

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, October 24, 2011, 6:30 pm
Rinaldi Adult School**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:40 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Sue DeVandry, Sid Gold, Edward Headington, Gary Holmen, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Rahim Kazi, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Lydia Plescia, Ray Pollok, Steve Steinberg, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson, Anne Ziliak. **Late:** Neysa Frechette, Josh Jordahl, Leon Marzillier. Quorum established with 18, later 21. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited.
Chair Comments: Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders. She said the speakers on the high-speed rail project have rescheduled from the October meeting to the November meeting. The next meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Citizens' Advisory Committee is Thursday, November 3rd, 3 pm at the Knollwood Country Club. Volunteers are still needed for the mayor's budget day on Saturday, October 29th. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences this week. Special interest reports are deferred to the next meeting.
- 2) **Appointment of Patti Costa as District One Representative:** Ms. Costa replaces Rafael Garcia, who resigned. The District One seat is reserved for representatives of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. **Approved** unanimously. Ms. Costa was seated as a Board member.
- 3) **Approval of August 22 and September 26, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes:** approved with one abstention.
- 4) **Comments from CD 12, Senior Lead Officers, any government agencies:** none were present.
- 5) **Welcome to Japanese Delegation:** Ms. Thompson welcomed a delegation from Nagoya, Japan, here to observe the functioning of neighborhood councils. Nagoya and Los Angeles have been "sister cities" since 1974.
- 6) **Public Comment on Non-agenda items: Ms. Jeanie Plumb**, a stakeholder, spoke of the Hidden Creek proposed development in Brown's Canyon. Although this area is outside GHNNC boundaries, the traffic impact will be felt here. So far the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council voted against the development as presently planned, while the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council voted in favor. Ms. Plumb said only 25 lots are planned as equestrian, in one of the major equestrian areas in the city. Ms. Ziliak said the PLUM committee will take up the matter. **Byanka Melga and Michael Dillu**, students of CSUN, urged support for SB 332 (Padilla), which gives permission to landlords to make their properties smoke-free. They asked for a letter of support. Ms. Thompson referred this to the executive committee. **Partab Ramsinghani**, a stakeholder, asked about the Sunshine Canyon Amenities Fund and what it is being used for. Discussion revealed that this fund is replenished by a fee on tonnage processed by the landfill, and it is supposed to be used for the neighboring area. He was referred to the SCL-CAC meeting this Thursday for more information; and to the CD 12 office (Councilmember Englander) for information on disbursements. **Jack Lindblad**, candidate for Assembly for the 39th district, spoke of "transit oriented green communities." **Lia Sato and Alice Tani**, exchange students from Japan, welcomed the Japanese delegation and made some remarks in Japanese.
- 7) **Emergency Preparedness item of the Month (Hopkins):** Continuing our program of making EP supplies available to all attendees, this month's item is a reflective wristband with the GHNNC logo and website. Mr. Hopkins also talked about the EP guide, a booklet available to all, on the back table.
- 8) **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **PLUM (Planning and Land Use) (Ziliak): Motion:** *That GHNNC submit comment to the City Department of Sanitation opposing a waste hauling franchise system for commercial and multifamily housing, and that any issued be handled by regulations instead.* Discussion clarified that this does not apply to single family housing, and that by "regulation" the committee meant that issues such as requirements for recycling, etc, do not require a franchise system but could instead be simply required of any commercial operator. **Carried** 20-0-1 abstention.

Motion: *That GHNNC submit comment to support non-exclusive franchising, should the City approve waste hauling franchising for commercial and multifamily residences.* Discussion revealed that the committee's concern is that exclusive franchises for areas of the city will put small operators out of business and will result in only about four operators maximum in the city. Others commented that this seemed like a "power grab" by operators. **Carried** 20-0-1.

Motion: *That GHNNC propose the purchase of 12053 Balboa Boulevard for a neighborhood park to be purchased and a maintenance fund established using the Sunshine Canyon Amenities Fund.* This property is available, and the owner would like to develop it into housing, but the property is oddly shaped, and represents one of the few wetland areas left in this neighborhood. A lengthy discussion ensued. There is a small spring and a small pond on the 11 acre property, an odd remnant of previous development affecting Bull Creek. Building houses there would result in a problem with driveway access on Balboa Blvd. Six months ago the asking price was about \$1.4 M. There is a balance in the Amenities Fund of about \$2M, constantly replenished by a per-ton fee on trash. The City Controller's office has the information on the Fund balance. Previously the Fund was used for mitigation in Pasadena and Chatsworth, hardly in the spirit of "local" mitigation. This has not yet been brought up to CD 12, as it was felt appropriate to get Board approval first. There would be an on-going maintenance commitment. This would be very similar to the way in which Aliso Canyon Park was bought. **Carried** unanimously.

Motion: *That the GHNNC Board support one or more of the following actions: write a letter to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the odor complaints [about the Sunshine Canyon Landfill] ; display an article about writing letters to the CDC [on our website]; and/or email our stakeholders.* Discussion ensued. This began when a stakeholder asked to access our email list for a letter-writing campaign. The committee thought it best to maintain the privacy of our stakeholders, but GHNNC could send out the information. Some were against using our stakeholder list in that way. There was discussion about whether the CDC is the appropriate agency, but it was felt that this would be an appropriate escalation. The intent was for the Board to approve one of all of the proposed actions. It was agreed to remove the words "one or more," so that the vote would be on all three combined. **Passed** 16-0-5 abstentions.

