

1 **Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting**  
2 **June 29, 2009**  
3 **Kennedy High School**  
4 **11254 Gothic Ave**  
5 **Granada Hills, CA**  
6  
7

8 **Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.** by Leon Marzillier, GHNNC President.

9 Roll Call: Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Rafael Garcia, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald,  
10 Wayde Hunter, Skip Leifer, Agnes Lewis, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray  
11 Pollok, Eric Rosenberg, Steven Smith, Jan Subar, Joe Vitti, Anne Ziliak. Gary Holmen and Josh  
12 Jordahl arrived later. Pledge of Allegiance.

13  
14 **Chair Comments:** Introduction of Senior Lead Police Officer Angeles.

15  
16 **Approval of minutes** for two meetings: May 4 Special Board Meeting and June 1, 2009 Regular  
17 board meeting. **(Leifer/Vitti) moved approval of the June 1<sup>st</sup> minutes. The motion carried**  
18 **unanimously. (Rosenberg/Leifer) moved approval of the May 4th Special Meeting minutes.**  
19 **The motion carried 16-0-1.**

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21 **Public Comment on non-agenda items:**

- 22 • Raymond Yu announced the city's Independence Day Parade on July 4, 2009 and the  
23 Lotus Festival on July 11 in Echo Park.
- 24 • Bill Hopkins suggested that residents who want to report neighbors for watering  
25 violations use the new DWP water conservation door tags. He also announced that the  
26 DWP is raising residents' electric bills next month.
- 27 • Art Magdaleno expressed concern about advertising trailers blocking busy  
28 intersections.
- 29 • Dev Parikh informed stakeholders that the City is trying to make them responsible for  
30 sidewalk repair costs.
- 31 • Jeannie Plumb told the board that the City's PLUM Committee has found a way to  
32 bypass the Planning Ordinance as it applies to CUPs and EIRs. She is concerned  
33 about this issue as it could violate NCs ability to control development.
- 34 • Mary Slotnick of Friends of the Library in Granada Hills invited the board to consider  
35 purchasing 100 new books or DVDs to help the library through tough times. She stated  
36 that more residents are using the library for recreation as they try to cut back on  
37 expenses.
- 38 • DONE Rep. Amelia Herrera-Robles welcomed the stakeholders in attendance.
- 39 • John Bwarie, Deputy District Director to Councilman Smith, talked about the new City  
40 budget which takes effect July 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently the City has \$500 million of debt. Starting  
41 July 11<sup>th</sup>, the new series of "Movies in the Park" starts at Northridge Park. Go to:  
42 [www.cd12.org](http://www.cd12.org) for info. Regarding the DWP's new water rates, Councilman Smith has  
43 proposed exemptions which would help those with horses. John said those exemptions  
44 will be approved soon. He also John talked about the ordinance "No Parking for  
45 Unhitched Trailers" saying that new signage will target parking areas on Devonshire,  
46 Tampa and Rinaldi.
- 47 • Veteran Ernie Hilger announced the DAV's Virtual March on Washington on Sept 25,  
48 which will support disabled veterans. Anyone can participate by signing up online:  
49 [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org). "Virtual March."  
50

51 **Presentation – Evelyn Solano, Senior Lead Officer for Public Safety Services, Park Police**  
52 talked about what her job entails. Her area of coverage is the entire West Valley’s park areas.  
53 She works with libraries and parks, specifically O’Melveny Canyon. At that site, there has been an  
54 increase of MV burglaries resulting from residents leaving valuables in plain view on their front  
55 seats or floorboards. If anyone sees any suspicious activity, including fires being lit there, call the  
56 24-hour police dispatch # 213 978-4670. She talked about problems with the homeless lighting  
57 fires (by Canoga & the 118). She also differentiated between the role of Park Police and Park  
58 Rangers. Park Rangers handle interpretive aspects of the Rec and Parks service such as nature  
59 walks, while Park Police handle crime in the regional parks.

