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Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
July 28, 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 Leon Marzillier**, GHNNC chairperson at 6:40 p.m.
 2. **Roll call by Skip Leifer**, Recording Secretary: Pat Casparian, Jonalyn Cooper, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Wayde Hunter, Skip Leifer, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Joe Vitti, Kathy Wagenbach, and Anne Ziliak. Quorum established. Joshua Jordahl and Mick Deering came later. Absent: Mak Jalili, Mil Tossoun and Natasha Vetlugin
 3. **Chairperson's announcements.** Leon announced that the board's educational retreat plans had not been firmed up. He asked someone to step forward to help Mike Greenwald on his two committees: Safety and Nominating. Jonalyn Cooper and Kim Thompson volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee. Mike announced that four board seats are currently open: District 1, District 3, Student and Resident Associations
 4. **Approval of June 2008 Board Meeting Minutes.** (Leifer/Greenwald) moved to approve the minutes as revised. **The motion carried: 14-0-1.**
 5. **Public Comments:** Richard Fisk of GHSNC spoke about a meeting to amend the Community Plan taking place at GH Charter High School on Tues., July 29, 2008. The Planning Dept. is looking for community input.
 6. **Police Update:** LAPD Officer Jaime Brien gave a report for Senior Lead Officer Dario Del Core who is recovering from surgery. National Night Out takes place on Tuesday, August 5th from 6 – 10 p.m. at Devonshire Division Area Police Station. Crime stats: Burglaries from motor vehicles are still the most frequent crimes in the area. She reminded stakeholders to not leave pricey items in plain view in their cars. The police are looking at getting 'No Trespassing' signs in the wash by Sesnon. On the subject of home burglaries, she advised stakeholder not to store valuables in jewelry boxes in the bedroom or the closet because that's the first place thieves look. Michael suggested that the officers working in the Traffic Division work on controlling speeders on Balboa, where a serious accident occurred earlier that afternoon, rather than writing easy traffic tickets.
- Leon told the board about an upcoming effort by DONE and the City Council called the 'L.A. Full Public Funding Education and Feedback Project.' He received correspondence from DONE asking NCs and stakeholders to give them input on the idea of establishing a funding system for electoral campaigns. A workshop will take place on July 30 at Lake Balboa regarding a Full Funding Clean Money workshop.
7. **Treasurer's Report** by Scott Manatt: Scott told the board that he has submitted the budget to DONE for fiscal 2008/2009 but has not received any confirmation. Funding available to date in the GHNNC budget is \$92,620.92.
 8. **Safety Vests/Taking Down Illegal Signs:** At June's meeting, the board heard from Jerry Askew, a GHSNC board member, who asked the board to help them remove illegal signage in GH. The Executive Committee discussed this issue and moved, **"Whereas GHNNC stakeholders may want to participate in the removal of illegally posted signs in a safe manner, resolved that GHNNC purchase up to 10 (ten) safety vests at a cost not to exceed \$200 for community use."** **The motion carried: 13-0-2.**

56 Leon stated that those involved in removing illegal signage should wear the vests to identify their
57 affiliation with GHNNC. Anne Ziliak added that the vests would be helpful to her PLUM committee
58 when they visit sites due to the reflective tape. She was been asked by the City to wear safety
59 vests when representing GHNNC in the field. Michael had concerns about liability, should anyone
60 be injured while taking down signs.

61

62 **9. Committee Reports:**

63 **Policy & Rules**, Jonalyn Cooper announced bimonthly meetings by her committee at Knollwood
64 Realty, every other week. Their goal is to have all the bylaws changes up to date by Sept. or Oct.
65 2008 so stakeholders can review them and vote on them at a Special Meeting.

66

67 **Parks and Beautification**, Mary Ellen Crosby stated that some wildflowers have emerged in Bee
68 Canyon Park from the Spring planting despite the hot weather and drought. She thanked
69 everyone for their cards and calls while she was in the hospital recently.

70

71 **Public Safety**, Mike Greenwald spoke with the person who is coordinating the purchase of
72 fitness equipment for the Devonshire Police Station. He found out that they had only gotten one
73 bid and it was 2 – 3 times higher than necessary. He has told the person representing the police
74 to get back to him when he has two more bids.

75

76 The delays with the traffic light at Knollwood Shopping center has not yet been resolved. He is
77 not sure who is responsible for the delay.

78

79 **Outreach, Sue DeVandry** told the board that Aaron has created some posters that remind
80 stakeholders to stay involved with the GHNNC.

81

82 **PLUM, Anne Ziliak** asked the board and stakeholders to get involved in the upcoming meeting
83 on the Community Plan. The Planning Dept has drafted a compilation of comments made and will
84 make those available at their Open House is on July 29, 2008.

