

Minutes of the  
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
Thursday, August 9, 2007  
Tulsa Street Elementary School, Auditorium  
10900 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Jim Summers, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. In the absence of Secretary Glen Chester, Roll Call was taken by Mike Kabo. Board Members present:

Jim Summers, President	Cindi Wood, Member-at-Large
Robert Norris, Treasurer	Dave Beauvais, Community Organizations
Mark Barrionuevo, Renters	Troy Seletos, Students
Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners	Shamica Doty, Business
Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups	John Hegedes, Member-at-Large
Pamela Finn, Member-at-Large	Eric Mansker, Homeowners
Mike Kabo, Parliamentarian	John Seletos, Youth Organizations
Sean Rivas, Parks	Norbert Soski, Member-at-Large
Brad Smith, Outreach Chair	Jim Yoder, Seniors
Lottie Van Emden, Cultural Arts	

A quorum was noted as being present.

Board Members absent were: Glen Chester, Secretary; Randall Neudeck (President Emeritus/At-Large); Julie Carson, Member-at-Large, Karessa Anne Silvers (Education); and Christopher Silvers, Member-at-Large

Also present were five guests.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the July 12, 2007 meeting was Tabled until next month's Meeting.

IV. Officer Reports

A. President Report – Jim Summers. Jim Summers explained that Officers and Committees will have breakout meetings later, during this Meeting, for 30 minutes. Also, 9,500 mailers were mailed today regarding Community Emergency Response Team Program, GHSNC Brochure and GHSNC 2007 Community Survey.

B. Treasurer Report – Rob Norris. No money was spent since the last Meeting.

#### V. Request for Funds

MOTION (by Jim Summers, seconded by Eric Mansker (John Seletos recused himself from this discussion): Approval to hire a professional consultant to review and advise GHSNC on the traffic study, environmental report, and/or entitlement requests regarding on City Planning Department Case No. APCNV-2006-5084-SPE-ZV-CU-ZAD-SPR-SPP (the proposed Kohl's Department Store) in the amount not exceeding \$3,000, for Area Planning Commission Public Hearing on September 20, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. Ad hoc Committee to oversee selection and need of consultant to be composed of Maria Fisk, Nancy Norris, Jim Summers.

Discussion: Robert Norris explained that funding would conform to Community Outreach portion, necessitating a slight budget amendment, which shouldn't be a problem; the money would probably be taken from the Outreach budget. Jim Summers said that it's been difficult to get information from the City, and that Nancy Norris is researching Engineers and costs. Jim is still researching whether NCs can appeal City planning decisions. Eric Mansker noted that the Sunland-Tujunga area has the same questions regarding a store in their area, and that Kohl's has been advertising "midnight sales," which would increase traffic and noise late at night until the store closes, probably around 2:00 a.m., and that residents' Kohl's issue signs have been torn down.

Bonnie Bursk said that hiring an engineer for \$3,000 is a foolish and improper waste of money, and that the Board loses its neutrality by having all Committee members be against the Kohl's development. Also, the City and traffic will grow anyway, so it's not a good use of our limited budget; the City probably won't pay attention to such a study anyway. John Hegedes said that the Motion is not for \$3,000; it's for up to \$3,000, and that we are using this to help protect our community. Also, if Kohl's had been forthright with information, we wouldn't have had to do this study.

Dave Beauvais noted that previous study numbers are based upon national averages that are far below the numbers for our area, making that study flawed from following flawed assumptions, so that we need to do our own traffic study. Mark Barrionuevo agreed that the original study is probably flawed, but also agrees with Bonnie Bursk that \$3,000 is a lot of money for this NC. Shamica Doty volunteered to be on the study committee and has traffic study experience, and has written a legal brief on this subject.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT (by Shamica Doty, seconded by Eric Mansker): that Shamica Doty be included on the Ad Hoc Committee. AMENDMENT ACCEPTED.

Eric Mansker said that the NC needs to have our own numbers to counter the Kohl's numbers, and that \$3,000 isn't much to spend for this. Norbert Soski agreed, but

that we need a strategy, for when Kohl's presents their own traffic numbers, of what to tell the City, otherwise we're wasting our time.

John Bwarie, Deputy District Director for L.A. Councilmember Greig Smith, noted that Councilmember Smith is in favor of improving the area where Kohl's would develop.

Bonnie Bursk questioned whether proving to the City that our traffic numbers are correct would stop the Kohl's development. Alexia Cirino said that having our own traffic numbers would balance and provide a counter point to the Kohl's numbers. Maria Fisk stated that if the NC doesn't present our own professional information to the City, we don't stand a chance.

Brad Smith said that politics is an adversarial process, that we need to gather as much information as possible, and that \$3,000 for a traffic study is a good deal. John Hegedes said that Regency has a history of not being truthful with information.

CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Brad Smith, seconded by Eric Mansker). PASSED by voice vote.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with 16 for and three against.

