

Minutes of the General Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Thursday, October 11, 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 7:00 p.m. He noted that this begins the Council's second year, and that we have a packed Agenda and a short meeting scheduled to end in one hour at 8:00 p.m. so that a Community Plan issues meeting led by Anna Vidal, L.A. Planning Department Valley Neighborhood Councils (NCs) Liaison, regarding the "Granada Hills – Knollwood New Community Plan Program, can then begin. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Yoder.

II. Roll Call was taken by Glen Chester. Board Members present:

Jim Summers, President	Vice-President (vacant)
Robert Norris, Treasurer	Glen Chester, Secretary
Mark Barrionuevo, Renters	Dave Beauvais, Community Organizations
Julie Carson, Member-at-Large	
Shamica Doty, Business	Pamela Finn, Member-at-Large
John Hegedes, Member-at-Large	Mike Kabo, Parliamentarian
Eric Mansker, Homeowners	Randall Neudeck, Pres. Emeritus/At-Large
John Seletos, Youth Organizations	Troy Seletos, Students
Christopher Silvers, Member-at-Large	Karessa Anne Silvers, Education
Brad Smith, Outreach Chair	Norbert Soski, Member-at-Large
Lottie Van Emden, Cultural Arts	Jim Yoder, Seniors

A quorum was noted as being present.

Board Members absent: Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Property Owners; Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups, Sean Rivas, Parks; and Cindi Wood, Member-at-Large. (Randall Neudeck left as roll call was being taken.)

Also present were 32 Stakeholders and guests.

III. The August 9, 2007 Minutes were amended as follows: Section Five: John Seletos recused himself from the discussion.

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Beauvais): to approve the August 9, 2007 Minutes as amended. **MOTION APPROVED** by unanimous voice vote.

The September 13, 2007 Minutes were amended as follows: (Section) Roll Call: Mr. Kabo was present, not absent; Section Eight: John Seletos recused himself from the discussion; and the "Mr. Seletos" noted in Sections VIIb1, 4 and 5; XIII a, f and h; and IX c, is John Seletos. Mike Kabo should be noted as present not absent.

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to approve the September 13,

2007 Minutes as amended. **MOTION APPROVED** by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Community Speakers

- a. Amelia Herrera-Robles, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) NC Coordinator was unable to attend; Mr. Summers spoke on her behalf. The Mayor's Budget Day is Saturday, October 13th, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., at City Hall; the Congress of Neighborhood Councils is October 27th at the L.A. Convention Center, with registration starting at 7:30 a.m. and the program from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., including a full breakfast; and NC Self-Assessment Surveys will soon be tabulated by the City.
- b. (This report was given after Ms. Doty's comments in the Section V Public Comments, due to the late arrival of John Bwarie, Deputy District Director for L.A. City Council District 12 member Greig Smith (818-701-5253; john.bwarie@lacity.org): Mr. Bwarie announced that there will be a Community Service Partnership Project on November 3rd at 8:30 a.m. in the morning at Northridge Park; several clean-up projects, including weed abatement and tree planting, will be organized, and snacks will be served; see CD12.org for details. A "What's happening in Granada Hills" flyer is available. He recommends calling the City Attorney to get the status on sober living home actions. Mr. Hegedes commented that the City Attorney's office has never returned any of his calls since at least January 2007.
- c. A Community Plan discussion will be led by Ms. Vidal (annavidal@lacity.org), immediately after this Meeting.

V. Public Comment

John Seletos inquired regarding a zoning variance that was granted to the owners of the apartment building at 16830 Kingsbury Street. The NC had opposed it, yet it was approved. Stakeholder Edwin Young, who lives across the street, declared that the building was built without the required on-site parking and without the owners asking if the City would grant the variance or if the City approved of it, therefore, the building is illegal. The Hearing Officer and the Commission had turned down the request. Stakeholder Heidi Johnston also opposes the variance, noting that the owners want to build a driveway that would reduce on-street parking. **MOTION** (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Soski): to TABLE this discussion until the next Meeting. **MOTION APPROVED** by unanimous vote.

