

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, January 25 2010 6:30 pm
Van Gogh Elementary School**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:45 pm by Leon Marzillier, GHNNC President. **Roll Call:** (Quorum established with 15 board members): **Present:** Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Michael Greenwald, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, William E. Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollock, Eric Rosenberg, Jan Subar Joe Vitti and Anne Ziliak. Three members came in late: Sid Gold, Gary Holmen, Joshua Jordahl. **Absent:** Mary Ellen Crosby, Rafael Garcia, Claudio Saavedra. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Alliance was recited.
Chair Comments: Leon Marzillier noted the procedures for public comment and general participation in the Board Meeting.
- 2) **Approval of December 21, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes:** Minor corrections were made. **Motion to approve** carried by unanimous vote (15-0-0).
- 3) **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**
 - a) **Community Event:** Raymond Yu shared information about the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival in Los Angeles Saturday, February 20th; information at www.LAChinesechamber.org. The 32nd Annual Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker 5/10K run will take place Sunday, February 28 (www.firecracker10k.org).
 - b) **Special Guest:** Lauren Gallant, Field Deputy for state Senator Alex Padilla, summarized recent legislation. State Senate District 20 includes parts of the San Fernando Valley, east to Sun Valley and west to Canoga Park, north of the 101 Freeway. Senator Padilla is Chair of the Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee. SB17 (recently passed) addresses smart grid technology to improve efficiency of power lines. SB23 is the Mobile Home Park Fire Safety Bill (passed), mandates better emergency preparedness information to park residents.
 - c) **Special Guest:** Senior Lead Officer Janine Angeles of the LA Police Department spoke about the LAPD's "TIPOFF" Line, (818) 832-0563, to report any information on suspicious activity in the neighborhood. Although crime rates are down overall, there has been an increase in theft of items from cars, including broken windows. Most crime in this area is around supermarkets. Information about crime statistics and local developments at www.lapdonline.org.
 - d) **Special Guest:** John Bwarie from Councilman Greig Smith's office, spoke about the dire financial situation of the City, with a \$186M shortfall this fiscal year, and a projected \$400M shortfall for FY2011. Councilman Smith is co-chair of the Budget Committee. The City Administrative Officer is preparing plans for a "new era of government", starting with zero-sum assumptions, preserving public safety and other core services. This right-sizing of city government will likely lead to layoffs, furloughs, and salary reductions for city staff. City Council passed ordinance to eliminate smoking outside restaurant, terraces, patios, etc. Also passed an ordinance regulating medical marijuana dispensaries. At peak there were 1000 of these. The new ordinance allows only those in operation 18 months ago, about 70, plus some others, total about 130. To be enforced by LAPD and Building and Safety.
- 4) **Finance Officer's Report** (Pollok): Rollover funds from last year still have not been approved. Made one last attempt to persuade the city of the calculation error.
- 5) **Treasurer's Report** (Rosenberg): If the rollover funds from last year are not forthcoming, we will have only \$4,700 for the balance of this fiscal year (ends June 30). Reviewed a handout of the budget. **Motion** (Rosenberg): That the GHNNC approve the Treasurer's Quarterly Report for 2Q FY2010 and instruct that it be submitted to DONE for NC funding. **Carried 18-0-0.** There was discussion of the expense cuts necessary for the NC to survive without rollover funds until June. **Motion** (Rosenberg): That the GHNNC instruct all Board members to receive pre-approval for all future FY2010 expenditures (including mileage, but excluding photocopies and election-related expenses) from the Treasurer, Financial Officer, or President; with the understanding that meeting refreshments, office supplies, office furnishings, and non-essential outreach purchases will be denied; until such time as DONE releases the GHNNC's rollover funds. There was discussion

whether election-related costs also be cut. It was pointed out that the Motion addresses an emergency, and therefore requires 2/3 votes. Motion **carried 15-1-2**. Sue Devandry moved that refreshments for the Candidate Forum be allowed, but come out of election funds. Agnes Lewis offered an **amendment** to eliminate all refreshments. Amendment **failed 2-16-0**. **Motion carried 17-1-0**, so that refreshments will be provided at the Candidate Forum, out of the election budget.

- 6) **Motion:** (Marzillier): That the GHNNC accept the resignation of Steven Smith (Small Business Representative) from the Board. **Carried 17-0-1**.
- 7) **Motion** (Marzillier): That GHNNC schedule Board meetings for March 22, April 26, May 24, and June 28th to be held at Van Gogh Elementary school. Cost is \$75 to LAUSD per meeting. **Carried 18-0-0**.
- 8) **Motion** (Marzillier): That the GHNNC select a stakeholder to be GHNNC's emergency point of contact. This addresses a request from DONE; the person named would be the primary contact for CERT training, information dissemination in an emergency, etc. **Motion carried 17-0-1**. The Board appointed Bill Hopkins, who is CERT trained, to be the primary contact. The backup is the chair of the Public Safety Committee, currently Mike Greenwald. Appointments carried **18-0-0**.
- 9) **Motion** (Zilliak): That the GHNNC agree to allow the GHNNC to be listed in the Gelb Group Tenant Directory. This is a free listing. **Carried 18-0-0**.
- 10) **Census 2010:** A written report was handed out. Census forms will be going out March 15 and are due to be returned April 1. After that, Census workers will go knocking on doors of non-responders.

