

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the  
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)  
Thursday, April 9, 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 7:12 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brad Smith.

**II. Roll Call**

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

Dave Beauvais, President	Brad Smith, Vice-President
Glen Chester, Secretary	Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large
Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large (late)	Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners
Julie Carson, Member-at-Large	Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups
Arthur Daush, Seniors	Eric Mansker, Factual Basis
Sean Rivas, Parks	Robert Stevens, Homeowners
Jim Summers, Business	Mary Wang, Member-at-Large

Board Members absent: Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer (excused); David Bereznick, Member-at-Large (excused); Erin Grohman, Renters (unexcused); Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large (unexcused); Robert Norris, Member-at-Large (unexcused); and Lacy Reilly, Students (excused).

Thirteen 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 eight Stakeholders and Guests.

**III. Approval of the Minutes: 2/12/09 & 3/12/09 (Glen Chester)**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Smith): to approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous hand vote.

Mr. Chester explained that two versions of the March 12<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting Minutes were to be reviewed.

The following corrections to the March 12, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page two, Item #V, paragraph two, Semee Park's report: "meaning that approximately \$22,000 in fees will be waived" should read "so that fees will be

waived. Approximately \$22,000 was appropriated by the Councilman for Veterans Memorial Park.”

Page four, Item #VII) 3), paragraph two: There was discussion regarding excerpts that Mr. Beauvais read from an e-mail. Mr. Beauvais stated that “the Minutes accurately reflect” what was read at the Meeting.

Page six, Item #VII) A) 1): “Andesol” should read “Andasol”.

Page seven, Item #VIIB, delete the first sentence, “[CONFIRM: WHO? \_\_\_] is asking for NC feedback regarding zoning issues.”

It was agreed to Table the approval of the March 12, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes for Mr. Chester to review the recording for accuracy.

**MOTION to TABLE** this Item (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Ms. Cirino).

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

**IV. Public Comment:** Community and Public Comments on non-agenda items  
There were no public comments.

**V. Community Speakers:** (1) D.O.N.E. – Amelia Herrera-Robles; (2) Council District 12 – Semee Park (3) LAPD – Dario Del Core  
Mr. Beauvais reported that Ms. Herrera-Robles is out of town. Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), announced that the City Planning Dept. has information regarding marijuana dispensaries; illegal ones can be reported to the L.A. Dept. of Building and Safety. Also, the Councilman introduced a Motion calling for the DWP (the L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) to create viable energy efficiency and savings alternatives. April 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00–11:30 a.m. at Chatsworth Park North, Earth Day will be celebrated. Citrus Sunday is being planned. Individual food donations can be brought to the Fire Station in any container.

Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-756-9011, x1727, cell 818-634-0577; 27286@lapd.lacity.org), stated that the “focus of enforcement in Granada Hills is property crime . . . however, in the last four weeks, there’s been a series of street robberies.” Four suspects were arrested. There’ll be a Basic Car Meeting April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Euphrasia Church regarding current and possible laws. May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., at Shepherd of the Hills Church, there’ll be a Town Hall Meeting. A Pancake Breakfast will be held May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30–10:30 a.m. U.S. Census workers, who should have valid identification, will be visiting homes from April 6<sup>th</sup> – July 19<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. Officer Reports**  
President

Mr. Beauvais encouraged Board Members who haven't already to complete the mandatory Ethics Training through the DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] website. Also, the billboard at 17500 Chatsworth St. has been designated as a graffiti-free zone; it's being watched and a second such billboard will soon be installed. Surveillance volunteers are needed. He thanked Mr. Askew for his work on this project, and Mr. Bereznick also helped.

#### Vice-President

Mr. Smith has received and will use responses from Board Members regarding General Board Meeting time scheduling to look into another time and/or location.

#### Treasurer

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

#### Secretary

Mr. Chester will research the approximately a dozen e-mail bounce back e-mails he received. Also, Speaker Cards are available for this Meeting.

