

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, November 28, 2011, 6:30 pm
Rinaldi Adult School**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:43 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Patti Costa, Sue DeVandry, Sid Gold, Edward Headington, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Josh Jordahl, Rahim Kazi, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Lydia Plescia, Ray Pollok, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson. **Late:** Neysa Frechette. **Absent:** Carl Buettner, Gary Holmen, Steve Steinberg, Anne Ziliak. Quorum established with 17, later 18. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited. **Chair Comments:** Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders. November birthdays were acknowledged for Wayde Hunter and Anne Ziliak. The SCAQMD is holding a hearing on odor complaints about the Sunshine Canyon Landfill on December 3rd starting at 9 am at the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences. She re-iterated the format in which she wants agenda items to be communicated. Special interest reports are deferred to the next meeting.

On neighborhood council elections: Board terms are extended to 2014 because the City does not have the budget for elections in 2012. Individual NCs may choose to have a "selection" process, which means elections, but not run by the City Clerk, and NCs have to pay for them. This matter was not on the agenda and has not been discussed with Board members, so there can only be a "straw vote" on this issue. Ray Pollok noted that in his opinion this is now too late and too costly considering our budget pressures. There was no further discussion and no resolution. Edward Headington announced again that he is resigning as Outreach Chair, and urged interested parties, including stakeholders, to apply.

On the issue of alternative office space, Kim Thompson spoke recently to the landlord, who apparently agreed to make the necessary changes at his cost (bathroom improvements, paint, carpet, and soundproofing). It was clarified again that there will be no additional cost to the NC, and the space is large enough to accommodate meetings, so that it will not be necessary to rent space at schools.

- 2) **Approval of October 24, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes:** a change was made under paragraph 9, in that the Nagoya delegation was not headed to another city. The minutes were approved with one abstention.
- 3) **Comments from CD 12, Senior Lead Officers, any government agencies:** Lynn Haueter from state senator Tony Strickland's office, was here to observe the functioning of the neighborhood council.
- 4) **Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month (Hopkins):** this month's item, free to all attendees, is a small vial containing a screwdriver and items for fixing eyeglasses.
- 5) **Public Comment on Non-agenda items:** **Cherie Mann**, a stakeholder, spoke about the importance of all going to the December 3rd hearing of the AQMD on the increasing complaints about odors from the landfill. **Sean Rivas**, of the Granada Hills South NC, announced that he has resigned from the GHSNC as of January 1, because he could not commit to the additional term until new elections in 2014. GHNNC and GHSNC have often worked together, with Sean as an active member. Ms. Thompson remarked that he will be missed. **Dave Parikh**, a stakeholder, spoke about the issue of sidewalk repairs; he is afraid that the City Council, in an effort to avoid costs to the city, will come up with a solution that will cost homeowners "an arm and a leg." First they talked about requiring homeowners to repair sidewalks at their cost, enforced at the point of sale; then this changed to include at any time a permit is pulled; then at any time that any utility is changed. Mr. Parikh will continue to keep an eye on this. **Richard Fisk**, of the Old Granada Hills Residents' Group, reported on his side conversations with the Nagoya delegation last month. He said they apparently did not clearly understand the distinction between the work of the city council and that of the neighborhood councils, and were surprised to find that all members are volunteers. **Steven Wood**, of the City Council Redistricting Commission, said that redistricting has been completed for Congressional districts, and state senate and assembly; and that now is the turn of the city council districts. There will be 15 hearings throughout each district; then preliminary proposed maps will be drawn, (February target date), then more hearings until a final map is arrived at. The first meeting will be on December

5th, 7 pm to 10 pm, at the LAPD Devonshire Youth Center, 8721 Wilbur Avenue, Northridge. More information is available at www.redistricting2011.lacity.org. Similar hearings will take place for LAUSD Board, but the dates have not been announced. **Maria Fisk**, a stakeholder and a member of the GHSNC PLUM committee, spoke about Community Care Facility Ordinance, which has been in the works for almost five years. This is of increased importance now because of California's program for early release of felons means there may be between 20,000 and 40,000 newly released felons in the area, under no or little supervision, and many will stay at these inadequately regulated facilities. Some cities pushed back on this, but Los Angeles did not. She suggests we don't enable the state to put these people in our midst. Q&A revealed that we can regulate those with 7 or more people, but there is weak enforcement. This matter to be taken up by PLUM, or jointly by PLUM and Public Safety. [Ms. Fisk's comments were made later in the meeting, but are included in this category for clarity.]

