

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, March 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 7:10 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jerry Askew.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Mr. Beauvais. Board Members present:

Dave Beauvais, President	Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer
Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large	David Bereznick, Member-at-Large
Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners	Julie Carson, Member-at-Large
Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups	Arthur Daush, Seniors
Eric Mansker, Homeowners	Robert Norris, Member-at-Large
Lacy Reilly, Students	Sean Rivas, Parks
Robert Stevens, Homeowners	Jim Summers, Business
Mary Wang, Member-at-Large	

Board Members absent: Glen Chester, Secretary (excused); Brad Smith, Vice-President (unexcused); Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large (excused); Erin Grohman, Renters (excused); and Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large (unexcused).

Fifteen 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 Parliamentarian Mike Kabo and approximately 14 Stakeholders and Guests.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Beauvais announced that, since [the Secretary] is absent, the February 12, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes will be addressed at the April [9, 2009] Meeting.

IV. Public Comment

Ms. Cirino will ask religious leaders if they want to be in the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Ms. Bursk announced the May 4th Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Ms. Carson announced that a landscaping grant was approved for the Kennedy-Rinaldi Adult School, where she teaches at 17450 Rinaldi St. at Encino Ave.; work begins this Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and volunteers are sought.

V. Community Speakers

Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9895; amelia.herrera-robles@lacity.org), distributed the "Neighborhood Empowerment News: Information Bulletin -- Week of March 4, 200[9]" and announced a Saturday, March 21st Roundtable Discussion with the DONE General Manager and conflict-of-interest

training at the [Marvin Braude Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys]. State law-mandated certification is good for two years. Ethics Training graduates are listed on the website [www.lacityneighborhoods.com]. Because of the budget crisis, "NC funding is being looked at very closely." DONE would like to receive, by March 31st, summaries of two funded projects, to determine how funds are being spent. The next Neighborhood Congress will be held May 30th in the Valley, with more information to be determined; emergency preparedness, and planning and land use will be discussed.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), announced that the City Council voted to approve the Providence Holy Cross Medical Center expansion. Also, the West Valley Alliance received \$30,000 from the Councilman, and Quimby funds were allocated to the Granada Hills Recreation Center. He also introduced a City Council Motion regarding having the Granada Hills Street Faire be considered a "Special Event," and fees will be waived, and \$22,000 was appropriated for the Veterans Memorial Park.

Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-756-9011, x1727, cell 818-634-0577; 27286@lapd.lacity.org), distributed a "March 7, 2009: Devonshire Area Profile" and reported that the NC can help by publicizing the LAPD non-emergency phone number [1-877-275-5273] and the [www.lapd.org] website; they're eliminating the hardcopy newsletter due to funding cuts. Only 2,044 of 219,000 Granada Hills residents are signed up to receive the e-mailed newsletter. He encouraged calling the Police if you see any suspicious activity, such as a possible or in-progress burglary, home invasion, or graffiti.

Greg Reynar, LAFD (Los Angeles City Fire Dept.) Chief, Battalion 15 (818-756-8615), introduced himself and encouraged people to visit the Fire Station.

VI. Officer Reports

President

Mr. Beauvais encouraged Board Members to complete the DONE Ethics Training. He presented a Certificate of Acknowledgement that L.A. County District Five Supervisor Michael Antonovich sent to GHSNC Past President Jim Summers.

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Mr. Schindelheim is looking at renting a public storage space to house NC files.

Vice-President

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

VII. Board Issues & Updates

1. Discussion and possible board action on continuance of the Education Committee.

Ms. Carson explained that the Committee's been inactive, however, issues are arising and education is important. Mr. Beauvais will appoint at least three members to this Committee at the next General Board Meeting.

2. Presentation regarding expansion of Providence Holy Cross Hospital. Hospital spokeswoman Maria Soldani announced that the City Council voted unanimously for the Hospital to expand. It'll be the first LEED-certified hospital in California. She'd like the NC to write a letter of support for the project. A judge who'd previously ruled against the expansion is expected to reverse his decision and to approve the expansion. Mr. Beauvais will agendaize for the next General Board Meeting to vote whether or not to approve the letter.

