

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, March 11, 2010**

Patrick Henry Middle School, East Auditorium
17340 San Jose Street, Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Call to order

President Dave Beauvais called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

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

Board Members absent: Kevin Boucher, Member-at-Large (unexcused); Alexia Cirino, Faith-Based Groups (unexcused); Erin Grohman, Renters (excused); Shondrella Kester, Member-at-Large (excused), Bob Stevens, Homeowners (excused) and Jim Summers, Business (unexcused).

Thirteen 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 12 Stakeholders and Guests, including Parliamentarian Mike Kabo.

III. Approval of the Minutes

No corrections of the minutes were submitted.

MOTION (by Mr. Chester, seconded by Mr. Daush): to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2010 General Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Public Comment

V. Community Speakers

Mr. Beauvais relayed that Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith, and Maria Herrera Robles, our D.O.N.E. liaison were unable to attend.

Dario Del Core, our LAPD senior lead officer stated that the crime statistics are in general good. He cited areas of concern being some fatal car collisions, vacant businesses in the downtown area, open garage door thefts and some continuing car content thefts.

VI. Officer Reports

President

Mr. Beauvais congratulated all of the victorious Council candidates. In May, the Board Meeting will be moving to the Patrick Henry Library.

Vice-President

Mr. Smith said that there was no report.

Treasurer

Mr. Schindelheim speedily submitted requests for funding from our Rollover funds from D.O.N.E.

Secretary

Mr. Chester reported that Sign-Up Sheets and Speaker Cards were in the front of the room to receive e-mailed information and speak at this Meeting.

VII. Board Issues & Updates

Jim Yoder, our census liaison, has reached out to the "hard to count" individuals as defined by the Census Bureau near the intersection of Balboa and Devonshire. Mr. Yoder has also made extensive outreach to seventeen different faith based institutions to encourage a response to the decennial census.

Mr. Smith introduced Brian Bauer, the principal of Granada Hills Charter High School. Mr. Smith lauded many accomplishments of the GHCHS. Mr. Bauer informed the council, that GHCHS has a proposal in front of the Beautification Committee to celebrate the 50th anniversary of GHCHS as well as a celebration program.

Mr. Bauer has given this presentation to many other organizations in the area. Mr. Bauer stated that the theme of the presentation is that GHCHS would like to take charge of the Hospital High campus as a part of the overall GHCHS portfolio.

Mr. Bauer showed how the Academic Performance Index numbers have improved since converting to charter status. GHCHS is the only high school in LAUSD to meet the state standard of 800 out of 1000 API score.

B/c of this outperformance, GHCHS is comparing itself to other highly performing schools outside LAUSD but in the Southern California area. The current boundary of GHCHS will be reduced when Hospital High (aka Valley High School #4) opens. Approximately 400 – 600 students are likely to be removed from GHCHS demographics. One possible approach for GHCHS is to run both schools. No decision has been made as to whether one grade would be at Hospital High or all four grades at both campuses in the GHCHS proposal for running Hospital High.

Round 2 (2011-2012 school takeovers) applications will open in April or May 2010 in front of the LAUSD Board. Mr. Bauer has forms for individuals to elect to be kept informed about the GHCHS bid proposal.

Ms. Reilly inquired is if there was a precedent for a ninth grade academy. Mr. Bauer responded in the affirmative. Ms. Kolstad inquired if the current boundaries would remain should the bid for Hospital High succeed. Mr. Bauer responded that boundaries would be up to the district. Mr. Bauer stated that students in the Hospital High boundaries will not be able to attend GHCHS as an area enrollment but would have to apply through the open enrollment process which is quite competitive.

GHCHS is unique in having an attendance boundary whereas most charter schools use a lottery for attendance not a geographical area. GHCHS currently has a 10 million dollar surplus. There was a general discussion about the Balboa traffic with student drivers and parking spaces availability. Mr. Askew inquired about graffiti abatement efforts of GHCHS.

Jessica Yas from Congressman Brad Sherman's office (818-501-9200, Jessica.yas@mail.house.gov) talked about Congressman Sherman's town hall meetings at high schools in the area. Ms. Yas informed us that the San Fernando Valley area has 3,000 jobs as part of the Census outreach effort. Veterans get preferences in hiring for these census jobs. Ms. Yas talked about a variety of issues that her office can assist constituents with.

VIII. Committee Reports

Ad-Hoc Election Committee: (Julie Carson, chair)

Ms. Carson talked about the election on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. 410 votes were cast which is different from the actual number of voters. 21 seats were open and 17 were filled. The four open seats are Renters, Faith Based,

Youth Organizations and Education category seats are currently vacant. All candidates were elected. If there are no challenges, then the election will be certified on March 18, 2010.

Mr. Beauvais announced that Mr. Mansker will choose to assume the Factual Basis director and Mr. Askew will assume the Business director seats.

Mr. Beauvais reminded the audience that he will not be in attendance for the April Board Meeting so Mr. Smith will run the meeting.

