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**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
June 23, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes
Van Gogh Elementary School, Granada Hills
Van Gogh School Auditorium
17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, CA**

1. **Call to order** by GHNNC Vice President Anne Ziliak: 6:45 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Pat Casparian, Michael Deering, Sue DeVandry, Michael Greenwald, Wayde Hunter, Joshua Jordahl, Skip Leifer, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Natasha Vetlugin, Kathy Wagenbach, and Anne Ziliak,. Late arrivals: Mary Ellen Crosby, Sid Gold and Mil Tossoun. Excused: Mak Jalili and Leon Marzillier. Absent: Jonalyn Cooper, Scott Fisher, and Joe Vitti.
3. **Motion to approve May board meeting minutes: (Leifer/Casparian) moved to approve the minutes as presented.** The motion carried: 11 – 0 – 1.
4. **Public Comment:**
 - Jerry Askew, GHSNC board member, said he is working on a campaign to remove illegal signage in GH. The goal is to reduce the economics of this type of advertising so that it stops. He asked the board to let stakeholders know that this type of commercial signage on public property is considered abandoned property. He also said that the Bureau of Street Services charges those who have left these signs for each one they take down, but it usually takes them two weeks to remove the signs.
 - Raymond Yu announced events taking place in L.A. outside of the GHNNC area.
5. **Executive Committee Motions:**

(Leifer) moved “That GHNNC purchase two aerial maps of the GHNNC boundaries at a cost not to exceed \$1,500.” The motion carried unanimously.

(Leifer) moved “That GHNNC spend up to \$1,500 for library books (LAUSD approved) for El Oro Way Elementary School.”
(Hunter/Vetlugin) made An amendment to change the amount to ‘up to \$4,621.55,’ (which was the amount the school officials had originally requested). The motion to amend failed: 3-10-0.

(Manatt/Leifer) made an amendment that the amount be changed to ‘up to 2,500.’ The amendment to the motion carried: 9-0-5. The board then moved to pass the amended motion: **“That GHNNC spend up to \$2,500 for library books (LAUSD approved) for El Oro Way Elementary School.”**

47 The motion carried by a vote of 13-0-2. Kathy Wagenbach agreed to prioritize
48 the list of book so it would match the \$2500.

49

50 **(Ziliak) presented the Exec. Committee motion, “That GHNNC send a**
51 **letter to the Gas Company, in support of Granada Hills South NC’s**
52 **letter, requesting that they move their fence that is blocking access to**
53 **the road to Mission Point.”** Mary Ellen Crosby suggested that the Parks
54 Dept. be asked to get involved since this crosses park property. Jim
55 Summers, chair of GHSNC, told the board that a GHSNC board member has
56 proposed a land swap with the Gas Company to alleviate this problem. He
57 said the City Attorney has ruled that this would be a financial benefit to the
58 land owner. As a result, those in support of this solution have retained an
59 attorney to represent their interests. Wayde Hunter pointed out that the Gas
60 Co. has put the fence up for security reason; that they are trying to protect
61 those using the trail from seeing their facilities for gas storage. He also said
62 that Recreation and Parks had promised to reestablish its claim on that
63 property but has not done so.

64

65 **(Leifer/Gold) moved that this motion be tabled until the board has more**
66 **information.** The motion carried 11-3-1.

67

68 **6. Treasurer’s Report:** Scott Manatt presented an informative report and
69 explained the process of how the GHNNC manages its cash flow and makes
70 payments using the three accounts: City Checking, Purchasing Card and
71 Petty Cash. He stated that the balance of GHNNC’s available funding now is
72 \$94,701.15. He also introduced the Department of Neighborhood
73 Empowerment’s Six Funding Reforms Program to all neighborhood councils
74 in the City and requested that the board read this document.

75

76 **7. Reports from Special Interest Group Reps:**

77 Environmental – Joshua Jordahl: He attended Pasadena Green Leadership
78 Summit this month and thought they presented some very innovative ideas.
79 He suggested that a similar event be organized by GHNNC for Outreach
80 purposes with a task force. Another meeting he attended was the Joint
81 Powers Meeting downtown. He plans to attend the Sunshine Canyon CAC on
82 Thursday, June 26, 9:30 at the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce.

83

84 Education - Kathy Wagenbach: no report.

85 Faith Based – Michael Deering: no report.

86 Small Business and Worker – Mil Tossoun: no report (first meeting).

87 Youth Group – Scott Fisher: absent, no report

88

89 **8. Committee Reports:**

90 Parks & Beautification - Mary Ellen Crosby reported that the Parks Dept. is
91 watering but it isn’t doing much good with the heat, but are doing their best to
92 water the newly planted trees and the area near Balboa Blvd. She noted that
93 Wayde Hunter is trying to get the rest of the trees that BFI provided as a

94 result of mitigation so they can be planted throughout the GHNNC area. She
95 then spoke about the two plaques that the law firm O'Melveny & Myers are
96 planning to install at O'Melveny Park. Bob Nixon, an attorney from O'Melveny
97 & Myers then gave a little history on the O'Melveny family and the park:
98

