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2 **Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council**
3 **Board Meeting Minutes**

4 August 27, 2007

5 Van Gogh School Auditorium

6 17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, CA
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8 **Meeting called to order by Chairperson Leon Marzillier:** 7:05 p.m.
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10 **Roll Call of Board Members: Present:** Dale Alloway, Pat Casparian, Mary Ellen
11 Crosby, Sue De Vandry, Scott Fisher, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Wayde
12 Hunter, Skip Leifer, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Robert
13 Olander, and Joe Vitti. Kathy Wagenbach, Anne Ziliak and Joshua Jordahl
14 arrived later. **Absent:** Robert Campbell, Jonalyn Cooper, Michael Deering, Matt
15 Hughes, and Natasha Vetlugin. Quorum established.
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17 **Minutes Approval:** (Vitti/Leifer) moved approval of the July 2007 board meeting
18 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.
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20 **Public Comment:**

21 Martin Early addressed the Council on the clean money campaign for publicly -
22 funded elections, which is now being studied by a committee of the L.A. City
23 Council. He asked the board to schedule a half hour time to hear his
24 presentation. Leon said he would take the request to the executive committee.
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26 Ralph Kroy spoke about extra city signage at Rinaldi and Balboa and the laws
27 governing signage.
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29 Leon inquired whether anyone knows what had happened at the Providence Holy
30 Cross Hospital hearing. Wayde Hunter said a notice of determination came out
31 last week and was approved. He has heard it will be appealed to L.A.'s Planning
32 and Land Use Management.
33

34 Kim Thompson alerted the board to movement forward by the developer of the
35 Las Lomas project and asked the board to again go on record as opposing the
36 large-scale project proposed for a site between the 5 and 14 freeways.
37 Development would remove approximately 20 million cubic yards of dirt to build
38 two million square feet of commercial property. The developer is pushing forward
39 despite community opposition. She said the Department of Transportation is also
40 against the project but that Councilman Richard Alarcon has been advocating for
41 it. A community meeting will be called for the public to give input.
42

43 In response, Sid Gold asked the board to reiterate the motion by PLUM to
44 oppose it. Safety Chair Michael Greenwald called it a 'horrible project' for this
45 community and recommended the board take a stronger stand. PLUM Chair
46 Anne Ziliak said it would be the third time they have made a statement against it

47 but they could do so again. PLUM has reviewed the draft EIR and now the
48 developer is trying to annex this project into the city of L.A. They can review the
49 project in detail, if necessary.

50

51 **CD 12 Report: John Bwarie:** John reported that the City Council is still on
52 summer recess but will resume session in mid September. Council member
53 Smith's office has been working on public safety issues. The speed sign for
54 Balboa has now been approved. They will be working on a motion to
55 unencumber the approved funds as well as a public safety Bill of Rights. He
56 announced plans for an International Earthquake Conference in Nov. 2008 at Cal
57 Tech, which would look at early notification and response mechanisms. He also
58 announced the next Family Film Festival for Sept. 8th at Knollwood Elementary
59 School at 6:30 p.m. with Charlotte's Web. In and Out Burger is sponsoring.

60

61 **Treasurer's Report, Scott Manatt:** Scott reported that GHNNC started the new
62 fiscal year in July with \$86,484 plus the new \$50,000 allocation bringing the total
63 to \$135,000. He circulated the budget and asked the board to approve it this
64 evening.

65

66 **Finance Officer's Report, Pat Casparian:** Pat further elaborated on the budget,
67 which was revised to include the additional funding. It was broken down into
68 three major categories: Operations, Outreach and Community Improvements.
69 **(Casparian/Manatt) moved to approve the two documents by Manatt and**
70 **Casparian on the budget. The motion carried unanimously.**

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72 **CD12 Service Cabinet:** Anne Ziliak reported that she attended this cabinet
73 meeting on August 16, 2007 and gave some of the high points: Councilman
74 Smith discussed ongoing issues in CD 12 which included Building and Safety
75 issues, street services, and projects before the Planning Department. There is
76 now additional funding for weed abatement and CERT has been fully – funded
77 for the New Year. Also, 8.5 acres at Stoney Point has been purchased for a park.
78 The Council office reported that there are changes being considered to the
79 medical marijuana zoning issue regarding changing the zoning of these areas.
80 The Councilman also spoke about his opposition to Neighborhood Council
81 appeal rights, which he did not feel he could support.

