

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2009
Kennedy High School
11254 Gothic Ave, Granada Hills, CA

1. **Call to Order:** 6:35 p.m. Roll Call: Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael Garcia, Michael Greenwald, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Gary Holman, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollok, Eric Rosenberg, Jan Subar, Joe Vitti and Anne Zilliak.
Sid Gold and Josh Jordahl arrived late.

Pledge of Allegiance & Chair Comments: Leon reminded the board that the Congress of NCs takes place this Saturday at City Hall. He asked for a show of support by the board at this event. Also, he requested articles for the next GHNNC newsletter.

2. **Approval of August 31, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes.** The minutes were unanimously approved by consensus.

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

Raymond Yue made a series of announcements including an invitation to the board to attend the Oct. 10, 2009 Empower LA and Community Budget Day at City Hall. 8:00 – 3:30 p.m. and an event with the Monterey Park Chamber of Congress, also on Sat. Oct. 10.

John Bwarie, Deputy for Councilman Smith, said the Councilmember has proposed a motion to create flexibility with the current DPW water restrictions. He talked about the success of the Disaster Preparedness Event and vacancies in City management.

Bill Larsen, Deputy City Attorney for the Devonshire Division, Nuisance Abatement Division, spoke about a nuisance abatement request on Meyerling Street and described the process for handling it. He also mentioned a problem with transients and graffiti at the rear of the Knollwood Shopping Mall. He then addressed specific questions from the board and stakeholders. If there is a problem, Bill suggested first calling the Senior Lead Police Officer. He works through the City Attorney's Department, but if he is assigned a case, he can be reached at: 310 445-1714.

4. **Treasurer/Finance Officer Report:** Financial Officer Ray Pollok stated that he is still waiting for an amount for the rollover funding promised by DONE (now Empower LA). Since he is not sure what that amount is going to be – he thinks it should be \$91,000 – he cannot submit a revised budget for GHNNC to Empower LA, as they have requested. Treasurer Eric Rosenberg added that Empower LA paid some of the bills submitted last year from this year's budget. This has caused additional costs to be added into the current year's budget, reducing the amount to about 60% of the original \$45,000.
5. **Ad Hoc Nominating Committee – Michael Greenwald moved on behalf of the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee, "That GHNNC accept the resignations of Pat Casparian and Skip Leifer." The motion carried unanimously.**

Greenwald moved on behalf of the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee, "That GHNNC appoint Claudio Saavedra as a District 3 representative on GHNNC's Board (for the seat vacated by Pat Casparian). The motion carried: 12-0-4. Claudio, a Granada Hills stakeholder, then joined the board for the rest of the meeting.

6. **Executive Committee – (Marzillier) moved on behalf of the Executive Committee, “That GHNNC vacate the current Ad Hoc Nominating Committee, as its work had been completed.” The motion carried unanimously.**

Leon then informed the board that a motion to appoint stakeholder Mary Anna Kienholz as a District 3 Representative on GHNNC’s Board was tabled as Mary Anna has declined the appointment.

7. **(Marzillier) moved on behalf of the Executive Committee, “That GHNNC form a new Ad Hoc Nominating Committee to fill three remaining vacancies on the Board: District 2, Education Rep, and now, the District 3 seat vacated by Skip Leifer. The amended motion carried unanimously.** Anne Ziliak, Kim Thompson, Mike Greenwald, Sid Gold and Sue DeVandry will serve on the new Ad Hoc Nominating Committee.

Board Member Agnes Lewis then volunteered for and was nominated to serve as Recording Officer for GHNNC effective immediately. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **Status of youth sports facilities in our district – Gary Holmen** spoke about the pending loss of the North Valley Youth Baseball and North Valley Ayso174 at Jenson Metropolitan Water District on Balboa. He explained that the current six year lease will expire at for the baseball and soccer leagues because MWD is going to use that field for sludge. The Metropolitan Water District has given the leagues a date of Feb. 2011 as the final, drop dead date to relocate. Right now, the leagues are looking at another site in Sylmar, which will be a huge loss to the families in the Granada Hills area who gather regularly to watch their kids play. He asked for help in preserving or retaining youth facilities in the area. **(Holmen/DeVandry) moved to form an Ad Hoc committee to help find alternative sites for the two leagues in the GHNNC area. (Gold) offered a friendly amendment to: “to form an Ad Hoc committee to investigate the future of the AYSO and Baseball Leagues. The motion carried: 20-0-1.** Gary Holman, Neysa Frechette, Wayde Hunter, Ralph Kroy Anne Ziliak, and Joshua Jordahl all volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.
9. **Election Committee – Sue DeVandry** informed the board that there is a need to form an Ad Hoc Election Committee to prepare for the March 2, 2010 election for GHNNC board members. All board seats will be up for election at that time. This Committee will help with maintaining the deadlines for the upcoming election. The motion carried unanimously. Leon, Neysa, Raphael, Claudio, and Eric volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Election Committee.

