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Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday December 18, 2006
Van Gogh School Auditorium
17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, CA

1. **Call to Order: 7:08 p.m.** by vice chairperson Sid Gold. **Roll Call by Recording Secretary Leon Marzillier. Board members present:** Becky Bendikson, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue De Vandry, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Alex Palazzo, Ben Pedrick, Robert Ricketts, Joe Vitti, Anne Wells, Anne Ziliak present. Wayne Aller and Dev Parikh joined after roll call was taken. Quorum was established.
2. **Approval of Minutes for November 27, 2006** Board Meeting: Revisions presented by Becky Bendikson were accepted. The minutes, as corrected, were approved.
3. **Public Comment on Non Agenda Items:**
 - Mary Edwards asked that donations be made to the homeless. In addition to canned foods, she requested coats, jackets, sweatshirts and second hand towels to be turned over by Mary to St. David's Episcopal Church, which donates to a shelter. Items donated can be dropped off at Mary's home.
 - Jim Alger, Northridge East NC president, mentioned negative comments recently made in the Daily News about NCs by DONE Interim Manager Lisa Sarno. He said that a GHNNC Board member had been referred to in regards to numerous complaints being made to the City Attorney's office (i.e. lawsuits and grievances) and to DONE and that this needed to be kept to a minimum because it created a negative impression of all the neighborhood councils.
 - John Bwarie, deputy officer for CD 12 reported that the City Council is now in recess until January. He said that he would get back to the Board with an update on the Sesnon traffic signal by the next regular board meeting.
4. **Board Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**
 - Sue DeVandry, Outreach chair, reported that she is putting together another GHNNC newsletter and would like articles to be sent to her by all committee chairs asap.
 - Mary Ellen Crosby, Beautification Committee chair, mentioned that residents on Orozco and Van Gogh, by the park, will lose power Thursday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 - Joe Vitti asked that board members who have changes to the meeting minutes prepare and email them to Leon prior to the meeting to minimize time spent going over them during the meeting. Leon indicated that there is a deadline which he requests revisions by and that is the most time efficient way for him to receive the changes so he can have the minutes ready in time for the board meeting.
 - Mike Greenwald thanked Jim Alger for his comments on the Daily News article and said he was personally very sad to see the poor light that was being cast on the NCs.
5. **DONE Presentation on Bylaws changes:** DONE rep. Amelia Herrerra-Robles reviewed DONE's recommendations on changes in language to the GHNNC bylaws. (See below). She said the reason alternate language was suggested was to keep GHNNC in compliance so that their election could be held after the new language is certified. On Item 6.8, she said the previous bylaw language was void because the election procedures already cover that item. Item 6.9, which talked about the role the board plays in the event of a dispute or challenge, needed a language change that provides more clarity to avoid challenges to the Board. Other than that, she said the other bylaw changes had been approved.

Discussion and possible board action to revise or remove Articles in the GHNNC Bylaws. Revision of Article 9: Officers of the Board and their Duties from "Nominations and elections for these positions will take place at the first meeting in March" to Nominations and elections for these positions will take place during the first meeting after the certification of the election by the IEA or FDM. Removal of Article 6.8 Voting Disputes. Language is not necessary due to existing language in the Citywide Election Procedures and Revision of Article 6.9 from "If for any reason the election is delayed or the newly elected Board is not seated, a quorum (13 members) or more of the present Board will conduct business at the regular monthly meetings until the newly elected Board is seated" to "If the election is delayed, or in the event that the IEA or FDM has failed to certify the election, then the existing board members will continue to serve on the Board."

63 **Motion** (Greenwald/Parikh), To approve the bylaws changes as recommended by DONE based on the
64 approval by the City Attorney that these changes are not substantive and therefore do not have to go
65 before the stakeholders. The motion passed: 13-0-1.
66

67 Amelia announced an upcoming meeting on Sat. January 27, 2007 at 8 a.m. for a Regional Budget
68 Discussion for the NCs at City Hall.

69 There will be a new board member orientation held on Jan. 17, 2007 in West L.A.

70 Regarding the approval of the board meeting's minutes, Amelia said there had been some discussion by
71 the City Attorney on this in response to an email sent by board member Becky Bendikson. The City
72 Attorney has advised the chair that sending revisions to the Recording Secretary via email may constitute
73 a violation of the Brown Act. It was suggested that the Executive Committee come up with a description of
74 what information 'belongs' in the minutes. Amelia said that DONE would work with the Board to provide
75 guidance on this.
76

- 77 6. **Chair Comments:** Sid Gold suggested that the entire board become more involved with issues of
78 outreach and not leave it up to Sue DeVandry, alone, to do the job. He asked that the Board suggest
79 some ways they can reach out to constituents to get more stakeholder participation.

