

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, February 12, 2009**

at The First Baptist Church of Granada Hills
11011 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance

President Dave Beauvais called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Parliamentarian Mike Kabo.

II. Roll Call

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

Dave Beauvais, President	Glen Chester, Secretary
Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer	Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large
David Bereznick, Member-at-Large	Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large
Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners	Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups
Arthur Daush, Seniors (late)	Erin Grohman, Renters (late)
Eric Mansker, Factual Basis	Robert Norris, Member-at-Large (late)
Lacy Reilly, Students	Sean Rivas, Parks
Robert Stevens, Homeowners	Jim Summers, Business
Mary Wang, Member-at-Large	

Board Members absent: Brad Smith, Vice-President (excused); Julie Carson, Member-at-Large (excused); and Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large (excused).

Fourteen of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, and the business of the Council could be conducted. Also attending were approximately 20 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The following correction to the January 8, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested by Mr. Chester:

Page five, Section VII) D), "Bylaws & Rules": "Joshue" should be "Josue."

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2009 General Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION to APPROVE THE MINUTES as corrected **PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote.

IV. Public Comment

Stakeholder Ernie Hilger thanks the NC for opposing converting the VA Hospital to sober living housing.

Maria Townsend, of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center's Public Relations Dept., said that the hospital is laying off construction workers due to construction being stopped by a legal order. She would like to and Mr. Beauvais agreed to agendize for her to make a presentation at the next General Board Meeting. She's asking support to help avoid a two-year EIR [Environmental Impact Report] process.

Stakeholder Bill Rojas reported that around 30 people live in a house at 17420 Lahey St., between Encino and Louise Avenues, and around 16 cars are in the driveway. A Building and Safety Dept. Inspector was told by the Manager that it is a sober living home. It is not a sober living home and is advertising on the Internet. Mr. Rojas informed the LAPD [L.A. Police Dept.] and said that Washington Mutual owns the house and is investigating possible loan fraud. Mr. Beauvais noted that an L.A. City ordinance is now being written that will address this kind of situation within six to eight months, and referred this to the NC Planning and Land Use Committee. Mr. Askew encouraged Mr. Rojas to call the Police at 877-ASK-LAPD regarding nuisances or disturbances.

Stakeholder Gene Behrns observed that a lot owned by Pro Line Realty looks bad, including trash. Mr. Beauvais referred this to the Planning and Land Use Committee.

Stakeholder Gary Leigh encouraged the NC to have a newsletter like the Reseda NC has and that it would be good to have a candidate forum.

V. Community Speakers: 1) D.O.N.E., Amelia Herrera-Robles; 2) Council Dist. 12, John Bwarie

Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9895; amelia.herrera-robles@lacity.org), thanked Board Members who completed the Mayor's Budget Survey and the Conflict-of-Interest Training, and encouraged those who haven't to do so. The Mayor's Office will meet with NC representatives February 21st and have a February 26th focus group regarding NC issues. She reminded that "NCs can not use funds to support or oppose any [ballot] Measure," though debate is okay, "because taxpayer money is involved and the concern about bias and how taxpayer money is being used." There'll be a DWP Meeting about the Solar LA Program [including Measure B] at Kennedy High School on February 18th. She encouraged people to contact her if they have a question. Mr. Beauvais clarified that NCs have a right to take a position, but don't have the right to spend money to do it.

Semiee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semiee.park@lacity.org), introduced herself and looks forward to working with the NC. She encouraged Citrus Sunday participation, for which there'll be a planning meeting March 5th at 4:00 at Fire Station 87. Earth Day will be celebrated April 27th at Chatsworth Park North. Councilman Smith hasn't taken a position regarding Measure B; she encouraged people to see the DWP [ladwp.com] website.

VI. Officer Reports

President

Mr. Beauvais urged Board Members to take the DONE ethics course on line.

Secretary

Mr. Chester will issue Committee Member rosters. There're reports of e-mail bounce-backs from Board Members' accounts; contact him if that happens. He encouraged people to use the microphone when they speak at this Meeting, and reminded that there're sign-up sheets in the back and Speaker Cards available.

Treasurer

Mr. Schindelheim reported that he passed the NC Treasurer's Training and got the NC credit card.

Vice-President

Mr. Smith was not present and there was no report.

VII. Board Issues & Updates

A. Appointment of additional Public Safety Committee members (continued from January General Board Meeting)

Mr. Beauvais would like to appoint Mr. Boucher and Mr. Daush, and Stakeholder and LAPD Senior Lead Officer Don Graham, to the Public Safety Committee. Officer Graham introduced himself.

MOTION (by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to appoint Kevin Boucher, Arthur Daush and Officer Don Graham to the Public Safety Committee.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

B. Discontinuance of Education Committee

MOTION to TABLE this Item (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Wang).

