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Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
April 28, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes
Van Gogh Elementary School
17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, CA

1. **Call to Order:** 6:45 p.m. by Leon Marzillier, GHNNC Board Chairman
2. **Roll Call** by Skip Leifer, Recording Officer. Quorum established with board members: Pat Casparian, Jonalyn Cooper, Mary Ellen Crosby, Michael Deering, Sue De Vandry, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Wayde Hunter, Skip Leifer, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Joe Vitti, and Kathy Wagenback. Late arrivals: Scott Fisher, Joshua Jordahl, and Anne Ziliak. Absent: Natasha Vetlugin and William Lillenberg. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
3. **Chair Comments** by Leon Marzillier.
4. **Approval of March 31, 2008 Board Meeting minutes** by unanimous consent.
5. **Public Comment on non-agenda items:**
- Raymond Yue: Listing of upcoming events in the City.
 - Mary Edwards: Observation that schools are not aware that they can request funds from GHNNC. Mary asked if more outreach could be done to offset the schools' cutbacks in educational program funding. She thanked the board for supporting the local foodbanks, which she said are low and need contributions.
 - Bill Hopkins announced a food drive by the USPS on May 10th.
6. **Crime Updates:** LAPD Officer Dario Del Core gave the crime stats in the GHNNC area: Violent crime is down, property crimes decreased by 1% compared to last year. There was one recent fatality that involved a young motorist. Dario said that it was so busy that day that a West LA car had been dispatched to handle a call in the Devonshire Division. For more information, go to: www.lapd.org and select the Devonshire region or sign up for a free newsletter.
7. **Proposal and possible action from SOLID** – Becky Leveque: Tabled.
8. **Report from Chrysalis – Rick Stoff**
Rick spoke about his non profit agency, Chrysalis, which helps homeless people get back on their feet. He suggested that the GHNNC board consider financing a beautification project and hiring homeless people through Chrysalis to clean up the parks and streets of trash and debris. This effort would identify GHNNC's efforts in the community and help those who desperately need work. It would also be good for outreach in the community. Mary Ellen Crosby, chair of Beautification and Parks, said she would research this matter further.
9. **CD12 Update:** John Bwarie spoke about activities in the Council office of Greig Smith: The Mayor released the budget last Monday and it is now being reviewed by Budget & Finance Committee, on which Councilman Smith is a member. Info on the budget is accessible online. The City is considering an incentive program aimed at those who recycle. And in June, the summer program begins in the Council district with Movies in the Park.
10. **Election of GHNNC Executive Board Officers:** DONE Rep Amelia Herrera-Robles stepped in to chair this action for Leon Marzillier, who was one of the candidates. (Greenwald/Gold) moved that the board approve the reinstatement of the current executive board including: chairperson Leon Marzillier, vice chairperson Anne Ziliak, recording officer Skip Leifer, treasurer Scott Manatt and financial officer Pat Casparian. The motion carried unanimously.
- Change of GHNNC Board Meeting Dates:** (Executive Committee/Leon) moved that May's GHNNC Board meeting be held May 19, 2008 (conflict with Memorial Day) and that the June

