

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday September 25, 2006, 7:00 PM
Van Gogh School Auditorium, 17160 Van Gogh Street
Granada Hills, CA

Call to Order at 7:15 p.m. by GHNNC President Kim Thompson.

Roll Call: Wayne Aller, Becky Bendikson, Pat Casparian, Peter Chung, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue Devandry, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Matt Hughes, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Alex Palazzo, Dev Parikh, Ben Pedrick, Robert Ricketts, Kim Thompson, Joe Vitti, Anne Ziliak. Yvonne Chu and Wayde Hunter arrived late. 19 Board Members present. Pledge of Allegiance – waived.

Chair Comments: Kim Thompson explained procedures pertaining to the meeting to stakeholders present.

Public Comment on Non Agenda Items:

Jeannie Plumb spoke about upcoming development proposals.

Jim Summers, Granada Hills South and Old Granada Hills Residents Group, announced an upcoming meeting of the Granada Hills History Project on Sept. 30 and a picnic in the park.

DONE representative Amelia Herrera-Robles reviewed the Mayor's Community Budget Day. She asked stakeholders to fill out the online stakeholders survey at: lacityneighborhoods.com to input their wants and needs for the City budget, the deadline is Nov. 15, 2006.

Ralph Kroy asked that GHNNC put him on the agenda for next month regarding astronomy viewing. Mary Edwards asked the Board to think about helping to restore the Bunk House at O'Melveny Park so it can be used for educational programs. She also reminded those in attendance to make donations to the Food Bank, which she is helping to coordinate along with Sharon Manatt.

Irina Ovakimian introduced herself: She is the psychiatric social worker for San Fernando Mental Health Clinic at 10605 Balboa Blvd., #100. This clinic is an outreach arm of the L.A. County Dept. of Mental Health.

Minutes: The Board approved the Regular Board Meeting minutes for August 28, 2006: The motion passed: 15-0-1. The Board also approved the Special Meeting minutes for Sept. 5, 2006: The motion passed: 14-0-3.

Presentation By CD 2 Council Member Grieg Smith:

Council member Smith reviewed the Mayor's budget for the City saying that the budget process is one of the best in the country and that Los Angeles has the highest credit rating for a mid-sized or larger city (this means that the terms for borrowing money are the lowest) and is one of three cities to win the Gold Seal of Approval. He then focused on specific topics pertaining to GHNNC. Here is a synopsis of what he said:

- **New development:** After Christmas, the Target Store on Nordhoff will be getting rebuilt.
- **Monies raised by local taxes:** Council member Smith has introduced a law that will keep city money raised from taxes in this area reserved for art programs in this area. He said that amounts to about \$130,000 to be spent locally.
- **Traffic lights:** All street lights in the City will be getting switched out this year. New, high intensity lights, which are more energy efficient, will be replacing them at all the stoplights.
- **Library funding:** More money is going to be spent on libraries – Northridge Library's operating hours will be expanded to 52 hours per week. An additional three million dollars will be spent on library books, citywide. Also, facilities will be upgraded to allow for stakeholders to use their laptop computers in City libraries.
- **Video conferencing for City hearings:** He has introduced video conferencing which now allows stakeholders to testify at city hearings from remote locations (city buildings) without having to go downtown, e.g. in Van Nuys Civic Center.
- **New police:** 123 new police officers were funded in the City budget via the trash tax.
- **Trash tax:** Council member Smith explained why he voted against it: He feels the way the tax was implemented was not truthful. He also felt it should be spread out over a 20 year period.

However, he feels, overall, the tax will be helpful in funding the closing of local landfills and instituting more environmentally friendly programs, especially recycling.

- **Terrorist threats:** He said that terrorist threats to the City are very real. He talked about a videotape confiscated in Afghanistan that showed L.A. landmarks. Over 500 targets have been identified as terrorist targets and are now being protected. He said more money is being spent on building emergency preparedness programs that can be put into use on the street level. These programs will help stakeholders be more prepared for other emergencies, as well, like earthquakes and fires.
- **New firefighters:** 250 new firefighters are being added to the budget so there can be ambulance and paramedic services at every local fire station in L.A.
- **Crime solving:** DNA samples will be getting shipped to Sacramento from everyone who is now in prison with the hopes of solving old cases.
- **Illegal signs:** He said there are now an estimated 50,000 illegal signs on the streets of L.A. Fifty-three new inspectors have been hired to control this with fines set at \$200.00 when people are caught. He asked stakeholders to call the City: "311" to report illegal signage with the exception of yard sale signs, which are fine as long as they are not left up past the weekend.
- **Graffiti:** More money is being allocated for combating graffiti and gangs.
- **Hazardous materials:** New "safe centers" are being opened for processing hazardous materials. One will be at Havenhurst and Roscoe. It will be open 4 days a week.
- **Traffic:** Traffic solutions being examined for Balboa Boulevard in Granada Hills. Land is being acquired at the top of Balboa to widen the road to four lanes to avoid bottlenecks. There will be a new traffic light on Balboa by How's Market, north of Rinaldi. This process could take a year or more to happen.
- **Aliso Park:** Improvements are being made for equestrian usage with a committee being set up to oversee usage of the 5.3 acres.
- **Sunshine Canyon:** Diversion plans are going to take place at Sunshine Canyon with trash being moved to dumps in San Bernadino. Tons of trash will be removed, recycling efforts will increase, and a new recycling test program is being tested for commercial use.
- **Multi-family housing:** A program will begin shortly (no more details are available).
- **RENEW LA:** The City has approved this program and will begin next month to make the City more energy efficient.
- **Free movies:** Two movies will be shown locally as part of the Council member's Movies Under the Stars Program: "Ghostbusters" will be shown in Granada Hills on Oct. 21 and "ET" on Nov. 5th.
- **Northridge Community Clean up:** On Oct. 8,th there will be a Northridge Community Clean up.
- **Tree Giveaway Program:** Free trees will be handed up on Sept. 30 at Devonshire Elementary School. Stakeholders must show proof of ownership of property and sign a form committing to care for the trees.
- **Granada Hills Street Fair:** This takes place Oct. 7th.
- **Stakeholder Questions:** The Council member also responded to questions regarding trash, traffic, terrorism, illegal signage, motor homes parked on city streets, frog deaths in O'Melveny Park, elimination of signage on residential properties, funding for libraries, and speed bumps/humps.