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

C. Discontinuance of Election Committee

Mr. Beauvais explained that the next [NC] election is being run by the City, so the Committee is not needed.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to discontinue the Election Committee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Chester believed the Committee is still needed for election outreach and details, and is "inherent to an elected body." Mr. Mansker replied that "should we need [the Committee], we can do it by ad hoc [temporary]."

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote, with 13 in favor and three opposed.

D. Creation of an Animal Rights Committee

MOTION (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Ms. Grohman): for the GHSNC to create an Animal Rights ad hoc Committee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Summers explained that abandoned animals are being left in foreclosed homes and there are other needs; this could become a permanent problem. The Committee could include dealing with problems with coyotes. Mr. Askew thought that a better name would reflect the problems with which the Committee would deal, such as Animal Affairs.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Askew): for the GHSNC to create an Animal Affairs ad hoc Committee.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a hand vote, with 14 in favor and two abstentions.

Mr. Beauvais appointed Mr. Summers to Chair, and Ms. Grohman, Mr. Schindelheim and Stakeholder Linda Romney agreed to be on the Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Norris): to approve of the appointments of Jim Summers to Chair, and Erin Grohman, Brandon Schindelheim and Linda Romney to the Animal Affairs ad hoc Committee.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

E. Addition of links to website

MOTION (by Mr. Bereznick, seconded by Mr. Stevens): to add two links to the GHSNC website: HUD (the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development) and the L.A. County Consumer Affairs Dept.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bereznick explained that this would be to help the community's financial concerns. Mr. Rivas relayed that the Webmaster agreed to do this and it can be on the website in two weeks. Ms. Wang suggested also adding employment assistance links.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Ms. Wang, seconded by Mr. Norris): to add an additional link to the GHSNC website of the EDD (California State Employment Development Dept.).

DISCUSSION: Mr. Chester wanted to ensure that only government agencies are linked to the GHSNC website and not any for-profit entities. Mr. Mansker remarked that more governmental links can be added as needed. Ms. Bursk

suggested that the Motion include any helpful governmental links. Mr. Beauvais replied that he's "loathe to give any Board Member or Webmaster authorization to add a link."

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Summers suggested a website blog link. Mr. Rivas responded that he'll check on doing that.

MAIN MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

F. Tulsa Street Elementary School request for funds for computer purchase (tabled from January General Board Meeting)

Mr. Beauvais introduced Shari Moelter, Principal, Tulsa Elementary School (818-363-5061; smoelter@lausd.net). Ms. Moelter introduced Jason Scott, PTA President, described the School's academic and financial status, and distributed a "Funding Request for Additional Technology" flyer. They would like to replace their old computers; the goal is to have two computers per classroom. It's important to teach students current skills. The PTA has helped. \$18,000 has been raised; they need \$5,000 more. They recently renovated the Auditorium and can host NC Meetings, hand out flyers and publicize the NC at PTA Meetings, post NC Meeting notices on their marquee, and have a banner recognizing the NC.

Mr. Beauvais temporarily turned the Chairmanship of the Meeting to Mr. Chester, so that Mr. Beauvais could be recognized to speak.

MOTION (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to allocate \$5,000 to Tulsa Street Elementary School to purchase computers.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Hilger volunteered to help raise the money. Mr. Leigh believed that the LAUSD (L.A. Unified School District) (213-241-1000; lausd.net) "has the money to" give to the School. Ms. Moelter replied that the LAUSD doesn't give computers to schools; schools have to raise the money themselves and the schools have to hire a Technology Assistant to maintain the computers. This money would be for 10 computers for grades four and five; the average age of existing computers is five to 10 years. Computers have contributed greatly to improved student performance. The School has 575 students, 95% of whom are local residents, and "enrollment is flourishing." Mr. Norris noted that the NC has \$50,000 in unencumbered funds available. Mr. Beauvais observed that the NC is two-thirds into the fiscal year and has only allocated \$10,000 of available funds; supporting this would "do something meaningful for our community."

Mr. Summers is opposed because "supporting a government institution isn't the purpose of the NC . . . 10% is quite a bit of our budget." Ms. Reilly stated that this is an "opportunity to give the School the resources to" help students. Ms.

Cirino is not sure computers are “useful in an elementary school . . . music and art” are more enriching.” Ms. Moelter described a number of the School’s ongoing arts programs and that the School’s students “do so well” when they go on to Patrick Henry Middle School. Ms. Romney is concerned that allocating the money “would set a precedent” for all schools to ask the NC for money; library computers are “antiques.” Officer Graham pointed out a precedent at the Northridge East NC regarding Andasol Elementary School, to which they allocated \$5,000. Mr. Scott indicated that the allocation would be less than 20% of the total cost. Mr. Askew commented that “computers are tools used to teach all the disciplines.” Mr. Boucher suggested a seed money matching grant program. Mr. Rivas is concerned that the NC didn’t receive outreach help from the School regarding last year’s \$1,000 allocation; Ms. Moelter described things the School did.