## VI. Community Issues & Updates

A. GHSNC CERT Program (Jim Yoder). Jim Yoder said that the Pastor and the facility are ready, but we only have two enrollees so far, and at least 20 are needed by August 20<sup>th</sup>. The age minimum is at least 16. The training is once per week for seven weeks on Tuesdays from 7:00 – 9:30. Dave Beauvais has attended and said that it's great, and that if you miss a class, it can be made up on another night.

At least five Board members agreed to be on the CERT list. It was noted that CERT is very good training for neighborhood involvement, and that it will help with things such as earthquake preparedness; the next large area earthquake is expected to isolate Los Angeles for at least a week, so it's important to be prepared.

B. Website progress and Board information requests (Brad Smith). Brad said that an information form was e-mailed to Board members to be completed for website inclusion by website designer Moore Business Results, which has made two home page background photos available from which to choose.

C. Regency Centers (proposed Kohl's overbuilding) (Jim Summers). The next Kohl's development meeting hearing will be September 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at the Braude Center, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys.

## VII. Committee Evaluation & Review (Jim Summers).

Jim said that breakout meetings of each Committee would be held at this time for 30 minutes. (Meeting were held.) The next Planning & Land Use Meeting will be the last Thursday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Coldwell Banker office at Devonshire and Balboa, with the Recreation Center as a backup location. The Outreach Meeting will be held \_on September 13, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. The Safety Meeting will be the third Thursday from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Granada Hills Library. The Beautification Meeting will be the second Monday from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Bonnie Bursk's office. The Graffiti & Blight ad hoc Meeting may be combined with Safety or Beautification.

## VIII. Committee Reports – Summary from Breakout Session

- A. Planning and Zoning -- John Seletos, Chair. Granada Hills - Knollwood Community Plan is being reviewed by City staff.
- B. Beautification -- Bonnie Bursk, Chair. The Committee will discuss tree-planting and light standard decorations, and budget needs to make Granada Hills stand out. Also, abandoned vehicles and graffiti can be removed by calling 3-1-1 or the City Department of Transportation at 818-752-5100, including for vehicles on private property. Sean Rivas reminded that Parks graffiti can be quickly removed by notifying the Parks Department or e-mailing Sean at sean\_123@hotmail.com.
- C. Safety and Emergency Preparedness -- Jim Yoder, Chair. The Committee is considering creating an area-focused emergency preparedness manual, and the solar-powered speed signs suggested by Eric Mansker. John Hegedes has information regarding `graffiti cameras' and flashing crosswalk indicators. Bonnie Bursk also has more information about security lighting and security cameras that was discussed by the beautification and graffiti committees. John Bwarie said that any project can be applied for to the City for matching funds.
- D. By-Laws and Rules Committee - Dave Beauvais, Chair stated that Board Member absences would be better evaluated at the Committee Level before coming to the Board.
- E. Outreach – Brad Smith, Chair. The website will be up in a few weeks. Home page design input is welcomed. Brad will send a volunteer sign-up e-mail to Board members regarding OCTOBER 6TH STREET FAIRE. Volunteers are needed to bring water and snacks for the NC booth. Norbert Soski suggested giving away something simple like key chains to help attract people to the booth.

IX. Agenda Items and Board Member Comments for next General Meeting & Committee Meetings (Jim Summers). Jim took a straw poll regarding whether to allow a presentation about campaign “clean money” at the next General Meeting. It was agreed to allow two minutes for that, as well as an L.A. City AIDS prevention group presentation.

John Hegedes suggested potential \$4,500 expenditure for a mobile graffiti camera working with Council Office 12 and the Police Department. In addition to a discussion regarding a “virtual office” regarding the NC having its own fax and phone number. In addition, the Street Faire as well as Vice President nominations will be on the Agenda.

Norbert Soski recommended and it was agreed to have a speaker about the big Las Lomas housing development near the 5 and 14 freeways.

John Bwarie said that the City has an Adopt-a-Street program; two matching grants programs; workshops and application deadlines are coming up and information is available; the Northridge Aquatic Center is opening in September; there will be a free Movie Night event in Porter Ranch at the Holly Bernson Park, and activities will begin at 6:30 p.m., with food available and the original “Willie Wonka” movie starting at 8:00. He distributed “Community Beautification Grant” booklets, which are also available at Councilmember Smith’s office and online.

John Hegedes reported that Linda Johnson is communicating with the NC regarding sober living homes.

Dave Beauvais informed the Board that A Granada Hills history book is available. Six to eight volunteers are needed to man the booth for the Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> Granada Hills Street Faire from 11:00 – 5:00. It would be good to have the Old Granada Hills, Granada Hills North and Granada Hills South booths next to each other.

Parks – Sean Rivas, Chair. The Granada Hills Recreation Center has been recognized as the “Most Spirited Camp” in the San Fernando Valley among 30 parks, including all age groups.

#### X. Closing remarks and adjournment

The next Board Meeting of the GHSNC will take place Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Granada Hills Recreation Center.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.