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Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2009
Van Gogh School Auditorium
17160 Van Gogh Street

1. **Call to Order:** 6:40 p.m. **Roll Call:** Pat Casparian, Mary Ellen Crosby, Michael Deering, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael Garcia, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Wayne Hunter, Joshua Jordahl (late), Skip Leifer, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollok, Eric Rosenberg, Jan Subar, Natasha Vetlugin, Joe Vitti, and Anne Ziliak. Quorum established. **Absent:** Jonalyn Cooper, Mil Tossoun and Kathy Wagenbach.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Comments**

3. **Approval of Board Meeting minutes (Greenwald/Gold) moved to accept the December 22, 2008 amended minutes.** The motion carried (18-0-1)

4. **Public Comment on non-agenda items:**

Aviva Ebner spoke about setting up a Porter ranch Charter High School with a college preparatory agenda.

Millie Jones, Mike Antonovich's, Sr. Field Deputy, introduced herself to the board and noted that her office is at 21943 Plummer Street, on the corner of Topanga Blvd in Chatsworth. She may be reached at (818) 993-5170 or mjjones@lacbos.org

Barri Worth, W. Valley Area Director for the Mayor's office introduced herself. Her office is at 14410 Sylvan Street, Van Nuys. She may be reached at (818) 778-4990 or barri.worth@LACity.org She noted that January was Art Month in Los Angeles and there would be a housing forum at Van Nuys City hall on January 28th at 6:00 PM.

Sally Park of Councilman Smith's office introduced herself.

John Bwarie of Councilman Smith's office noted that the council was on recess during the inauguration. There were two items of interest he wanted to bring to the GHNNC. First, was the Council was considering a smoking ban on patios and other street areas in front of restaurants. The second is LA LEAP- the Los Angeles Legislative Economic Action Plan. There are 13 legislative motions put forth by Councilmember Greig Smith that comprise LA LEAP. Their goals include removing restrictions on attracting and retaining businesses in L.A. Measure E on the March ballot, is one of these motions, which would implement a charter change to enable the mayor's business team to offer incentives for businesses to relocate to L.A. For more

48 information on issues under consideration we were referred to www.CD12.org
49 John also noted that he would investigate the status of the signal light at the
50 Knollwood Shopping Center.
51

52 DONE Rep. Amelia Herrera Robles provided a brief summary the City
53 Council's actions regarding neighborhood councils and recent activity that
54 DONE has taken.
55

56 **5. Ken Novak, Sr. Parks Maintenance Supervisor – Restoration of**
57 **O'Melveny Park** – He reported on the fire damage and restoration
58 process. He indicated that no structures were damaged; however, foot
59 bridges, wooden fencing and the entrance sign were all severely damaged
60 or destroyed. Over 500 trees were lost. Plans for restoration are not firm.
61 Estimates for repair are preliminary: \$135,000 plus labor to repair the foot
62 bridges, wooden fencing and the entrance sign. Thus far approximately
63 \$75,000 has been spent on earth moving and cleaning up the area. He
64 estimated restoration would begin in March. The first priority is fencing and
65 bridge rails. When queried about safety he reminded that it was safe to go
66 into the park, but to stay on trails. He noted that the City is self-insured
67 against damage and that FEMA is due to visit the site soon
68

69 **6. Treasurer's Report** – Scott Manatt reviewed the expenditures for the
70 month, noting that this was the first month that our new office was
71 included as an expense. He also briefly reviewed the process for making
72 copies.
73

74 **7. Update on GHNC Office – Anne Ziliak** – Work is proceeding to remove
75 the three inner walls, keeping the office at the back and the bathroom
76 intact. They will replace the carpet with dark green carpeting to match our
77 logo; some ceiling tiles are being replaced and the walls are being
78 repainted white. We are to make out a “wish list” for LA Share who will try
79 to provide needed furniture. It is expected that the office will be available
80 for use next month. According to the leasing manager, work will begin next
81 Monday. They will fix the ceiling tiles; remove the walls, put in new
82 linoleum and carpet throughout the premises. They will schedule the new
83 linoleum and carpet to be installed on the February 2nd.
84

85 **8. Discussion and possible action on Measure B on the March ballot** –
86 Anne Ziliak noted that Section 6.2 of DONE By-Laws is applicable in this
87 instance. It is intended to advise the DWP when matters relating to or
88 affecting the Department are being considered by NCs, and to offer them
89 the opportunity to participate in the dialogue and provide information.
90 However, given the time left before this matter goes before the electorate,
91 they proposed a four business day notice in lieu of the 14 days provided
92 for in the MOU. This should work for all involved, allowing the DWP some
93 level of advance notice while not interrupting already scheduled NC
94 matters. Several members of the public and council persons spoke on this

95 issue. Among them: Ron Kaye, who stated he felt the entire process for
96 getting it on the ballot was flawed; D. Wiseman, who stated it should be a
97 *part of a total energy project; Mike Cohen, who spoke against it; Michael*
98 *'Greenwald and others. Sid Gold proposed a motion that we have a*
99 *special meeting to discuss the issue. It did not receive a second. It was*
100 *decided that we should wait until next month to hear both sides of the*
101 *issue and at that time decide where we stand.*

102

103 **9. Motion (Exec) That an ad hoc committee be formed to examine the**
104 **graffiti removal program and GHNNC's contribution thereto.**

