

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2009
6:30pm
Kennedy High School (Cafeteria)
11254 Gothic Avenue

1. **Call to Order** at 6:35pm by Leon Marzillier, GHNNC Chairperson.
2. **Roll Call:** (Quorum established with 21 board members): **Present:** Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael Garcia, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Gary Holmen, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Joshua Jordahl, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, William E. Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollock, Eric Rosenberg, Claudio Saavedra, Steven Smith, Jan Subar, Joe Vitti and Anne Ziliak. **Absent:** Mary Ellen Crosby (excused absence due to surgery).
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Alliance was led by visiting Boy Scout, Devon Leurhmann.
4. **Chair Comments:** Leon noted the procedures for public comment and general participation in the Board Meeting.
5. **Approval of October 5, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes:** Leon moved to approve the October 5, 2009 board meeting minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote (21-0-0).
6. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**
 - a.) **Commendation:** Council Member Ralph Kroy presented Boy Scout Devon Leurhmann (Troop 549) with the GHNNC "Stakeholder of the Month" award, in recognition of his leadership in building and posting wooden trail markers in O'Melveny Park as part of his Eagle Scout project.
 - b.) **Commendation:** Community stakeholder Robert Ricketts presented a formal Certificate of Commendation to the GHNNC from City Councilman Greig Smith, for GHNNC's outstanding work in participating in the 2009 Street Faire and Emergency Preparedness Fair. He also noted that the next Faire will take place on October 2, 2010.
 - c.) **Thank You:** On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, Dave Beauvais thanked the GHNNC for its role in the Street Faire.
 - d.) **Introduction of Special Guest:** Leon introduced Jeffrey Liu, a visitor from Shanghai observing neighborhood councils, with a view to adapting our process for his country.
7. **Treasury Report (Pollock):** No final resolution to the issue of the \$91k in rollover funds from last year, although we keep getting verbal reassurance from the city that they will be forthcoming.
8. **Budget Report (Rosenberg):** Eric drew attention to two handouts – (1) current GHNNC "Budget vs. Actual"; and (2) "How to Pay for GHNNC Expenses." He underscored that the GHNNC must adhere strictly to this budget until the availability of rollover funds is confirmed. Currently the GHNNC has \$25,251 left to spend, including the facility rental budget line of \$15,000, through the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2010).
9. **2010 Census Update (Tessie Plata, Office of the Census):** Visiting speaker, Tessie Plata, stressed the importance of the GHNNC in encouraging all stakeholders to participate in the upcoming census process. Census returns help determine school, hospital, disaster remedy and other community funding requests. The census count also provides valuable demographic information to businesses and other interested parties.

There were questions about the counting of illegal aliens. They will be counted, and there is no way to distinguish between a legal resident and someone who has no legal status.
10. **GHNNC 2010 Election Procedures (Sofia Torres):** Filing forms will be available in mid November for those stakeholders who wish to run for GHNNC Board seats next March 2. A packet of procedures

was handed out. Mike Greenwald made a **motion** and Sue DeVandry seconded. to approve the 2010 election procedures, with the following three corrections: (1) boundary corrections to the City Clerk's GHNNC map, as confirmed by BONC; (2) the removal of "Council District 07" which incorrectly appears on the map; and (3) correction to the Neighborhood Council Boundaries section of the election procedures document (Section III-A / Page Three). **The motion carried (18-0-3)**. The Council will provide Sofia with the necessary wording for the correct boundary definitions.

Voting by mail will be available only for people who certify that they are physically disabled.

Clarification that the \$75 limitation on campaign spending for each seat applies to the candidate's own contribution, not to the value of city resources used, as defined in the Procedures.

11. Ad Hoc Election Committee (Saavedra and DeVandry):

Motion: That the GHNNC allocate to the Ad Hoc Election Committee a budget of \$6,000 for outreach for the 2010 elections.

Part of this budget would be contributed to a pool in conjunction with other neighborhood councils, Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Granada Hills North, Granada Hills South, North Hills West, Northridge East, Northridge West, Porter Ranch, West Hills, Winnetka, and Woodland Hills – Warner Center. Originally election funds were not budgeted for the current fiscal year because the City Clerk's office was going to take care of the process. Now that the City budget has suffered cutbacks, the neighborhood councils are being asked to make up the shortfall from their existing budgets. Eric noted that the GHNNC only has approximately \$10,000 to spend for the rest of the fiscal year (without confirmation of rollover funds) for the remainder of the fiscal year.

(Lewis) moved to **amend the motion** to the following: That the GHNNC allocate to the Ad Hoc Election Committee a budget of \$3,000 for the 2010 elections, to be taken from the "EDU: Training and Conferences" line of the current operating budget. Additional funds for the 2010 election may be discussed at a future time, pending receipt of rollover funds." (Gold) seconded the motion. **The motion as amended passed (17-4-0)**.

12. GHNNC Facility Lease Renewal

(Marzillier) made the following **motion**: That the GHNNC approve the lease renewal on the GHNNC office for the period of 01/01/2010 to 12/31/2010, at the same rent as 2009, payable for the entire 12 months in advance, and authorize the President to sign the relevant documents. (DeVandry) seconded the motion. There was discussion on whether this expense could be eliminated, but many argued that there is no other practical meeting space, as city policies do not allow GHNNC meetings at private residences. **The motion passed (15-4-2)**.

13. Minutes Transcription

Motion: (Marzillier) That GHNNC terminate our contract with Apple One and hire Pat Kramer directly to transcribe our minutes, at a cost of \$200 per Board Meeting.

