

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, February 28, 2011 6:30 pm
Rinaldi Adult Center

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:46 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Sid Gold, Edward Headington, Gary Holmen, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Josh Jordhal, Rahim Kazi, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollok, Steve Steinberg, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson. **Absent:** Rafael Garcia, Lydia Plescia; **Late** Anne Ziliak. Quorum established with 20. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited. **Chair Comments:** Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders. Announcements: Sunshine Canyon Landfill Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd, 3 pm at Knollwood Golf Club; Candidate Forum sponsored by the Old Granada Hills Residents' Group on March 3rd 7 pm at GH Charter School; Mayor's Budget Day March 12th 9-12 downtown. Thompson urged participants to take the Budget Challenge online. The June Board meeting will be at St. Euphrasia School, as the Rinaldi school will be closed.
- 2) **Approval of January 31, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes:** approved with three abstentions.
- 3) **Comment from Governmental groups:** Donna Smith of LAUSD summarized the process by which LAUSD will select the operator for the new high school at Balboa near Devonshire. The advisory vote was very close, with the Charter school having a slight edge. The vote is non-binding. The decision will be announced March 15th, after evaluation by two different committees of educators and community luminaries. This school drew by far the most public response, about 4,000 votes.
- 4) **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** **Brad Smith**, candidate for CD12, talked about the upcoming city council elections. Last election was settled by 11% of the registered voters. He emphasized the importance of voting for one of the 6 candidates for CD12. The impact will likely be felt for the next 12 years, and will make a big difference for the community. **Glenn Bailey** talked about the recent City Council decision to take approximately \$600,000 out of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill mitigation funds as a loan to the city to fund the salaries of detention officers in the new central jail. The fund is now \$5.5M. It was established for the benefit of people living within a 5 mile radius of the dump. Any changes are supposed to go through public hearings; this was not done. Also the City Attorney is supposed to give an opinion, and this likewise was missing. Bailey remarked that there seem to be real process problems with City departments and procedures.
Natasha Ang (stakeholder) spoke about Measure L on the upcoming March 8th ballot. This would help fund libraries, which have already suffered a 30% decrease in staff. The measure would divert \$0.02 for every dollar of taxes collected to the libraries; she remarked that this is a "very tiny increase."
Megan Cottier of CD12 spoke of many issues. [this segment came out of order, during the Committee Reports, but is included here for clarity.] She urged all to vote in the elections on March 8th; the last day for absentee ballots is March 3rd. The resolution concerning group homes was heard in January, but there was no quorum. City Council is taking control back from City Planning. This will go to the PLUM committee on March 22nd and shortly thereafter to the whole City Council. The wording is not as strong as some would like, but still a definite improvement over what exists today. City Council file # 11-0262. On the sidewalk grinding project, the team has been busy doing the work, with 1852 cuts as of mid-January. Over 2500 locations were submitted. John Lee at the CD12 office has taken over the issue of the signal light at Balboa and Knollwood Plaza, which the GHNNC has been following for more than 5 years now.
- 5) **Beautification Project at Rinaldi and Woodley (Hopkins):** This report is to answer a stakeholder request. The LADWP is undertaking this project. The parkway has been cleaned up. The next step will be to plant landscaping using native plants.

6) **Tree Beautification Plan from Bureau of Sanitation (Steinberg):** The BOS is offering free trees which they will plant for free at the parkways. Homeowners may request specific trees, but they must be from the city-approved list, which depends on the width of the parkway. No permits will be required, but owners must agree to maintain the trees. The City does not guarantee that the species requested will be the species planted.

7) **Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month (Hopkins):** This month's item, free to all attendees, is a key chain with an LED light. Hopkins also pointed out that an Emergency Preparedness Guide is available at the back table at Board meetings.

8) **Committee Reports:**

a) **PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management):** We have received an inquiry from the Lessor of our office space, Rickey Gelb, about the possibility of a Goodwill Store moving into the space of the current Big Lots store. Comment (Gold) that we should recuse ourselves because we lease space there. Question (Marzillier) on why is this not allowed? Answer: This is not allowed under section 5 of the Granada Hills Specific Plan, which unlike the overall Community Plan, is an actual Ordinance passed by the City Council. (Lillenberg) The Specific Plan was last updated in 2000, and specifically prohibits 18 uses, including "thrift stores." (Thompson) One of the reasons the GHNNC was formed was to help uphold the Specific Plan; therefore we should strongly advise Mr. Gelb that this use is not allowed. (Hunter) We should not give up our right to comment just because of the office location. We were formed to uphold the Plan and we should do so. (Kroy) We represent all of Granada Hills, not just this shopping center, so we should strongly uphold the Plan. Ziliak to notify Gelb.