10. Board Member Reports:

- a. *Parks and Beautification* – Mary Ellen Crosby reported that the Los Angeles Conservation Crew has been working on clearing trails. The Main Trail’s name was changed to the O’Melveny Trail. In preparation for an El Nino winter, the crew is also clearing brush from streams. She invited the board to attend the graduation ceremony for those on the fire crews who helped with the Sayre Fire. The event takes place Oct. 9 at the City Council office. Due to Mary Ellen’s upcoming knee surgeries, she will be unable to attend the next couple of board meetings and will be in a rehab facility. She would enjoy having visitors.
- b. *Public Safety* – Michael Greenwald thanked Bob Ricketts for his organizing and dealing with seven Neighborhood Councils who took part in the North Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair on Oct. 3, 2009. Each NC contributed \$1,000 to the event for the creation of red totes filled with emergency supplies.

(Greenwald) moved on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, “That GHNNC work with CD12 and LADOT to post additional signage near the narrowing on Sesnon at Classics Drive stating either “No Outlet” or “Not A Through Street.” The motion carried unanimously.

- c. *Citywide Issues* – Sid Gold said he is waiting until this Saturday’s Congress to see what develops with some issues of interest, including the recent resignation of a DWP official, the question of residents responsibility for repairing their sidewalks, and ongoing issue of marijuana shops operating in the area.
- d. *Outreach* – Sue DeVandry thanked the board for helping put on a successful Street Faire. There were 75 new signups for GHNNC emails. On the topic of outreach, she encouraged everyone to attend the Congress of NCs and to sign up online for classes. This free training will be valuable to the GHNNC. The GHNNC Open House is Thursday, Oct. 15, 5 p.m. – 8:00 pm at the GHNNC office. Councilman Smith and his staff will attend. The next outreach meeting is tentatively set for Wed., Oct 21.
- e. *Policy and Rules* – Eric Rosenberg said he is still waiting for the final word from Empower LA on whether the Bylaws were accepted. Potentially, BONC will be holding a meeting within the GHNNC area on Oct. 21. The next Committee meeting will be Nov. 9 at 4 p.m.
- f. *PLUM – (Ziliak) moved on behalf of PLUM,* “**That GHNNC deny a variance to subdivide 13,833.4 sq ft lot into two separate lots at 17251 Bronte Place: (AA-2008-4806) because this would create lots less than 7,500 square feet and is not compatible with the surrounding lot size.**” She explained that the paperwork for this project was presented with incorrect data; the division of the property would result in lot sizes smaller than required by the zoning. **The motion carried: 19-0-2.**

(Ziliak) moved on behalf of PLUM, “**That GHNNC approve a revised plan for 17981 MAYERLING ST. ((T)(Q)RE20-1-O-K: APCNV-2005-8713-ZC-ZAA:TT 65036) that proposes to divide a 152,798 square foot lot into four lots ranging from 32,000 to 40,000 sq ft.**” Developer Steve Schwartz spoke on behalf of this project, which his company is acquiring after the property went into foreclosure from the original developer. Anne explained that the new developer was willing to start anew with the original agreement, which allowed for four lots. Mr. Schwartz added that he would put in a private drive of 40’ (two 20’ side by side) to the property with two flag lots. **The motion carried: 19-0-0 with 1 recusal.**

With the plan pending now before the Planning Department, it is estimated that if it is approved, the project would start in about 6 months.

Anne added one additional note, that she has information on the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility for interested stakeholders.

11. Board Member comments:

Leon is now teaching a course at Valley College after retiring two years ago.

Bill Hopkins pointed out the value of the items enclosed in the Emergency Preparedness ‘goodie bags.’ He reminded the board to bring items to donate to the food banks at the next board meeting.

12. Meeting adjourned: 8:47 p.m.

- Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One -