Committee Reports:

Elections –

Motion that the Election Committee be granted a budget of \$ 5,000 for the March 2007 election. Passed unanimously.

Motion that March 24, 2007 be approved as the next GHNNC election date and that the Election Committee proceed with all requirements as required by D.O.N.E including the schedule. Passed unanimously.

PLUM –

Motion that the GHNNC Board approve Draft Planning dept Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the revisions that the GHNNC PLUM Committee has made. Passed 15-0-3.

Motion that GHNNC draft a letter to City Planner Gail Goldberg indicating that we have not had an opportunity to review or receive adequate stakeholder input to the Planning Pilot Program presented to her on September 13. And that GHNNC request an opportunity to give input before implementation of any part of the Planning Pilot Program. Passed 14-0-4.

Outreach and Publicity –

Motion that the Board approve the Self Assessment Survey and give this survey to all GHNNC Board Members and give/send to all stakeholders that are listed as attending a GHNNC Meeting in the past two years as well as putting it on the website for others who wish to fill it out. Passed 16-0-2.

Sue also announced that the GHNNC will be renting a booth at the Granada Hills Street Fair on Oct. 7th and asked for volunteers to work that day.

Public Safety –

Motion that the GHNNC recommend to the City and D.O.T. that “No Right-hand Turn” be allowed and Implemented on southbound Balboa to westbound Sesnon, Monday – Friday, between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. Passed 17-0-1.

Motion that GHNNC purchase and install two (2) speed indicators to be placed on Balboa Boulevard, one for northbound and one for southbound lanes. These will be permanently installed and powered by the City of Los Angeles. GHNNC will work with appropriate agencies, especially CD 12, to get offsetting funding for this project with costs not to exceed \$15,000. Passed 16-0-3.

Motion that GHNNC work with Mission Division and Valley Traffic Division of the LAPD to increase monitoring and enforcement on Woodley between Rinaldi and Balboa. Passed 17-0-1.

- 912 Commission – Joe Vitti gave a report on the progress of the commission and the hiring of Executive Director Raphael Sonenshein.
- DWP MOU – Joe Vitti also gave an update on this.
- City Attorney Roundtable – Becky Bendikson renewed her commitment to serve on this committee.
- CD 12 Service Cabinet – Scott Manatt was appointed with Michael Greenwald as the alternate.
- Congress of Neighborhood Councils - Joe Vitti and Sid Gold will serve, replacing Kim Thompson.
- Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils - Sid Gold and Becky Bendikson will serve.
- Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils:
Motion (Aller/Chung) that the GHNNC participate in this alliance. Passed 15-2-2.
Motion (Gold/Marzillier) to appoint Becky Bendikson as the GHNNC rep. Passed 17-0-2
- City Controller’s Neighborhood Council Liaison Committee – Kim Thompson and Becky Bendikson will serve.

- Citizen's Advisory Committee on Aliso Canyon Park - Anne Ziliak will serve.

Unfinished Business:

- Board Member request for resolution on practice of contractors hiring illegal immigrants. Tabled.
- Bendikson requested school enrichment funding. Aller volunteered to serve on a research committee for this purpose.

Discussion and possible Board position on minimum number of neighborhood councils needed to initiate council file index number. Tabled.

Board Member Comment on Non Agenda Items

Michael Greenwald asked Kim Thompson to write a letter thanking Council member Smith for attending the meeting and to also note John Bwarie's efforts in always keeping GHNNC up-to-date on relevant matters.

Peter Chung announced BFI work going on in the area including efforts to restore Bull Creek by the Auto Repair shop. The area has been purged of trash but Peter said the dumping is ongoing. A ceremony to celebrate the Bull Creek project completion is coming up.

Scott Manatt asked about reimbursements for gas mileage. He said the City will not reimburse board members driving their own cars. He suggested those with receipts to hang on to them.

Next Board Meeting – October 30, 7 PM Van Gogh Auditorium.

Adjournment: 9:32 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Apple One.