

Minutes of the General Meeting of the  
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)  
Thursday, January 10, 2008  
Tulsa Street Elementary School, Auditorium  
10900 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Jim Summers, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Jim Summers, President	Brad Smith, Vice-President
Robert Norris, Treasurer	Glen Chester, Secretary
Mark Barrionuevo, Renters	Dave Beauvais, Community Org's
Bonnie Bursk, Comm Property Owners	Julie Carson, Member-at-Large
Shamica Doty, Business	Pamela Finn, Member-at-Large
John Hegedes, Member-at-Large	Mike Kabo, Parliamentarian
Eric Mansker, Homeowners	Sean Rivas, Parks
John Seletos, Youth Organizations	Troy Seletos, Students
Norbert Soski, Member-at-Large	Lottie Van Emden, Cultural Arts
Jim Yoder, Seniors	

Board Members absent: Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups (excused); Randall Neudeck, Pres. Emeritus/At-Large (unexcused); Christopher Silvers, Member-at-Large (excused); Karessa Anne Silvers, Education (excused); and Cindi Wood, Member-at-Large (unexcused).

Nineteen of the 24 Board Members were present, which is a quorum and the business of the Council could be conducted.

Also present were 13 Stakeholders and guests.

III. The November 8, 2007 Minutes were amended as follows: page one, roll call: Board Members Finn and Soski's absences were excused; page four, Section VIII) b) 3): "Tessa Chernovsky" should be "Tessa Charnofsky"; page five, Section VII) c) 2): the Motion was by the Planning and Land Use Committee, not John Seletos; and page six, Section 8) g): "Parks & Recreation" should be "Recreation and Parks."

**MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Barrionuevo): to approve the November 8, 2007 Minutes as amended.

**MOTION APPROVED** by a voice vote.

IV. Community Speakers

[The following Agenda items are presented in the order in which they were addressed.]

B. John Bwarie, Deputy District Director for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-701-5253; john.bwarie@lacity.org), reported that the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Dept.) voted to disclose officers' financial information, though Councilman Greig Smith was against it; it exposes their information to the public and no other Police Department in the U.S. does it. Mr. Summers added that Councilman Smith's cd12.org website is a good resource.

A. Amelia Herrera-Robles, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) NC Coordinator, was not available.

V. Public Comment

Robin Gilbert of the California Clean Money Campaign said they're building support for public campaign financing and are seeking NC input. She distributed a participation invitation letter from Councilman Garcetti and described that she can give a full presentation to the NC, a committee, other groups and individuals. Mr. Summers responded that the GHS Executive Committee will consider this.

VI. Officers Reports

A. President (Mr. Summers)

Mr. Summers thanked Mr. Chester, Mr. Smith and Mr. Norris for their Agenda help.

B. Vice President (Mr. Smith). There was no report at this time.

C. Treasurer (Mr. Norris)

Mr. Norris distributed a "[GHSNC] Budget Report 1-10-08," noting that the "Office Equipment" category is for the budgeted office that doesn't exist yet.

VIII. Presentations – Community Projects

B. Ms. Bursk introduced Dr. Carl Melnick of the Granada Hills Rotary Club, who distributed a "Granada Hills Veteran Memorial Park Tribute Walk" flyer. He spoke regarding a request for funds not exceeding \$5,000 for improvement of Veterans Triangle Park on the southeast corner of Chatsworth Street and Zelzah Avenue. He said that GHIA (the Granada Hills Improvement Association), then the Rotary Club and a gardener had maintained the Park. It now has greenery and the graffiti is gone. They plan to install a statue, three flags and a trellis. Dr. Melnick passed out a copy of a graphic plan of the Park for the Board to see. The Rotary needs help funding the Park's walkway, which will cost \$7,000; the total Park renovation cost will be \$50,000-\$80,000, depending upon the lighting installed. The Rotary has applied to the City for a \$10,000 beautification grant, and are asking the NC for a \$5,000 contribution for the walkway, which will include "donor recognition bricks". This would be in addition to the NC's ongoing Park maintenance commitment. The Rotary, which is established as a 501(c)3 non-profit entity, estimates that construction would be completed by this December; \$30,000 has already been raised. More benches may also be installed, there'll probably be a City "Park" sign, and they've applied to install a bronze "Granada Hills" sign. A Memorial Day dedication ceremony is planned.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Barrionuevo, seconded by Mr. Hegedes): to allocate \$15,000 for the Granada Hills Veteran Memorial Park project.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Rivas believes that \$15,000 is too much to allocate for this project because that amount will not leave as much for other projects, and recommends allocating \$10,000. Mr. Smith voiced that he would agree to vote for allocating no more than \$5,000 to this project, and Mr. Mansker agrees.

**CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Soski, seconded by Mr. Chester).

**CALL FOR THE QUESTION** approved by a hand vote.

**MOTION FAILED** with eleven opposed, two in favor, two abstentions and Mr. Norris recusing himself from the vote.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Soski): to take \$5,000 out of the Community Projects budget to allocate for the Granada Hills Veteran Memorial Park brick walkway project.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Herrera-Robles stated that the NC would need to submit an invoice saying "Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council" from a vendor, not the Rotary Club to DONE.

**MOTION APPROVED** by unanimous voice vote.

VII. GHSNC Board issues and updates

A. GHSNC Minutes – continuation of AppleOne services.

Mr. Summers related that the Executive Committee discussed this. Mr. Chester said that AppleOne was hired to provide someone to write the Minutes faster and more accurately than he could write them himself, which has been done. Also, the audio system hears only Mr. Summers; the recording is very faint from the ends of the tables and doesn't record the audience at all. The Minutes Writer voiced that he will continue to be there and write timely and accurate Minutes every month if the NC wants him to. Mr. Mansker noted that the NC needs a good audio system and that the Minutes have been okay. Mr. Yoder declared that the Minutes Writer hiring arrangements "sounds good to me." Mr. Summers announced that the NC "will continue to have [the Minutes Writer's] services, since no one is opposed."

B. GHSNC Website – Domain Name Renewal and Continuation of using Moore Business Results.

Mr. Norris explained that \$34.59 was already approved to renew the website for the next two-year period. Mr. Barrionuevo added that input is being sought regarding the website and that he'll ask that this be included in next month's General Board Meeting Agenda.

C. GHSNC Elections Procedures - L.A. City Clerk to conduct election.

Ms. Carson noted that the NC must decide by February 1<sup>st</sup> regarding which of the following options it wants:

- (i) Move election forward to the second quarter of 2008
- (ii) Extend the current terms of Board members to 2010 (instead of allowing current terms to end in 2008)
- (iii) Proceed with elections as currently scheduled under the current process (the Independent Election Administrator (IEA) would conduct the election, with DONE assistance).

Ms. Herrera-Robles explained that term limits will be removed, and that the NC needs to decide details such as whether it wants to elect all of the Board Members at the same time or in staggered terms. She announced that there will be an Informational Meeting about election procedures on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Braude Center at 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to select option (ii) and extend the Board Members' terms to 2010.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Mansker expressed that he feels ambushed about option (i) and that option (ii) is best. Mr. Beauvais voiced that the Board is working well together. Mr. Herrera-Robles said that option (iii) gives the current Board more time to work together. Mr. Soski pointed out that the By-Laws need to be changed with all three options. Mr. Barrionuevo agreed with Mr. Beauvais and noted that if option (i) is chosen, the NC will need to hold a Special Meeting. Mr. Chester prefers to stick to the current elections schedule and agreed that the Board is working well together, and supports option (iii) and letting the voters have their say about it. Mr. Smith is very concerned about the NC extending its own terms without a vote.

**CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Barrionuevo, seconded by Mr. Norris).

Call for the question **APPROVED** unanimously.

**MOTION FAILED**, with nine opposed, three in favor, and four abstentions.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Smith): to select option (iii) to proceed with elections as currently scheduled under the current process, with the Independent Election Administrator conducting the election, with DONE assistance.

**CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Soski, seconded by Mr. Norris).

Call for the question **APPROVED**.

**MOTION PASSED**, with 13 in favor, none opposed, and three abstentions.

Ms. Carson will attend the January 19<sup>th</sup> Braude Center Informational Meeting to gather information and help determine options. Mr. Soski noted that the issue needs to be sent to the Elections and By-Laws Committee. Ms. Herrera-Robles observed that the City's intent is to have NC elections in even years and that the GHSNC is an "awesome team."

VIII. Granada Hills Charter High School (GHCHS) / L.A. City Recreation and Parks Dept. joint Swimming Pool Project.

Mr. Rivas declared that the Granada Hills Recreation Center needs improvements and is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-compliant; the pool is in horrible condition and that's why it's only been open in the summer; there's interior damage from a break-in so that the Center is a little dangerous; and funds to rebuild are not available. The GHCHS stepped up, and there've also been discussions with Councilman Smith and others. He added that a pool would help keep children away from gangs and that classes would be offered.

GHCHS Administrative Athletics Director Chris Davis distributed a "Digital Imaging" class flyer for a class to start January 22<sup>nd</sup> at GHCHS and declared that there's an aquatics facilities crisis in the Valley. He explained that the Center has swimming and diving teams that've been using the Cleveland High School pool, but that the water polo team has had to practice at the Hubert Humphrey School along with two other high school teams. The Petit Park pool has exposed rebar and other problems. The Birmingham High School pool will soon need major renovation, and the Northridge pool is only open 11 weeks per year. There's a community need for a safe and functional aquatic sports venue that we can be proud of. The new pool would be built on the Hiawatha Street part of the campus, near the tennis courts by Lindley Avenue, and would be outdoor and available year-round to the community.