Ms. Ziliak introduced Zach Granat, a student at CSUN, who will be an intern until the end of the year.

- b. **Outreach Committee** (Headington): He thanked Bill Hopkins for being instrumental in organizing the Disaster Preparedness Fair which took place on October 1st. Approximately 450 people attended. Sue DeVandry managed the GHNNC booth there all day, and many Board members helped. Upcoming events he discussed were: support for AB 42, which allows volunteer groups to run the Santa Susannah park (Sunday 3-7pm); the Devonshire police division meeting November 3rd at 7 pm at the Shepherd of the Hills church in Porter Ranch; and Congressman Sherman's Townhall meeting on November 6th at Reseda High School. The Granada Hills Holiday Parade will be Sunday, December 4th; the theme will be "Winter Wonderland." Bill Hopkins added that SLO Janine Angeles' meeting would be October 25th at Fire Station 87 on Balboa.
- c. **Citywide Issues (Gold):** The Board of Education has recently changed the policy on issuing truancy tickets when tardiness might be caused by delays caused by police. This renders the Motion on the agenda moot. On an earlier resolution by the Board regarding urging the DWP not to implement rate increases until the rate-payer advocate is seated: The ballot amendment requiring this position passed in March, but the City Council has not yet appointed a person. The General Manager of the LADWP has asked for a 6% increase in electric rates in the interim. GHNNC should continue to oppose any increase until the rate payer advocate is seated. An update on the Event Center (football stadium): There is a lot of support for this from the downtown neighborhood councils, and against it from many of the others. Any final decision should be a ballot referendum; GHNNC voted for this at a previous meeting. There is a study on the potential fiscal impacts by a professor at USC.
- d. **Financial Officer's Report** (Pollok): A report was circulated on budget versus actual expenses.

- e. **Treasurer's Report** (Kazi): The Treasurer's Report for the first quarter was passed out. **Motion** (Hopkins/Manatt): *To approve the First Quarter 2011 Treasurer's Report as submitted.* **Carried** unanimously. The cash flow report through October 21st was also passed out. **Motion** (Hopkins/Manatt): *To approve the October 21, 2011 Cash Flow Report as amended (a change of wording to "disaster preparedness fair" from "emergency preparedness").* **Carried** unanimously.
- f. **Policy and Rules** (Marzillier): The committee meets on the second Friday of the month. The committee has continued work on the Standing Rules.
[At this point the President left the meeting to meet with the Japanese delegation, and the meeting continued under the direction of Vice President Manatt.]
- g. **Public Safety Committee** (Pollok): Various requests from stakeholders were forwarded to the appropriate LAPD SLOs. The CERT class that started October 19th drew a much larger crowd than expected, with 45 in attendance. This poses a problem, in that only 34 emergency preparedness backpacks were originally funded by GHNNC. **Motion:** *That GHNNC allocate up to \$515 for 10 additional backpacks for our CERT class graduates.* A lively discussion ensued. The Executive Committee had suggested taking the budget from the cancelled Street Fair (\$500); but the Outreach Committee also has uses for that money to pay the Holiday Parade organizers. This was not separately funded in the original budget. Various Board members made various suggestions for accommodating both the requests. In the end it was decided to fund this request from \$250 of remaining budget for emergency preparedness promotional items, \$250 originally allocated to "park safety signs," and the small balance remaining from the Disaster Preparedness Fair budget. **Carried** 17-1-3 abstentions, with the President out of the room. It was also decided to take the budget remaining from the Street Fair to fund the holiday parade. **Carried** 19-1-1.
Motion: *That GHNNC recommend installing 4-way stop signs at the intersection of Rexbon and Zelzah to replace the current 2-way stop signs.* Rationale: This is a dangerous safety issue due to a blind curve approaching the intersection from southbound Zelzah traffic and a blind hump from approaching northbound Zelzah traffic. **Carried** unanimously.
The Public Safety Committee was asked to consider safety issues at the intersection of Hayvenhurst and Rinaldi, and the freeway off-ramps close by.
Motion: *That GHNNC recommend that the city trim the trees on Mayerling between Rexbon and Lerdo.* Rationale: This is a dangerous safety issue as delivery trucks have to move to the center of the street, which could cause potential head-on collisions and horses using the horse trail have to move to the center of the street to get around the trees. City funds should be used for this project. **Carried** unanimously.
- 9) **Questions and Answers from the Nagoya delegation guests:** Most of this portion took place outside the meeting. When the delegation returned, they thanked the GHNNC Board and President. Their schedule is tight and they are moving on to the next city. GHNNC presented them with GHNNC bags and other Outreach items.
- 10) **Board Member Comments:** Neysa Frechette talked about a new policy at Kennedy High School – students are now not allowed to stay on campus after school. Many thought this a bad idea, and Neysa asked Board members to call the principal. Sid Gold reminded the executive committee to train Board members on how to submit a CIS (Community Impact Statement); one is needed for the football stadium matter. Jan Subar reported on the progress of the Ad Hoc Committee on Goals and Priorities (GAP), and asked that those who had not returned the survey do so as soon as possible. Wayde Hunter reminded all that there will be a hearing downtown on the landfill; Wednesday, November 2nd, Room 1070 at 2 pm. Kim Thompson talked about the development of the Santa Clarita river; a hearing of the LA County Board of Supervisors will take place Tuesday, October 25th at 9 am. The San Fernando Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences (VAAS) will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday evening (October 27th).
- 11) **Adjournment at 9:20 pm.**