Ms. Doty mentioned that Pamela Black, the owner of Elizabeth Cottage, a residential care facility, will be seeking to introduce her facility to the Granada Hills public.

A Stakeholder stated that furniture and other trash are being left in alleys near Devonshire and Balboa. Mr. Barrionuevo encouraged her to call 311, saying that they'll arrange for a bulky items pickup within 72 hours and that the Beautification Committee is assisting with this kind of effort in the community. Mr. Beauvais pointed out that, when calling for this, to say that you want to report illegal dumping

or ask for a bulky items pickup.

VI. Officer Reports

a. President's Report

1. Mr. Summers announced that Committee Chairs will be receiving via email an evaluation form and Mr. Summers inquired as to whether past Committee Agendas are available separately or if they are compiled together.
2. Ms. Herrera-Robles' comments will be included in the "DRAFT Self-Assessment Survey Form for Neighborhood Councils."
3. Meeting transcription costs, a recording device, and whether to continue the service will be discussed in the Executive Committee.
4. Sharing office space with Granada Hills North NC, and having dedicated phone and fax numbers, is still being considered.
5. The Granada Hills Specific Plan – Design Review Board: Update is being discussed. Mr. Summers is recommending Ms. Fisk and Mr. Beauvais for positions on the Design Review Board with Mr. Summers as an alternate. (This was discussed during the items for next month agenda discussion)

b. Vice-President's Report – (This position is vacant.)

c. Treasurer's Report – Mr. Norris reported that the CERT (the City's Community Emergency Response Team program) class was completed October 9th, and that so far this year, only \$8,063, or approximately 10% of this year's budget, has been spent. Mr. Norris inquired about the progress on getting signs for the GHSNC.

d. Secretary's Report – Mr. Chester stated that a sign-up sheet is available to receive monthly e-mails containing the Meeting Minutes and Agenda, and reminded that people who want to speak need to complete a Speaker Card.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Public Safety – Mr. Yoder related that the Fire Department was happy to distribute 16 CERT certificates to graduates, and that a Pastor had offered his church for NC meetings.

b. Beautification – Mr. Barrionuevo

1. **MOTION** (by Mr. Barrionuevo, seconded by John Seletos): ("Resolution Regarding Shopping Cart Nuisance" – four pages long; copies available from Mr. Barrionuevo).
Discussion: Mr. Barrionuevo read the Resolution's first two paragraphs and said that the main idea is for grocery owners to keep shopping carts on their premises. Mr. Bwarie stated that a similar City and grocer's pilot program just ended, and that there'll probably be something about this within 60-90 days. Mr. Barrionuevo answered several questions regarding the motion from council members. **MOTION APPROVED** with all in favor except for abstentions by Mr. Hegedes and Ms. Doty.

2. Mr. Barrionuevo presented three “Graffiti Watch” flyer options. A straw poll of the Board and audience preferred #2. There was concern about printing the logo on flyers and posters that are then vandalized by graffiti.
MOTION (by Chris Silvers moved, seconded by Robert Norris): to approve flyer #2 as the logo for the Graffiti Watch campaign. 10 voted in favor, 4 opposed and 3 abstained.
3. Request for security camera funds. – It was voted to TABLE this discussion which was moved by Mark Barrionuevo and seconded by Dave Beauvais.
4. Dave Beauvais announced that the Daily News complimented the state of Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Granada Hills.