80 **Request for Board action to write a letter of support to David Hernandez and his effort to overturn**
81 **Proposition R.** This issue was tabled in response to a letter sent on this item by the City Attorney. Sid
82 mentioned the letter, which is in response to correspondence sent to him by Becky Bendikson over the
83 language of the agenda item. He stated that since NCs are an advisory body, the board should not take
84 action on this. Sid said that this item could not be discussed unless the board felt they wanted to take
85 another action. Becky asked that the statement of the City Attorney be attached to the minutes.
86

87 7. **Committee Reports:**

- 88 • **Elections** – Ben Pedrick said the next Election committee meeting would be held on Friday, Dec. 22,
89 2006. He is still working on the language for the election and has spoken to Independent Election
90 Administrator Jerry K. about the procedure. He reminded the board that they need a slate of
91 candidates and would like a list of which board members are planning to run again for a board seat.
92 He acknowledged board member Wayde Hunter for his help on the election.
93 • **Treasurer** – Scott Manatt reported that he is getting ready to close the books on the calendar year
94 and needs any receipts from board members for expenses asap. He will have a comprehensive report
95 for the Jan. board meeting.
96 • **Ad Hoc Nominating.** No report.
97 • **PLUM** – Anne Ziliak presented three motions:
98

99 1. "That the GHNNC approve funding of \$399 Per Person (Total of \$1197) plus parking fees if
100 necessary, for at least three PLUM Committee members (board members or other stakeholders) to
101 attend the Geographic Information System (GIS) workshop on January 10, 2007 at UNICOMP 6053
102 West Century Boulevard, Suite 150, Los Angeles, CA 90045 from 8:30AM to 4:30PM."
103

104 Anne said her committee felt this would be a good class to take, and that it could be helpful with
105 outreach. Sue DeVandry made a friendly amendment to remove the total dollar amount. Dave Parikh
106 amended it to state "no more than four members." After further discussion, Bendikson/Parikh
107 amended it again to state "the first four people who contact the PLUM committee and board chair,
108 simultaneously, be allowed to register for this class. The motion failed: 6-3-5.
109

110 The board then went back to the original motion, which Marzillier/Vitti amended to state, "That the
111 GHNNC approve funding of \$399 Per Person for no more than 10 PLUM committee members or
112 interested stakeholders, plus parking fees if necessary, to attend the Geographic Information System
113 (GIS) workshop." Amendment passed 10-3-1. Motion passed: 10-3-1.
114

115 2. "That the GHNNC approve funding \$300 Per Person (Total of \$900) plus parking fees, if necessary,
116 for at least three PLUM Committee members to attend the January 19th, 2007 annual Land Use Law
117 and Planning Conference UCLA: Updates, Trends and Assessments at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel
118 in Downtown Los Angeles from 8:30AM to 5:00PM." Anne stated that this conference was pertinent to
119 the Community Plan.
120

121 Marzillier/DeVandry moved to amend it to: "That the GHNNC approve funding \$300 Per Person, plus
122 parking fees, if necessary, for no more than 10 PLUM Committee to attend the January 19th, 2007
123 annual Land Use Law and Planning Conference UCLA: Updates, Trends and Assessments at the

124 Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.” Amendment passed
125 12-0-2. Motion passed 12-0-2.
126

127 **3.** “That the GHNNC write a letter to the Mayor urging him to veto the Billboard ordinance and request
128 that a provision be added for public hearings like a Conditional Use Permit process, to allow an open
129 public review and input prior to approval of the permit. Indicate that in the GHNNC’s opinion,
130 billboards present a distraction and therefore may be a public safety hazard and that allowing these
131 billboards in neighborhoods will perpetuate urban blight.” Bendikson offered a friendly amendment to
132 forward this letter to the City Council, City Attorney, and City Controller. Motion passed 13-0-2.
133

134 Anne then reported that PLUM is discussing asking the City Council to put together a Design Review
135 Board, separate from the Planning Department, to work with neighborhood councils PLUM
136 Committees.
137

- 138 • **Public Safety** – Mike Greenwald said he is still working with the Council office to implement approved
139 plans. He is also trying to get an update on what happened to the traffic signal recently installed at
140 Sesnon and Balboa, which seems to lack a control box and power. He added that Councilmember
141 Tom LaBonge is looking to set up a Traffic Forum for the S.F. Valley and when he does, the Safety
142 Committee will participate. He acknowledged that Dave and Becky had recently attended a CERT
143 training and said he would speak with Ginger about when the next one will be.
144

145 **8. Updates:**

146 CD 12 Service Cabinet - Scott Manatt said the next meeting will be held in January 2007.

147 Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils - Becky commented that the Commission wants to hear from
148 former board members. Becky mentioned that the Van Nuys NC is using Pennysaver (advertising on the
149 covers) to get stakeholders out to meetings and it has been successful.

150 Aliso Canyon CAC - Anne Ziliak said on Dec 10, members of her committee toured the equestrian
151 facilities and found it quite educational. She will report more on this after their next meeting.

152 Congress of Neighborhood Councils - Joe Vitti said DONE is talking about having a Congress in April.

153 912 Commission update - Joe Vitti pointed out that most of the press about the NCs has been destructive
154 lately. He suggested that board members get out to the hearings and comment on positive
155 accomplishments so it can be more balanced. For information on the hearing schedule, visit:
156 www.NCRCLA.org. Hearings will be held Jan. 9 in Torrance, Jan. 11 in West L.A. and Feb. 6 in the South
157 Valley (Valley Glen High School on Erwin St. at 6:30 p.m.). He urged the Board to attend.

- 158
- 159 **9. Next Board Meeting** – January 29, 2006 **Final Public Comment:** Nina Royal, publisher of North Valley
160 Reporter, talked about how the newspaper is helping NCs be more effective with City agencies by
161 learning about behind the scenes decisions, they wouldn’t normally have heard about. She asked the
162 Board for their support and to submit articles on what they are doing.
163

- 164 **10.** Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.
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Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Apple One