MOTION (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Norris): for the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to write a letter of support regarding the expansion of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center.

DISCUSSION: Parliamentarian Mike Kabo declared that it is okay to vote on this Item at this time. Mr. Rivas indicated that people with opposing views were contacted two weeks ago but didn't attend this Meeting. Mr. Schindelheim pointed out that the Agenda says "All agenda items are subject to discussion and possible board action."

MOTION PASSED by hand vote, with one abstention.

3. Discussion and possible board action regarding Holiday lighting and decorations for Veterans Memorial Park (tabled from February meeting). [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VII) A) 1).] There was extensive and intense discussion. Stakeholder Linda Romney stated that she'd repeated procedural discussions with Rodger Shimatsu [Program Training and Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (213-485-1360; rodder.shimatsu@lacity.org)], regarding "prior to the purchases of the decorations, how expenditures [for holiday lighting and decorations for Veterans Memorial Park] could be covered." The NC, "in disregard of her conversation with Mr. Shimatsu . . . wrote a letter to Kevin McNeely [Funding Program Administrator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (213-485-1810; kevin.mcneely@lacity.org) (Mr. Shimatsu's Manager)] . . . [she] was not [sent a] copy of that letter [which contained] material misrepresentations." She "requested at [the February 12, 2009 General Board Meeting] to receive copies of the [October 16, 2008 and November 13, 2008 General Board Meetings] tapes . . . to this date, [she has] not received the tapes." She objected to the Board taking action without her having been able to hear the tapes. She said that it was "stated on the record [at the October 16, 2008 General Board Meeting] that [she] was to receive \$5,000 [in funding] for Christmas decorations." She claimed that her Motion "was agendaized . . . but not voted upon . . . This is in violation of the Brown Act . . . [She] should've been included in those communications."

Mr. Beauvais responded that "you're correct that you requested the tapes . . . They're digital audio files, not tapes . . . The last few minutes [of time] of the

Meeting were not recorded [due to a technical difficulty] . . . the Minutes [written record] taken at the Meeting stand . . . I reviewed the [written] Minutes with [Mr. McNeely, Mr. Shimatsu, Ms. Herrera-Robles, and others], and we determined that the [written] Minutes are accurate . . . Mr. McNeely contacted me, with Mr. Shimatsu on the phone” and they had extensive discussion. “I sent an e-mail to [the affected] Board Members . . .” Following are excerpts that Mr. Beauvais read from that e-mail:

“From Kevin McNeely to Rob Norris, Brandon Schindelheim, Sean Rivas, Jim Summers, and Dave Beauvais, with a copy to Rodger Shimatsu, sent: Friday, March 06, 2009. Mr. McNeely wrote, `Hi. Dave has it correct.’

This was a reply to my e-mail [in which Mr. Beauvais said] `All: I have had several discussions with Kevin McNeely . . . regarding the situation with the Christmas tree lights and decorations... [Mr. Beauvais stopped reading to clarify that: Mr. McNeely is Mr. Shimatsu’s direct supervisor. He then continued to read:]. . . The only authorization for lights or decorations was a motion to allocate up to \$2,000 for floodlights for the purpose of illuminating the tree at VMP [Veterans Memorial Park]. No other motion nor authorization for additional lighting was made at the November meeting or any subsequent meeting. Simply put, the purchase of the tree lights was not authorized by the GHSNC. The bill for the electrical work to install the floodlights can be paid. I have asked Gene [Behrns] to resubmit a bill for the work done in prep for the floodlights and to make it in the full amount of the previous bill. Once received, we can pay that. We cannot purchase the Christmas tree lights or decorations from an individual. However, we could make a motion to purchase the lights from the vendor, and the vendor could then reimburse Jim. The purchase would be for lighting the tree next year. Naturally, it would be up to the board to approve this motion, and if it fails, Jim bears the responsibility for the purchase. I believe Linda Romney also spent over a hundred dollars in decorations, we could do the same with her purchases, assuming the vendor is willing.”

