

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting
Monday, December 21, 2009 6:30 pm
GHNC Office

1. **Call to Order** at 6:42 pm by Anne Ziliak, GHNC Vice President. **Roll Call:** Quorum established with 19 board members present: Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael Garcia, Sid Gold (late), Michael Greenwald, Gary Holmen, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Joshua Jordahl, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Scott Manatt, Ray Pollok, Eric Rosenberg, Claudio Saavedra, Jan Subar, Joe Vitti and Anne Ziliak. **Absent:** William Lillenberg, Leon Marzillier, Steven Smith. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
2. **Chair Comments:** Anne Ziliak noted the procedures for public comment and participation in the Board Meeting, and welcomed back Mary Ellen Crosby.
3. **Approval of November 30, 2009 Minutes:** Minor corrections were made. Approved unanimously
4. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** There were none.
5. **Financial Officer's Report (Pollok):** Have received word that the rollover funds from last year *will* be available, though the method used to calculate the amount has not been used before. According to Jacqueline Mendez from the City, rollover funds would be less than \$30k, because any funds not used in three years are eliminated. The GHNC points out that we have used a FIFO (first in, first out) method to use "old" funds first every year, and therefore none of the rollover funds is over 3 years old. Discussion ensued. Ray will continue to pursue this with the City.
6. **Treasurer's Report (Rosenberg):** Eric submitted two versions of the budget, A and B, the difference is the assumed rollover amounts. There was discussion of methodology used to calculate the funds, and how to get the City to release them. **Motion:** (Greenwald) That the GHNC submit Budget A (assuming \$90k rollover). Hopkins seconded. Passed 17-0-2 (0 against, 2 abstaining). **Motion** (Rosenberg) That the GHNC approve the Treasurer's report for submission to DONE. There was discussion of certain expense items, including a lighted sign. There was additional discussion of LIFO and FIFO cost accounting. The motion was eventually seconded by Greenwald and carried 19-0-0 (unanimous)
7. **Report on LADWP Budget Meeting:** (Hopkins) S. David Freeman was appointed as Interim General Manager and will serve for up to 6 months. He engaged with a Q&A session rather than a budget review. He said that LADWP's information systems are "woefully inadequate". The water infrastructure is old, causing an average of 5 significant leaks a day, but these still represent a small portion of the water usage in the city. During his previous term he started some green initiatives including getting rid of one coal-fired power plant; some of these got reversed under his successor. There are on-going budget issues, including the City Council changing the fee paid to the city from 5% to 8% of electrical revenue. Some questioned why not cut costs instead of raising rates. He pointed out that during his previous tenure he had dismissed about 1100 IBEW workers. About 95% of staff is represented by the IBEW. LADWP is considering making direct payments instead of issuing credits to customers who generate excess power from rooftop solar panels. The pension fund has a \$1.4B shortfall which maybe made up through fee increases.
8. **Report on the Recycled Water Advisory Group (RWAG)'s first meeting:** (Hopkins and Lewis): The LADWP is trying to get the community involved in the project to recycle water for uses such as golf courses, industrial uses, and groundwater replenishment. About half of the 45 attendees were from various City departments. Ecological groups were heavily represented. A few other neighborhood councils sent representatives. The goal is to recycle 50,000 acre-feet (AF) per year by 2019. This is NOT meant to be used as potable water. Also mentioned that in the SF Valley, about half of the wells are polluted and have been shut down. Los Angeles has added about 1M people over the last decade without increasing water use. Conservation efforts decreased overall water usage by about 18%.
9. **Committee Reports:**
 - a.) **PLUM (Planning and Land Use)** (Wayde Hunter): Discussed some wireless AGF (above-ground facilities); ongoing work to mitigate the practical and aesthetic impact of antennas, disguising as poles, trees, etc. **11582 Longacre**, requesting a change to RE40 zoning, to put 5 lots into a narrow ridge over a canyon and requiring less of a setback than neighbors. **Motion:** That the GHNC oppose the application as proposed and recommend approval of a total of four lots, and require that an arborist be on site for the grading. Amendment (Greenwald) to require "certified arborist". be on site for the grading. Amendment accepted. **Motion passed 19-0-0** (unanimous).
16601 Rinaldi St (Jewish Trade School and Boarding School): The committee met with applicant, and requested a change in the number of stories (four proposed) and height (45 feet). The committee felt that the project as proposed is not in keeping with the neighborhood. Kim Bible, from Gaines and Stacey LLP, land use attorneys, asserted that the project is consistent with neighbors, and is surrounded by other institutions. City has not begun review, awaiting results of a traffic study, which has been submitted to DOT but review will not begin until mid-January. After

that, application will be submitted to the city environmental unit. Discussion ensued – there are no other 4-story buildings anywhere within our boundaries; and the boarding school is essentially a residential building without the requisite parking. **Motion:** That the GHNNC submit comment on the application to build and operate a trade school with dormitory at 16601 Rinaldi St to the Environmental Section opposing the planned height and the 4-story building. That the project as proposed is inappropriate and not compatible with the area and the density is not compatible with the surrounding single-family residential neighborhood. **Motion carried: 17-1-1.**

