

GARDENA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

Date: January 22, 2024 / Time: 4:00 PM PST

Location: Via Zoom <https://lausd.zoom.us/j/89437101799> Meeting ID: 894 3710 1799

ATTENDEES: Raymond Endow – Rosie Gaspar – Salli Hale - Crystal Hawkins – Anthony Jackson
Philip Johnson - Elmer Membreno - Karen Millom - Shirley Warren
Zerrona Williams

1. Call to Order - Shirley Warren called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM.
2. Approval of the Agenda – a motion was made by Zerrona Williams to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ray Endow. The motion was carried by Shirley Warren. The ayes have it and it was so ordered.
3. Approval of Minutes from the December 4, 2023, meeting – a motion was made by Ray and seconded by Zerrona that the minutes from the December 4, 2023, meeting be approved. Shirley carried the motion, the ayes have it and it was so ordered.
4. Old Business
 - Fundraising –
Alumni Bricks/Tiles - Salli will continue to find an LAUSD school which uses/used brick/tiles as a fundraiser. Anthony Jackson directed her to an elementary school in Westchester. Salli will follow up and present her findings at the next meeting.

Mr. Fries – Crystal Hawkins shared that alumni Craig Batiste is the owner of Mr. Fries and there may be fundraising possibilities with his company. Phil concurred and said that his cheerleader group had worked with Mr. Fries. Crystal will reach out to Craig Batiste to find out how the Alumni Association can be involved with his company to raise funds.

Fish Bone – Phil recommended the Alumni Association discuss possible fundraising with Cedrick Turner, another alumnus. Phil will reach out to Cedrick Turner and report back at our next meeting.

Double Good popcorn – as discussed at our last meeting, Double Good is an excellent fundraising possibility. Zerrona shared her experiences with them and advised that there is a 4-day window to sell the product. Each board member would be given a link to solicit sales. The profit is 50% of the sales. She will check further to find out details and when we can proceed with this fundraiser.

Gardena High School Grad Night – Shirley shared that, a few months ago, Diane Schweitzer, Student & Family Support Resource Navigator, shared the possibility of the association

collaborating with them for Grad Night. She will follow up with Ms. Schweitzer and give an update at the next meeting.

- Membership Drive – Ray updated the GroupMe chat with suggestions of membership levels. Rosie Gaspar shared a membership document she created, which actually included Ray’s suggestion. The levels were Platinum (\$200), Gold (\$100), Silver (\$50) and Bronze (\$25). The membership plan included potential perks such as annual entry to Gardena games, exclusive merchandise, discounts, member pins, access to exclusive events, etc. It is our hope that the membership/plan can be finalized by the next board meeting.
- Wishlist from Principal Davies (update) – no wish list yet; table until next meeting.

- Partnership with Gardena High School Student Support Program – during the last meeting, these are some protocols suggested by board members. Shirley, along with Salli will work toward finalizing protocol to be used in conjunction with the partnership with the Student Support Program.
 - Establishing a yearly budgeted amount (\$1,000 suggested) for this purpose
 - Requests be in writing in advance including the purpose of the request.
 - Requests be limited to a designated amount.
 - If needed, solicit donations from alumni.

In order to avoid students, “not in good standing” from being “rewarded”, a protocol will be added that requires Gardena High School Administrator(s) to sign off on requests from the Student Support Programs (and other groups, i.e., teachers, sponsors, etc.). It was agreed that the Alumni Association will not be responsible for screening students rather this will be left up to the leadership team of the school groups.

- Grant Writing Services – no one had any suggestions or contacts so this item will be tabled until the February 26th meeting.
- Website/Merchandising – VarsityMade – details of the VarsityMade presentation was discussed. There was a general consensus that the online store was impressive and would be beneficial to the association. A motion was made that we proceed to the next step to use VarsityMade as our online store vendor. The motion was made by Zerrona, and seconded by Phil. Shirley carried the motions, the ayes have it and it is so ordered.

Shirley reminded the board that we needed to copyright our alumni logo and that we need to consider that since Gentry Akens was the creator, he needed to be approached regarding using it. Crystal Hawkins said she has a copyright attorney if needed, but the board has already created an online account with Copyright.com. Shirley will get Gentry’s approval then move to officially register the logo.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Treasurer Report – Effectively immediately, until further notice, Phil will assume the Treasurer officer position while Russ Robinson recovers from health issues. Shirley shared the bank statement which showed our current account balance with Bank of America as \$3,270.50

Shirley also shared that our BofA banker, Yeyson Itzep, has advised that the \$16 monthly fee applies because our average daily balance was not \$5,000. In order to not receive the fee, we must either have a balance of \$5,000 plus, or use our debit card monthly minimum of \$250. Zerrona shared that once our fundraiser begins, hopefully that will allow us to maintain a minimum \$5,000 balance. And or, additionally, there may be ways to use our debit card on a monthly basis to meet the \$250 minimum. Phil agreed that is a good outlook.

- Technology/Website Committee Report – Anthony presented our newly created website. He walked the board through the various sections and shared possibilities for each section. Bios will be added for each board member so members should prepare theirs and if they need a sample bio, Anthony will share a sample bio as a guide. Pictures will also be included. Shirley advised that Russ has already reserved two domains, but she did not recall the name of the domain. Anthony will check with Russ.
- Calendar of Events – Shirley will create a google doc so that members can upload/update events for the upcoming year. Some of the events to be added will be Cinco de Mayo parade, graduation, The Obon Festival, Gardena Jazz Festival, The Obon Festival and more.

6. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Zerrona and seconded by Elmer. Shirley carried the motion, the ayes have it, and it was so ordered. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42pm.

Minutes submitted by Daisy Cardenas