AMENDED MOTION (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Boucher): to allocate \$1,000 to the Tulsa Street Elementary School for the purchase of two computers.

AMENDED MOTION FAILED with five in favor, seven opposed and three abstentions.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Askew).

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor and three opposed.

MAIN MOTION PASSED with nine in favor, four opposed and two abstentions.

G. SOLID request for funds for LAPD Devonshire Division Gym (reconsideration of failed Motion from January General Board Meeting)

MOTION to RECONSIDER (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to reconsider the SOLID (Supporters of Law enforcement In Devonshire) request for funds for LAPD Devonshire Division Gym. [Note: the Motion at the January 15, 2009 General Board Meeting was “to support the SOLID request to allocate \$2,811 for the LAPD Devonshire Division Gym, the funds to be taken from the GHSNC Community Projects budget.”]

POINT of ORDER (by Parliamentarian Mike Kabo): Ms. Bursk was in the majority on the original Motion and so is eligible to make this Motion.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Bursk explained that she wants the NC to reconsider allocating a lower amount to SOLID. Mr. Summers replied that “there’s no new information” and no need to reconsider this.

MOTION to RECONSIDER PASSED with eight in favor, five opposed and two abstaining.

AMENDED MOTION (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Bereznick): to support the SOLID request by allocating \$1,000 for the LAPD Devonshire Division Gym, the funds to be taken from the GHSNC Community Projects budget.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Bursk noted that Officers need to exercise and “we should be a part” of funding the project. Mr. Askew is opposed because he still supports allocating the full originally requested amount of \$2,811.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Askew).

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION PASSED by a hand vote with 10 in favor, five opposed and one abstention.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with nine in favor, four opposed and two abstentions.

H. Discussion of Holiday decorations and possible board action for Veterans Memorial Park (tabled from January General Board Meeting)

MOTION (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Ms. Grohman): to allocate \$3,585.66 to reimburse Mr. Summers and others for their labor and to purchase Christmas tree lights they bought to decorate the Christmas tree at Veterans Memorial Park.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Summers distributed a summary of previous NC actions and project expenses, and expressed that the NC needs to allocate the funds for “decorations,” not just floodlighting. According to Ms. Romney, Rodger Shimatsu, Program Training and Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-485-1360; rodger.shimatsu@lacity.org), indicated that the allocation should not have been made because it was not on the Agenda and that the original Motion, made at the November 13, 2008 General Board Meeting, included a mistake that should be amended. Mr. Beauvais and Mr. Schindelheim contended that Kevin McNeely, Funding Program Administrator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-485-1810; kevin.mcneely@lacity.org) (Mr. Shimatsu’s Manager), said that the allocation was allowed, so DONE representatives have told the NC different things.

There was extensive discussion regarding the procedure followed at the November 13, 2008 General Board Meeting and the DONE advice. Mr. Beauvais believed that the NC needs written advice from DONE. Mr. Norris suggested paying for the floodlights and handling the other allocation request separately. Stakeholder Dr. Carl Melnik said that the electrician did the work and hasn’t been paid for three months. Mr. Schindelheim offered to call the electrician and explain the situation. Mr. Askew is concerned that delaying payment could result in actions against the NC, and Ms. Bursk added that the NC is obligated to pay for services rendered. Mr. Schindelheim countered that the

NC may not be obligated because it did not authorize the services, which were agreed upon by an unauthorized third party. Mr. Rivas encouraged Tabling the issue to get feedback from the City Attorney “to protect ourselves.”

MOTION (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to **TABLE** the Motion until the next General Board Meeting, pending formal DONE and City Attorney approval.

MOTION PASSED with nine in favor, five opposed and two abstentions.

Mr. Beauvais indicated that the NC will write to DONE about this. Mr. Kabo noted that all comments in this discussion were based upon hearsay; the Item “was clearly agendized” and “was voted on properly.” Ms. Romney objected to the above vote and requested, and Mr. Chester agreed to provide, copies of the October [9, 2008] and November [13, 2008 General Board Meeting] Minutes tapes.

- I. Request from the Arts in Education Aid Council to support Patrick Henry Middle School in the June 2009 Valley-wide Family Music Festival in the amount of \$500. Connie O’Shea described that the event has “become a huge family festival.” They’re hosting a “first annual family music festival competition.” She’s asking NCs “to take out a \$500 ad” which “can be about whatever you like.” Their quarterly Valley-wide newspaper would acknowledge the NC’s allocation.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to support Patrick Henry Middle School in the June 2009 Valley-wide Family Music Festival in the amount of \$500, to be allocated from the Outreach budget.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mansker voiced that these kinds of programs will be cut from the State budget and we should support them.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous hand vote.