Mr. Beauvais continued, “I tried to contact you at the e-mail address you provided; the e-mails bounced back.” Ms. Romney replied, “I never supplied you with an e-mail address.” Mr. Schindelheim observed that Mr. Beauvais had “asked Jim Summers several times to provide contact information for [Ms. Romney]. He [Mr. Beauvais] never got the information.” Ms. Cirino noted that this Item was postponed from the February 12, 2009 General Board Meeting because Ms. Romney wasn’t present then, adding, “[the NC] has been trying to figure out how to get this paid [within City guidelines].”

Ms. Romney noted that she informed Mr. Shimatsu from D.O.N.E. that her motion for \$5,000 in Holiday decorations that was agenized was never voted on.

Mr. Summers remarked, “I Chaired the Meeting and did things that were wrong . . . We should’ve . . . voted up or down on Linda’s Motion [that was agenized] first.” Mr. Summers stated that “the audio files needed to be reviewed before amending the November Minutes.” Mr. Beauvais pointed out that “the [written] Minutes don’t

reflect that there was a Motion on the floor.” Mr. Summers believes that “if we listen to the tapes . . . it’ll support the suggestion that Rodger Shimatsu had.” Ms. Bursk suggested Tabling this Item until the next General Board Meeting. Ms. Herrera-Robles voiced that “what Kevin McNeely advised . . . is the legal way to do it . . . There’s no Brown Act violation. This was not a Standing Committee, there was no serial communication, there was no violation whatsoever.”

Ms. Romney stated that she’s “waiting for a response from Kevin McNeely’s boss and still [hasn’t] received the tapes.” Mr. Beauvais declared that he’s “tried to make this process as transparent as possible . . . [he has] not tried to do anything in secret . . . Linda does have a point; she asked for the tapes and they haven’t been sent . . . [she] should have an opportunity to review the tapes . . . I believe that the November [13, 2008 General Board Meeting] Minutes accurately reflect what happened at that Meeting . . . I made a compromise Motion to compensate for the floodlights [because] Dr. [Carl] Melnik talked about the difficulties of putting a cherry-picker on the grass [at the Park].” Ms. Romney agreed to provide other contact information to Mr. Beauvais, who requested to Table the discussion until all concerned can listen together to the tapes.

MOTION (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Ms. Wang): to **TABLE** the issue of reimbursement to anyone who was [not previously approved for reimbursement] for holiday lighting and decorations for Veterans Memorial Park and to investigate this matter by listening to the audio file.

Mr. Summers stated “Gene Behrns had his men climb up the tree needs to be paid”. Mr. Beauvais indicated that “Gene Behrns will be paid for the entire amount of \$671.00.” Mr. Summers stated, “Linda Romney is out \$148.00 and I am out \$2,011.00.”

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

POINT of CLARIFICATION by Parliamentarian Mike Kabo: all the Motions in question were, as far as he can tell, properly made.

4. Discussion and possible board action regarding the Granada Hills/Knollwood Design Review Board (DRB).

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Norris): to request that L.A. City Council District 12 assure that the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council has representation on the Granada Hills/Knollwood Design Review Board.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Askew indicated that the DRB is now full and that he’s encouraging the Council District Office to, when an opening is available, fill it with a GHSNC Board Member. Mr. Summers believed that the opening should be filled by the best person, whether a GHSNC Board Member or not.

MOTION PASSED with two opposed and one abstention.

VII. Committee Reports [actually Item #VIII]

A. Outreach

1. Discussion and possible board action to fund the Knights of Music Foundation. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VII) 2).]

Mr. Rivas distributed a “Target Presents Music LA” handout, explaining that it’s an after-school music education program partly funded by the L.A. City Dept. of Cultural Affairs. David Crawford, Teacher at Patrick Henry Middle School, described that the Foundation “introduces students to instrumental music.” The program runs from January – June; funding would be for sheet music, books and instrument repairs. Two program students played a section of one of Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos.