Discussion of the application by Republic/Allied/BFI to the SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District) to install 5 gas turbines at the landfill to produce electricity. The proposal states that this will add 31 additional tons of NOx emissions daily. **Motion:** That the GHNNC oppose the installation of the currently proposed gas turbine project at Sunshine Canyon landfill and/or any installation/ project that increases daily emissions and/or does not result in the decrease of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) estimated 351 tons/days of emissions produced. Rafael Garcia recused himself from the discussion and vote. **Motion carried: 16-0-1** (and 1 recusal). The SCAQMD will hold a hearing to determine whether Allied/BFI should be issued an order of abatement for several nuisance orders. **Motion:** That the GHNNC support the SCAQMD to issue an “order of abatement” against Allied Waste/Republic Services dba Sunshine Canyon for the operation of Solid Waste Disposal site operating under a solid waste permit which has resulted in numerous citations for odor in our neighborhood council area. Discussion ensued. An audience member volunteered to help in public relations efforts to inform the neighbors. **Motion carried 17-0-1 and 1 recusal.**

- b.) **Ad Hoc Election Committee (Claudio Saavedra):** Candidates for the Board must file a candidate form with the City Clerk by January 2 in order to be on the printed ballot. Later applicants will only appear as write-ins. An information flyer was mailed jointly with the GHSNC. Also all of the NCs in region A sent out a joint postcard encouraging people to run. 5-6 new candidates have signed up. More information is available on our website. Special representatives, such as student rep, youth rep, etc, require additional documentation.
 - c.) **Ad Hoc Committee regarding Youth Athletic Fields (Gary Holmen):** Additional information on moving the baseball and soccer fields: LADWP has a budget of \$5 Billion for expansion. They maintain that they're mitigating impact because they're providing alternate site in Sylmar, 25 acres for soccer and baseball. The Sylmar community understandably looks at this as “their” park, and there is no practical way to ensure that the ball teams will dependably have access and priority over other uses. Also there will be less room. The committee would like to find out whether the DWP really needs the soccer fields. Nothing has been filed, though they plan to build sludge pits there.
 - d.) **Public Safety Committee: (Mike Greenwald):** The number of advertising trailers left on major streets is proliferating. To meet the letter of the *no unhitched trailers* law, some are using inexpensive cars to attach to trailers. **Motion:** That the GHNNC urge the City of Los Angeles to more stringently enforce all current regulations on advertising trailers and work toward stronger restrictions to remove these from our city streets. **Motion carried: 19-0-0.** The LAPD has had great success with video surveillance cameras; the committee suggests they be used at Bee Canyon and O'Melveny Park to identify graffiti artists. The Safety Committee is looking for funding.
 - e.) **Outreach Committee: (Sue DeVandry):** The GHNNC Float won a 2nd place trophy in the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Election for GHNNC is March 2, 2010. GHNNC and GHSNC sent out a combined election newsletter. Other Election outreach includes: a banner at the corner of Balboa and Rinaldi; newspaper ads; lawn signs; posters and flyers; and outreach to stakeholders at HOWS Market and Albertson's Market in February. On January 14th DONE will conduct an Open Forum at San Jose school auditorium, to recruit candidates. There was discussion about a possible Candidate Forum to be held Wednesday, February 24 at 7 pm at the GHNNC offices.
 - f.) **Policy and Rules Committee: (Rosenberg):** DONE is not accepting changes to bylaws until after the March elections. Eric asked that the Board accept his resignation as the chair of the committee. He feels all committee heads should resign and allow the new Board (in March) to appoint new committee heads. After verifying that the proposed resignation was for this principle only, the Board did not accept his resignation.
10. **Board Member Comments:** Councilman Smith wrote a letter requesting that tree trunks be removed from city easements. Hopkins: Flyers about the Food Forward program and electrical safety are available at the table in the back.
11. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:25. Next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on January 25, 2010, at Van Gogh Elementary school.