105 Discussion centered on the fact that we have budgeted \$10,000 this year
106 (\$15,000 last year) for graffiti removal and that we are paying too much for
107 what we are getting. Reviewing the statistics, we have had only 8% of the
108 calls throughout the area. Other NC's only pay \$5000-6000 and have a lot
109 more graffiti in their areas.. The motion carried (15-3-1) Ray Pollock was
110 appointed Chair of the ad hoc committee

111

112 **10. Motion (Exec) That we hold an education session for Board members**
113 **and interested stakeholders on Sunday, March 8, 2009 in our new**
114 **office and that an ad hoc committee be formed to plan the event. The**
115 **event will be held in the afternoon. The motion carried (16-0-4)**

116

117 **11. Committee Reports and possible action items:**

118

PLUM – Anne Ziliak

119

a. Motion: That the GHNNC write a letter to the City Planning
120 **Department regarding 17251 Bronte Place requesting that they**
121 **strictly adhere to the zoning and building codes, and to require that**
122 **any houses built will be of appropriate size for the reduced lot size**
123 **this subdivision will create.** Rationale: To prevent further inconsistency
124 within the GHNNC boundaries any new subdivision or parcel should be
125 consistent with a other properties it surrounds, and that the homes built
126 are not oversized for the reduced lot size (mansionization). The motion
127 carried (20-0-0)

128

b. Motion: That the GHNNC disapprove the request 11835 Highwater
129 **for installation and operation of an unmanned wireless**
130 **telecommunications facility, designed to be a 40-ft monopine,**
131 **pending further discussion with the applicant.** Rationale: The plans
132 submitted were reviewed and the proposed monopine cell tower does not
133 comply with the existing GHNNC minimum standards for this type of
134 installation. The motion carried (18-0-1)

135

c. Motion: That the GHNNC request that the City impose the following
136 **regulations on any installation of a box/structure to utility poles**
137 **within the City of Los Angeles: All parts of the structure be mounted**
138 **8 feet or higher. Prohibit installations that are unsightly and/or harm**
139 **the visual landscape of an area. Require proposed sidewalk**

140 **installations to be in ground vaulted and flush with the existing**
141 **surface. Require the carrier to present proposed locations to the**
142 **local NC.** Rationale: There is no consistent installation standard. There
143 have been numerous problems with the location, placement and
144 installations. Placement should be practical and logical with respect to the
145 aesthetics. These boxes are magnets for vandalism and graffiti, which
146 creates blight: are a hazard to pedestrians: Verizon did not consider
147 obtaining any input from those that would be directly impacted by their
148 actions prior to installation of many of their communication boxes. The
149 motion carried (20-0-0)

150 **d. Motion: That the GHNNC conditionally approve with the following**
151 **conditions: The property owner comply with all provisions of sec**
152 **12.03 of the City of Los Angeles Zoning Code, the department of**
153 **Building and Safety review the conditions and maintenance of the**
154 **property and that all existing code violations be remedied prior to**
155 **approval.** Because the address was inadvertently left off the motion, it
156 was tabled until next meeting.

157 **e. Motion: That the GHNNC approve the expenditure of up to \$200 (\$35**
158 **per person) for the GHNNC PLUM Committee members to attend the**
159 **4th Annual Legislative Update on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, in**
160 **Los Angeles.** Rationale: This is an opportunity for PLUM members to
161 hear about some of the new changes in California planning law, how some
162 of these laws and related legislation came about, and what is in the works
163 for 2009. The motion carried (20-0-0)

164 *Parks and Beautification - Mary Ellen Crosby*

165 **f.** Neysa Frechette reported that the corner of Balboa and Sesnon was
166 successfully planted with the help of Justin, Mikey, Melissa, and James.
167 Neysa is going to prepare a report back to the council regarding the cost
168 and potential grant to landscape the corner areas at Woodley and Rinaldi.
169 Ralph Kroy volunteered to assist in getting the park kiosks repaired.
170 Michael Greenwald will assist in the process.

171 **g. Motion: That GHNNC support the restoration of the entrance and**
172 **sign to O'Melveny Park at a reasonable cost.** Discussion concerned
173 "reasonable cost" and without an estimate we should wait. The motion
174 was tabled.

175

176 *Public Safety – Michael Greenwald:*

177 **h. Motion: That the GHNNC asks the LADOT to review the signal timing**
178 **at Balboa and Sesnon. We would ask that the wait time on Sesnon**
179 **when turning onto Balboa never exceed one minute once the**
180 **sensors are activated.** Anne Ziliak noted that interested and affected
181 citizens can post their recommendations on the LADOT website.

182 http://www.ladot.lacity.org/contact_us.htm

183

184 *Outreach – Sue DeVandry:*

185 i. Report – There will be a meeting at our new office on Wednesday,
186 February 11 at 7:00 PM to discuss and plan our involvement in Citrus
187 Sunday, to be held May 3rd.
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12. Board Member Comments on non-agenda items

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Wayde Hunter reported on the Terminal Hill project. He noted that he had met and obtained concurrence by the staff that they would haul their dirt and material north up Foothill toward Sierra Highway and that nothing would be stockpiled at the corner of Balboa Boulevard and Foothill Boulevard. He also stated that the GHNC letter had been read into the record at Water Board's meeting and that he had thanked them for their staff's cooperation.

Sid Gold reported on meetings he had attended at both the Valley and City Alliances of neighborhood Councils

Neysa Frechette noted that a taxi company parks there vehicles near her house. Both Anne and Michael volunteered to assist her if she would email the information to them

13. Meeting adjourned: 8:36 p.m.

- Minutes by Skip Leifer, Recording Officer