MOTION (by the Committee): for the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to allocate funds to the Knights of Music Foundation in the amount of \$1,500, from the Community Improvement budget.

DISCUSSION: The program would use \$500 each at Patrick Henry, and Tulsa and Andasol Elementary Schools.

MOTION PASSED with 13 in favor, and Mr. Beauvais and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

2. Discussion and possible board action to renew contract with Webmaster. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VII) 4).]

MOTION (by the Committee): to renew the contract with Aaron DeVandry as Webmaster at \$175.00 per month (\$2,100 for the year).

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rivas stated that “Aaron DeVandry has gone far beyond what we asked him to do.”

MOTION PASSED by hand vote, with Mr. Beauvais and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

3. Discussion and possible board action to fund the Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Rivas said that 2,000 people are expected and the Granada Hills North NC has allocated \$700 for the event.

MOTION (by the Committee): to fund the L.A. City Recreation and Parks Dept. Annual Spring Egg Hunt up to \$500 for entertainment and refreshments.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Bursk noted that the event is called the “Spring,” not “Easter” Egg Hunt, and Mr. Beauvais and Mr. Rivas agreed. Mr. Rivas added that the NC logo and name will be on outreach items and there’ll be a booth at which volunteers are needed at 9:00 a.m., Saturday April 4th for the 10:00 – 12:00 event.

MOTION PASSED by hand vote, with Mr. Beauvais and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

4. Discussion and possible board action on Citrus Sunday, May 3, 2009.

MOTION (by the Committee): to participation and funding up to \$250 for Citrus Sunday, May 3, 2009.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais explained that the event is sponsored by Councilman Smith's Office and is for residents to pick their fruit and bring it to the Fire Station for distribution to local food banks. There'll be an NC booth and banner; it's an outreach opportunity. Funds would be used mainly to print flyers and an event-specific banner, and have refreshments.

MOTION PASSED by hand vote, with Mr. Beauvais and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

Mr. Rivas added that there'll be an Outreach Meeting March 25th at the Library to discuss new outreach methods. The next Neighborhood Congress will be May 30th; DONE budgeted \$7,500 for the Congress and the remaining funding will have to come from NCs. Also, street banners are being maintained.

B. Planning & Land Use

Mr. Askew announced a Meeting regarding group housing on Thursday, March 26th, 3:00 – 4:30 at Devonshire House, 18850 Devonshire St., Northridge (818-349-7341), behind the Police Station, above Northridge Park.

C. Beautification

1. Discussion and possible board action re: funding for Veterans Memorial Park. Ms. Bursk reported that the Committee met and there's "a lot of community support" for working on the Park.

MOTION (by the Committee): to extend current funding for an additional six months for maintenance of Veterans Memorial Park.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Bursk mentioned that Park maintenance costs only \$1,860 per year; Mr. Schindelheim reported that \$3,750 remains in that part of the budget for this fiscal year. Mr. Summers said the NC "should look into L.A. Recreation and Parks" maintaining the Park. Ms. Bursk replied that, when that was done, the Park didn't look good.

MOTION PASSED by hand vote, with Ms. Reilly abstaining.

Mr. Norris reminded that named bricks can be donated to help maintain the Park. Mr. Askew reported that Council District 12 e-mailed about the removal of illegal signs; a group including other NCs is forming to work on this and the L.A. Bureau of Street Services could authorize private citizens to remove the signs.

D. Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness

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

Ms. Romney agreed with this Item being TABLED.

Mr. Stevens reported that he's working to get a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) (818-756-9674; cert-la.com, lafdcert@lacity.org) and CERT II program going. Also, he's following up on the Zelzah Ave. speeding issue. Mr. Beauvais reported that DOT (the L.A. Dept. of Transportation) "will go ahead with planned speed limit increases."

E. Bylaws and Rules

1. Committee report and possible board action regarding changes in Board makeup and definition of certain board members, committee appointment procedures and number of posting locations.