c. Planning and Land Use (PLU) – John Seletos

1. Request for Zoning Variance for 16605 Devonshire. Robert Amond, Stakeholder and land use consultant, is in favor of the variance. John Seletos remarked that some residents are concerned that the property will not be used conducive to the area; the owner says he will build a medical building. Mr. Amond said that a variance will limit the use to a medical building with 32 parking spaces for three offices. John Seletos noted that the PLU Committee approved a hardship variance subject to office/medical use and business hours restrictions.
MOTION (by the Planning and Zoning Use Committee): to approve at 16605 Devonshire a hardship variance subject to office/medical use and business hours restrictions. **MOTION APPROVED** with 17 in favor and Mr. Beauvais abstaining.
2. OGH-ICO Hardship Exemption for 17520 Kingsbury. Owner Don Van Cleve requested to subdivide the 45,000 square foot lot into six lots. His architect, Forrest Chadwick, said that the property would be more like the surrounding community by approving the subdivision.
MOTION (by Mr. Silvers, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to TABLE this discussion. **MOTION APPROVED** with 17 in favor.
3. Community Impact Statement: ICO area, Commercial areas. Stakeholder Maria Fisk said there is no new information on this at this time.
4. Proposed Kohl’s Hearing. Ms. Fisk reported that a September 20th meeting drew 120 people and that the Old Granada Hills group members were good participants. Legal issues never arose and we’re still waiting and disappointed with the Commissioners. Mr. Summers noted that there’re good grounds to make an appeal. Mr. Bwarie encouraged people to call his office for more information regarding why Councilman Smith is in favor of the Kohl’s plan. Mr. Summers noted that Linda Rommey, a resident, is working on applying for an appeal of the North Valley Planning Board should the Board rule in favor of the Kohl’s project. The GHSNC, as a City agency cannot appeal any decision made by the planning board.
5. Out-of-Area Projects
 - a. Las Lomas building project
MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Barrionuevo): to support opposing the Las Lomas building project. Discussion: Mr. Beauvais noted that there

was a 45-0 vote against the project at the Old Granada Hills Residents Group meeting. John Bwarie noted that there is a vote pending the next 30 days at the Los Angeles City Council Planning Committee.

MOTION APPROVED with all in favor except for Ms. Van Emden's abstention.

b. Holy Cross expansion/parking project.

MOTION (by John Seletos, seconded by Mr. Yoder): to TABLE this discussion. **MOTION APPROVED** unanimously.

d. Outreach – Mr. Smith

1. Website. The website is up. NC members need to confirm that your information is correct. Mr. Silvers reminded that some NC members' photos need to be taken.
2. Granada Hills Street Faire. It was excellent; lots of people signed up.

Mr. Barrionuevo was appointed and approved by the Board unanimously as the new Outreach Committee Chair replacing Mr. Smith, who was thanked for his service.

VIII. Community Issues and Updates

- a) Survey Results. Mr. Summers said that the website soon will show the results of the 150 surveys received.
- b) Board Vacancies. Mr. Summers related that Ms. Wood may not be able to continue on the Board; the NC is seeking one new member and the vacancy will be publicized. Mr. Summers noted that Ms. Doty, Mr. Rivas and Mr. Smith are interested in the Vice-President position. Discussion of this was TABLED.

IX. Board Member Comments

- a. LADWP Rate Hikes. Mr. Summers reported for Ms. Cirino that the NC supports the idea of Department of Water and Power rate hike money not going directly to the City.
- b. Dog Park Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Silvers met with Ken Novak of the City Recreation and Parks Department, who said that a dog park location is close to being secured.

X. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting.

The following Agenda items were requested by

Mr. Barrionuevo: allocating up to \$500 for an outreach event for The Mayor's Million Trees L.A. (MTLA) Initiative.

Mr. Beauvais: continuing funding Veterans Memorial Park.

Mr. Hegedes: a community emergency preparedness plan.

Mr. Mansker: speed zone lights status from the Safety Committee. (Mr. Bwarie said that three stoplights are scheduled to be installed.)

John Seletos: the 16830 Kingsbury Street zoning variance.

Ms. Doty: Introduced Elizabeth Cottage, the owner of a residential care facility.

Mr. Chester: To approve Mr. Barrionuevo's committee assignment on the

Beautification Committee.

XI. Granada Hills – Knollwood New Community Plan – Focus Group.

A Meeting about this led by Ms. Vidal will begin immediately after this Meeting.

XII. Closing remarks and adjournment. (This was Agendized as item "XIV.")

MOTION (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION APPROVED unanimously. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.