59 GHNNC Board meeting be held June 23, 2008, since Van Gogh School is closed on June 30.
60 The motion carried unanimously. Van Gogh's Principal (who was in attendance) said she
61 would look into keeping the school open for the July board meeting, if needed.
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63 **11. DONE Updates:** Amelia reported that there will be a new training in the Valley for board
64 members at the Sunland-Tujunga Municipal Building on Saturday, May 31st. She asked the
65 board to fill out the DONE self assessment surveys (on their website). Due to City Clerk
66 election changes, Amelia would like to work with the Policy and Rules committee on
67 necessary bylaws changes.
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69 **12. Treasurer's Report** – Scott Manatt reported on recent GHNNC expenditures and
70 funding issues with a financial snapshot of the 4th quarter of the fiscal year. His report
71 included his official report to DONE for audit purposes, DONE correspondence, and the
72 report to the GHNNC board. At the end of the fiscal year, he projects a balance of
73 \$98,791.06. He reminded the board to get their bills in to him prior to June 13th as DONE will
74 be closing for the fiscal year soon after.
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76 **13. Finance Committee Report** – Pat Casparian asked for any 2008/09 proposals from
77 board members be delivered to him by May 19th, the date for the next board meeting.
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79 **14. Sunshine Canyon Landfill Update** (Solid Waste Facilities Permit City/County Landfill,
80 County Finding of Conformance, MND Chatsworth Reservoir, Joint Powers Agreement City/
81 County et al). Wayde Hunter reported:
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- 83 • The County granted BFI, over GHNNC's objections, a Finding of Conformance for the
84 county side of the landfill. This includes allowing BFI to grade the City side of the landfill
85 despite a lack of notification to the public of this hearing. This pertains to Phase V (not VI
86 and VII) of their proposed expansion adjacent to and into the bridge area.
- 87 • Additionally, the county issued a letter to BFI reiterating that they are not to extend the
88 liner system to join with the cityside nor to deposit any trash in the bridge area before the
89 5-year prohibition.
- 90 • On April 25, the L.A. City Council passed a Joint Powers Agreement forming a new LEA
91 for a combined landfill. This will phase out the existing City and County LEAs and require
92 a new SWFP be submitted to the new LEA.
- 93 • Regarding the MND Chatsworth Reservoir, BFI did not notify GHNNC on the loss of 7
94 acres of wetlands on the city side. The comment period closes on May 5th – see the L.A.
95 City Rec and Parks website for more info. This inaction led to the following motions:
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97 **(Hunter/Leifer) moved, "That the GHNNC send a letter protesting the lack of**
98 **information being provided by BFI to both City and County CACs as required in both**
99 **Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) , information that the neighborhood council relies on**
100 **to keep itself and the community informed, and that copies be sent to the appropriate**
101 **interested parties: i.e. City & County LEAs, City Planning, Councilman Smith, &**
102 **Supervisor Antonovich."**
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104 **(Gold/Leifer) added a friendly amendment that adds the additional language to the**
105 **motion "sending a letter to the City Attorney and District Attorney for possible legal**
106 **action." The amended motion and entire motion carried unanimously.**
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108 **(Hunter/Vitti) moved, "That a letter be submitted to all governmental and enforcement**
109 **agencies that oversee Sunshine Canyon requesting that the GHNNC be put on the**
110 **official notification list for any and all correspondence, emails, notices, permits,**
111 **actions and related to Sunshine Canyon Landfill." The motion carried unanimously.**
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113 **15. Committee Reports:**

114 *Parks & Beautification* – Mary Ellen Crosby:

- 115 • Mary Ellen spoke about a new watering restriction. The Parks Department informed her
116 that they will only water trees in the park twice a week at all the city's parks.

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- Since new trees were just planted, as well as wildflowers and poppies, she is interested in creating an “Adopt a Tree” program. Sherri Mann has agreed to chair this new committee and she would like to promote it through outreach.
 - The parks department will not be replacing BBQ pits in the park and may remove them due to fire risk.
 - Mary Ellen suggested to the Parks Department that they should observe all fire district restrictions, which have not been followed, such as a ‘No Smoking’ ban in the parks.
 - She is looking into getting a “Welcome to Granada Hills” sign.
- Ralph Kroy added that he has spoken to BFIs about the 500 trees they are supplying to be planted in the area.

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PLUM – Anne Ziliak said she received correspondence from neighbors about properties being sold in auction that were previously of concern for development. A cell phone tower owner was trying to get approval to add new cell towers but she did not think it would go through. LANCC is moving forward on a motion responding to Senate Bill 1818, which allows developers to build more low income properties with fewer restrictions.

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Public Safety – Michael Greenwald provided an update on a missing speed signal which the DOT has not completed as yet. He requested clarification from the councilman’s office as to what must be done to obtain it along with the light at Knollwood Shopping Center.

