

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, June 11, 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 6:34 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. Special Guest Speaker; D.O.N.E. General Manager BongHwan Kim

BongHwan Kim, General Manager, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-485-1360; BongHwan.Kim@lacity.org; www.lacityneighborhoods.com), spoke about DONE, NCs and the City's challenges, opportunities and future. The City budget crisis has strongly affected all of us, including DONE funding. The City's General Fund received \$330,000 which had been allocated to DONE, yet 15 DONE staff are serving 4,000,000 people.

At the same time, the crisis has helped to bring NCs together in a new way. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) are being developed, for example, with the Departments of Transportation and Emergency Preparedness. He encouraged all community groups to develop emergency plans; most communities are unprepared for a major emergency. NCs can help by "having a CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] component."

City Council leaders often ask, "what do Neighborhood Councils do?" NCs can "demonstrate . . . a value-added role . . . There's a significant amount of power and influence" that NCs have. Increasing NC influence on the City Council is an issue "rich in complexity." He recommends "reaching out to other NCs in the region, as Westside NCs have done with the Westside Alliance of NCs . . . They have each Board adopt a similar Motion regarding an issue," for example, transportation.

Mr. Kim wants "to make the DONE website . . . a community-accessible website" to which NCs "can add content." He encouraged visiting, for example, the www.healthycities.org website. "Neighborhood Councils can become a civic hub for your area." He has a "vision . . . [of] systemic incorporation of NCs . . . in the City government . . . like New York City's Boroughs." Including NC websites in the City website is "certainly possible." DONE is working to increase technology availability and staff also organize regional and citywide events, and it's a "great idea" for DONE staff to assist in finding grant funding, although DONE staff are limited while the NCs have 1,500 people.

Mr. Askew asked Mr. Kim to have DONE provide NC Board members with email address that have the @lacity.org email addresses, and for NCs to be linked to the City's www.lacity.org website. Mr. Smith would like DONE's mission to include using the NCs as a grant application force to generate matching grants to supply locally needed programs. He urged DONE to proactively, not reactively, assist NCs in

applying for grants. Mr. Mansker is concerned with CD12's responsiveness to GHSNC concerns.

III. Roll Call

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

Dave Beauvais, President	Brad Smith, Vice-President
Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer	Glen Chester, Secretary
Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large	David Bereznick, Member-at-Large
Arthur Daush, Seniors	Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large
Eric Mansker, Factual Basis	Lacy Reilly, Students
Sean Rivas, Parks	Robert Stevens, Homeowners

Board Members absent: Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large (excused); Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners (excused); Julie Carson, Member-at-Large (excused); Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups (excused); Erin Grohman, Renters (excused); Robert Norris, Member-at-Large (excused); Jim Summers, Business (unexcused); Mary Wang, Member-at-Large (excused).

Twelve 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 15 Stakeholders and Guests.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

The following corrections to the April 9, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page six, Item #VII) 7), last paragraph: ". . . regarding the main Motion, not the GHSNC website, and that Mr. Rivas . . ." should read ". . . regarding the main Motion and that Mr. Rivas . . ."

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2009 General Board Meeting, as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Ms. Kester): to approve the Minutes of the May 14, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

V. Public Comment

Stakeholder Jim Yoder was thanked for helping organize the seniors dinner dance, which more than 300 people attended. He said that, if NCs hadn't supported the dance, it probably wouldn't have happened.

VI. Community Speakers: (1) D.O.N.E. – Amelia Herrera-Robles; (2) Council District 12 – Seme Park (3) LAPD – Dario Del Core

Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9895; amelia.herrera-robles@lacity.org), congratulated the NC for its representation at the recent Valley Neighborhoods Congress. The budget submission deadline is June 19th. Mr. Beauvais and Mr. Schindelheim noted that the inventory letter requesting information about equipment purchased with City funds was returned to DONE.

