

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, May 23, 2011, 6:30 pm
Rinaldi Adult Center

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:42 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Sue DeVandry, Rafael Garcia , Gary Holmen, Edward Headington, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Rahim Kazi, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Lydia Plescia, Steve Steinberg, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson, Anne Ziliak. **Absent:** Neysa Frechette, Sid Gold, Josh Jordhal, Ralph Kroy. **Late:** Ray Pollok. Quorum established with 17, then 18. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited.

Chair Comments: Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders. She thanked those involved with the newsletter (primarily Lewis and Hopkins); those who volunteered for Citrus Sunday, especially Neysa Frechette who, with recruited students, brought in large quantities of fruit; and those who worked to set up the office for Open House, primarily DeVandry and Thompson. Ms. Thompson remarked that she would **not** be following Robert's Rules of Order, because she thought the previous meeting was disrupted by people who insisted on following the Rules. Ms. Thompson said they would be looking at alternate office space in the same complex, with a goal of accommodating more stakeholders during meetings. The cost is yet to be determined, but it is hoped GHNNC might get more space for approximately the same cost. Site visit Tuesday May 24 at 4:30 PM.

- 2) **Approval of April 25, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes:** (Marzillier/Hopkins) approved with two abstentions.
- 3) **Comment from Governmental groups:** [they spoke later in the meeting but are listed here to be consistent with the order on the agenda.].

Megan Cottier of CD12: the Community Care Ordinance was approved in committee and will go before the whole City Council on June 1st. The Council approved the City budget last Friday. All Fire Stations will remain open, and no police will be furloughed. The street paving rate will stay the same as last fiscal year. Neighborhood Councils will get \$40,500. The budget gap was closed without borrowing. She spoke about the sidewalk grinding project, where there were 2438 cuts in April at 439 addresses. Citrus Sunday was successful, with 27,000 lbs of citrus collected, the most ever. During discussion, Ms. Thompson was asked by a Board member to submit a Community Impact Statement on the Community Care Ordinance, and she agreed. In response to a question, Ms. Cottier said the sidewalk project would probably not be able to address all the requests.

Bill Larson from the City Attorney's office spoke of group homes in the area. The LAPD conducted a long-planned operation against an illegal group home in Porter Ranch, north of Rinaldi near Tampa. LAPD had a list of people with outstanding warrants or parole violations, and they found 27 of these during the raid. There were 32 quadruple-bunk beds in the house, and there is some indication that there were at least 101 people living in this single-family residence. The vast majority had criminal backgrounds. The LAPD issued an order against this illegal boarding house. The same owner has another house too. Owners get approximately \$550 per person per month from the government for providing housing for these people. There is a new complaint against a house on Van Gogh St. in Granada Hills, where there are apparently 57 people in the house. There is a hearing today on another property near CSUN, where the owner has applied for a conditional use permit for student housing; he says if he does not get the approval, he will instead open as a group home. These examples show that the group home ordinance wending its way through City Council is sorely needed. Regarding the auto chop-shop on Gainor Street, another car has been stolen on that street. LAPD is keeping an eye on the situation. Comment (Lillenberg): He knows of squatters moving into houses, particularly those foreclosed on. DWP routinely turns on water and power on request. The squatters then lease it out to others who don't realize the lease is bogus.

4) **Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month (Hopkins):** This month's item, free to all attendees: an instant cold pack.

5) **Committee Reports:**

a) **PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) (Ziliak):** Sunshine Canyon Landfill has a new project to use the gas generated by the landfill to produce power for sale, estimated to be enough to power 20,000 homes. A consultant had presented a report at the CAC that showed the impact on pollutants. Although it would reduce pollutants going into the air (versus a flare), it would materially increase the PM 2.5 level (particulates that are less than 2.5 microns in size, small enough so that lungs have trouble clearing them). In addition, CO (carbon monoxide) levels would increase, as would greenhouse gasses. The consultant said they would buy carbon offsets in the region. Ms. Ziliak said that many stakeholders, especially those who live near the landfill, do not consider this to be adequate mitigation – the neighbors would suffer even more potentially dangerous pollution, with the mitigation done in a different locale. Discussion: Question (Hopkins): Will SCL sell the gas? Answer: No, it will be an independent company, Sunshine Gas Producers. Hopkins remarked that the additional pollutants arise from the process of combustion – the gas powers a turbine, and the combustion process produces those additional pollutants. Question (Lewis): What happens if the project is not approved? What will the pollution levels be? Answer: They may be forced into using better technology that produces less harmful side effects. Mr. Hunter spoke of the 272-page Draft EIR (Environmental Impact Report), which explains this in detail. **Motion:** *that GHNNC oppose the Sunshine Canyon Gas Producers Renewable Energy Project (SCH No. 9204153) at Sunshine Canyon Landfill unless it results in a reduction of local pollution, without the use of offset of pollution credits.* **Carried** 17-1-0.

Announcements: The city is accepting one of the bidders for alternate technology for this project, Green Conversion Systems, using some sort of thermal technology. This will come before the Board of Public Works Tuesday May 24th. This had been tabled from the previous Friday, because of a protest from another bidder. Comment (Board member): Second-generation odor management is used in Europe, where municipal waste is converted to hot exhaust which heats steam. The steam turns a turbine which generates electricity. The process of combustion necessarily produces pollution, but most of it can be trapped.

