

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, October 8, 2009**

at the Granada Hills Recreation Center (Petit Park), 16730 Chatsworth St.,
Granada Hills, CA 91344

[The Meeting was scheduled to be held at The First Baptist Church of Granada Hills,
11011 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Granada Hills. The Meeting had to be moved.]

I. Call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance

President Dave Beauvais called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Dave Beauvais, President	Brandon Schindelheim, Treasurer
Glen Chester, Secretary	Jerry Askew, Member-at-Large
David Bereznick, Member-at-Large	Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large
Bonnie Bursk, Commercial Prop. Owners	Julie Carson, Member-at-Large
Arthur Daush, Seniors	Sally Kolstad, Education
Eric Mansker, Factual Basis (late)	Lacy Reilly, Students
Sean Rivas, Parks	Jim Summers, Business
Mary Wang, Member-at-Large (late)	

Board Members absent: Brad Smith, Vice-President (excused); Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups (unexcused); Erin Grohman, Renters (excused); Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large (excused); and Bob Stevens, Homeowners (excused).

Twelve of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Also attending were approximately 21 Stakeholders and Guests, including Parliamentarian Mike Kabo.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Chester stated that “the audio [equipment] didn’t record the September [10, 2009 General Board] Meeting,” therefore, he was unable to review that Minutes. He’ll work to have it ready for review at the [November 12th] Meeting.

The following correction to the August 13, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested:

By Mr. Askew: Page eight, Item #8, Bylaws and Rules Committee report: “. . . the Committee will be meeting and that the September 1st DONE Bylaws moratorium is coming up” should read “. . . the Committee had not met, and on September 1st, the DONE Bylaws Moratorium will start.”

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Schindelheim): to approve the Minutes of the August 13, 2009 General Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with one abstention.

IV. Public Comment

Ms. Bursk announced that the Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Citizen of the Year Ceremony on Friday, February 26, 2010 at the Odyssey Restaurant [15600 Odyssey Dr., Granada Hills, CA 91344, 818-366-5817; www.TheOdysseyRestaurant.com]. The Awards are for Granada Hills community service; nominations are being accepted.

Mary Slotnick, President, Friends of the Granada Hills Library [10640 Petit Ave. at Chatsworth St.; 818-368-5687], inquired as to the status of the \$2,000 allocation, made at the July 9, 2009 General Board Meeting, to purchase books for the Library. Mr. Schindelheim encouraged e-mailing him through the NC website [www.ghsnc.org], instead of waiting until this Meeting to ask. He'll check the status.

Stakeholder Jim Yoder reported that a 2010 Census Meeting was held September 22nd that discussed "hard to count people." Possible non-profit funding availability is being researched.

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

Mr. Beauvais relayed that Amelia Herrera-Robles, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE] (213-473-6451; Amelia.Herrera-Robles@lacity.org), was unavailable to attend this Meeting, and that Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), and was not able to attend due to illness.

Dario Del Core, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-756-9011, x1727, cell 818-634-0577; 27286@lapd.lacity.org), stated that the Canoga Park double-homicide suspects are in custody. Still, there are many less homicides in the area than years ago. There's some property crime, but it's down 7-10% from last year. At the [October 3rd] Street Faire, four arrests were made for commercial burglary and one for graffiti tagging. The Devonshire Division will be holding its first Halloween Haunted House October 23-24, 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Devonshire Station [10250 Etiwanda Ave., Northridge, CA 91325; 818-832-0633; http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station]. All Officers will be working October 31st. A Volunteer Surveillance Team detail around Petit Park helped apprehend two juveniles for drug possession. The Devonshire Division is "the prototype for the City" regarding marijuana dispensary enforcement.

Erica Kenner, of Food Forward, described it as an "all-volunteer, grass roots group." They collect excess fruit on trees for distribution to local food pantries. A crew removes the fruit and cleans the tree. A great amount has been delivered and it's

tax-deductible. Mr. Beauvais encouraged Ms. Kenner to leave information and offered to help coordinate the work with the NC.

VI. Officer Reports

Secretary

Mr. Chester reported that Sign-up Sheets were available in the back of the room; Stakeholders can receive weekly NC informational e-mails and a monthly NC Newsletter. He thanked Mr. Rivas and Mr. Summers for creating the Stakeholders Survey that netted “more than 40 e-mail signups.”

Treasurer

Mr. Schindelheim distributed a “[GHSNC] Budget Report – as of October 8, 2009” and reported that there’s approximately \$58,000 left for this year, after encumbered and actual expenses are considered.