Seme Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), announced that the Councilman introduced a Motion (Council File 09-0365) to track foreclosed homes and require owners to register; “a small element” of registrants who don’t maintain their properties would be fined; the amount is being discussed with banks. The database would be shared with the DWP (the L.A. Dept. of Water and Power). Mr. Beauvais added that the database would also be shared with the Police and Fire Departments. Ms. Park also announced that the Councilman introduced a Motion (Council File 09-0369-S5), scheduled to be heard in July, which would allow water use exemptions to seniors, physically challenged people, and high fire danger zones. The DWP will host a water ordinance workshop; see www.ladwpneighborhoodnews.com. A new traffic study was started on Zelzah Ave.; contact Jim Dellinger, (818-756-8784; Jim.Dellinger@lacity.org), for information. Movie Nights at Holleigh Bernson Park begin June 13th at 8:00 p.m. She “will bring it up” to have at least some Movie Nights at the Granada Hills Recreation Center. Due to the drought, lawn watering is limited to Mondays and Thursdays. The Councilman is very opposed to marijuana dispensaries in this district; some dispensary “hardship exemption” application requests are starting to be denied, and she’ll follow up on a possible dispensary in this area.

Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-756-9011, x1727, cell 818-634-0577; 27286@lapd.lacity.org), announced that the next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be Thursday, June 18th; a narcotics Officer will make a presentation, including about marijuana dispensaries. Officer Del Core described the procedure for citing and arresting squatters in vacant homes. Residential burglaries are happening; there’ve been 15% more arrests in the last month than one year ago. Most burglaries are “daytime occurrences . . . mostly window smashes.” Response times are now averaging “eight minutes on a top-priority call,” 20 minutes on an “urgent” call and 30 minutes on a “routine” call.

Mr. Askew introduced Bill Larson, Deputy L.A. City Attorney, Nuisance Abatement Division (310-445-1714), who cautioned that if the NC becomes a non-profit organization, there’d be “a lot of ministerial duties.” His Office is part of the City Neighborhood Prosecutor Program. Their “database information is provided to the Police.” Squatters are in, on, over, under and behind (in yards of) homes; if they’re in a yard, Building and Safety cannot issue a violation. One marijuana dispensary was giving marijuana to 12-year-olds who said they had glaucoma. More parties are being cited for misdemeanor noise violations.

VII. Officer Reports [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #V.]

President

Mr. Beauvais reported that the U.S. Census Bureau will present to the NC in the Fall regarding how the NC can help with the Census. There's a Census Meeting June 15th around 6:00 p.m. He encouraged Board Members to do the DONE ethics training [<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>].

Vice-President

Mr. Smith said that there was no report.

Treasurer [This report was given after the Secretary report.]

Mr. Schindelheim distributed a "[GHSNC] Budget Report as of June 11, 2009," a "[GHSNC] Budget Report (with Changes) as of June 11, 2009" and a "[GHSNC] Proposed Budget FY 09-10." He reported that there's approximately \$29,000 remaining in the 2008-2009 budget.

Secretary

Mr. Chester reported that sign-in sheets and Speaker Cards are in the back of the room. There've been many bounce backs of e-mails. Audio files have been added to the GHSNC website. He encouraged Board Members to give him revised contact information for the GHSNC website.

VIII. Board Issues & Updates

1. Discussion and possible action to move the location and date of regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Beauvais described, as in the following, the option to move the Meeting.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Bereznick): to move GHSNC General Board Meetings to the third Wednesday each month at the Pavilion at a cost of \$150 per month for July – December 2009.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mansker believes that the move is "necessary . . . The Pavilion [has] plenty of parking . . . The room . . . is a lot more accommodating . . . you can hear people speak there . . . It's a better set-up . . . [and is] temperature-controlled." Mr. Chester said that he couldn't attend on Wednesdays. Mr. Rivas noted that the VFW offered their facility for meetings. Mr. Beauvais suggested Tabling the Motion.

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

MOTION to TABLE PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Beauvais said that the VFW will be contacted. Different weeknights for General Board Meetings were discussed.