- J. Reconsideration of GHSNC position on Prop. B.
[This Agenda Item was first addressed after Item #V.]
Ms. Cirino said she “should’ve done more research” regarding Proposition B [which will be voted upon in the March 3rd election]. She would like the Board to reconsider the Resolution it passed at the January 15th General Board Meeting. She introduced Steve Pruitt of the LADWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) (800-342-5397; ladwp.com, solar section), who distributed and reviewed a “Presentation on the Comprehensive Solar Plan: Solar LA” handout, and an “LADWP Presentations on Solar LA” flier. He highlighted the major Plan elements: “1) expanded customer-focused solar programs; 2) large-scale solar power plants; and 3) LADWP-installed, owned and operated solar projects.” The Programs include rebates and SunShares, and a “Feed in Tariff.” Number two

“includes tax benefits” and #3 “is the `Proposition B’ portion of the Plan.” The Plan is scheduled for 2009-2020.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Pruitt said that the DWP is still reviewing the rate structure. Also, “thin film PV” for solar panels is less powerful, but much less expensive. He encouraged viewing on the website the “Huron Report” regarding Plan costs and stated that only the “DWP-owned” one-third of the Plan “uses all-DWP resources”; the other two-thirds of the Plan “uses mainly private resources.” Ms. Cirino added that the DWP will be creating training programs for private companies to build and maintain facilities.

[This Agenda Item was later addressed after Item #VII) I).]

MOTION to RECONSIDER (by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Mr. Askew): to reconsider the GHSNC position on Proposition B, as voted upon at the January 15, 2009 General Board Meeting, for the GHSNC to adopt the following Resolution of the DWPMOUOC (Dept. of Water and Power Memorandum of Understanding Oversight Committee) [see January 15, 2009 Minutes].

DISCUSSION: Ms. Cirino stated that the DWP has the power to build what they want, but advised the NCs first, and that the DWP must move forward or the City will be fined for not meeting environmental regulations. She wanted to at least rescind the Resolution approval. Mr. Mansker was opposed because no new information is available, and observed that no one is against solar power; Proposition B is “poorly written.”

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Beauvais). There were no objections.

POINT of ORDER (by Parliamentarian Mike Kabo): Ms. Cirino was the maker of the original Motion and so is eligible to make this Motion.

MOTION FAILED with six in favor, seven opposed and three abstaining.

VII. Committee Reports: [actually the eighth Section]

Mr. Beauvais asked, because of the late time, for only two Committee Reports.

A. Outreach Committee: (Sean Rivas).

1. Citrus Sunday project, May 3

Mr. Rivas described Citrus Sunday.

MOTION (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Grohman): to participate in and appoint Dave Beauvais, Sean Rivas and Mike Kabo as Liaisons to L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith for the May 3rd Citrus Sunday event, and to allocate \$500 for event outreach expenses.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rivas will discuss the outreach expenses at the next General Board Meeting. Mr. Beauvais asked, and Mr. Rivas agreed, to withdraw the Motion, in the interests of time, to Table it to be agendized for the next General Board Meeting.

MOTION WITHDRAWN and TABLED to the next General Board Meeting (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Grohman).

Mr. Rivas announced a February 24th, 7:00 p.m. Meeting, at a place to be determined, for feedback about the January 17th Board Retreat. He'll report at the next General Board Meeting about a 2009 Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Items VII) B, C, E, F, G, and H, reports from the Planning & Land Use, Beautification, Bylaws, Budget, ad hoc Verizon FIOS Box, and Environmental Committees were postponed to the March meeting due to time constraints.

D. Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee: (Bob Stevens)

1. Stakeholder Request (Linda Romney) and board action for funds for coyote warning signs (tabled from January meeting)

MOTION (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Schindelheim): to **TABLE** the above Item to the next General Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. Board Member Comments and Announcements [actually the ninth Section]

Ms. Bursk announced that the Beautification Committee will meet February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at her office on Yarmouth, and the February 20th Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce Installation and Awards Banquet, for which table sponsorships are available. Mr. Schindelheim related that the Police's Basic Car Meeting provides excellent information, and that he'll schedule a Budget Committee Meeting this month. Mr. Askew reminded that reflective clean-up vests are available. Mr. Rivas will make business card prototype corrections. Mr. Norris relayed that the VFW offered their facility for these Meetings. Ms. Wang is interested in serving on the Environmental Committee; Mr. Beauvais will check on it. Mr. Beauvais announced that the NC is considering "entering into an arrangement with the Chamber of Commerce" about sharing Meeting space.

IX. Agenda Items for next General Meeting & Committee Meetings

[See above.]

X. Adjournment

Mr. Beauvais declared and it was agreed by unanimous voice vote to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 10:32 p.m.