Mr. Askew distributed a "[GHSNC] Bylaws Committee: Report from February 25, 2009" and reported that the Bylaws need to be amended to show that the NC only has five, not seven, approved posting locations. Also, adjustments need to be made in the Board makeup to reduce the number of directors from 23 to 21 and quorum from 12 to 11; and in the definitions of certain board members. There is clarification of the ability of stakeholders to serve on Council Committees. Expansion of the definition of who can serve as the Education Director; the Committee is recommending that the new guideline be that anyone whose occupation is in Education and resides in the GHSNC boundaries can stand for the Education Director position. The Committee unanimously voted to combine the "Parks" and "Cultural Arts" categories, and to Table the issue of Board Member participation on Committees.

MOTION (by the Committee): to approve the Committee's recommended Bylaws changes, as noted above.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais clarified that the at-Large Board Member count would be reduced by one. Mr. Rivas believed that the Cultural Arts category would be better combined with Education. Ms. Bursk elaborated that the idea was to broaden the category.

MOTION PASSED, with 14 in favor.

F. Budget

1. Reallocation of certain unencumbered funds.

Mr. Schindelheim distributed a "[GHSNC] Budget Report – as of March 11, 2009" and "[GHSNC] Revised Budget After Feb. 24, 2009 Budget Committee Meeting." "Elections" and \$7,000 in "Newsletter" funds were transferred to "Community Improvement." "Rent" would be used for storage and \$13,000 was moved to other categories, mostly Community Improvements. Mr. Summers will forward receipts from attending a Meeting around six months ago with former Planning & Land Use Committee Chair John Seletos.

MOTION (by the Committee): to approve the reallocation of certain unencumbered funds from Outreach and Operations to Community Improvement.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous hand vote.

G. Ad Hoc Verizon FIOS Box

1. Survey of FIOS Relay boxes in Granada Hills and adjoining communities
Mr. Askew reported that the survey was completed and thanked everyone, especially Mr. Stevens, Mr. Bereznick and Jim Yoder. The City Council Office recommended to Verizon, and the Councilman is working on an Ordinance to raise the boxes and all other utility pole installations to 10 feet off the ground.

2. Discussion and possible Board action for a mail blast system.
Mr. Askew explained that the Board has needed to e-mail many people; he recommends hiring an e-mail processing service that would also be useful for the illegal sign removal effort. The website is separate.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to authorize up to \$200 (per year) for a mail blast system.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Askew stated that the processing service password would be shared among Board Members; he recommends by Committee Chairs. The system can also be used to announce Meetings.

MOTION PASSED by hand vote, with Mr. Beauvais and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

H. Environmental

Ms. Kester was not present and there was no report.

VIII. Board Member Comments and Announcements [actually Item #IX]

Mr. Beauvais suggested and it was agreed to combine this Item with #IX.

IX. Agenda Items for next General & Committee Meetings [actually Item #X]

Mr. Summers wants to agendize City Attorney Representative Bill Larson speaking for around 15 minutes about group living homes. Mr. Askew wants to agendize a discussion regarding the L.A. Bureau of Street Services picking up leftover signs, especially parked trailer signs, and announced that the Conditional Use Permit to sell alcohol at the mini-mart at Balboa Blvd. and Devonshire St. "was denied." Mr. Schindelheim announced an April Budget Committee Meeting regarding fiscal year-end issues. Mr. Rivas encouraged e-mailing [to SRivas@ghsnc.org] outreach ideas to him for consideration. Ms. Carson announced the March 15th "Pink Friday" to honor teachers being laid off. Mr. Norris announced a "major fundraiser for the Rotary Club" at Mission Bowl, Sunday, March 22nd in the morning. David Bereznick wants to agendize having an L.A. City Emergency Management Dept. speaker regarding programs. Mr. Kabo will be absent from the next General Board Meeting.

X. Adjournment [actually Item #XI]

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:47 p.m.