

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, July 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 7:06 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

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

Dave Beauvais, President	Glen Chester, Secretary
Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large	David Bereznick, Member-at-Large
Julie Carson, Member-at-Large	Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups (late)
Arthur Daush, Seniors	Erin Grohman, Renters
Sally Kolstad, Education	Eric Mansker, Factual Basis
Robert Norris, Member-at-Large	Sean Rivas, Parks
Robert Stevens, Homeowners	Jim Summers, Business
Mary Wang, Member-at-Large	

Board Members absent: Brad Smith, Vice-President (excused); Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer (excused); Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large (unexcused); Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners (excused); Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large (unexcused); and Lacy Reilly, Students (excused). Also, Parliamentarian Mike Kabo was absent.

Fourteen of the 21 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 nine Stakeholders and Guests.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Beauvais noted that the April 9 and May 14, 2009 [General Board Meeting] Minutes were already approved; the June [11] Minutes may now be approved.

The following corrections to the June 11, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page one, Item #II, last paragraph, second sentence: "Mr. Smith inquired as to why DONE does not use the NCs as a grant application force to generate matching grants to supply locally needed programs and investments as part of DONE's mission statement." should read "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."

Page one, Item #II, last paragraph, third sentence: "Mr. Smith urged Mr. Kim to take a proactive stance in assisting NCs in applying for grants as opposed to being a

reactive bureaucracy assisting in inquiries from NCs.” should read “He urged DONE to proactively, not reactively, assist NCs in applying for grants.”

Page one, Item #II, last paragraph, last sentence: “Mr. Mansker asked for assistance in communicating with our Councilman.” should read “Mr. Mansker is concerned with CD12’s responsiveness to GHSNC concerns.”

Page one, Item #II, last paragraph, first sentence: “Mr. Askew asked Mr. Kim to find a way for NCs to be linked to the City of Los Angeles’ home page, “www.lacity.org.” should read, “Mr. Askew asked Mr. Kim to have DONE provide NC Board Members with email addresses that have the “@lacity.org” ending email addresses, and for NCs to be linked to the City’s www.lacity.org website.”

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to approve the Minutes of the June 11, 2009 General Board Meeting, as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote, with Mr. Summers abstaining.

IV. Public Comment

Stakeholder Gulshan Amar passed around a brochure and requested to be agendized for the GHSNC to support the Valley Interfaith Council food pantry with a grant due to increased need due to the economic crisis. Mr. Beauvais invited him to the next General Board Meeting.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Askew): to send the Valley Interfaith Council funding request to the GHSNC Budget Committee for discussion and possible recommendation to return to the next GHSNC General Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Sending the request to the Budget Committee is the best and appropriate procedure for handling this request. Mr. Beauvais added that, if there’s no quorum at the Budget Committee Meeting, he’ll still agendize the above.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote, with Mr. Summers abstaining.

V. Community Speakers: (1) D.O.N.E. – Amelia Herrera-Robles; (2) Council District 12 – Semee 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), was not able to attend this Meeting.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), described the Mayor’s point-of-sale sidewalk repair proposal, to which Councilman Smith is opposed. [Mr. Mansker said that he researched the proposal and that it probably “won’t go through.”] The Councilman wants to form a financial district, like a Business Improvement District. She brought Community Grant Applications and they’re available online; there’ll be a workshop September 2nd, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Mid-Valley Regional Library. Movie Night (“Madagascar”) will be July 11th, at sundown at Northridge Park; there’ll be free root

beer floats and the pool will be open 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. “Kung Fu Panda” will be shown there Tuesday, August 4th, same times. The LAPD busted a house and four dispensaries illegally selling marijuana.

Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-756-9011, x1727, cell 818-634-0577; 27286@lapd.lacity.org), stated that 50 Neighborhood Watch signs and decals have been purchased and he’s willing to speak at their Meetings. The Division is averaging more than 450 arrests per month. Property crimes are down 5% from this time last year. Residential burglaries, mainly daytime, “seem to have drifted to” the east side of the Division, including the Petit Park area. They’ve noticed slower City services responses, for example, lighting and tree trimming. The next Basic Car Meeting will be July 16th; August 4th is National Night Out and August 11th is the District Meeting. Mr. Mansker related that an auto repair shop at Chatsworth St. and Encino Ave. has been repairing autos “almost every night . . . well after 8:00” within 100 feet of a number of residences. Officer Del Core “will pass it on.” Police response times are still averaging “eight minutes on a top-priority call,” 20 minutes on an “urgent” call and 30 minutes on a “routine” call. He reminded, “do not approach a suspicious person . . . let [the Police] do the stop . . . Call in as much information as you possibly can.”