Planning & Land Use Committee (Eric Mansker, chair)

MOTION (by the Committee): to oppose the 10700 Balboa Blvd. commercial project.

Mr. Graves described the project as requesting a zone variance where Dr. Lim, the owner, wants to tear down single family home to turn the homes into a 26 space parking lot and that the current one story commercial building can be more than doubled in size. Mr. Graves answered a variety of questions from Board Members concerning the size, zoning issues and dimensions of the proposed project.

Sharon Gallagher owns a home next to the proposed new parking lot (that is currently residences.) Ms. Gallagher expressed frustration that she has not received any information about this project prior to being informed by another resident. Mr. Askew reviewed what the process is for notifying affected stakeholders. Ms. Gallagher wanted to have those cars using the parking lot to exit directly to the street not into the alley.

Andrew Gallagher and Shirley Fredrickson expressed additional opposition to the proposed development. Ms. Fredrickson expressed concern about the solid walls that the city of Los Angeles requires.

Mr. Smith relayed the concern of the PLUC as a loss of residences, this project would expand the current traffic; there is no need for additional commercial space in Granada Hills.

Mr. Askew thought the project's additional parking was a positive part of the project. Ms. Burke liked the project's single story nature and additional parking.

Ms. Reilly thought preserving residential areas was important.

Mr. Rivas called the question while Ms. Carson second. 7 voted in favor with 5 opposed for calling the question.

6 voted in favor 6 opposed with 0 abstentions. The motion was lost.

MOTION: Mr. Askew moved while Ms. Bursk seconded moved to approve the 10700 North Balboa project with the following conditions:

1. proper screening
2. no left turn on Balboa
3. parking lot to conform to GH Specific Plan
4. parking lot gates installed and locked after hours.
5. security camera
6. document compliance

Mr. Mansker opposes this project because the site on Encino and Chatsworth is a prime example of what can happen when a parking lot is put in a residential area. The zoning calls for a parking lot but the lot is now a storage complex.

The Chair called the question, 6 voted in favor while 7 opposed (with the chair voting opposed).

Walter Gawdrecki works for Cinergy development gave a short presentation regarding approval for a cell tower that is proposed for the grounds of St. John de la Salle Church on the corner of Chatsworth and Havenhurst. The cell tower will be a "fake pine tree" model. The equipment will be below ground. The artificial tree is planned to be 45' tall tree. There will be 2 ½ to 3 branches per foot as one moves up the tree. The antenna will blend in with the other trees. There will be artificial bark installed to make it look like a real tree. Real trees will be added as well as the cell tower. The cell tower will be placed near other real trees. The tower will have a battery back up unit which will be under ground.

MOTION: The PLUC Committee recommended (and moved) to express No Opposition to the proposed cell tower with the condition that additional screening trees will be planted nearby.

Mr. Gawdrecki answered several questions posed by Board Members regarding location, decoration and height of the proposed artificial cell tower tree.

Ms. Carson moved to call the question and Mr. Rivas 2nd with all Board Members in favor with Mr. Bereznick opposed.

On the main motion, 9 members voted in favor while 3 opposed.

Outreach Committee, (Sear Rivas, chair)

Mr. Rivas informed that the website has changed home page design layout. The website was made simpler b/c the webmaster's contract is ending due to budget problems. The site has been moved to a WordPress website format.

Mr. Askew and Mr. Rivas are planning on maintaining the website when Mr. DeVandry's (the webmaster) contract ends on April 13, 2010. Mr. Rivas wants the Board to provide feedback on the changes.

Mr. Smith inquired what the contract value of Mr. DeVandry contract.

MOTION: Mr. Rivas moved and Mr. Schindelheim seconded a motion to extend Mr. DeVandry's contract through 6/30/2010 using Rollover Funds should D.O.N.E. allow Rollover Funds to be used for these services.

Mr. Askew complimented Mr. Rivas on his diligence as he has done the vast majority of the work with regards to this website transition.

The chair called the question due to the limited time remaining, 11 voted in favor while 1 opposed.

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

Mr. Rivas, March 27th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. announced that the Spring Egg Hunt is being held at GH Rec. Center. April 16-18, GH Rec. Center is having a spring carnival with reasonable hours ending at 10 p.m. and sign ups for spring sports. Ms. Reilly expressed thanks to the Board and she was accepted to NYU. Mr. Beauvais asked all Board Members to attend next month's installation meeting. Mr. Beauvais will post the agenda on the Friday before the meeting. Mr. Kabo will be missing April's meeting. Mr. Smith asked for indulgence as he will be chairing the April meeting. Mr. Askew reminded the audience that some cell phone companies will be trying to replace small cell phone towers with very large ones. Mr. Schindelheim will be attending the Mayor's Budget Day. Mr. Bereznick expressed appreciation.

X. Adjournment

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

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Beauvais reminded all present that the next General Board Meeting will be Thursday, April 8th.