82

83 Anne announced an open house and tour of the Devonshire Police Station on
84 Sept. 8th starting at 10 a.m. and going into the afternoon. The 16th Annual
85 Emergency Preparedness Fair takes place on Sept. 15th at Fashion Square in
86 Sherman Oaks.

87

88 **Guest Speakers:**

89 **Mary Edwards on charitable giving:** Mary reported that the city's food banks
90 are running low due to food prices going up; children are going to bed hungry.
91 She said that more than ever, low-income families depend upon these food
92 banks. She asked for donations of food from anyone who can help.

93
94 **Peter McCarty, Community Integrated Services (CIF):** Peter McCarty, a
95 board member for Northridge East Neighborhood Council, shared how his NC is
96 sponsoring Senior Health Fairs for the community to help seniors who are facing
97 challenges. According to current figures, over 13,000 people in Granada Hills are
98 over the age of 55. He asked whether the board has created a senior committee
99 or appointed someone on the board to deal with these issues. He suggested that
100 the board consider acting as a clearinghouse for senior services. He then
101 recommended CIS as an agency that does outreach in the community targeting
102 seniors who need assistance. NENC is looking for other NCs who are willing to
103 form a network of area Councils to work together on behalf of seniors. He
104 announced an upcoming Senior Fair on Sept. 15 at CIS (10100 Balboa, by
105 Mayall) from 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. On Oct. 20, they will hold another fair to focus on
106 prevention, treatment and surviving falling down. CIS will be providing health
107 screenings at both fairs.

108
109 **Ad Hoc Office Committee Report:** Leon introduced a motion by the Ad Hoc
110 Committee, which is looking into shared office space with GHSNC. The Ad Hoc
111 Office Committee and the Executive Committee moved, **“That the Ad Hoc**
112 **Office Committee be authorized to investigate the availability of an office**
113 **which may be used for committee and GHNNC meetings, which will adhere**
114 **to the Guidelines for Acquisition of NC Office Space within their \$1,500**
115 **month budget.”**

116
117 Committee member Bob Olander said they have been looking for office space.
118 He supports the motion as it gives them a chance to find something appropriate
119 in a market that is very limited. Bill Lillenberg asked whether the space would
120 accommodate meetings. The board discussed the pros and cons of entering into
121 an office lease. Sid Gold called the question. **The motion carried: 15-1-1.**

122
123 Leon then read the second motion by the Ad Hoc Office Committee: **“That the**
124 **Ad Hoc Office Committee be authorized to enter into an agreement with the**
125 **GHSNC to work together to find and potentially share an office inside or**
126 **outside of our boundaries. Recommendations will be submitted to the**
127 **DONE for approval prior to bringing it to GHNNC.”**

128
129 GHSNC Board Member Jim Summers spoke about their approval of seeking
130 shared office space with GHNNC to create a presence with stakeholders and
131 encouraged the board to approve this motion. Sid Gold questioned whether this
132 would be in compliance with the Brown Act. Sue DeVandry and Kim Thompson
133 said the GHNNC has already received DONE’s approval. Bob Olander pointed
134 out that being outside of the Council’s boundaries would be a problem. Jim
135 Summers said the GHSNC would be open to sharing office space within
136 GHNNC’s boundaries, if it could be located. Joe Vitti said that BONC provided
137 approval to go up to 3 miles outside of their areas. He added that if committee

138 meetings are agendized, they could still meet outside of their area. **The motion**
139 **carried: 17 – 1- 0.**

