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**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 24, 2008**  
**Van Gogh School Library**  
17160 Van Gogh Street

1. **Call to Order:** 6:40 p.m. **Roll Call:** Pat Casparian, Jonalyn Cooper, Mary Ellen Crosby, Michael Deering, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael Garcia, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Joshua Jordahl, Skip Leifer, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollok, Eric Rosenberg, Jan Subar, Natasha Vetlugin, Joe Vitti, Kathy Wagenbach and Anne Ziliak. Quorum established. **Absent:** Wayde Hunter and Mil Tossoun
2. **Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Comments:** Leon told the board that the next meeting will need to be on Dec. 22 due to the school holiday closure.
3. **Approval of Board Meeting minutes (Greenwald/DeVandry) moved to accept the Oct. 2008 minutes.** The motion carried: 18-0-1.
4. **Approval of Special Board Meeting minutes. (Cooper/Garcia) moved to accept the Special Board Meeting minutes of November 6, 2008.** The motion carried: 18-0-1.
5. **Public Comment on non-agenda items:**
  - Bill Hopkins spoke about the new city water ordinance, which restricts watering lawns from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., no exceptions.
  - John Bwarie of Councilman Smith's office: Spoke about emergency preparedness measures being taken by the Councilman's office in preparation of flash flooding in the hillside burn areas. He said sandbags are available at all fire stations and fire crews are on emergency standby in case any issues arise. He asked that board members communicate this information to people in their neighborhoods. He suggested everyone check and clear their rain gutters and if asked to evacuate, to do so. On another subject, John addressed the Councilman's concern about parolees staying in halfway houses and recovery houses in residential neighborhoods of the city. He announced a change being proposed to the City Charter which would reduce business taxes to provide incentives to businesses to relocate into the city. He thanked everyone who attended the Great American Shakeout event for earthquake preparedness. He said that 5.3 million people registered for the shakeout and said it truly was a citywide effort. He then presented a Certificate of Appreciation to former GHNNC board member Robert Ricketts for taking on this project and driving the event. He also presented certificates to Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry and Mike Greenwald.

48 6. **Treasurer's Report** – Scott Manatt explained the different ways payments  
49 are processed for the GHNNC's external payments. He told the board that  
50 DONE is talking about putting Treasurer's reports online, which he is in  
51 favor of. He also mentioned mis-billing problems with Apple One.

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53 • Financial Officer Pat Casparian then gave a Financial Report which  
54 shows there is just under \$140,000 available in the budget.  
55 (Gold/Vitti) moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion  
56 carried unanimously.

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58 7. **MWD Motion (Greenwald/Leifer) moved (Wayde Hunter's motion),**  
59 **"That the GHNNC write a letter in opposition to the continued**  
60 **storage of large amounts of chlorine gas at the MWD, and its**  
61 **transportation through heavily populated cities along the way.**  
62 **Further, that we advocate that the MWD pursue other alternative**  
63 **methods of treatment to completely replace its use, and that in the**  
64 **interim a warning system and evacuation plan be developed and**  
65 **employed to adequately warn and protect the nearby residents."** The  
66 motion carried: 20-0-1.

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68 Safety Chair Mike Greenwald noted the threat the storage tankers pose to  
69 residents not only in that neighborhood but in the entire Foothills area. He  
70 talked about the need to address this issue and have MWD present the  
71 community with a workable emergency evacuation plan, which he says  
72 they have not done to date. Joe Vitti suggested MWD officials be invited to  
73 address questions about this topic at a future board meeting. Public Safety  
74 will invite the MWD to a future meeting.

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76 8. **Veterans' Park Project announcement** – Ray Pollok told the board  
77 about a new federal law which took affect last month that allows all current  
78 and past members of the armed forces to salute the flag during the Pledge  
79 of Allegiance instead of putting their hand over their heart. He then spoke  
80 about the Tribute Walk at Granada Hills Veteran Memorial Park which is  
81 offering bricks inscribed with the names of deceased family members or to  
82 honor loved one. The monies raised with the purchase of bricks fund  
83 maintenance of Veterans Park at Chatsworth and Zelzah Ave. This issue  
84 was referred to the Executive Committee which will decide on an  
85 appropriate amount for funding the purchase of bricks.