Motion *That the GHNNC recommend denial of an Above Ground Facility; Reference Number 2009010266/11300 No. Haskell Avenue on the Index Street side of a lot and request that the applicant meet with the GHNNC PLUM committee to develop an improved design that would be more acceptable for the single family residential neighborhood.* **Carried** unanimously.

Motion: *That the GHNNC send a letter to all City Departments and Commissions to request notification of any and all projects within the GHNNC boundaries.* **Carried** unanimously.

Motion: *That the GHNNC contact the Department of Recreation and Parks and request to be included in any discussion and/or hearings that include design standards and placement of cell towers within City Parks.* Stakeholder comment (Bailey) recommends that the GHNNC also notify the Park Advisory Board. Other park-based organizations have also complained about lack of notification. **Carried** unanimously.

Ziliak continued with her report; lots of things going on at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. There have been many complaints about odors, some from as far from the dump as Jollette and the Knollwood Methodist Church. There are many studies sampling the air and evaluating different possible mitigation measures.

In response to a question from a stakeholder, Ziliak explained about the cell tower at Woodley near Pineridge: the applicant offered to install a "stealth" tree, but it would not work because it would stand out. The nearest homeowner does not want anything, but the Knollwood Property Owners Association wants better cellular reception. T-Mobile is unwilling to relocate the proposed tower.

b) **Outreach Committee (Headington):** At the last committee meeting, questions were developed for the Candidate Forum and sent to GHSouth NC; three questions were picked. We have cancelled our participation in the Spring Egg Hunt [see more discussion in last month's minutes], and the funds allocated instead to an Open House. On the Speakers program, they have lined up an LAPD representative to talk about the red-light cameras. A publicity-generating line-dancing class is being planned, and a subcommittee named (DeVandry, Subar, and Lewis); Steinberg has some experience teaching line dancing, so will be included as well. Kroy is proceeding with the planning for the faith-based meeting on March 15th at the office. There is a March 10th deadline for articles to be submitted for the newsletter.

- c) **Policy and Rules (Marzillier):** The next two meetings will be on March 11th and April 8th. The deadline from the City, originally April 5th for a revision of the Bylaws has been extended. **Motion** *To change the date for the stakeholder meeting from March 28th, 2011 to May 3rd, 2011 for approval of Bylaw changes.* **Carried** 19-1-1.
- d) **Public Safety (Pollok):** The Principal at Frost Middle School was invited to the Public Safety Committee, and the traffic patterns and problems near the school were discussed. After re-iterating several times that he had neither the personnel nor the budget to do much about it, the Principal agreed to keep working with the committee and volunteer parent organizations to better organize at least the more pressing afternoon problem. This matter will continue to be followed by the committee. There are now plans for the GHNNC to organize a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class. This is taught by an LAFD instructor. The class will be held at the Rinaldi school; permission has been obtained. Headington spoke about his participation in the Community Police Academy, which is a free course held once a year for 8 weeks. There were about 60 people from the 818 area, including 8 or 9 from other neighborhood councils. Open to all by application.
- e) **Treasurer's Report (DeVandry):** Handed out Cash Flow Report and Actual Expenses for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. **Approved** unanimously. There is now a partially simplified way to get demand warrants approved, with a Board Resolution and without needing copies of the minutes and other paperwork for even the smallest expenses. Board members inquired about the insurance refund for the camera and how funds are being handled. Some were against exploring the possibility to use the funds for reimbursement of small cash expenses and reporting those to DONE. Thompson said she had mentioned the matter to DONE, and will pursue with Darren Martinez as well. DeVandry announced she will not run again as Treasurer due to increased work responsibilities at her family's business.
- f) **Financial Officer's Report (Pollok):** Several adjustments were made to the Budget for the balance of the year, moving funds among categories to better reflect upcoming projects such as the newsletter, the stakeholders' meeting, and the Open House. Copies of the revised Budget were passed out. One more round of revisions is expected this fiscal year (ending June 30th). The revised Budget was **approved** unanimously.
- 9) **Special interest Director Reports: Frechette** spoke about student activities and AcaDeca, the academic decathlon., and recognized several area students for admirable achievement. She also pointed out that the severe budget crunch at the City has caused even more cuts to community colleges, where the cost per unit has gone up from \$16 to \$26 and now will possibly go up to \$36. Even worse is the lack of classes, causing delays in students' ability to graduate. **Subar** spoke about the Neighborhood Watch program and our new signs. Together with Senior Lead officers of the LAPD, they're looking primarily at new areas that don't yet have signs. She asked people to send her suggestions. At the next meeting, Jordahl and Plescia will give reports.
- 10) **Board Member Comments: Holmen** spoke about the community colleges and funding problems; it's incomprehensible that these organizations are getting such deep cuts. **Steinberg** spoke about funding for adult education like the Rinaldi center. **Crosby** spoke about cuts at Rec&Parks.
- 11) **Adjourned at 9:10 pm.**