VI. Officer Reports

President

Mr. Beauvais encouraged Board Members to complete the DONE Ethics Training [<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>], which “can be done online in about two hours.” The Pavilion management can accommodate General Board Meetings starting at 7:30 p.m.; he’ll continue researching the possibility of moving these Meetings there. He announced that Mr. Norris, who has done extensive community work and support, is moving out of state. Mr. Beauvais presented Mr. Norris with a Certificate of Appreciation from the NC and City Council District 12. [Applause.]

Vice-President

Mr. Smith was not in attendance and there was no report.

Treasurer

Mr. Schindelheim was not in attendance however there was a Treasurer’s report available for discussion.

Secretary

Mr. Chester indicated that there were Sign-up Sheets in the back to also get NC news and notices. He received “a dozen e-mail sign-ups” for information. Submit Speaker Cards to him to speak at this Meeting. He reminded Board Members to submit contact information updates for the List.

VII. Board Issues & Updates

1. Report regarding Neighborhood Council 2010 census involvement.
Mr. Beauvais described that Stakeholder Jim Yoder attended the U.S. Census information Meeting. The Census estimates that Los Angeles was undercounted

by 78,000 people in the last Census, costing the City to miss \$200 million in funding. The NC can help by publicizing the Census, which will be held in March and April 2010, through its website and mailings. Every household will get a Census form. He recommends forming an ad hoc [Sub-]Committee under the Budget Committee. Mr. Beauvais related that the Census contacted him for NC help; he'll follow up later this year.

2. Discussion and possible Board action to buy Anti-Graffiti wipes; 72 kits at \$350. Mr. Askew brought samples of and described wet wipes that "take graffiti off any smooth surface" and remove paint from non-porous, smooth surfaces, unpainted signs, poles, etc.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Ms. Cirino): for the GHSNC to buy Anti-Graffiti wipes; 72 kits at a cost of up to \$350.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Beauvais declared and it was agreed that the funds would come out of the Beautification budget.

3. Presentation from "Friends of the Library," followed by discussion and possible action to purchase books for the Granada Hills Library: \$2,000. Mary Slotnick, President, Friends of the Granada Hills Library [10640 Petit Ave. at Chatsworth St.; 818-368-5687], stated that the Friends have existed since 1982 as a "non-profit, philanthropic, educational group." Due to "tremendous cuts" in their budget for library materials purchases, they need help with the greatly increased library use, especially of DVDs and books; more than 6,800 local families could benefit. They need one new DVD security case costing \$1,000; DVDs and books cost around \$25 each.

MOTION (by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Ms. Carson): to approve funding the Granada Hills Friends of the Library to purchase books, DVDs and other materials in the amount of \$2,000.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Cirino believes this funding "will help families." Mr. Mansker thought this should be referred to a Committee to vet first.

MOTION TO REFER (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Askew): to refer the Granada Hills Friends of the Library funding request to the GHSNC Budget Committee.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carson was concerned that referring this to a Committee would delay action by one to two months. Ms. Slotnick clarified that the Friends have tried buying books at less than \$25 each; \$25 is an average. Individual DVD security cases beep if brought to the Library door without having been checked out. Other fundraising has also been done, including book sales. All NC funding would go to the Granada Hills Library, and be acknowledged and recognized. Mr. Summers commented that GHSNC monies should go to books

not DVD cases. Ms. Slotnick agreed that GHSNC monies will be directed to books.

MOTION TO REFER FAILED with six in favor, seven opposed and no abstentions.

MAIN MOTION PASSED with 12 in favor, and Mr. Mansker and Mr. Bereznick abstaining.

4. Discussion and possible action to support an extension of the curfew at Burbank and Van Nuys Airports.

Mr. Beauvais explained that the Sherman Oaks NC President requested agendaizing this. The Burbank Airport wants to extend their curfew hours one-half hour in the morning and at night; there's concern that more flights, of all kinds of planes, may be shifted to the Van Nuys Airport.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Summers): to support maintaining parity in the curfew hours at the Burbank and Van Nuys Airports; as long as the hours of flight at Van Nuys Airport are maintained or the hours of flight are reduced to match an increased Burbank Airport curfew.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Askew may need more information before voting on this. Mr. Stevens suggested contacting the Van Nuys Airport for a speaker to address the next General Board Meeting.

MOTION TO REFER (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Askew): to refer the Burbank and Van Nuys Airports curfew extension issue to the Public Safety Committee.

MOTION TO REFER PASSED with Mr. Norris opposed.

Mr. Beauvais will contact the Van Nuys Airport regarding having a speaker.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Ad-Hoc Election Committee

Identification and selection of five possible sites for 2010 election of Directors. Ms. Carson explained that the City is running the NC election on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, 2:00 – 8:00 p.m., with the NC handling outreach. The NC needs to recommend five ADA-compliant potential polling locations. The Committee recommends: 1) Granada Hills Recreation Center; 2) Granada Hills Library; 3) Patrick Henry Middle School; 4) Tulsa Elementary School; and 5) Granada Hills Elementary School. The locations recommendation is due to the City Clerk by July 31st.

