

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (GHSNC)
Thursday, December 13, 2012 (Proposed)**

VFW Hall, 17522 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, CA 91344

I. Call to Order

President Dave Beauvais called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m..

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Julie Carson. Board Members present:

Dave Beauvais, Brad Smith, Julie Carson, Brandon Schindleheim (arrived 6:44 p.m.), Jerry Askew, Bonnie Bursk (arrived 7:04 p.m.), Alexia Cirino, Krisna Crawford-Velasco (arrived 7:01 p.m.), Arthur Daush, Jett Dunlap, Gina Greschner, Deron Lopez, Bob Luszczak, Anthony Matthews, Daniel Wall, Cindy Wu Freedman (arrived 6:43 p.m.). Mike Kabo, Parliamentarian. 12/21 present for start of meeting, which constituted a quorum.

Board Members absent:

Suraj Khurana (Unexcused), Joel Lyle (excused), Eric Mansker (unexcused), Ross Turmell (excused), Debbie Wubben (excused)

Approximately 25 members of the public were also in attendance.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the November 2012 will be available for approval at the January 2013 meeting.

IV. Public Comment

Paul Wolpa spoke about Neighborhood Watch placards for cars made by Dick Ashnault's company High Tech Signs & Banners – sort of a “mobile Neighborhood Watch”. He reported that 7 other NC's are participating. He will provide these signs (name of gentleman unknown—he's from the company that we've purchased giveaways from in the past).

Linda Romney commented on how nice the palm tress and lights in the center median on Chatsworth look and thanked the folks who were responsible.

V. Community Speakers

Megan Cottier, District Director for Councilmember Mitch Englander (CD 12): Megan reported on the status of the Community Care Facilities Ordinance. It was in the news because of the quadruple homicides in a Northridge board and care facility very recently. The full City Council will vote on the CCFO in January. Megan also reminded us of the toy drive going on.

VI. Officer Reports

Vice President (B.Smith): Granada Hills Charter High School will celebrate 10 years as a charter school on January 12, 2013, from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. We should participate and have a booth. B. Luszczak and A. Matthews also volunteered.

President (D. Beauvais): Business cards should be available in January. He has also completed the canvassing of all directors about a change in our meeting date. The 3rd Thursday of the month looks like it is the best choice, pending the availability of Rawley Hall

and whether the LAPD Neighborhood Watch meeting can be moved to the second Thursday of the month.

VII. Board Issues & Updates

Review and approval of U. S. Bank purchasing card transactions, bank statement and December budget report (B. Schindleheim). Motion to approve by Schindleheim/Askew. Unanimously approved. Brandon reported that with 42% of the year remaining, we have 59% of our budget left.

Appointment and Board confirmation of additional members to the following Committees: Budget: Cindy Wu-Freedman (Smith/Schindleheim), unanimously approved. Public Safety and Health: Dan Wall (Smith/Matthews), unanimously approved. Beautification: Debbie Wubben, Alexia Cirino, Deron Lopez (Smith/Luszczak), unanimously approved. Outreach: Gina Greschner (Matthews/Smith), unanimously approved.

Report of Budget Advocates for the Mayor's Budget Day event on November 17, 2012 (K. Crawford-Velasco and C. Wu-Freedman). Cindy reported that the Deputy Mayor spoke; the mayor's budget will be out by January 30 and so will the budget survey. They want input from the NC about what's in the survey. Cindy will be the NW Valley representative on Budget for our region.

VIII. Committee Reports (continued)

Outreach (Dunlap)

Only one person attended besides Jett, so they had no quorum. Issues deferred until next month.

PLUM (Askew)

Status of Community Care Facility Ordinance: J. Askew also reported on the homicides at the board and care facility on Devonshire in Northridge on the day of the Holiday Parade. Maria Fisk also gave an update.

Granada Hills/Knollwood Community Plan DEIR comments submission. We had 46 days to reply. Dick Platkin (consultant we engaged) made his review. His recommended comments were submitted by several members of the GHSNC Board and by other stakeholders.

Committee recommendation regarding zone change request for 17825 Devonshire (former Sig's Pottery location). Motion (from committee) of no opposition to request for zone change from commercial to residential.

Discussion on this issue as follows:

Eric Leiberman, project representative, outlined some specifics about the project.

Linda Romney expressed concern that no outreach was done on this issue to neighbors in the area.

Steve Bradasich from Devonshire Village (across the street from the proposed project):

Property is only 20,000 sq ft. He had concerns about additional traffic potentially created by the development, especially with the high number of units planned. He was concerned about the density.

Roseann Lehmann brought a diagram of the area, and spoke about the density of other buildings in the area. She is concerned about the size of the units and wishes the plan was for 10-12 units only.

Cherie Mann: asked about the units.

Jim Summers: Also expressed concerns about lack of outreach to neighbors; also talked about the project shouldn't get a variance without a hardship and asked "what's your hardship?" that qualifies them for a variance.

Eric Leiberman responded that the permitted height is 45 feet and the project is within that limit (at 43 feet on the west end; 38 on the east end). There will be a hearing next week and notices were sent out to neighbors by the city for this hearing. We're not asking for a variance, because we're within the limits. The project will consist of 2 and 3 bedroom units for middle class families, not a transitory population. It's consistent with what the community plan allows.

Maria Fisk: Neighborhood council decisions are important, so make sure the neighbors can live with it. It should be scaled back.

Adrian Silverberg: Echoed the concerns about density. The law may allow it, but is it right?

Mark Hovater: Expressed concerns about left hand turns (traffic issue)

John Seletos: this decision is important because it will go to the city's Planning and Land Use committee. It's zoned commercial. Ask for support from Devonshire Village residents. There's a 3/5-3.9% vacancy rate in zip code 91344 and about the same for 91325.

Alexia Cirino: Expressed concerns about adding to traffic so close to the high school.

Jerry Askew: reminded us that the motion is about the zoning change; it's not about the approval of the project itself.

Anthony Matthews: spoke in favor of the motion

Bonnie Bursk: spoke against the motion and expressed concerns about the type of tenants that may live there (being so close to CSUN)

Brad Smith: There's no guarantee about the type of tenant that will reside in this development with CSUN just down the street. If we say no, then there might be some mitigation.

The question was called (by whom was not recorded).

Vote was taken on original motion (coming from PLUM committee) for no opposition to the project in development for the former Sig's Pottery property (17825 Devonshire). 7 for/8 against/1 abstention

Second motion made by B. Smith/seconded by Cindy Wu Freedman: That the GHSNC oppose the requested zone change from commercial to residential. Point of order by A.

Matthews: Will zone change go forward anyway, no matter what the results of our vote are?

Jerry Askew: opposing the change would encourage the development of a higher density, less desirable use of the property. Vote: 6 for/8 against/1 abstention. Result of this issue is that the NC is taking no action.

Information item only: Stakeholder requests a letter to the Department of Safety and Health be written objecting to the Day Care Center at 17843 Tribune (Zelzah and Tribune) and asking that they look into it.

IX. Board Member comments, announcements and future agenda Items

None.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Jerry Askew to adjourn at 8:13 approved. Holiday mixer followed.