Rec&Parks is moving forward to approve cell towers in parks. Ms. Ziliak asked Rec&Parks Planning whether this will go through a Conditional Use Process or not. Not clear yet. **“Extreme Fire Hazard Zone”** is being expanded by the City, adding “high fire severity zone,” and affects part of GHNNC's area, though it is not clear yet what range of addresses will be affected. The city will probably charge more for brush clearance and inspections. The addresses affected probably will not be able to install ground-based solar panels. There will be an additional \$15 per year inspection fee. Insurance rates may be affected.

The Highwater Rd. development is going to a hearing before the North Valley Area Planning Commission at Van Nuys on June 2nd; this is for the zone change.

The community care ordinance will be before the City Council June 1st. Ms. Thompson agreed to submit a Community Impact statement.

b) **Outreach Committee (Headington):** There was a good response to the **newsletter**. We are planning to do more, on a semi-annual basis. The follow-up meeting for **Citrus Sunday** produced good ideas for next year. A record amount of fruit was gathered. Photos from the recent **Open House** (May 21st) are already on the GHNNC website. Next upcoming Outreach event is the **Summer Social** on July 16th. All the Board members are encouraged to attend this fun event.

c) **Policy and Rules (Marzillier):** the committee met on three Fridays in May to finish the work on bylaws. The next meeting is on June 3rd, to finish by the Stakeholders' Meeting on June 27th to approve them. Comment (Ziliak): she has read the drafts, and noted that the task of tracking PLUM issues has been taken out of the duties of the Vice President. She objects to that change, because she feels that someone on the executive committee should be a backstop to the Chair of PLUM, making sure no PLUM issue of citywide impact gets by

without review. This provides checks and balances. Answer (Marzillier): this task can continue. The P&R committee didn't want to be too specific; the President can assign this to anyone on the executive committee. Comment (Subar): It was felt this belongs in Citywide because the Chair of that would be very familiar with how the City operates. She will ask the committee to reconsider.

- d) Public Safety (Pollok):** work continues on traffic around Frost Middle School; aiming to start a new program when school restarts in the Fall. Neighborhood Watch signs: 25 installed, 22 to go, awaiting more hardware. There will be a GHNNC-sponsored **CERT class** in the Fall. Scheduled for October 19th, two and a half hours per week for 7 weeks, Wednesdays at 1:00 PM. Interested parties should register at cert@ghnnc.org.
- e) Treasurer's Report (DeVandry):** Handed out the May Cash Flow report. Rahim Kazi, Ray Pollok, Sue Devandry and Kim Thompson all attended Treasurers' training downtown. Mr. Kazi, the new treasurer, is taking over the books. However, he wishes to delegate the use of the purchase card to Ms. DeVandry. **Motion:** *That the former Treasurer, Sue DeVandry, continue to hold the purchase card and continue to be the authorized purchaser, working closely with the Finance Officer, Treasurer, and President.* **Carried** 16-0-2. There was a long discussion. Ms. DeVandry now holds the card, having been Treasurer, so it is convenient for her to continue. This would be a very bad time to try to change the holder of the purchase card, because of the deadlines on spending imposed by DONE. Discussion on whether this position should have a sunset date, but it was generally felt that, since the Treasurer retains ultimate responsibility for this, the position would automatically be voted on again whenever the Treasurer position comes up for a vote. Ms. Thompson remarked that the position does not have to be voted on (some disagreed), as it is someone appointed by the Treasurer, and the person must have had the city-conducted Treasurer training. The friendly amendment proposed by Bill Hopkins, to have a sunset date, or to defer until the next meeting so someone else could apply, was not accepted.
- f) Financial Officer's Report (Pollok):** The remaining budget for the balance of the fiscal year was discussed, and various items voted on.
- Approved items:
- i)** Previously approved items not yet purchased remain authorized;
 - ii)** Various Outreach items totaling \$1376, as presented by Ms. Devandry: **Approved** unanimously. This included give-away items and two wire-framed signs.
 - iii)** Data collection project for old contact information (\$600): **Failed** : 0-16-1. This would have paid for clerical help to enter contact information obtained during the last few years into a computer database. Discussion showed some skepticism that a high enough proportion of those addresses are still valid. In practical terms, addresses have never been used; even mailed items like the newsletter are sent to everyone in our area via bulk mail. Ms. Thompson volunteered to enter that information herself. It was not clear what database format would be used.
 - iv)** Microsoft Office software, 3-user license, \$450: **approved** 16-1-0. We currently use a legal copy on a multi-user license owned by the provider of web services. It was felt that we should have our own legal copy. Three-user because we authorized an additional laptop in addition to the one used by PLUM.
 - v)** Additional notebook computer available for checkout for hearings, etc. (\$420): **approved** 16-1-0.
 - vi)** Replacement microphones (\$325): **approved** unanimously. (there have been many microphone problems during Board meetings).
 - vii)** Auto-dialer software (\$600) **approved** 14-2-1. This would be used to call people in our area for specific events or in case of an emergency. It was not clear who would research this.
 - viii)** Conference table and chairs (\$2000) **Failed** 8-8-1. Some felt that the tables and chairs in our office are not comfortable for long meetings. Others felt that the table and executive chairs would take too much room and markedly decrease the flexibility we now

have to re-arrange the tables according to need. Ms. Ziliak commented that some of the non-GHNNC city meetings could not use a central conference table arrangement, and this would make it impossible to hold those meetings at our offices. Others objected on the basis of cost.

ix) Outreach items for approximately \$2,000, or the balance of the available budget, **approved** 14-2-1.

x) **Approval of overall budget**, 16-0-1. [This included items previously approved but not yet spent.]

6) Adjourned at 9:35 pm.