Vice-President

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

President

Mr. Beauvais reported that he and around 30 other community leaders attended a Community Advisory Panel regarding medical marijuana dispensaries. L.A. City Attorney Carmen Trutanich spoke at the Panel, noting that “collectives are different from for-profit dispensaries.” There’s evidence that some of the marijuana sold at the dispensaries is not, as required, grown in the U.S.; it’s probably smuggled from Mexico. Mr. Beauvais stated that “all for-profit dispensaries are going to be shut down” and that “for-profit [dispensaries] are not the intent of the law.” The dispensary on Chatsworth St. “will be gone soon.”

VII. Board Issues & Updates

1. Discussion and possible board action to support the Granada Hills Charter High School Robotics Team with a funding grant (request and presentation by former Board Member John Hegedes).

Mr. Hegedes explained that the Robotics Team is “to introduce students to engineering, math and sciences.” One current student and one mentoring former student described the Team’s work as being about “teamwork, leadership and communication.” There’ll be a November 21st competition with other Robotics Teams. The Team is working to expand the program, which has 36 students, to Middle Schools and “a lot of business leaders are working with” them. Some graduates have started businesses and gone on to a number of well-regarded colleges. They described the program’s personal, career and professional impacts.

Mr. Hegedes indicated that they’re seeking \$3,500 in funding for robot parts. They’re building one robot for community outreach and one for competition. They’re hoping to enter an east coast competition. The GHSNC logo would be on t-shirts, and recognition given in newsletters and more. Their total program

budget is \$40,000-\$60,000; the High School provides some money and the remainder must be fundraised. He described their difficult current fundraising situation.

MOTION (by Mr. Askew, seconded by Mr. Mansker): to allocate \$3,500 for the Granada Hills Charter High School Robotics Team

MOTION PASSED with 12 in favor and two abstaining.

Mr. Hegedes suggested and Mr. Beauvais will check with DONE regarding the NC website having a fundraising link to a local restaurant for the program. Mr. Summers cautioned that DONE might not allow it because for-profit entities are not allowed on NC websites.

2. Discussion and possible board action to support the Granada Hills Holiday Parade as a banner sponsor. (Bonnie Bursk)

Ms. Bursk read a letter from the Parade founder describing the Parade's history and requesting funding. She clarified that the Agenda should've said "trophy sponsor," not "banner sponsor."

MOTION (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Rivas): to be the trophy sponsors, in the amount of \$1,100, for the Granada Hills Holiday Parade.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Bursk indicated that the NC logo would be in a media ad and a \$195 banner will be included. Mr. Beauvais volunteered to assist.

MOTION PASSED with 12 in favor, Ms. Bursk recusing, and Ms. Reilly abstaining.

3. Discussion and possible board action on Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind grant application. (David Bereznick)

Ford Neale, Executive Director of the Centers [7915 Lindley Ave., Reseda; 818-708-1740 x114; fneale@tlc4blind.org; www.tlc4blind.org], described their facilities and programs. Home services are provided. He described the "HOPSA-dress" device that assists sight- and movement-impaired and developmentally disabled children. Mr. Bereznick indicated that there's a Stakeholder in Granada Hills that can use the Centers' programs.

MOTION (by Mr. Bereznick, seconded by Ms. Wang): to allocate \$2,900 to support the Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Askew pointed out that the Centers was his first contact regarding the FIOS boxes issue and they provided great assistance. They're near CSUN and plan to expand throughout the Valley. Ms. Carson was concerned that there're many allocation requests and the budget has been cut. Mr. Schindelheim explained that DONE indicated that they'll soon release rollover

funds; approximately \$51,000-\$52,000 would be available. Mr. Neale added that the Centers does not charge for their services.

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

4. Presentation by Sylmar NC followed by discussion and possible board action to support the MB2 Race for Youth event on November 12, 2009. (Sean Rivas)
Mr. Rivas explained that the Sylmar NC representative asked for this to be postponed until the next General Board Meeting.

MOTION to TABLE this Item (by Mr. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Carson) to the next General Board Meeting.

MOTION to TABLE PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

5. Reconsideration, discussion and possible Board action to move location, and time of monthly Board Meeting. (Bonnie Bursk)
Ms. Bursk reviewed the discussion from the last [September 10, 2009] General Board Meeting.