140

141 **Committee Reports:**

142 PLUM, Anne Ziliak:

- 143 • Anne announced dates for focus groups to explore the Granada
144 Hills/Knollwood Community Plan on Wednesday, August 29th, Saturday,
145 September 8th from 1 – 2:30 p.m. at Granada Hills Library, Monday,
146 September 10th, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Granada Hills Charter High, Tues.
147 Sept. 18 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Van Gogh Elementary, and Wednesday,
148 September 26th 6:00 – 7:30 at Granada Hills Library. She encouraged
149 everyone to give input, as it is the future of the community.
- 150 • Zero Waste Community workshops are ongoing. Anne will keep everyone
151 informed of decisions.
- 152 • The Granada Hills history project has culminated into a book and is now
153 available for purchase.

154

155 Parks & Beautification, Mary Ellen Crosby

- 156 • Mary Ellen is pursuing efforts to get poppies planted in the designated
157 areas of the parks.
- 158 • There will be a fundraiser/reception to honor police officers and enhance
159 gang prevention effort by the SF Valley Coalition on Gangs on September
160 19th from 5:30 – 8 p.m. Tickets are \$100. RSVP: 818 349-6243

161

162 Communications, Bob Olander

163 Bob reported that they did not hold a meeting this month but asked board
164 members to continue to send him calendar items to post on the website to
165 enhance outreach efforts.

166

167 Ad Hoc Office, Leon Marzillier:

168 Efforts made this month have not produced any results, as the office space they
169 looked at was too expensive.

170

171 Public Safety Committee, Michael Greenwald:

- 172 • The committee did not have a quorum to meet this month. Michael wants
173 efforts to be made to improve Blucher Street which he said gives visitors
174 to the Odyssey a very negative impression of Granada Hills. He will ask
175 Congressman Brad Sherman to come up with a proposal to clean up that
176 area.
- 177 • Michael also thanked Aaron DeVandry, website designer, for an incredible
178 job on the GHNNC website.

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180 Outreach, Sue DeVandry:

181 Outreach did not have q quorum for meeting this month. Sue said they have
182 decided not to do a Picnic in the Park this year but will still be doing the street
183 fair, which they will discuss at their next meeting.

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Board Member Comments on Non Agenda Items:

Joe Vitti gave a Neighborhood Council Review Commission update: The NCRC are in their final meetings, having heard public input on their proposed recommendations on improving the neighborhood council system. They will be fine tuning their proposals and presenting them to the City Council on September 25,2007 He said the NCRC recommendations to the City Council will include replacing the Brown Act with more flexible Sunshine Laws, the City Clerk running NC elections, DONE becoming an advocate for NCs rather than a policing agency, and with the City taking on an active role in outreach.

Joe also serves as the delegate to DPW Oversight committee, which looks at issues with the new memorandum of understanding (MOU). Councils across the city are going to be looking at how to improve the systems at DWP. A report has been issued by the consulting company and the public can download their presentations and recommendations at the DWP's website.

Joe is additionally the delegate for LANC - Los Angeles Neighborhood Congress: www.LANCCongress.org. There are 40 NCs across the city looking at citywide issues. One of the issues being brought up is more NC involvement in recycling programs.

Josh Jordahl commented on a problem with rodent poison showing up in Santa Monica Conservancy areas. The City has said it was banning the use of poisons within two miles of city boundaries however it is making its way to other areas through the food chain. Mary Ellen said there is no poison used in GHNNC's district of the Parks Department of the N SF Valley. However, a stakeholder said that he knew of a horse owner in Chatsworth who said Animal Control is offering to distribute poison to land owners who request it.

It was noted that Board members Robert Campbell and Matt Hughes have missed three consecutive meetings. Our policy states that three consecutive absences may call for dismissal.

A final comment was made by regarding a positive piece in the L.A. Times August 19th, on how NCs are becoming a burgeoning power source.

Meeting adjourned: 8:57 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One, modified by Skip Leifer, Recording Officer