Mr. Barrionuevo suggested building an indoor pool to have other aquatic opportunities because the outdoor summer weather will be extremely hot. Mr. Rivas elaborated that no decisions have been made or meetings set; different proposals are being considered and there'll be Town Hall meetings in the summer for community input. The GH Recreation Center will ask the NC to help fund the outreach.

Mr. Smith expressed that the project will affect parking, traffic and access; he wants to see a budget, site plan, map and the funding structure. Mr. Davis agreed and noted that this presentation was just to introduce the issue. Mr. Hegedes suggested coordinating the project with the LAUSD (L.A. Unified School District); Mr. Davis responded that the LAUSD is focused on building schools. Mr. Soski is concerned that this pool would be less than one mile from another public pool. Mr. Summers voiced that we need to consider that the new Kohl's department store will bring more traffic.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUC) (John Seletos)

(i) Request for Variance (OGH-ICO): 17514-17520 Kingsbury Street.

John Seletos explained that this Request was previously denied by the NC and that the developer was asking for a re-consideration.

(ii) Update: Zone Variance - 16830 Kingsbury St.

John Seletos reported that Phyllis Winger (Chief Planning Deputy of L.A. City District 12) is researching why the Planning Department approved it.

(iii) Update: Mario de Campos Trail - Mission Peak. Proposal to purchase land to allow improved hiking/biking/equestrian trails.

John Seletos explained that the Gas Company fenced off the Trail and that users would like the fence moved to allow access to the Peak.

**MOTION** (by the Committee): to encourage L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich's Office to work with the Southern California Gas Company and the Granada Hills Neighborhood Councils to improve the Mario de Campos Trail for the good of the youth and the community.

**MOTION APPROVED** unanimously.

(iv) Design Review Board - Referred to GH Specific Plan's DRB

(c) DRB Meeting Update (Maria Fisk and Mr. Beauvais)

Mr. Beauvais reported that Stakeholder Ms. Fisk met with Anna Vidal, L.A. Planning Dept. Valley NCs Liaison, regarding the duties and requirements of the DRB, which is seeking a volunteer from this area with an architecture background. The Committee's meetings are open to the public and are the second and fourth Tuesdays as necessary.

(a) 17437 Chatsworth St. Case No. DIR 2007 4818-DRB-SPP - addition of 817 s.f. to an existing dental building. John Seletos reported that the Committee has no objection to this request, having voted four in favor with two abstentions to forward it to the DRB.

**MOTION** (by the Committee): to support the addition of 817 s.f. to an existing dental building at 17437 Chatsworth St.

**MOTION APPROVED** unanimously.

(b) 18100 Chatsworth St. #D Case No. DIR 2007-5279-DRB-SSP - replace two illuminated wall signs.

**MOTION** (by the Committee): to support replacing two illuminated wall signs at 18100 Chatsworth St. #D.

**MOTION APPROVED** unanimously.

(v) Community Impact Statement (CIS) – (See below MOTION.)

Jim Summers said that this would be our first CIS and it would be generic. Mr. Bwarie stated that a CIS is usually attached to a City Council File so that it's attached to a specific City Agenda item. Ms. Fisk explained that this CIS would help ensure that a variance request is made for a good reason, for example, for a similar use as surrounding uses, but that a hardship exists.

**MOTION** (by the Committee): to approve the following Community Impact Statement: "The GHSNC believes in enforcement of the current laws and ordinances, and specifically a more thorough review of hardships requirements in relation to variances and entitlements in both the residential and commercial sectors within the boundaries of GHSNC, and in addition, to support other Neighborhood Councils in the same."

**MOTION APPROVED** unanimously.

- (vi) Update: Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan  
Ms. Fisk talked with Ms. Vidal. There'll be meetings in March or April and Ms. Fisk will notify the Board. Councilman Smith's Community Plan amendments propose increasing lot sizes from 5,000 square feet to 9,000 square feet per lot, depending upon zoning changes.
- (vii) Update: Regency Centers Overbuilding Entitlements for Kohl's department store. Hearing Dates: L.A. City Planning & Land Use - Tues., Jan. 22, 2008, 2:00 p.m. L.A. City Council: Wed., Feb. 6, 2008, 10:00 p.m.  
Jim Summers corrected the February 6<sup>th</sup> time to 10:00 a.m.
- (viii) Other updates and late items, next GHSNC PLUC meeting.  
John Seletos indicated that the Committee will probably next meet on January 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues including a Chatsworth and Encino variance request, sober living homes, and building and safety violations. Mr. Hegedes mentioned that foreclosures are motivating some owners to rent rooms in their houses, resulting in overcrowding; he encouraged the NC to let the Committee know of other issues.