2. Discussion and possible action to appoint an Election Committee.

Mr. Beauvais reported that Ms. Carson volunteered to Chair the Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Smith): for the GHSNC to form an Election Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Beauvais nominated Ms. Carson as Chair, and Mr. Rivas, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Schindelheim volunteered to also be on the Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Smith): to appoint Sean Rivas, Brad Smith, and Brandon Schindelheim to the GHSNC Election Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Appointment and confirmation of Sally Kolstad as Education Director.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #V.] Mr. Beauvais introduced Sally Kolstad, who reviewed her teaching work and career, including teaching at Tulsa and Darby Elementary Schools. Mr. Beauvais and the Board recognized Mr. Daush for recruiting Ms. Kolstad to the NC.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to confirm the appointment of Sally Kolstad to the GHSNC Board of Directors as the Education Director.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Ms. Kolstad was seated with the other Board Members.

4. Appointment and confirmation of changes in Committee assignments
Mr. Beauvais elaborated that Ms. Wang asked to be moved from the Beautification Committee to the Environmental Sustainability Committee. He would like to appoint Ms. Kolstad to the Beautification Committee to take Ms. Wang's place.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to remove Mary Wang from the Beautification Committee and appoint her to the Environmental Sustainability Committee, and appoint Sally Kolstad to the Beautification Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

5. Presentation by Stakeholder Pat Russell, discussion and possible action regarding Mayor's budget proposal to require homeowners to repair sidewalks at their own expense as a condition to selling their home.
Stakeholder and Realtor Pat Russell introduced herself and described the recent history of City sidewalk repair funding. She distributed copies of a flier regarding and explained that the City wants "another point-of-sale ordinance" which would be "switching the responsibility for repairing damaged sidewalks from the City to property owners . . . whenever a home is sold." Sidewalk repairs can cost \$4,000-7,000 and "banks are saying 'no' to most [sidewalk] repairs." She encouraged contacting elected officials to oppose the ordinance.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to refer this Item to the GHSNC Planning and Land Use Committee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais would like the Committee to provide appropriate Motion wording for the Board and easement information is needed. Mr. Mansker offered that the Committee, which will meet on June 17th at 7:00 p.m. (at a place to be determined; see www.ghsnc.org) will contact the City Planning Dept.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Outreach Committee (Sean Rivas)

Discussion and possible action to place a monthly ad advertising meeting date and location in OGHRG newsletter.

Mr. Beauvais recused himself from this discussion and left the room, temporarily turning the Meeting leadership over to Mr. Smith. Mr. Rivas reported that the NC logo was on recent Valley Regional Congress material. The Congress' final budget will soon be available; there'll be "leftover money." He'll host "an outreach forum" regarding "how [NCs] can help each other for elections." He'll also attend Saturday's 2010 NC elections dates Meeting and would like to outreach in the Old Granada Hills Residents Group Newsletter. Stakeholder Richard Fisk explained that a Newsletter ad would cost \$35/month or \$100/three months.

MOTION (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Mansker): for the GHSNC to place an ad in the Old Granada Hills Residents Group Newsletter for six months at a cost of \$200.

DISCUSSION: It was said that the Newsletter's circulation is around 1,300, including some elected and appointed officials throughout the City.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote, with Ms. Reilly abstaining.

Mr. Beauvais returned to the room and resumed as President.

Mr. Rivas added that the Committee will discuss possible General Board Meeting speakers. The GHSNC Newsletter will be out in August. Mr. Beauvais indicated that a four-page newsletter is being proposed and suggested a joint Outreach and Public Safety Committees Newsletter. Mr. Rivas encouraged registering for the GHSNC forum.

B. Planning & Land Use Committee (Eric Mansker)

Mr. Mansker said that there was no report.

C. Beautification Committee (Bonnie Bursk)

Mr. Beauvais reported for Ms. Bursk that there was no report and the Committee did not meet this month.

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

1. Discussion and possible action to approve purchase of 50 Neighborhood watch block signs to be distributed in GHSNC area, not to exceed \$1,400. Mr. Stevens explained the above.

MOTION (by the Committee): for the GHSNC to approve the purchase of 50 Neighborhood Watch block signs and stickers, to be distributed in the GHSNC area, at a cost not to exceed \$1,400.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote, with Ms. Reilly abstaining.