- 6) **Report on the CD 12 Service Cabinet Meeting:** (Manatt/Lewis): Scott Manatt reported to the Councilmember on the visit of the Nagoya delegation, and spoke to the Board about the 5 legislative items reported by the Councilmember, including a proposed business tax holiday extension and a proposed change in how the Van Nuys airport is managed – taking it away from LAWA, the organization that manages LAX. Agnes Lewis reported that we had summarized our activities for the past three months, including positions on citywide issues. She said she had recently sent an email to the Board with further details and “tidbits” from the DOT report at the meeting.
- 7) **Presentation by the California High Speed Rail Authority** (Alex Shoor, Project Manager): several informational sheets were distributed, and he invited all to sign up for email updates on the project. They are going to all the neighborhood councils to inform them. The first part of this project will be a rail line between Palmdale and the SF Valley. There are three possibilities for the location of railway stations, and only one will be chosen.

Funds for the project were approved by voters as Proposition 1A in 2008, which allocated \$10 Billion in bonds for a high speed line to connect northern and southern California. The goal ultimately is to be able to go from Los Angeles to San Francisco in 3 hours. Phase 1 will connect Anaheim and Los Angeles to San Francisco. Phase 2 will go from Sacramento inland to San Diego. Speeds in urban areas will go up to 100 mph; in the desert the speed will be more than 200 mph. Crossing will be grade-separated for safety (meaning underpasses and overpasses). They project as many as 100,000 temporary construction jobs, with 4,500 permanent operations jobs once the line is completed.

The initial segment of Phase 1 built will be between Merced and Bakersfield, projected at \$6 Billion in cost. From there, the second segment will be either to San Jose, or to the edge of the San Fernando Valley; then the other of these two segments; then a blended solution to Los Angeles and San Francisco; then the full line of Los Angeles to San Francisco. (“Blended” means using existing rail lines.) Initial construction is slated for 2014, and initial operations for 2018 for the first segment. The full Phase 1 would be in 2032. More information is available at www.californiahighspeedrail.ca.gov, or 916.324.1541.

A Question and Answer period followed, which yielded the following information: The project is aimed at passengers and perhaps small packages, but not freight. The cars are not built in the US. There will be travel “on grade,” besides the under- and over-passes. The first segment is in the middle of the State for ease of construction and lower cost, and partially because federal government grants require that a portion be spent in the central valley. About concerns that this will take out San Fernando Road, a major thoroughfare: it is planned to be widened by 15 feet. The Environmental Impact Report is not done yet, and depends partially on the completion of a study on the feasibility of an Interstate 5 corridor. Ticket price is targeted at 80% of a low-cost airplane ticket, so that would make it about \$80 one-way. Not all funding sources have been identified, but it's a combination of federal money, state money, possible fees from municipalities, possible “public and private partnerships,” and the ticket price. With all of these subsidies, the cost is expected to be covered. There will be parking near the stations, projected at 1,000 cars for the Valley. If the project is not finished, each segment is to provide some benefit on its own.

Many voiced skepticism, including Board members and the stakeholder audience, about: the appropriateness of such a project when federal, state, and city budgets are “broken;” the high cost of the ticket; the accuracy of cost projections; the putative benefit to residents; the seemingly optimistic projection of ridership; the likelihood that the project would be abandoned and a lot of money wasted; and the possibly high cost of maintenance of European-built cars with their metric requirements. A couple of people said that we need to lighten the traffic load, and that “sooner or later we’ll have it.”

- 8) **The Transit Coalition** (Bart Reed): As a result of Measure R in 2008, most areas of Los Angeles got rail; the San Fernando Valley got a bus line from Chatsworth to Warner Center. People don’t realize that the Los Angeles area has one of the busiest rail segments, the “LosAn corridor,” on the way from Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo. The current project the Transit Coalition is supporting is a rail tunnel to connect the SF Valley with the Westside. Proposals for a surface level system won’t work, because trains are limited to a 4% grade, which means that in some parts of the Sepulveda Pass the roadway would have to be 130 ft in the air; and that would be dangerous in an earthquake. Tunnels are strong and safe, and not generally damaged by earthquakes. Such a tunnel would connect Ventura Blvd. and Wilshire in less than six minutes. That would be segment 1; later that would be expanded at both ends, towards USC and towards the north Valley. This project needs to be considered together with a transit line from Van Nuys to Ventura Blvd., as one project. During a Q&A session, it came out that: Amtrak service stops at San Luis Obispo because Union Pacific needs to improve the roadway, which they haven’t done. Ridership increases every month. \$1 Billion has already been allocated for some sort of route through/under/over Sepulveda Pass through Measure R. Costs are to be covered through a mix of state and federal funding. There is no easy way to get from the rail to the subway yet. Metrolink currently has 10 trips per day, and this needs to be increased. People can park at Chatsworth and take the train to Bob Hope Airport in 6 minutes.