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87 9. **Committee Reports and possible action items:**

88 • *Public Safety* – Michael Greenwald thanked Bob Ricketts for his efforts on  
89 the Great American Shakeout, which came out of the Public Safety  
90 committee. He suggested doing this emergency event every other year.  
91 Mike noted there was standing room only for the presentation by geologist  
92 Dr. Ken Hudnut, USGS earthquake expert. (See [www.us.g.s.com](http://www.us.g.s.com) website).

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- *PLUM* –ZA-2008-2500: 11510 Blucher Ave/15543 Rinaldi Street: **(Ziliak) moved, “That the GHNNC Board recommend denial as proposed: ZA-2008-2500: 11510 Blucher Ave/15543 Rinaldi Street, the installation, operation and maintenance of unmanned WTF, 6 panel antenna to be mounted on a Monopalm and associated equipment cabinets for T-Mobile.”** The motion carried: 18-0-1.
  - *PLUM* - Ponte Vista: **(Ziliak) moved, “That the GHNNC Board support the Greater San Pedro NC in their opposition to the Ponte Vista development as it does not comply with their Community Plan.”** Anne explained that this pertains to 278 acres in San Pedro where the developer wants to build 1500-2000 new home sites. The motion is being supported by Councilmember Janice Hahn and two San Pedro area NCs. The motion carried unanimously.
  - *PLUM* - Community Plan Update: **(Ziliak) moved, “That the GHNNC Board strongly oppose any reduction of lot size requirement of property within the GHNNC boundaries and request that the Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan maintain the 2-acre minimum lot size requirement for properties north of Sesnon and west of Shoshone (sub area #250).”** The motion carried: 16-2-0.
  - *Parks & Beautification* – Mary Ellen Crosby reported the extent of fire damage to O’Melveny Park. She said that the trails in the burn areas are off limits right now because they present a danger of erosion and danger to those hiking on loosened soil. Park officials have put up barricades but hikers are taking them down. Everything north of the creek at O’Melveny burned including the area adjoining the Boys Camp and Sesnon, however, the structures at the park were spared. The fire also spread to Bee Canyon on the hill behind the playground, stopping just short of her home. Now there is worry about flooding and water damage so the rangers are working on clearing the creeks. She then spoke again about how she and Wayne Hunter were able to update maps of the trails for the park area using an original map created by Mary Anna Kienholz’s late husband and how these maps helped fire officials get into the area to fight the fires.
  - *Outreach* – Sue DeVandry talked about events in which outreach participated and signed up stakeholders to their email list. She reminded the board about GHNNC’s participation in the Holiday Parade on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m. at Chatsworth and Petit. Everyone will meet at Sue’s home then carpool to the event where they will ride on a stake bed truck.
10. ***Ad Hoc Office*** – Joe Vitti said a problem has developed with the office rental. Apparently DONE has refused to approve the office lease because the landlord could not attest to the area being free of hazardous materials. A dry cleaner had previously located at that office complex and they are still removing toxic material from that site.

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**11. Board Member Comment on non-agenda items**

- Rafael Garcia addressed board member’s questions about noxious smells coming from Sunshine Canyon. He said they have not identified the source but that it could be due to the trucks queuing up by the City side of the landfill. On the issue of the fire, he said that the landfill lost 99% of its nursery as well as about 1,000 acorns they were preserving for planting. Now they will probably have to purchase about 500 oaks trees from another source.
- Sid Gold reminded the board that he took on the position of chair of GHNNC’s Political Action Committee and needs volunteers to staff it. Ralph Kroy and Rafael volunteered. Sid talked about some of the issues his committee could address including the city’s move to do away with public access TV.
- Bill Lillenberg alerted the board that due to the fires and the disruption of the food chain, large animals (coyotes, etc.) may be more prevalent in neighborhoods. He suggested that people keep their pets in at night as these animals sometimes jump high fences to kill their prey.

**12. Meeting adjourned: 8:57 p.m.**

- Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One  
Amended by Skip Leifer