11) Committee Reports:

- a) **Planning and Land Use** (Zilliak): Clear Wireless (Sprint) has an application to add antennas to the monopine cell tower at the Methodist Church at 12121 Balboa Blvd., which they have not been adequately maintaining. Since this will come to a hearing before the next GHNNC Board meeting, Zilliak requested an emergency **Motion:** That the GHNNC recommend denial of the application because the applicant has not responded to requests for information. After spirited discussion, motion **carried 12-2-2-2** (the last two were recusals, Kroy and Holmen). **Motion:** That the GHNNC oppose the Sober Living and Group Home Proposed Ordinance (City Council File 07-3427) because it does not adequately protect the neighborhoods from adverse impacts. Discussion revealed that only two requested provisions made it into the proposed ordinance, that there be no more than 2 people per bedroom, and to require on-site parking. Many NCs feel that the ordinance does not have sufficient regulation. **Motion carried 18-0-0**.
- b) **Outreach Committee** (DeVandry): Much of the activity revolved around the upcoming elections. Candidate statements are due February 1, but are not mandatory. Most of the current Board members are running again. There are several new candidates as well. DeVandry showed an ad run by all the Region A NCs in the North Valley Community News in December. Our costs were \$150. The ad will run again the first week of February; cost will be \$175. Ads specific to the GHNNC will run in the North Valley Community News (1/4 page) and the North Valley Reporter (1/4 page). In addition, a 4 ft by 8 ft banner will be placed at the corner of Balboa Blvd. and Rinaldi St. Total budget about \$1025. Outreach events will take place at HOWS Market and Albertsons Market on February 6 and February 20. Board members should volunteer for a 2-hour shift. **The Candidate Forum will be held on February 22 at 7 pm**, immediately after an abbreviated Board meeting, which will be moved up to 6 pm. (Van Gogh Elementary school) DeVandry will contact all candidates with information. DONE will hold a Candidate Information Meeting on February 25 at San Jose Elementary school, 14928 Clymer St, Mission Hills 91345. DeVandry stressed the importance of all candidates attending the meeting, which will discuss ethics, the Brown Act, Bylaws, etc.
- c) **Ad Hoc Election Committee:** Saavedra was absent. The information was already covered as part of the Outreach report.
- d) **Ad Hoc Committee on Youth Athletic Fields** (Holmen): Discussion of "exclusive" vs. "priority" use of the proposed alternative fields. It is very difficult to maintain a regular schedule with only "priority" use. The committee is trying to find out why the city is cancelling

“exclusive” use permits, which have a fee, when the city has such a big budget problem. Investigating whether alternative sludge processing might obviate the LADWP’s need for the land used by the current fields. Following up with state Senator Padilla’s office for help. Even if the fields move across 2 freeways, they will still be out of business for two years, which will be a severe blow. The Sylmar site has 50 acres, of which 25 could be used for soccer and baseball. Sylmar residents are compiling wish lists for the park, and currently these would exceed the park’s capacity by 10 to 1. The committee has many action items to address.

e) Public Safety (Greenwald): Have been pushing for the signal at Knollwood Plaza (Balboa Blvd. south of Midwood). This has taken time because an easement is required. This is now moving forward to CalTrans. The LAPD is addressing an on-going graffiti problem. Some trouble is anticipated with the scheduled release of more than 6,000 felons from California prisons as part of the budget problems. These felons will not have the usual parole supervision. Nevertheless, some police divisions, like Hollywood, report a 90% cut in violent crime. West Valley division is also getting good results. The Committee suggests that we look into the feasibility of using a 4-way camera on Sesnon, watching the entrance to O’Melveny Park, the parking lot, and traffic both ways on Sesnon. This would be a pilot project. There was spirited discussion of privacy issues vs. safety issues. **Motion:** That the GHNNC authorize the Committee to investigate the use of security cameras in areas determined in cooperation with LAPD and CD12. The Committee will take the lead in this project and pursue alternative funding sources. **Carried 11-3-4.** It was agreed that this authorization was to investigate the feasibility and report to the Board, not to implement at this time.

f) Citywide Issues (Gold): A report was handed out. The City is in a severe financial crisis. Two meetings of the LANCC (LA Neighborhood Council coalition) discussed this in depth and made the following recommendations, which the Citywide Issues Committee supports:

Motion: That the GHNNC support the concept that the Mayor’s Budget Advisory Committee be a subcommittee of LANCC. **Carried 14-0-0.** (some members were out of the room)

Motion: That the GHNNC support the concept that LANCC form an advisory committee who will act as financial advisors to the Mayor’s Budget Advisory Committee. **Carried 13-0-1.**

Motion: That the GHNNC support the LANNC resolution that city parking meters and city-owned parking structures not be sold as a way of closing the budget deficit. There was discussion of the poor results in other cities that tried to do this. **Carried 17-0-0.**

Motion: That the GHNNC support that Neighborhood Councils be appropriately represented on committees that the Mayor is forming to study the economic proposals being made to enhance the financial recovery of the city. Comments that the Mayor has appointed an “economics czar” to form committees to review the city budget. This Motion asks that the Mayor invite representatives of the NCs to participate. **Carried 16-0-2.** **Motion:** That the GHNNC support the concept of establishing the office of a City Sheriff. This office would have jurisdiction to collect unpaid fees and fines that are owed to the city. Discussion about the inadvisability of forming yet another city bureaucracy. **Failed 1-16-0.**

g) Parks and Beautification: No report this month.

12) Board Member Comments: Frechette commented that the audience could not hear much of the discussion, and that microphones should be used at future meetings.

13) The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.