

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, March 22, 2010 6:30 pm
Van Gogh Elementary School**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:40 pm by Leon Marzillier, GHNNC President. **Roll Call:** (Quorum established with 15 board members): **Present:** Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Rafael Garcia, Michael Greenwald, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Gary Holmen, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollok, Eric Rosenberg, Jan Subar Joe Vitti. Three members came in after roll call: Sid Gold, Josh Jordahl, Anne Zilliak. **Absent:** Neysa Frechette, William E. Lillenberg, 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 February 22, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes:** Minor corrections were made. **Motion to approve** carried (14-0-1). A correction was approved to the January 25th minutes: the document had an erroneous date.
- 3) **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**
 - a) **Sunshine Canyon Advisory Committee,** Becky Bendikson spoke about neighborhood issues with violations at the landfill. There will be a hearing at the AQMD (Air Quality Management District) in Diamond Bar on Wednesday at 9 am. Carpool will be available with Wayde Hunter leaving at 7 a.m. The SCL-CAC (Sunshine Canyon Landfill Citizen Advisory Committee) meets on the first Thursday of every other month at 3 p.m. at the Knollwood Country Club (next meeting May 6th), and all are invited.
- 4) **Finance Officer's Report** (Pollok): no rollover funds have been approved, and given the City's budget problems, there may never be. Ray also pointed out that if the City approves the funds late in the fiscal year (ending June 30), the NC will be effectively unable to use the funds. The NC has less than \$1500 until the end of the fiscal year.
- 5) **Treasurer's Report** (Rosenberg): Treasurer has put in an appeal for \$25k of the \$91k rollover funds, which covers office rent and the approximately \$5k in demand warrants from last year that the City paid out of this year's funds. There was discussion about how the budget, which started at \$45k for the year, was expanded to \$71k. This was approved by the Executive Committee in June, then by the Board June 27th, 2009, but not by DONE. Changes were approved by the Board July 21st. Reports were handed out for Board review and approval at every Board meeting. At the time there was an expectation that the rollover funds would be available. Now the City has taken away all petty cash; turned off the credit card; and will accept demand warrants for this year only until April 15th. This creates a quandary for on-going expenses like photocopying, website support, etc. From the original 45k budget, funds are committed for website support January-March of \$575; April-June \$575. The unallocated balance is only \$1475. The only good news is that Jacqueline Mendez of DONE has confirmed that DONE approved the whole \$25k appeal of rollover funds, though that requires actual funding by the City Council. There was also discussion of the original \$750 budgeted for the Spring Egg Hunt, at which GHNNC has participated for a number of years. Some argued that this was already approved. Others replied that there are \$20k approved expense items, but we only have \$1475.
- 6) A **Motion** proposed by the Outreach Committee essentially re-affirms one passed at the January 25th meeting as an emergency motion. The intent is to "cure" the motion, which was not on the January agenda, as DONE has ruled that a financial emergency does not qualify for "emergency" rules: *That the GHNNC instruct all Board members to receive pre-approval for all future FY 2010 expenditures (including mileage, but excluding photocopies and election-related expenses) from either 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.* The Chair ruled this out of order, on the basis that a new Motion which supersedes this one will make this a moot point. This ruling was challenged by DeVandry and Crosby (see #7 below).
- 7) **Motion** (Marzillier): *That GHNNC from now until the end of the Fiscal Year, or until DONE releases the GHNNC's rollover funds, require any expenditures excluding photocopies be pre-approved by a vote of the Board even if these expenditures were part of a previously approved Budget.*

There was extensive discussion about whether to cure the first Motion and then to vote on the new one; or the futility of curing something that would be superseded in a few minutes. Discussions about emergencies versus non-emergencies, and what must be on an agenda resulted in **general agreement that an approximate description of the topic and possible action must be on the agenda, but not necessarily exact wording of a Motion.**

The challenges to the Chair ruling in #6 revolved around whether it was proper to give so much power over the budget to 3 people, and whether those three could overrule a previously-approved budget item. The conclusion was that the Board could overrule one of its own previous rulings. Regardless of the budget approval, if there simply are no funds available an expense cannot be approved. Some commented on the procedures for curing the motion that was not on the agenda. Others preferred to address the Budget problems more directly, and take care of the problem Motion by superseding it. It was pointed out that all Board members voted for the January Motion, even those who now object to it. **Motion** (Gold) close debate; passed 15-0-3. **Vote on the Challenge:** 8-10-0; challenge failed and #6 remains out of order.

Discussion of Motion under #7: whether it is practical to wait a month and come to the Board for every little expense. **Motion** (Gold) to exclude \$5 per month per committee for photocopying. Proposed **Amendment I** (Lewis) that the Board now allocate and prioritize the \$1500 left, otherwise expense will be approved on a first-come first-served basis, which is not good. **Vote on Amendment 7-10-1;** fails. Reworded **Motion** (Gold) *Provides standing approval of \$15 per month per committee for photocopying costs without obtaining Board approval.* **Carried** 13-4-1.

The Board resumed discussion of the Motion *That GHNNC from now until the end of the Fiscal Year, or until DONE releases the GHNNC's rollover funds, require any expenditures excluding photocopies be pre-approved by a vote of the Board even if these expenditures were part of a previously approved Budget..* **Amendment** to Motion (Rosenberg): *This Motion supersedes and nullifies all prior actions that may have been taken by the Board regarding this issue.* Amendment **carries** 16-0-2. Vote on main **Motion passes** 17-0-1.