B. Public Safety Committee (Mr. Yoder)

- (i) Request for funds: CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program class announcement mailing: total cost \$2,725. Breakdown: Printing - \$600; Mailing (Academy) - \$775; Postage - \$1,350

Mr. Yoder announced that another CERT class will be held starting April 29<sup>th</sup>, and that the Fire Station may allow the use of their Community Room. Mr. Summers mentioned that the 187 surveys recently submitted could be used as a mailing resource. Mr. Rivas noted that the last CERT class had 45 registered and 30 attendees, 16 of whom completed the training.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Yoder, seconded by Mr. Soski): to allocate funds for the next CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program class announcement mailing at a total cost of up to \$3,325, including: outreach, \$600; printing, \$600; mailing, \$775; and postage, \$1,350.

**MOTION APPROVED** unanimously.

- (ii) Updates: Mobile security cameras for graffiti combatance (Mr. Hegedes)  
Stakeholder Gary Leigh related that graffiti was done again in a park. Nearby businesses could contribute to the cost of the cameras and he has information regarding different camera companies.

C. Outreach Committee (Mr. Barrionuevo)

- (i) Update: December 2007 Tree Giveaway (Ms. Carson)  
Ms. Carson reported that the December 15<sup>th</sup> Tree Giveaway was a great collaboration between the three Committees, and that Mr. Rivas and Mr. Barrionuevo did a great job. Lots of people attended and food was very important; because of it, people stopped to talk with us and it was good for outreach. Ms. Van Emden and Mr. Norris also helped, and 46 of the 50

available trees were adopted. Mr. Barrionuevo thanked all who participated and noted that other giveaways besides business cards were needed.

- (ii) Update on approved funds: \$400 for special refrigerator magnet giveaways.  
Mr. Barrionuevo explained that the magnets would have the Graffiti logo the NC approved a few months ago. Mr. Soski said that the Safety Committee may also use magnets. No action was taken.
- (iii) Request for funds: \$550 for custom car magnets for GHSNC board members.  
Mr. Barrionuevo indicated that the Committee was split on this idea and he is seeking Board input; each Board Member would get one car magnet. A straw poll of Board Members was taken with very few Board Members willing to add a car magnet to their vehicle. No action was taken.
- (iv) Other outreach events for 2008 (GH Street Faire, GH Holiday Parade, other).  
Mr. Rivas announced a Spring Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Barrionuevo asked that Mr. Rivas be appointed to the Outreach Committee. Mr. Summers received the Board's agreement and so appointed Mr. Rivas.

D. Parks & Recreation (Mr. Rivas)

- (i) Updates: Dog Park, Park Improvements, NC Folder at GH Recreation Center.  
Mr. Rivas announced that an Information Binder containing Recreation and Parks Dept. (RPD) and community contact information, and classes and services information, is available at the Recreation Center. Also, there will be an RPD Meeting on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center, at which the condition of the pool could be seen.

X. Board Member Comments and Updates

Update: L.A. Dept. of Water and Power rate hikes, Community Impact Statement.  
Mr. Summers noted that the NC is still opposed to the rate hikes and that the CIS was addressed in Section IX) A) v). Mr. Hegedes will advise the Board regarding arranging a security camera demonstration. Mr. Mansker said he'll research having a meeting with LAPD Captain Kane, and that safety crosswalks around Granada Hills High School are being created. Ms. Doty reported that she's working with the Granada Hills North NC regarding our NC sharing an office with them. Mr. Beauvais announced that 38<sup>th</sup> District State Assemblyman Cameron Smyth will speak to the Old Granada Hills Residents Group (OGHRG) on February 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the Granada Pavilion at San Fernando Mission and Balboa, and that LAUSD Superintendent David L. Brewer III will speak to the OGHRG on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Granada Hills High School. Mr. Chester will ask for a \$50 allocation to purchase a computer program to reduce the size of the audio recording file for e-mailing to the webmaster. Ms. Carson expressed that we need to consider moving these Meetings to another location. Mr. Norris noted that we need to appoint another credit card holder designee, who'll need to attend the DONE class.

XI. Agenda Items for Next General Meeting & Committee Meetings

Mr. Summers noted that this Item was addressed in #X.

XII. Closing remarks and adjournment

[This was also numbered "XI" on the Agenda.]

Mr. Rivas would like to adjourn in honor of Diane Kartiala's hard work in and retirement from Councilman Smith's office.

This Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.