centers (proposed Kohl's overbuilding). Update on Public Hearing Dates and necessary reports – EIR, Traffic, other (Chris Silvers). Regency Centers got a new land-use attorney and got a hearing date moved up to August 2nd to look at alternatives. As of June 13, the Chamber of Commerce voted to back the proposal as is; competing proposals have been circulating.

D. OGH-ICO Hardship Exemption – Jim Summers, Maria Fisk. A letter was received from a lawyer regarding 17537/17541 Los Alimos Street variance. There was a one-week lapse between the lapse of the Interim Control Ordinance and the city council action to restore the ICO and a builder slipped in and made an application. The application's progress is being noted. Building projects only go through the NC if a zoning variance is sought.

E. Graffiti and Blight – Jim Summers. More graffiti has been seen in the area. We may want to put the phone numbers on our website of agencies that deal with graffiti. We could contact the City's Devonshire Police station to help put patrols together. For help no matter where the graffiti is, call 311. Graffiti-removers will usually come out within 48 hours. Graffiti was written in the Recreation Center pool before in was filled with water. The new Granada Hills-Petit Park gang is doing some of the graffiti. The City Parks and Recreation Department usually removes graffiti within 24 hours of when it knows of the graffiti. We could install infrared cameras. A Chatsworth company manufactures cameras specifically for catching graffiti taggers.

IX. GHSNC Board Issues - Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Shamica Doty noted that there is no office location report. BONC approved the sharing the office space with GHNNC
- B. Outreach Committee -- Brad Smith.
- i. Discussion: Brad Smith talked about the community wide flyer. Mark Barrionuevo moved and Sean Rivas moved that an additional \$740 should be spent to the \$3120 that was approved and to include graffiti information in the flyer and add Brad Smith and Jim Summers telephone information. The motion was unanimously approved.
 - ii. Karesa Silvers distributed a "Website Proposals" handout that includes bids for NC website design, modification and maintenance from Moore Business Results, Dan-D Graphics, and Aaron DeVandry. The Moore bid was \$3,000, not the \$8,500 shown in the Agenda. The Outreach Committee, after having discussed this matter for many months, voted 3-2 in favor of Moore Business Results, who bid less this month than last month.
MOTION Mark Barrionuevo moved and Chris Silvers seconded: To have Moore Business Results do the website. Discussion: Moore also does the Porter Ranch website. Site maintenance includes weekly updating. Moore will be active site partners, does better quality websites, and has worked with other NCs and cities. This expenditure is not necessary and is overdone. The Moore proposed website is user friendly and easy to navigate. The NC should take a lower bid if the company adequately does the job. The DeVandry proposal was approved by NC members.
Dave Beauvais moved and Jim Yoder seconded a motion to table this discussion for one month until the next NC Meeting. MOTION PASSED 8-7. The previous Motion will be Tabled until the next Meeting.
Discussion: a fourth vendor made a proposal at the Outreach Committee Meeting tonight. This website has been considered for four months
MOTION Brad Smith moved and Glen Chester seconded a motion that the Board support the deadline of June 23, 2007 for final proposals of bids on the website. The Outreach Committee will solicit bids until the Outreach Committee Meeting on in two weeks.
Alexia Cirino urged the board to go to the various vendors websites to have an informed voice. Unanimous vote in favor.
 - iii. Additional Outreach Items/Improvements: Signage/promotional items/food: bus bench, yard signs, pens/pads, etc. (Summers, Seletos). Signs would announce Meetings and be easily updated.
MOTION Chris Silvers moved and Brad Smith seconded a motion to spend up to \$500 buy 50 signs. To allocate less than or equal to \$500 for general outreach expenses.
Discussion: concern, since the NC is a government-connected group, about soliciting ads to include on outreach materials to help defray costs. MOTION APPROVED unanimously.
 - iv. Discussion regarding food provisions for the NC Meeting. Check if that is allowed. Providing food could increase attendance.
MOTION Chris Silvers moved and Brad Smith seconded to spend up to \$100 per month on beverages and food at the next meeting. 15 in favor 2 negative votes.
- D. Board Member Absences – Glen Chester. Two NC Board members have six absences out of eight Meetings, including tonight. GHSNC Bylaws Article VII, Section J, Grounds for Removal, states that a member who: ". . . has three (3) unexcused absences in any one-year period (or missed a total of 6 meetings in a two-year period) may be removed by a majority of the Board."

MOTION Glen H. Chester moved and Jim Yoder seconded a motion to remove Sylvia Witteman and Debi Orrico from the Board. . . : To remove At-large members [Sylvia Witteman?] and Debbie Orrico due to their missing six of eight Meetings in the eight months since the NC started. Discussion: Since two months ago, excused and unexcused absences have been distinguished. MOTION APPROVED 11 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstentions Two At-large seats are to be filled. Notice will be put in the survey.

E. Committee Evaluation & Review. Tabled.

F. Board Member Comments.

In July and August Tulsa Street Elementary School will be closed for the summer; an alternative NC Meeting site will be sought. The By-laws were submitted to _____ and will _____ at the next Meeting.

G. Agenda Items for next General Meeting & Committee Meetings

Parks Department funding for children's sports scholarships will be put on the next Agenda.

X. Closing remarks and adjournment.

Eric Mansker went door-to-door to neighbors to do NC outreach and regarding the Kohl's issue. Residents want to know what the NC can do and what powers it has. Some residents think the NC is a waste of their time. The NC is a facilitator.

Meeting ADJOURNED at 9:44 p.m. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn with the next Board Meeting to take place at the GH Library on July 12, 2007 at 7 p.m. in a location to be determined.