### **VII. Board Issues & Updates**

1. Appointment and Board confirmation of members/stakeholders to the Education Committee.

Mr. Beauvais explained that he'd like to make the following appointments.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to appoint Ms. Carson as Chair, and Ms. Reilly, Sally Kolstad, Mr. Rivas and Mr. Smith as Members, to the Education Committee.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote.

2. Presentation from LAUSD District 3, discussion and possible Board action regarding the DOT decision on Zelzah Ave. speed limits and amending state law. Tana Ball, Field Director for Tamar Galatzan, L.A. Unified School District 3 Board Member, explained that, for the Police to use radar vehicle speed enforcement, they must review vehicle traffic speeds every seven years. A review of local street speeds indicated that speeds increased, so the speed limits are planned to be increased by five miles per hour. This could negatively impact the safety of pedestrians and others. She encouraged writing to the City Council about this. There was discussion regarding speed limit increase areas.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Cirino): for the GHSNC to prepare a letter to Assemblyman Cameron Smyth and other local elected officials to resolve this at the legislative level.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Summers relayed that there's lots of community support to not increase the speed limits.

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

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

It was noted that the GHSNC voted at the August [14, 2008 General Board] Meeting to oppose the speed limit increases. Mr. Beauvais asked Ms. Park to let Councilman Smith know that the NC is “adamantly opposed” to the speed limit increases. Mr. Mansker added that the community needs Councilman Smith to support an increased Police presence. Mr. Askew remarked that the NC would trade a lower speed limit for radar enforcement. Mr. Summers and Mr. Beauvais directed Mr. Chester to prepare a letter based upon a speed limit increase opposition letter written by the Northridge East NC.

3. Valley Interfaith Council (VIC) request and possible Board action for funding in the amount of \$2500 to purchase food for San Fernando Valley food banks. Mr. Beauvais noted that no VIC representative was present.

**MOTION to TABLE** this Item (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Cirino).

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote.

4. Discussion and possible Board action regarding Holiday lighting and decorations for Veterans Memorial Park (tabled from March meeting).

Mr. Summers reiterated that he talked with Rodger Shimatsu, DONE Management Analyst, and that Mr. Beauvais talked with Kevin McNeely, DONE Funding Program Administrator (Mr. Shimatsu’s Manager), regarding Holiday lighting and decorations for Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Summers said that Stakeholder Linda Romney’s request [at the November 13, 2008 General Board Meeting] was “never voted up or down” and he would like to “run it by” Darren Martinez, Deputy L.A. City Attorney. Mr. Summers would like the Board to approve the expenditure [for holiday lighting and decorations other than the “up to \$2,000 for floodlights for the purpose of illuminating the tree at VMP [Veterans Memorial Park]]” that was allocated at the November 13th Meeting because it’s “a technicality.”

Mr. Mansker stated that the tape indicates that there was no second to Ms. Romney’s request; “no one approved anything but the \$2,000.” Ms. Cirino believes that the “holiday decorations were made in good faith for the community . . . even though it wasn’t necessarily clarified.” Mr. Rivas declared this “has gone long enough . . . too far . . . let’s move on.” Mr. Boucher “remember[ed] that we approved \$2,000 for lights and that was it.” Mr. Askew clarified that “on the tape, Dave Beauvais made a Motion. [Mr. Askew read the following November 13<sup>th</sup> Motion.]

**“MOTION** (by Mr. Beauvais, seconded by Ms. Van Emden): to allocate up to \$2,000 to purchase colored spotlights to illuminate the Christmas tree, to be allocated from the Park Improvements budget.”

Mr. Askew continued, “Later, the Chair [Mr. Summers, at that time] re-stated the Motion.” [Mr. Askew re-read the above Motion.] “The Motion, as Jim Summers restated it for voting, did not include the word “floodlights,” as evidenced in the recording of the Meeting.”

Discussion followed regarding what DONE did or did not approve and the application of Robert’s Rules of Order at the November 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Mr. Beauvais reminded that he talked with Mr. McNeeley, Mr. Shimatsu, and Amelia Herrera-Robles, DONE Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, who all indicated that “the Motion was properly made” and “believe that Board Members knew the amount and the reason for the [allocation].”