Leon noted that this motion was not possible, due to citywide rules governing neighborhood councils and mandating that the councils use one of four designated outside contractors. However, there is no mandate preventing the Council from taking its own minutes, and it was suggested that the GHNNC Secretary, currently Agnes Lewis, could transcribe the minutes, possibly aided by the use of an audio recording back-up.

(Lewis) moved to **amend the motion**: That the GHNNC suspend the services of Apple One, starting with the November 2009 meeting, and direct the GHNNC Secretary tape record and transcribe the minutes. (Hunter) seconded the motion. **The motion passed (13-8-0)**.

14. Committee Reports and Possible Action Items:

- a) **Ad Hoc Committee regarding Youth Athletic Fields (Gary Holmen):** Gary noted that the Committee had a productive first meeting, with plans for more discussion at the 11/04/09 meeting. He will present more information at the next Council meeting regarding finding alternatives to the problem of a site for youth sports in Granada Hills.
- b) **Public Safety (Michael Greenwald):** Four members of the Public Safety Committee met with Sal Vasquez, David Dean, plant manager for the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), and three others to discuss issues affecting public safety in the neighborhood, particularly the safety of chlorine transport and storage. The Committee was impressed with MWD's policies, but still has concerns with the LADWP adjacent site.
- c) **Citywide Issues (Sid Gold):**
- (1) **Motion:** That the GHNNC support the concept of an Inspector General to oversee the DWP and further resolved that the GHNNCC inform City Council that all neighborhood councils be invited in the process of forming the ordinance and selecting the inspector general. **The motion passed (16-0-3).**
 - (2) **Motion:** That all neighborhood councils be invited in the process of evaluating any fee increase for filing appeals regarding zoning changes. **The motion passed (19-0-0).**
 - (3) **Motion:** That the GHNNC support the development of a marijuana dispensary ordinance and that all neighborhood councils be invited to participate in its development. **The motion passed (18-2-0).** It was noted that the purpose of the ordinance, currently being drafted by the Office of the City Attorney, is to ensure that dispensaries operate within the guidelines of California law.
- d) **Outreach (Sue DeVandry):**
Sue noted that there has been a lot of activity, including the GHNNC's role in Disaster Preparedness and the Street Faire. The GHNNC Open House brought in many stakeholders. Photos by Bill Hopkins are posted on the website). She noted that the GHNNC needs a flatbed truck to serve as the float in the **12/06/09 holiday parade**, and asked that Council members help her find somebody willing to lend or rent their truck for the occasion. Sue was applauded for her efforts in making the GHNNC Open House such a success.
- e) **Policy and Rules (Eric Rosenberg):**
Eric reported that BONC, the Board of Neighborhood Councils, **approved the clarification of GHNNC's western border, to include Aliso Canyon**, which is a shared responsibility between GHNNC and the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council. GHNNC bylaw changes were also approved. Eric was applauded for his work.
- f) **PLUM (Planning and Land Use, Anne Ziliak):**
- (1) **Motion:** That the GHNNC adopt the following position on the application to operate a trade school in conjunction with a boarding facility that will house 280 boys ages 15-22, located at 16601 Rinaldi Street (CPC-2009-569-CU-ZV-GB; ENV-2009-570-EAF): *Information provided with the application and the proposal presented by the applicant were inconsistent – the planned four story building and parking is inappropriate and not compatible for this single residential family zone. The project proposed would not be consistent with the neighborhood in which it is being proposed.*

This motion was **deferred until the November 2009 Board Meeting**, to give the applicant the opportunity to respond.

- (2) **Motion:** That the GHNNC adopt a position to maintain the equestrian ordinance without any changes to allow equestrian trails for wheeled vehicles. [Clarification: The ordinance currently does NOT allow wheeled vehicles on equestrian trails, and the motion was to preserve this prohibition.] **The motion passed (15-3-2).** Glenn Bailey, Volunteer Chair of the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee, made a brief presentation regarding the issues associated with the citywide Bicycle Plan drafted by City Planning (not Recreation and Parks).
- (3) **Motion:** That the GHNNC recommend that the City Planning Department change the Conditional Use Permit at 17009 Rinaldi Street (ZA-2009-1731-ZV) to allow the sale of refrigerated alcoholic beverages with a condition that a Plan Approval Review be required in five years. **The motion passed (17-3-0).**

Bill Lillenberg reported an a review of the stations' conditional use permit (CUP), which was unusually restrictive. The applicant is not asking for relief from the other provisions. The matter was reviewed also with LAPD, and has no particular problem with loitering . While some Council Members expressed concern over the ready availability of cold beer and wine, the majority of Members noted that an adjacent gas station was already allowed to sell such beverages and that it was unfair to penalize the applicant.

Board Member Comments:

- a) Sid Gold asked Council Members to read the "Bicyclists' Bill of Rights," and noted that there was a link posted on the GHNNC website, for discussion at the next meeting. He also made the request that, in the future, the Council work to stay more closely focused on the issues for discussion during Board meetings.
- b) It was noted that there will be a "Learning for Life" Boy Scout fundraiser on November 18th [where?].
- c) The **next GHNNC meeting will take place on November 30, 2009 at Van Gogh Street Elementary School** (17260 Van Gogh Street).

15. Meeting Adjourned: 9:50pm.

- Minutes Transcribed by Jacqueline Elam, Apple One
- Amended by Agnes Lewis, GHNNC Secretary