85

86 **PLUM Motion: (Ziliak) moved, "That the GHNNC support designation of the Kramer House,**
87 **12556 Middlecoff Place as an Historic Cultural Monument." The motion carried: 15-0-1.**

88

89 **PLUM Motion: (Ziliak) moved, "That the GHNNC approve the installation of a battery back**
90 **up system to the existing cellular site at 12227 Balboa Blvd."** She explained that the cell
91 tower is hidden in a cross on the roof of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. (Application by T Mobile).
92 **The motion carried unanimously.**

93

94 **PLUM Motion:** Anne presented a series of motions relating to requests for variances by Hillcrest
95 Christian School. There were many stakeholders there to speak on this issue and all of their
96 comments were in opposition of the variances (see below). Anne presented the initial motion
97 which combined all of their recommendations into a package: **(Ziliak) moved, "That the**
98 **GHNNC approve or deny in part or whole the application to modify conditions 15, 6, 7, and**
99 **31 of existing conditional use permit at Hillcrest Christian School."**

100

- 101 • Dan Lavery, stakeholder and neighbor of Hillcrest, talked about excessive traffic and
102 noise from activities going on at the school. He has installed double pane glass windows
103 and still has to leave the room when they are engaging in outside activities such as
104 sports team exercises, due to the noise level.
- 105
- 106 • Bob Ogg, stakeholder and neighbor recommended the board oppose Hillcrest's CUP
107 (conditional use permit) request.
- 108
- 109 • Joyce Sussman, stakeholder and neighbor, spoke about how their swimming pool
110 overlooks the school property and the noise problems associated with outdoor games,

111 the bell ringing (even on weekends) and her concerns about the property value of her
112 home. She opposed any requests for expansion.

113

114 • Kim Thompson read a letter from stakeholder Joy Wu who opposed any and all requests
115 for expansion by Hillcrest stating that if denied, they will be back again and try to continue
116 their expansion campaign.

117

118 • Susan Tipton, stakeholder and neighbor, requested a complete denial of the plan
119 Hillcrest has filed. She pointed out that the school doesn't have the right to operate where
120 they are and that is why they need the conditional use permit. The CUP is to protect the
121 surrounding neighbors in the residential neighborhood. She pointed out that Hillcrest is
122 already failing to comply with regulations they agreed to on enrollment. She strongly
123 urged the board to oppose any changes to their CUP.

124

125 • Bonny LaMonica, a stakeholder and neighbor, said her main concern is safety. She
126 pointed out that emergency vehicles have not been able to get through on three
127 occasions when school has been in session because the streets are blocked with
128 vehicles. She asked the board to deny the CUP on these concerns.

129

130 Anne then reviewed PLUM's observations: They did not feel Hillcrest's variance was a 'minor
131 modification' request but rather a major request. As a result of the delays in getting information
132 from Hillcrest – they have still not sent enrollment figures from previous years - PLUM had to
133 convene two separate meetings to address the variance request.

134

135 During the board's discussion, Michael Greenwald suggested that Hillcrest be viewed as a
136 commercial venture rather than a Christian school. Wayde Hunter moved that the board vote on
137 the entire motion as a whole. Anne said that it would be better to vote on each item separately as
138 she needed input to bring to the Council Office on this issue. Wayde then withdrew his motion.

139

140 **(Gold/Leifer) moved that each item be voted on separately. The motion carried: 9-6-0.**
141 **During discussed, it was also revealed that board member Sue DeVandry lives within 500'**
142 **of the property. Anne told her that she would have to recuse herself for the voting but**
143 **could participate in the discussion.**

144

145 **(Ziliak) moved that GHNNC deny a change by Hillcrest to Condition 6, which would**
146 **redefine the school if their upper grades relocate.** PLUM's argument was that the necessity
147 for this change would only become relevant if they are unable to find a large enough site to
148 accommodate both their middle and high school population. When they find another location,
149 GHNNC can revisit this issue. Hillcrest is currently permitted to operate as a school for Grades K
150 – 12. **The motion carried: 14-1-0.**

151

152 **(Ziliak) moved that GHNNC deny Condition 7 which would allow Hillcrest to increase their**
153 **enrollment by 60 students annually until it reaches a maximum of 800 students. At such**
154 **time that the upper grades relocate to a new site, the total enrollment will not exceed 600.**
155 PLUM's argument was that if this were allowed and the school relocated the secondary and
156 upper grades, the enrollment would stay at 800 when it should not exceed 600. If they are unable
157 to find a site to accommodate the entire secondary school, GHNNC can revisit this issue. **The**
158 **motion carried: 14-0-1.**

159

160 **(Ziliak) moved that GHNNC deny Condition 31, which would allow an increase of 11 and 12**
161 **graders from 100 to 120.** PLUM's argument was that this has been an ongoing issue since the
162 1996 planning hearings. The reason for this limit is due to a lack of student parking provided by
163 Hillcrest on the site. This forces students to park in the surround residential area. **The motion**
164 **carried:**
165 **15-0-0.**

166

167 **(Ziliak) moved that the GHNNC approve PLUM's recommendation for Condition 15a, to**
168 **extend the operating hours during the school year to 6:30 a.m. (from 7 a.m.) to 8:30 p.m.,**
169 **Monday – Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.** Hillcrest had requested they be allowed
170 to operate from 7:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. and until 6 p.m. on Saturdays, year round.