99 O'Melveny Park was created in 1972 with 720 acres of land that was deeded
100 to the City by John and Corrine O'Melveny. The land was original purchased
101 in 1941 and named 'C. J. Ranch.' O'Melveny used this land to grow citrus
102 fruit, graze cattle and raise prize-winning bulldogs. It is the second largest
103 park in the City of L.A.
104

105 **(Crosby) moved the committee's motion, "That the GHNNC**
106 **acknowledge the contribution that John O'Melveny made in donating**
107 **the acreage for a park in our community and fully supporting the**
108 **placement of two memorial plaques memorializing his gracious**
109 **donation of this valuable property to the City of L.A."** The motion carried
110 unanimously.
111

112 **PLUM: (Hunter) moved the committee's motion, "That the GHNNC spend**
113 **up to \$400 toward refreshments for the Granada Hills Knollwood**
114 **Community Plan meeting for July 29th."** The motion carried unanimously.
115

116 Outreach - Sue DeVandry thanked the board for their participation in outreach
117 at the May 31st Northridge Family Festival. She will be starting to distribute
118 outreach giveaways at local grocery stores and will be ordering business
119 cards for the new board members.
120

121 Nominations - Michael Greenwald said that there are still some unfilled
122 positions on the GHNNC board.
123

124 Public Safety – Michael Greenwald reviewed outstanding traffic issues. He
125 alerted the board to the new system of red light cameras the police are using
126 which record video of motorists at traffic lights and note whether they stopped
127 or went through red lights. They are using this system to issue traffic tickets
128 by mail. Michael said the board will see some of these videos at an upcoming
129 meeting. On the issue of funding gym equipment for the police station, he
130 noted that the proposal brought before the board only included one bid. He
131 has asked the police for three bids and photos of the actual equipment before
132 the GHNNC will put a funding request on the agenda.
133

134 Policy and Rules: Tabled.
135

136 **9. Board Member comment:**

137 Scott Manatt reported that the City has increased funding for business
138 mileage from 48- cents to 50- cents per mile.
139

140 Sid Gold attended the recent Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition
141 where they discussed the City's water shortage. They presented several
142 ideas for recycling water including the Purple Line, which would take grey
143 water to golf courses and other recreational facilities and using the City's
144 filtration plant to purify water to make it safe to drink. They also talked about
145 using power that is generated from Utah coal plants and efforts to recapture
146 groundwater. On another note, Sid spoke about efforts to set up a 501C that
147 would allow Neighborhood Councils to collect money. He has volunteered to
148 serve on this committee. Finally, DONE GM Bong Hwan Kim made a
149 presentation to LACNC about DONE's goals for the future, which include
150 reformulating the NC grievance system to streamline it and ways DONE can
151 be more supportive of the NCs.

152
153 Sid then spoke about a letter Mary Ellen Crosby had written which said that
154 DONE does not allow NCs to support our troops in the manner in which she
155 had proposed. He said he was outraged by fact that the letter was ignored
156 and has written Amelia Herrera-Robles a letter stating his disappointment that
157 Mary Ellen's proposal to fund care packages to the U.S. troops in Iraq was
158 not deemed 'community outreach.'

159
160 Wayde Hunter updated the board on activity surrounding efforts to oppose
161 expansion of Holy Cross Hospital in Mission Hills. He said that a lawsuit filed
162 by the organization 'CARE' opposition the expansion was dismissed a month
163 and a half ago. However, the lawsuit was reinstated two or three days ago
164 and may impact the City of L.A. because they upheld the appeal. He said the
165 expansion effort has been declared a violation of CEQA. The lawsuit's intent
166 was to force the project to do an Environmental Impact Report. He noted that
167 the Hospital promised much mitigation when they were questioned about the
168 project but did not deliver on their promises.

169
170 Michael Greenwald suggested GHNNC think about posting street banners
171 recognizing the military personnel from within the GHNNC and suggested the
172 GHNNC website acknowledge these personnel and their families living in the
173 area. He also proposed forming a Blue Ribbon Committee to investigate
174 DWP's infrastructure - before they hire an extra thousand people to ensure
175 that all current staff positions are both necessary and productive. He would
176 like to see whether they are deserving of the increases that they granted
177 themselves through city fees.

178
179 Kim Thompson told the board that the Las Lomas project has filed a lawsuit
180 against the City of L.A.

181
182 Mary Ellen Crosby asked if the previous proposal to fund care packages to
183 soldiers from the local area could be reconsidered in conjunction with
184 Michael's suggestion, to raise banners recognizing local military families. This
185 was referred to the Executive Committee for consideration.

186

187 Anne announced that the next board meeting will be held on July 28th. The
188 school is opening its facilities for the meeting. She also asked the board to
189 review the email they received from the City Attorney regarding changes to
190 the Brown Act.

191

192 She also asked the board to note their availability for a future board education
193 session to be held on either a Saturday morning or late Sunday afternoon.
194 Skip will be in contact with those who are not present regarding the selection
195 of a date and location.

196

197 **10. Motion to adjourn.** 8:40 p.m.

198

199 Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One.

200

Amended by Skip Leifer