MOTION (by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to accept the recommendations of the GHSNC Election Committee to recommend to the City Clerk's Office the following five potential polling locations for the March 2, 2010 NC election: 1) Granada Hills Recreation Center; 2) Granada Hills Library; 3) Patrick Henry Middle School; 4) Tulsa Elementary School; and 5) Granada Hills Elementary School.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

B. Outreach Committee (Sean Rivas)

Discussion and possible action to participate in the Granada Hills Street Faire, \$2,500.

MOTION (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Askew): Discussion and possible Action to participate in the Granada Hills Street Faire, \$2,500.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rivas explained that the Faire would be held on Saturday, October 3rd. The \$2,500 would include a "package deal" of a booth, banners and more. Mr. Summers was concerned that \$2,500 "is way too much money; we could have a booth for one-tenth of that . . . [The NC would] be sponsoring the Chamber of Commerce . . . What've they done for us?" Ms. Cirino said "it's a good thing." Mr. Rivas added that the new banners are the current event banners with the date and NC name. The booth would have outreach items and can have pictures of Board Members.

MOTION FAILED with four in favor, six opposed, and Ms. Cirino, Mr. Norris and Ms. Wang abstaining.

Mr. Rivas announced that the GHSNC has pages on www.Facebook.com and www.Twitter.com.

C. Planning & Land Use Committee (Eric Mansker)

Mr. Mansker explained that, to ensure GHSNC conformance with the Brown Act, he's presenting the following three Motions.

1) **MOTION** (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Askew): for the GHSNC to file a Community Impact Statement supporting Councilman Smith's 2003 City Council Motion to reinstate R11 zoning for the full Old Granada Hills area with SF Mission on north, Zelzah on the west, Devonshire on the south and Balboa on the east].

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Maria Fisk explained that the Councilman's recent support for the Granada Hills - Knollwood Community Plan update, which would change the Old Granada Hills zoning from R1 to R11, is contrary to his 2003 Motion that would maintain the R11 zoning throughout Old Granada Hills. The Community Plan shrinks the affected area. An R11 zoning means that each lots needs to be 11,000 square feet at a minimum. No lot can be subdivided below the 11,000 square feet.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote, with Mr. Rivas abstaining.

- 2) Mr. Askew explained there've been many problems with marijuana dispensaries in the City, including illegal sales and locations near schools.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Mansker): that the GHSNC oppose the hardship exemption requests for opening a medical marijuana dispensary at the following locations:

- Granada Hills Discount Farmacy at 17536 Chatsworth, Council File 05-0872-S74.
- California Herbal Providers at 17458A Chatsworth, Council File 05-0872-S9, 05-0872-S28, 05-0872-S135.
- Green House Healing at 17815 Chatsworth, #C, Council File 05-0872-S189.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion regarding under what conditions marijuana dispensaries are legal and what a "hardship" is. Mr. Askew said that the Motion recognizes legitimate medical marijuana needs.

MOTION PASSED with ten in favor, two opposed and two abstaining.

- 3) **MOTION** (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Askew): for the GHSNC to oppose the Mayor's 2009-10 budget recommendation requiring property owners to repair sidewalks in front of their property prior to sale as a condition to sell the property.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

D. Beautification Committee (Bonnie Bursk)

Ms. Bursk was not in attendance and there was no report.

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

Mr. Stevens said that there was no report.

F. Bylaws and Rules Committee (Jerry Askew)

Mr. Askew had no report.

G. Budget Committee (Brandon Schindelheim)

Mr. Schindelheim was not in attendance however there was a Treasurer's report available for discussion.

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

Mr. Askew informed the council that there has been no change since his report from last month.

I. Environmental Committee (Shondrella Kester)

Ms. Kester was not in attendance and there was no report.

J. Animal Concerns Committee (Jim Summers)

Mr. Summers reported that the Committee will work with the City Animal Services Dept.

K. Education Committee (Julie Carson)

Ms. Carson said that there was no report.

IX. Board Member Comments and Announcements

Ms. Wang announced that a free tour is available of the AVI Science-Fiction Special Effects Studio on August 8th, sponsored by the Cinema Heritage Program and the Chatsworth NC. Mr. Norris thanked everyone with which he's worked and resigned his Board Seat. Mr. Rivas announced that GHSNC website Webmaster Aaron DeVandry is moving out of state, but his contract will continue, and thanked Mr. DeVandry for his community work. Also, Board Members can establish individual Facebook and Twitter accounts. Mr. Chester noted that tree trimming is happening. Mr. Askew advised that the NC needs to replenish the funding to maintain the GHSNC voicemail account. Mr. Mansker suggested putting Census information on the GHSNC website and General Board Meeting Agendas.

X. Agenda Items for next General & Committee Meetings

This Item was combined with the above Item.

XI. Adjournment

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:01 p.m., with Mr. Beauvais and the other Board Members noting the early finish time. [Applause.]