60  
61 **Chair Report on 2010 Census meeting.** Leon stated that every ten years a census is  
62 performed. The next one takes place in 2010. In the last census (2,000), it is estimated that there  
63 were about 840,000 people who were not counted – which means the State gets less money for  
64 services. **(Marzillier/Leifer) moved that the Citywide Issues Committee discuss the extent of**  
65 **GHNNC’s involvement with the 2010 census and make a recommendation at the July**  
66 **27,2009 Board meeting. The motion carried 17-0-1.**

67  
68 **PLUM Committee Report:** Anne Ziliak reported that Public Works has paved over equestrian  
69 trails by a gated community. She ask asked the Council Office to do something about this as this  
70 presents the loss of open space/public easement and K properties for equestrian trails near gated  
71 communities. Since neighborhood councils are not allowed to sue the City, she asked whether  
72 private individuals could work together on this.

73  
74 PLUM also held a Special Meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> to hear from stakeholders on an issue out of the  
75 GHNNC area. The item was whether or not GHNNC should oppose or deny New Directions’  
76 housing project at the Veterans Administration in North Hills. The project would create affordable  
77 apartments for 147 veterans by using a building on the VA campus. While it is outside of  
78 GHNNC’s jurisdiction, the issue was taken up after New Directions asked for GHNNC’s support at  
79 the regular April board meeting. Based on great interest on this issue, the Special Meeting was  
80 then held in June. After hearing from both sides, PLUM unanimously voted to oppose the New  
81 Directions project.

82  
83 **(PLUM/Ziliak) moved, “That the GHNNC oppose the New Directions/A Community of**  
84 **Friends plan (as presented to the North Hills West Neighborhood Council), or any other**  
85 **private project at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration site. Further, that the GHNNC**  
86 **support reestablishing a full service hospital at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration**  
87 **site.”**

88  
89 Anne stated that her Committee heard from about 25 veterans at their Special Meeting. Many felt  
90 a private company should not be allowed to lease the VA land as it might impact reestablishing a  
91 full service hospital at the VA. Furthermore, the North Hills West Neighborhood Council has  
92 opposed this project.

93  
94 The following individuals each spoke for two minutes on the proposed project:

- 95  
96
  - Jerry Askew, of Granada Hills South NC said that his NC passed a resolution supporting  
97 North Hills West in opposing this issue.
  - Tanna Brewer, a graduate of New Directions, supported the New Directions project. He  
98 said they helped him when he was homeless and living on the Devonshire on ramp. He  
99 asked the board to help other veterans find suitable housing by approving this project,  
100 which would create a safe environment for veterans.