- 8) **Report on the Recycled Water Advisory Group** (Hopkins): The second meeting took place on February 23rd. Safety concerns about pharmaceuticals and endocrine agents in recycled water. Objectives of the Group refined. Recycled water to be used for industrial uses, fire hydrants, irrigation, and water table replenishment (The City has done groundwater recharge since 1937). Definition of 1 AF (acre foot), essentially like a football field of water one foot deep. Considering location of a demonstration plant. Review of 50 sites not near residential areas came out with Tilman as the leading candidate site. The City will subsidize 60% of the cost. This matter will probably not come before the neighborhood councils. Questions about whether this is another way for the LADWP to find alternate funds for its planned capex (capital expenditures). Some skepticism was voiced over the choice of Tilman, and whether this was a fair process.
- 9) **Report on the Mayor's Budget Day** (Pollok and DeVandry): Three attended on March 13, Pollok, DeVandry, and Thompson. There were 7,074 responses to the Mayor's Budget Challenge on the internet. Attendants broke into groups to address different budget items. Since this was the Mayor's budget, choices were limited to what he proposed. For example, there were several proposals to cut the budget for the Fire Department, but none to cut into the budget for the LAPD. The Mayor was not present. There was a later meeting on March 19th with the Mayor to discuss the results of this meeting. The neighborhood Councils are not happy with the decision to cut DONE by more than half and merge it with another department. NCs voted for two representatives from the northern neighborhood councils. They suggested to the Mayor salary cuts across the board for all city employees as one possible solution. A Powerpoint presentation with more detail on the Mayor's Budget Day can be obtained from Kim Thompson.
- 10) **Report on North Valley Disaster Preparedness Team Meeting** (Hopkins and Ricketts): Last year 11 NCs participated. This year the date is set for October 2nd, and stakeholders are urged to reserve the

date. However, because of the budget uncertainties, there is no decision on the venue – perhaps a Street Faire as last year, or if there is less budget, at Firestation 87 on Balboa south of Devonshire. The Board thanked Bob Ricketts for his participation.

11) Committee Reports:

- a) **PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management)** (Ziliak): PLUM continued meetings with the developers of the JETS project (Jewish Educational Trade School) about their plans for 4-story buildings on Rinaldi. They agreed to examine alternatives with lower height, including perhaps breaking this up into more buildings. They will return for further discussions.

Community groups from the vicinity of Lopez Canyon landfill and Foothill Trails attended. Marlene Rader, president of the Community Alliance for Open Space spoke to the meeting, pointing out that Lopez Canyon was closed as a landfill and the City had promised that the land would remain open space. Indeed, it is zoned OS – open space. In spite of that, the City has approved a driving school for truckers on a 1.5 acre site, in addition to the previously approved and operating mulching plant. This is not “open space”, which normally means park uses. A zoning variance was approved in January, without proper notification to area residents. The project is being appealed at the Planning Commission, which meets April 5th. The support of the GHNNC was requested, via mail and attendance at the hearing. **Motion:** *That the GHNNC support the* Because of the challenge, the new Board is unlikely to be seated before the next Board meeting.

There was discussion of the Spring Egg Hunt, which had been approved for \$750 before the budget battles. Sean Rivas of the Granada Hills Recreation Center spoke about previous years. GH South NC will also participate. Even though this year’s venue at Petit Park is outside of the GHNNC area, many of our residents attend events there. Many spoke in support: Pollok, Greenwald, Crosby.

Motion: *That the GHNNC allow the Outreach Committee to participate in the 2010 Spring Egg Hunt at the Granada Hills Recreation Center on March 27, 2010 by having an information booth for outreach purposes and spending up to \$200.00 for GHNNC promotional items. This money was allocated and is in the Outreach budget.* Proposed **Amendment** (Rosenberg) to strike the last sentence as irrelevant. **Passed** 9-7-1, so the last sentence of the Motion is deleted. Vote on the **main Motion** 18-0-0. Volunteers for the event were Crosby, Lewis, Vitti, and a stakeholder.

- 12) Board Member Comments:** (Rosenberg) spoke about why he filed the election challenge – on two main grounds: (1) that the City Clerk misinterpreted the qualifications for the various Districts, and essentially forced one of the candidates to run for a seat to which he did not qualify, even with numerous calls by Board members to correct this before the election; and (2) that they used the wrong (earlier) version of the Bylaws. He felt that the office of the City Clerk should not be allowed to escape with impunity from the consequences of their wrong actions. Various other mistakes were noted, such as the improper enforcement of an age limit for seats which did not require it; and attempt to hand voters the wrong ballots (most were caught and corrected). The fault lies entirely with the City Clerk and not the candidate involved.

Sean Rivas of the GH South NC invited attendees to the GH South swearing-in ceremony for their new Board on April 8th at 6:30 pm at Patrick Henry Middle School.

Jan Subar commented that tonight’s meeting demonstrated that even when we make a mistake as a Board, as with the contested January 25th budget motion, we can discuss the issue honestly and in the open and correct the mistake.

A Contact List of Board members was passed around for corrections and additions.

The newly-elected Board members were introduced to the audience, though they cannot be seated until the challenge is resolved.

Wayde Hunter reported that the BFI sewer line from the landfill broke, spilling dirty water into residential neighborhoods.

Sid Gold commented that the Citywide Issues Committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The Valley Alliance is proposing that the City reject the combining of DONE and the EDDC. Also suggest that the use of discretionary funds be openly listed for citizens to see.

- 13) Adjournment .** Next meeting on Monday, April 26th at Van Gogh Elementary School at 6:30 pm.