Ms. Bursk is concerned regarding whether Mr. McNeely knew the full intent of the Motion. Mr. Beauvais noted that “the action” following the Motion “was to install floodlights” at a “cost of around \$1,800,” which “verifies the understanding by the Board of what the Motion was for . . . the problem is that \$3,600-\$3,800 was spent.” Ms. Carson expressed that she “wouldn’t have voted for \$4,000” even though “the intent was good.” Mr. Mansker cautioned that, if the NC allocates the additional money, “this’ll set a bad precedent.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Askew): to ask City Attorney Darren Martinez to review all materials, including the [November 13, 2008 General Board Meeting] Minutes and the recording, on the basis of a Parliamentary Procedure error having been made during the holiday lighting and decorations discussion during the November 13, 2008 General Board Meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Bursk encouraged letting the City Attorney see if there was a Parliamentary error. Mr. Mansker indicated that Mr. Summers “can do this on his own . . . [the NC] doesn’t have to do this.”

**MOTION PASSED** with seven in favor, four opposed and one abstention.

Mr. Beauvais advised Mr. Summers that he would be out of town for the next two weeks and asked Mr. Summers, who agreed to do it, to prepare a draft letter to Mr. Martinez. Mr. Beauvais also stated that if Mr. Summers did not prepare a draft within the two weeks, Mr. Beauvais would prepare a draft upon his return.

5. Discussion and possible Board action to establish and fund a website for posting the recording of Board minutes. (Glen Chester)

**MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Ms. Bursk): to allocate up to \$10 per month to establish and fund a website for posting the recording of Board Minutes.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Chester explained that, for technical reasons, it works better to provide the recordings on a separate website than the current NC website. Ms. Herrera-Robles hasn't yet responded to whether the website could accept advertising. Webmaster Aaron DeVandry clarified that the current website can host recordings.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN** (by Mr. Chester, and the second by Ms. Bursk).

**MOTION PASSED** without objection.

6. Discussion and possible Board action to rent public storage space for supplies, records and equipment. (Brandon Schindelheim)  
Mr. Beauvais said that, if Mr. Schindelheim arrived soon, this Item would be addressed.
7. Discussion and possible Board action to purchase a video camera. (Jerry Askew)  
Mr. Askew explained the above.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Summers): to purchase a video camera for the purpose of recording Board meetings and for possible use by other community organizations, up to \$1,000, to include extra batteries and accessories as required.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Smith would like to ensure the storage and security of the equipment. Mr. Askew explained that using the camera could make the General Board Meetings available on the Internet. Mr. Rivas believed that this should first be referred to the Outreach Committee.

**MOTION to REFER** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Smith): to refer to the Outreach Committee the purchase of a video camera for the purpose of recording Board meetings and for possible use by other community organizations, up to \$1,000, to include extra batteries and accessories as required.

Mr. Beauvais stated that a Motion to Refer is not debatable.

**MOTION PASSED** with 11 in favor and one opposed.

Mr. Rivas clarified that the intent of the Motion was regarding the video purchase and the technical details of uploading the videos. Mr. Beauvais ruled that the above vote was regarding the main Motion, and that Mr. Rivas will report to the Board at the next General Board Meeting.

8. Discussion and possible Board action to provide financial support to the Senior Dinner and Dance to be held at Northridge Park. (Jerry Askew)  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item # VII) 1).] Stakeholder Dick Ashnault explained that 25-30 area businesses participate in senior services. The Dance will be held Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Approximately 300 seniors attend the event, which for them is “the cat’s meow.” He’s asking the NC to allocate \$750 to fund the Dance and the NC would be credited. The Northridge East and Northridge West NCs have participated. Mr. Rivas explained that the L.A. Recreation and Parks Dept. and City Council have helped before, but, due to the budget crisis, the City has reduced funding. The Senior Dance is part of a Hawaiian Festival being held Friday night and Saturday. Mr. Ashnault added, “A number of Granada Hills residents attend.” He’d like each NC to recognize a senior from their area.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to support the May 29<sup>th</sup> Senior Dinner/Dance by allocating \$750.