2. Approval of presentation by Volunteer Surveillance Team at August meeting Mr. Stevens explained the above.

MOTION (by the Committee): for the GHSNC to approve that a presentation be given by the Volunteer Surveillance Team at the GHSNC August General Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rivas suggested moving the presentation to September.

AMENDMENT (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Smith): to have the presentation in September, instead of August.

AMENDMENT PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

MAIN MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Discussion and possible action to support Disaster Preparedness event at the Granada Hills Street Faire, not to exceed \$1,000. Mr. Stevens explained the above. Mr. Beauvais clarified that “this would be separate from any outreach” that the NC would do at the event, and explained that DONE is coordinating NC allocations.

MOTION (by the Committee): for the GHSNC to support a Disaster Preparedness event at the Granada Hills Street Faire, at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote, with Ms. Reilly abstaining.

E. Bylaws and Rules Committee (Jerry Askew)

Discussion and possible action to approve City Clerk Stipulation language. Mr. Askew distributed and reviewed a “2010 [NC] Election Procedures Stipulation Language Worksheet” and explained the above, including that the City Clerk will run all NC elections starting in 2010. Mr. Beauvais added that

Mr. Askew, Mr. Rivas, Ms. Carson and he reviewed the language. Corrections were made to the Worksheet, including that "South" would be added to the NC name (on the Worksheet); the "Attachment A" "Board Position" "Parks" will be "Parks and Cultural Arts"; and described discussion the Committee had regarding "Section 11: Declaring Candidacy for Positions on the Board." Candidates will be able to seek more than one position in an election.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Rivas): for the GHSNC to approve City Clerk 2010 Neighborhood Council Election Procedures Stipulation language for submission to the City Clerk.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Beauvais commented that the Worksheet will be "faxed in tomorrow." Mr. Askew noted that the Bylaws are "approved by DONE and in effect."

F. Budget Committee (Brandon Schindelheim)

Discussion and possible action to approve 2009-2010 budget.

MOTION (by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Mr. Rivas): for the GHSNC to approve the "[GHSNC] Budget Report (with Changes) as of June 11, 2009."

DISCUSSION: Mr. Schindelheim reviewed allocations being "disencumbered" on the "[GHSNC] Budget Report (with Changes) as of June 11, 2009" and the "Changes" on page two. He explained newsletter and refreshments expenses, and that \$86,225 will be available for 2009-2010.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote, with Ms. Reilly abstaining.

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

Mr. Askew reported that the City passed an Ordinance regulating the FIOS boxes, and that a Verizon representative said that all new such facilities will be run through that Ordinance.

H. Environmental Committee (Shondrella Kester)

Mr. Beauvais reported for Ms. Kester, who had to earlier leave the Meeting, that she will send an e-mail to Board Members.

J. Animal Concerns Committee (Jim Summers)

Mr. Summers was absent and there was no report.

X. Board Member comments, announcements and Agenda Items for next General Board Meeting and Committee Meetings.

Mr. Askew brought samples of and described wet wipes that "very effectively" remove paint from non-porous, smooth surface, unpainted signs, poles, etc.; he'd like the NC to consider purchasing some at around \$350 for 72 kits, or \$5.00 apiece. Mr. Chester announced that the Granada Hills North NC found an office space in the

Albertson's shopping mall. Parliamentarian Mike Kabo announced that he'll be out of town during the next General Board Meeting.

Mr. Schindelheim will submit the Budget to DONE by June 19th. Mr. Rivas is hosting an Elections Outreach Forum and needs volunteers, and will be helping organize the Street Faire; the Outreach Committee will consider new name placards; and he's arranging to order NC shirts for Board Members and needs Members' shirt sizes. Ms. Kester caught two graffiti taggers; some graffitiers were also spraying passing cars. Mr. Bereznick said that a list of foreclosed homes in the GHSNC area could be generated; Mr. Beauvais cautioned regarding legal ramifications.

XI. Adjournment

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:33 p.m.