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Aaron DeVandry announced the new CERT class starts tomorrow and continues for 7 weeks at Baptist Church on Hayvenhurst in Granada Hills

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Outreach & Communications – Sue DeVandry suggested that the Board vote on filling vacant chair positions including City Information Officer and Correspondence Officer. Mike pointed out that there are seven people on the board who don’t have commitments. Scott Fisher was nominated for City Information Officer and Sue DeVandry was nominated to continue as Community information and Outreach Officer. **The motion to elect them both carried: 15-1-0.**

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Other news from Outreach: Sue DeVandry reported past GHNNC Chairperson, Kim Thompson, suggested GHNNC implement a “Stakeholder of the Month” award. Aaron will be adding a nomination box on the website so Stakeholders could go onto the website and nominate individuals for this award. Sue, Kim and Anne attended the City’s Celebrate LA ceremony. A reminder that The Mayor’s Day of Service is May 3rd, and interested individuals should sign up to participate on the website. Outreach has decided not to participate at the Greek Festival on Memorial Weekend. Outreach will participate in the Northridge Park’s Salute to Recreation on May 31, 2008. Sue distributed GHNNC logo artwork and asked for input. It was suggested GHNNC have a contest on the website asking stakeholders to submit logos for GHNNC. Aaron said he would put something on the website for that purpose. Sue will be ordering several promotional items such as bags, earthquake safety kits, graffiti magnets, etc. to be given away at Outreach activities and at GHNNC Board meetings. Sue will be ordering Polo shirts for GHNNC members.

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Since Scott Fisher accepted the City Information Officer position, Sue withdrew her motion: “That the GHNNC hire an independent contractor for the purpose of gathering information, writing, and editing articles for the GHNNC newsletter, publications and website, to track all citywide issues on which the GHNNC Board may wish to gain information and the distribution of GHNNC updates and information to local media outlets. Requesting a retainer of from \$500 to \$1000 per month”.

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Nominating – Michael Greenwald moved that two, new board members be nominated: Mak Jalili, of the Odyssey Restaurant, for District 2. The motion carried unanimously. And Mil Tossoun, pharmacist at Knollwood Pharmacy, for Small Business Rep. The motion carried: 11-3-2.

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16. Board Member Comments on non-agenda items

- Leon asked for plans to be submitted from all Board Special Interest Representatives.
- Skip informed the board that a vote was required to remove District 4 board member Dale Alloway from the board due to excessive absences. **A motion to remove Dale Alloway from the Board carried unanimously.**
- Joe Vitti, LANCC rep invited the board to the L.A. Neighborhood Council Coalition Zoning Code Reform Meeting, Saturday, May 3rd at the L.A. Dept. Of Water & Power, 111 N. Hope Street. He spoke about NCRC Executive Director Raphe Sonenshein and his new role working with DONE on the implementation of NCRC recommendations to improve the neighborhood councils throughout the City. He talked about work going on with the Neighborhood Council Peer Group Grievance System, a new system recommended by the NCRC to resolve NC grievance issues. He invited the board to attend the next Valley VOTE meeting which will be attended by Mayor Villaraigosa on May 12th.
- Wayde Hunter announced that L.A. Rec and Parks is seeking funding of \$80,000 to restore Mission Peak trails. He asked for a committee (PLUM or Parks and Beautification, or...?) to work on this with them. Wayde also stated that we need to include on someone's budget about \$1500 (PLUM possibly) for aerial shots of our NC area so that we could bring them to this meeting and to other subcommittee meetings as needed.
- Sid Gold attended the recent Valley Alliance meeting where the Governor's initiative was discussed. On another note, he suggested the GHNNC website link to the LAPD crime statistics.
- Josh Jordahl invited the board to the Zero Waste Citywide Conference on Sat., May 3rd, 8:30 – 1:30 p.m. at The center at Cathedral Plaza, 555 W. Temple Street, L.A.
- Mike Greenwald said he had concerns about Southern CA Gas creating a hazardous situation with the trails at O'Melveny Park and suggested they be held accountable for payment for damages to the trail at the back of the park.
- Mike also spoke about getting information from West Valley Alliance on the locations they have worked on in grafitti abatement.
- Joe Vitti suggested the GHNNC website have a link to Sunshine Canyon as it is an important part of the community. Aaron DeVandry agreed to do so.
- Mary Ellen Crosby spoke about workers from West Valley Alliance coming to the park on their lunch break to clean up grafitti. Since this location is on county land, they are not obligated to be working on it, but are doing it out of the goodness of their hearts.

17. Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One
Amended by Skip Leifer