MOTION to RECONSIDER (by Ms. Bursk, seconded by Mr. Boucher): to reconsider moving the location and time of the monthly General Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beauvais explained that, at the Pavilion [16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344], a dance class ends just before the General Board Meeting would start at 7:30 p.m. The facility manager would try, but can't guarantee, to get the class to leave quickly after they're done. Mr. Mansker reminded that the Pavilion would always be open, and is heated and air conditioned, while the Church [where the General Board Meetings have been held] is not; Stakeholders have "left the Church" because they were "uncomfortable." This can "destroy" outreach and the Church was "too loud." The Pavilion has "plenty of parking." Ms. Reilly and Ms. Carson were concerned that the start time is "too late" and would reduce speaker-scheduling flexibility. Ms. Bursk believed that, if the NC moves now, the Pavilion may work to get the NC an earlier Meeting start time. Mr. Beauvais said that the Pavilion charges \$150 per month for rent, assuming the space is still available; the Church charges \$75 per month. Mr. Summers noted that second Thursday nights still conflict with the monthly Valley Alliance of NCs Meetings.

MOTION PASSED with 13 in favor and one abstention.

6. Discussion and possible board action to secure a storage unit for equipment and supplies. (Julie Carson)
Ms. Carson explained that Board Members have to store NC materials in their homes because there's no central storage place.

MOTION (by Ms. Carson, seconded by Mr. Boucher): to secure a storage unit for GHSNC equipment and supplies.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Chester was concerned that public storage facilities “have set hours” that could limit access to the equipment and supplies. Mr. Beauvais tasked the Outreach Committee to research storage unit availability and costs.

MOTION to REFER this Item to the Outreach Committee (by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Mansker).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

7. Nomination and confirmation of an additional representative to the Empower LA 2009 Congress of Neighborhood Councils and Mayor’s Budget Day on October 10, 2009. (Brandon Schindelheim)

MOTION (by Mr. Schindelheim, seconded by Mr. Daush): to choose Mr. Bereznick as the GHSNC representative to the Empower LA 2009 Congress of Neighborhood Councils and Mayor’s Budget Day on October 10, 2009.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

VIII. Committee Reports

Ad hoc Verizon FIOS Box Committee (Jerry Askew)

Mr. Askew reported a “major victory with the [L.A. Dept. of] Public Works.” It especially helped when he “pointed out that the boxes weren’t compliant with the ADA” [Americans with Disabilities Act]. Verizon will relocate 267 boxes, starting as early as November, and provide a detailed inventory of the boxes. There’ll be meetings in January, June and December 2010 to review the relocation progress; the boxes are all to be relocated by the end of 2010.

Ms. Reilly left the Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Ad hoc Holiday Tree Lighting Committee (Carl Melnik)

Committee report and recommendation, followed by discussion and possible board action on funding.

Mr. Beauvais relayed that Dr. Melnik couldn’t attend this Meeting. Mr. Mansker reported that he met with the Fire Station 87 Battalion Chief, who volunteered Fire Department services to string the lights. Veterans, the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and more organizations are involved in this “community effort.” The request is for \$6,000, “half of this is [to purchase] the lights . . . and tree-topper . . . a one-time payment . . . [The remainder is] for putting up and removing the lights,” which are commercial quality.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Askew): to fund the holiday tree lighting project for up to \$6,000, including a fixed cost of \$2,900.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mansker explained that the tree-topper costs around \$300; the “biggest cost . . . [is the] contractor to supervise the stringing of the lights . . . Pick up and delivery costs around \$100.” Mr. Beauvais added that the “cost of the lights is around \$2,200 . . . to fabricate a device that’d fit at the top of the tree . . . to hang the lights . . . and a tree-topper . . . around \$3,000 . . . the rest would be labor.” Mr. Summers noted that, last year, he paid for the lights; they weren’t paid for by the NC. Mr. Schindelheim was concerned regarding the management of the process in regard to the Veterans Triangle. Ms. Kolstad volunteered to see if anyone licensed would do the tree lighting for free. Mr. Beauvais explained that the NC wants to use the same contractor for stringing the lights as for removing the lights. Ms. Carson was concerned that “this seems like a lot of money.”