171
172 **After lengthy discussion, (Gold/Leifer) called for the question, which the board approved:**
173 **13-0-0. The motion failed: 6-8-1.**

174
175 **(Gold/Hunter) then moved to deny the PLUM recommendation for Condition 15a to add**
176 **teeth to the board's opposition. The motion carried: 8-5-2.**

177
178 **(Ziliak) moved that GHNNC deny Condition 15b, which would expand athletic practice**
179 **hours from 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday – Friday and allow for outdoor athletic practices**
180 **2:30 – 6 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9:30 – 3 p.m. on Saturdays.** PLUM's argument was that
181 according to Hillcrest there are six teams, which means the existing condition allows them 48
182 week nights that they already can meet until 8 p.m. **The motion carried: 13-1-1.**

183
184 **(Ziliak) moved that GHNNC deny Condition 15d and 15f, which would allow the church**
185 **facilities to be utilized for weddings and funerals between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3**
186 **p.m. with church hours from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.** PLUM's argument against Condition
187 15d and 15f was that another church uses this property on Sundays. Hillcrest does not conduct
188 their own church services on Sunday here. Allowing this makes it a 7 day and night year round
189 operation. **The motion carried: 12-3-0.**

190
191 **(Ziliak) moved that GHNNC approve PLUM's recommendation for Conditions 15c and 15e**
192 **to allow 12 special events, up from six currently, at Hillcrest. However, if the upper grades**
193 **leave, this number would revert back to six. The special events would end no later than**
194 **8:30 p.m. Currently, they are allowed 3 special events conditions (15c) and 3 overnight**
195 **events (15e) for a total of six special events.** PLUM's argument was that the 12 special events
196 would end no later than 8:30 p.m. The school was asking for their events to be permitted until 10
197 p.m., Monday – Saturday. **The motion failed: 6-8-1.**

198
199 **(Greenwald) moved that this motion be amended limiting Hillcrest, alone, not to be used by other**
200 **tenants and that a system be put in place to track each event and make sure it was over by the**
201 **designated time. Also, that all neighbors within 500 feet be notified at least 7 days in advance of**
202 **each event. After discussion, he withdrew this motion.**

203
204
205 **(Greenwald/Gold) moved that GHNNC go on record as having denied Hillcrest's CUP**
206 **variance requests: The motion carried: 9-5-1.**

207
208 **10. Board Member Comments:**

209 John Bwarie from Councilman Smith's office was present but had no report. Mike reported
210 that the LAPD is hiring and is providing \$1,000 gift to any NC that recommends applicants
211 who are hired. They are also hiring LAPD Reserve Officers.

212
213 Sid Gold spoke about the recent meeting he attended of the L.A. Neighborhood Council
214 Alliance: DONE's GM spoke about difficulty of organizing elections. Laura Chick discussed
215 problems with the City's auditing system. Members also heard about an effort to find
216 locations in L.A. suitable for historic designation/ historic monuments. Locations must be over
217 50 years old among other qualifications.

218
219 Joe Vitti told the board about a new organization called SLAP LA which was formed by Ron
220 Kaye, former publisher of the Daily News (who recently organized a citywide Bastille Day).
221 He asked stakeholders to familiarize themselves with Proposition 11: Voters First Act
222 (www.yesprop11.org). Prop 11 is an initiative to help stop partisan gridlock in state
223 government. It will appear on the November ballot and sets up an independent citizen

224 commission to redrew state legislative district lines based on strict non partisan rules. Joe
225 recommends a 'yes' vote on Prop 11.

226
227 Jonalyn Cooper said she is cancelling her next Policy & Rules meeting as a result of not
228 having made the posting deadline.

229
230 Wayde Hunter invited the board to attend a Sunshine Canyon technical advisory meeting at
231 City Hall on Aug 8th.

232
233 Bill Lillenberg said that he observed problems with the Gas Co. fencing along the Mission
234 Peak trail and recommended GHNNC support the GHSNC in their efforts to correct this
235 matter with the Gas Co. He also noted that as a member of PLUM he was disappointed in the
236 board's lack of support on PLUM's Hillcrest recommendations, which came out of a four hour
237 long meeting last Friday.

238
239 **11. Meeting adjourned: 8:57 p.m.**

240
241 Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One.
242 Amended by Skip Leifer