101

- 102 • Willie Broughton, a veteran, also is an alumni of New Directions. He said that they helped  
103 him turn his life around and this project would offer veterans in the Valley a place to go.
- 104 • Peggy Burgess opposed the project. She said that veterans need this site for a future  
105 hospital. Now, they are forced to travel to W. LA and Long Beach for medical care. If the  
106 project goes forward, it will open up the rest of the VA acreage to private development.
- 107 • James Burnham, an Iraq veteran, talked about his post traumatic stress disorder as the  
108 result of being hit in the head with a brick by an Iraqi woman. He is undergoing problems  
109 and needs help from VA and supports New Directions.
- 110 • James Elkins, a naval veteran, supports New Directions. He is an alumnus of their  
111 program – a success story. He said that New Directions helps veterans return to society  
112 and have a decent life.
- 113 • David Fisher, other New Directions alumni, asked the board to not turn their backs on  
114 veterans who need helps.
- 115 • Estelle Goldman, North Hills West NC, was against New Directions. She suggested they  
116 should purchase real estate for their program rather than using the VA campus. She said it  
117 would be cheaper for them to do so.
- 118 • Ernie Hilger, a disabled veteran, Vietnam Veterans and DAV member, lives in Granada  
119 Hills and requested that the board oppose New Directions. He believes the motion  
120 proposed is for the greater good of all veterans. He said that veterans nationwide are  
121 passing resolutions to protect their rights.
- 122 • Nichan Kulukian, stakeholder of North Hills West and chair of their Land Use Committee  
123 opposed New Directions. He said that there are hundreds of thousands of veterans in need  
124 of medical services and that the government is trying to divest itself of property to private  
125 investors. He cited the movie industry as having paid \$8 million for use of buildings for  
126 filming last year. He said that six NCs support them in opposing New Directions.
- 127 • Bennie Najar, a veteran, supported New Directions. He said that the project will help 147  
128 people restart their lives. Since there are currently no plans for a hospital, he felt it should  
129 be used for the housing as soon as possible.
- 130 • Michael Nuno, a veteran and case worker with New Directions supports the housing. He  
131 works with veterans every day and has seen them grow as families are united. He said this  
132 project would be a way for veterans to help one another.
- 133 • Mark Reed, Republican candidate for Congress in 27th District (2010) opposes the  
134 housing. He said there is an epidemic of disenfranchised veterans. He feels a rehab facility  
135 is not needed - only a medical facility.
- 136 • Robert Rosebrock, of the Veterans Revolution, asked the board to oppose New Directions'  
137 project. He believes the VA should be used as a home and that the board should stand up  
138 and defend veterans. He questioned why New Directions did not win the bid for the lease  
139 from the VA - he believes it is because they are in the apartment business.
- 140 • Bob Schol, a disabled vet, opposes New Directions. He stated that the only veterans who  
141 would get housing would be those who came through the New Directions program. He  
142 currently worked with veterans helping them file claims. He believes the building proposed  
143 for housing is the last of the prime real estate in the Valley. He believes a medical facility  
144 would be a better use of that land.
- 145 • Jerry Schwartz, a veteran, did not feel the "Greater Good" was being served by New  
146 Directions' project. He said that although the lease would be for 75 years, it could be  
147 changed if the VA wants to unload the property. He also felt those who use the housing  
148 would be able to live there permanently as opposed to temporarily creating low income  
149 housing.
- 150 • Larry Van Kuran, representing the American Legion membership in the State of Ca., talked  
151 about enhanced use leases when buildings are unneeded or unwanted. He also believes

152 that the VA can change the terms of the lease so property can be transferred. He  
153 encouraged board to oppose the housing project.

- 154 • Darryl Williams is a product of New Directions. He talked about how he got his life back  
155 only to see his daughter, who is an Iraq War veteran, return from service with post  
156 traumatic stress disorder and alcoholism. He spoke about the benefits of New Directions'  
157 program.

158  
159 Board member Ray Pollok summed up the PLUM Committee's motion. He said that they don't  
160 have a problem with New Directions; it's a problem with taking the land from the VA when that  
161 money could buy housing outside of the VA land. He said the veterans are worried that the VA  
162 might lose the hospital for good. With more veterans coming back from the war, more hospital  
163 space is needed, not less.

164  
165 Joe Vitti then spoke for the New Directions project. He stated that Congressman Brad Sherman  
166 supports the project under certain conditions. He suggested that the board not take a stand on  
167 this issue until hearing from the VA regarding their plans for this land, in conjunction with  
168 Congressman Sherman. He pointed out that CA has the largest population of homeless veterans  
169 in the nation.

170  
171 After more discussion by the board, (Lillenberg/Leifer) called the question. The board moved to  
172 halt discussion and take a vote: 14-2-1.

173  
174 **The motion carried: 13-2-4.**

175  
176  
177 **(Executive Committee/Pollok) moved, "That GHNNC approve the budget for 2009-2010."**  
178 Ray Financial Officer Ray Pollok stated that this is a draft budget that was put together to meet  
179 the City's June 19 budget deadline. Since the board only has \$45,000 available for next year's  
180 allocation, the budget does not take into account the rollover of \$88,000 in funding. He said that  
181 DONE explained that they have to first make sure they still have the rollover funding to release it.  
182 He noted that the board could make changes to the draft budget after it is approved. **The motion**  
183 **carried: 17-0-1.**

184  
185 Treasurer Eric Rosenberg distributed a list of "Actual Expenses" versus "Proposed Expenses"  
186 and reviewed money spent in the fourth quarter.