**DISCUSSION:** The GHSNC didn’t sponsor this last year. NC literature would be welcomed at the event.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Ms. Cirino): to name Jim Yoder as the GHSNC honoree at the May 29<sup>th</sup> Senior Dinner/Dance.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Outreach Committee** (Sean Rivas)

Mr. Rivas reported that the Granada Hills North NC assisted in getting Stakeholder information from the Easter Egg Hunt.

1. Participation in the Valley Regional Congress of Neighborhood Councils.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Carson): for the GHSNC to participate in the Valley Regional Congress of Neighborhood Councils and allocate up to \$1,500 for outreach.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Rivas reported that the Congress will be Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at Panorama City High School. All 31 Valley NCs are being asked for funding for recording, catering, supplies and outreach materials with NC logos. The “main purpose [of the Congress] is building networks . . . and discussing best practices.” Media have been contacted, and posters and flyers will be distributed. DONE is also funding the event and 3,000

Stakeholders, businesspeople, NC Board Members and more are expected to attend.

Mr. Summers stated that it'd be a "waste of money" to spend it outside the GHSNC area. Mr. Chester believes that the NC "should be networking with other NCs . . . and learning best practices." Mr. Smith related that a previous Congress he attended wasn't worth it. Mr. Mansker would like an itemized allocation breakdown. Mr. Rivas added that City facilities in the Valley are inadequate for the event.

**MOTION FAILED** with five in favor and six opposed.

**B. Planning & Land Use Committee** (Eric Mansker)

Mr. Mansker said there was "nothing to report." He'll consult with Committee Members to set a date for the next Meeting.

**C. Beautification Committee** (Bonnie Bursk)

Mr. Beauvais said that Ms. Bursk had to leave this Meeting. There was no report.

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

Mr. Stevens announced a CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] class thorough the West Hills NC, weekly starting May 3<sup>rd</sup>, approximately six hours each.

1. Discussion and possible Board action to apply for funding from the Highway Safety Research Center to improve pedestrian safety at GHCHS.

Mr. Beauvais explained that he discussed this with City Council District 12 representatives and local groups. The area is from Granada Hills Charter High School to Northridge Academy High School.

**MOTION** (by the Committee): for the GHSNC to apply for a \$2,000 grant from the Highway Safety Research Center to improve pedestrian safety at Granada Hills Charter High School.

**DISCUSSION:** The NC only needs to provide a safety description regarding a "smart crosswalk" to the Highway Safety Research Center.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote.

**E. Bylaws and Rules Committee** (Jerry Askew)

Mr. Askew announced that a packet of proposed Bylaws changes will be mailed tomorrow to Board Members. There'll be a Bylaws changes moratorium as of September due to the 2010 NC elections.

**F. Budget Committee** (Brandon Schindelheim)

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

**G. Ad Hoc Verizon FIOS Box Committee** (Jerry Askew)

Mr. Askew announced that Verizon received material from the Committee; Verizon is “in negotiations with the City . . . to resolve this.”

**H. Environmental Committee** (Shondrella Kester)

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

**J. Animal Concerns Committee** (Jim Summers)

Mr. Summers announced that the first Committee Meeting will be in two weeks and will discuss State Senate Bill 250 regarding pet spaying and neutering. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, there’ll be a tree planting at the Balboa Basin Dog Park.

**IX. Board Member Comments and Announcements**

Ms. Carson announced that, due to the budget crisis, the State is “pulling back” funding for “personal classes.” Mr. Rivas announced Valley Regional Congress planning meetings every Wednesday at the Braude Center in Van Nuys at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Smith wants to agendize location, date and time preferences for future General Board Meetings, and quality of life discussions. Mr. Chester announced that the Dept. of Transportation has resurfaced some local streets. Mr. Askew encouraged people to contact Mr. Rivas if NC street banners need repair. Mr. Stevens expressed that Ethics Training is easy to do in person at the DONE Roundtable Meetings. Mr. Summers wants to agendize a discussion regarding group homes.

**X. Agenda Items for next General & Committee Meetings**

This Item was combined with the above Item.

**XI. Adjournment**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Ms. Cirino): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:32 p.m.