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

Ad hoc Election Committee (Julie Carson)

Report on 10/1/09 NC Election meeting (Sean Rivas)

Mr. Rivas reminded that the NC election will be March 2nd [2010], 2:00 – 8:00, probably at the Granada Hills Recreation Center. He distributed an L.A. City Clerk Election Division “Region A Election Timeline” that shows events, activities, etc. preceding and after the election. The City Clerk’s Office said that [the NC] “is responsible for all aspects of outreach.” “Only seniors . . . and anybody . . . that is handicapped . . . [and can] prove this” will be eligible for vote-by-mail. “The City Clerk has already translated” election materials into Spanish . . . Candidate statements . . . [are] also available . . . Candidate filing is from December 2 – January 4.” The City Clerk will advise regarding the polling location and, for outreach, can provide a 5” x 7” color postcard that would cost the NC around 13 cents each. Mr. Beauvais suggested that [the NC] do its own outreach. Ms. Schindelheim pointed out that there’s \$7,000 in the election budget and \$6,000 in the newsletter budget. Ms. Bursk suggested distributing flyers and newspaper advertising.

Outreach Committee (Sean Rivas)

Report on Sept. 26 Rotary/Blood Drive and Oct. 3 GH Street Faire Outreach.

Mr. Rivas reported that there were 323 Survey returns, including “121 additional e-mail signups,” and that BongHwan Kim [General Manager, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)], congratulated the GHSNC about its Newsletter, saying that it’s the “best he’s seen.” Ms. Carson report that “the Street Faire was a great success . . . because of the weather . . . [the NC] collected 178 e-mail addresses . . . more than 90 other people signed up with their street addresses without e-mail addresses . . . All those giveaways really helped.” Mr. Chester added that “the freebies . . . [were a] tremendous value-added.” Mr. Rivas reported that they “ran out of several giveaway items” and that the NC also got around two sheets of sign-ups at the Blood Drive. Ms. Carson described

challenges of event set-up and breakdown work, and Mr. Rivas recommended establishing a sub-committee or ad hoc committee for that. He encouraged communication with the Outreach Committee to help coordinate volunteer schedules. Ms. Askew “has a bunch of footage” from the Faire and “needs a video editor.” Mr. Rivas relayed that [Webmaster] Aaron DeVandry “said he wouldn’t mind helping.”

Discussion and possible adoption of GHSNC Outreach Plan.

Mr. Beauvais asked and Mr. Rivas agreed to **TABLE** this Item. Mr. Rivas announced that the next Committee Meeting will be October 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Granada Hills Recreation Center.

Planning & Land Use Committee (Eric Mansker)

Nomination and confirmation of Maria Fisk as a voting member of the PLUC.

Mr. Mansker described that Ms. Fisk is “very active” on the Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Mansker, seconded by Mr. Daush): to appoint Maria Fisk as a voting member of the Planning and Land Use Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Mansker announced that the next Committee will be on Wednesday [October 8th] at the Coldwell Banker Building.

Beautification Committee (Bonnie Bursk)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the Animal Concerns Committee report.] Ms. Bursk reported that “a lot of people are working to get [the tree lighting] done.” At Veteran’s Memorial Park, the Rotary Club is constructing a “walkway . . . statue . . . [and] pergola . . . [and] fencing off the corner for construction.” She’ll send information to Board Members and Mr. Beauvais agreed to agendize regarding a plan for homeowners to spend their own money to fix sidewalks adjacent to their property if the City will authorize and do the work.

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee (Bob Stevens)

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

Bylaws and Rules Committee (Jerry Askew)

Mr. Askew indicated that there was no report.

Budget Committee (Brandon Schindelheim)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the Beautification Committee report.] Mr. Schindelheim reported that the NC “can base all [its budget] decisions on the current” amount in the budget. He’d like an additional Budget Committee Member; Ms. Kolstad volunteered. Mr. Beauvais will agendize this.

Environmental Committee (Shondrella Kester)

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

Education Committee (Julie Carson)

Ms. Carson indicated that there was no report.

Ad hoc Animal Concerns Committee (Jim Summers)

Mr. Summers said that it may be better to put the Committee's efforts into an existing effort.

IX. Board Member Comments and Announcements

Mr. Chester thanked Mr. Beauvais and Mr. Rivas for "keeping our Meeting alive tonight." Mr. Schindelheim said that the Howard Jarvis Tax Association is putting together a letter regarding a "25% water rate increase . . . to fund pensions"; see www.hjta.org. Ms. Kolstad and Mr. Daush described a daylight theft from his garage. December 13th, she'll "host a block party . . . there'll be things for kids . . . Santa's there . . . [they'll] collect toys [to donate] . . . [they] could have [NC] Sign-up Sheets." Mr. Kabo expressed "on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and the Street Faire Committee, [he thanks the NC] for [their] support." Mr. Beauvais thanked Mr. Kabo for his Street Faire work.

XI. Adjournment

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:37 p.m.