187  
188 **(Executive Committee/Marzillier) moved, "That GHNNC hold November, December, 2009**  
189 **and January, February, 2010 Board meetings in the GHNNC office at 11139 Woodley**  
190 **Avenue (Note: July, August, September, and October, 2009 meetings are all at Kennedy**  
191 **High School).**

192  
193 Leon explained the office could accommodate the meetings when the school is closed for  
194 holidays. During discussion, both Sid Gold and Michael Greenwald opposed using the office for  
195 meetings due to close quarters. **The motion failed: 7-10-3.**

196  
197 **(Gold/Rosenberg) moved that the Executive Committee explore and make a decision on an**  
198 **alternate location. The motion carried: 19-0-0.**

199  
200 **(Executive Committee/Marzillier) moved, "That GHNNC establish the polling place for the**  
201 **March 2, 2010 elections to the GHNNC Board as the GHNNC office, and that the six hours**  
202 **that the polling place will be open on that day be 2-8 p.m."** Leon said a coin toss determined

203 that the next GHNNC election will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. **The motion carried**  
204 **unanimously.**

205

206 Committee Reports and possible action items:

- 207 • **(Marzillier/Leifer) moved, “That GHNNC fill the following three vacancies on the**  
208 **GHNNC Board: District 2 Representative, Educational Representative, and Faith-**  
209 **Based Group Representative by forming an ad hoc *Nominating Committee***  
210 **according to GHNNC Bylaw 14.2, and that this committee give its recommendations**  
211 **for action at the July 27, 2009 Board meeting. (Note: Filling Board vacancies is**  
212 **covered by Bylaw 7.5).The motion carried 18-0-1.**
- 213
- 214 • Selection of an ad hoc Nominating Committee to fill three vacancies on the GHNNC Board.  
215 **(Executive Committee/Marzillier): The following board members were nominated to**  
216 **serve on the ad hoc Nominating Committee: Sue DeVandry, Michael Greenwald, Sid**  
217 **Gold, Leon Marzillier and Gary Holman. The motion carried unanimously.**
- 218
- 219 ○ *Outreach* – Sue DeVandry reported on the Mayor’s Day of Service. She will be  
220 ordering GHNNC street banners shortly.
- 221
- 222 ○ *Parks and Beautification* – Mary Ellen Crosby is working with the Park Department  
223 to get signage in the park. The lack of signage has led to lots of small fires in the  
224 O’Melveny Park so she’s working with them to get “No Fires Permitted” signs, as  
225 well. The trails have been opened up at the Park up to the oil fields.
- 226
- 227 ○ *Policy and Rules* – Eric Rosenberg presented the board with a Summary of Analysis  
228 from the Policy and Rules Committee, which responds to stakeholder/board  
229 concerns about whether certain procedures were followed in accordance with The  
230 Brown Act, Robert’s Rules of Order and/or the bylaws. **(Rosenberg/Manatt)**  
231 **moved, “That GHNNC hold a special Board meeting on August 24, 2009 for**  
232 **the purpose of approving any proposed bylaw changes. “ The motion carried**  
233 **17-0-2.**  
234 Eric asked the board to submit any requests for revisions to the bylaws at the next  
235 Policy & Rules meeting on July 13, 2009 at 4 p.m.
- 236
- 237 ○ *Public Safety* – Michael Greenwald noted that a motorist has been speeding  
238 through the stop sign at Van Gogh and Goya every night between 8:30 and 10 p.m.  
239 He asked anyone who sees this to report to police their license plate or the location  
240 where they return home. The long – awaited traffic light at Knollwood Center is  
241 moving along with funding from the Stimulus Package. Civil engineering is now  
242 done with their end of the project.

243

244

245 **Board Member Comment on non-agenda items:**

- 246 Mary Ellen supports funding the library’s request based on heavy community usage.  
247 Sid commended Anne/PLUM for their work on the VA issue. Also, Sid stated that the incoming  
248 City Attorney, Carmen Trutanich, has stated that when he takes office, he will ask Controller  
249 Wendy Greuel to audit the (former) City Attorney’s office.  
250 Mike commended Eric on his work on the Policy & Rules bylaws document.

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252 **Meeting Adjourned** at: 9:37 p.m. Next Meeting: July 27.

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- Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One and
- Amended by Skip Leifer, Recording Officer