Motion: (Gold/Hunter): 1. That GHNNC support the development of a contiguous rail transit line from the Sylmar Metrolink Station to the Expo Line, to the intersection of Sepulveda and Venice, and eventually to LAX as the plan for the I-405 Transit Corridor; 2. That Measure R Sepulveda Pass and Van Nuys transit projects should be studied and developed together as one integrated project, rather than two disjointed projects; and 3. that GHNNC support a rail tunnel from Sherman Oaks to UCLA and Westwood as the mode of transit, versus the use of project funds for busways or conversion of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to toll lanes for this project; and 4. That GHNNC call upon the Mayor, the City Council, the County Board of Supervisors, legislators, Members of Congress, and Metro to take action to accelerate the timeline and obtain federal matching funds for this project so that Westside and San Fernando Valley stakeholders can enjoy its benefits. **Carried** 14-1-2.

9) **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Treasurer’s Report** (Kazi): [this matter was moved up in the schedule due to a schedule conflict of the Treasurer.] The November Cash Flow report was distributed. There was little activity. Some demand warrants have still not been submitted since last July. There was a minor correction on where one item is shown (moved to Paid). **Motion** to approve: **Carried** 16-1-0.
- b. **Finance Officer’s Report** (Pollok): The most recent budget was distributed, which needs to be approved each time there is a change. Ray explained that there is a new required format for submitting to DONE, but he will continue to present the budget in the familiar, more detailed, format to the Board. There were no questions.
- c. **PLUM (Planning and Land Use)** (Lewis for Ziliak): **Motion:** *That GHNNC submit comment to the Hearing Board, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) in support of the SCAQMD’s Petition to Amend the Stipulated Order for Abatement dated November 18 2011, District Rule 402, Case No. 3448-13 Browning-Ferris Industries of California and Republic Services Inc, dba Sunshine Canyon Landfill, including the following concerns: Additional requirements for the queuing of the trucks starting at 5 AM; that the Independent Consultant be paid by the SCAQMD out of an account established for that purpose and funded by BFI; additional consideration as to impacts of the temporary flare location be determined in order to ensure that there are no additional impacts to O’Melveny Park.* This topic having been thoroughly discussed in prior meetings, there was no discussion. **Carried** 16-0-1 abstention.

Motion: *That GHNNC oppose the modification of the cell tower site, ZA-1999-3216; located at 16201 San Fernando Mission; and request replacement with a stealth site. Carried 16-0-1.*

Motion: *That GHNNC oppose the placement of the above ground cell tower equipment cabinet at two locations. One is adjacent to 12769 Jolette Avenue (Ref. 2011003674), and the other is between 12056 and 12048 Wood Ranch Road (Ref. 2011003672). We request that both locations include an underground vault at each site for the above referenced cell tower equipment cabinets.*

Carried unanimously.

- d. **Outreach Committee** (Headington): The Granada Hills Holiday Parade will be Sunday, December 4th, from 1:30 to 4:30 PM. The theme is Winter Wonderland. We will have a “float” truck jointly with GHSNC. The decorating part will take place on Friday, December 2 at 6:00 PM at the site of DeKing Screw at 20416 Prairie Street. The final touches will be at the office on Sunday at 10:30 AM. Those wishing to ride on the float should wear white, in keeping with the theme. Ms. Thompson remarked that GHSNC should contribute to the cost and to the labor.
 - e. **Citywide Issues** (Gold): No report this month.
 - f. **Policy and Rules** (Marzillier): A Motion to approve the changes to the Standing Rules was omitted from the agenda, so it will be taken up next month. Board members are urged to read the changes and be ready to vote on them.
 - g. **Public Safety Committee** (Pollok): One of the items the committee referred to the LAPD resulted in an indictment. The CERT class that started October 19th has 45 students, and the “graduation” ceremony will be on Wednesday, November 30th. The class has been well received, and a number of the attendees have remarked that this was a great service from the Neighborhood Council.
- 10) Board Member Comments:** There was a discussion of the **date for the next meeting**, because December 26th is a federal holiday. It was decided to have the meeting instead on December 19th, place to be announced – Rinaldi Adult School if available, otherwise at the GHNNC office. The straw vote in favor was 13-3-1. Agnes Lewis said the Ad Hoc Committee on Goals and Priorities would re-send a copy of anonymous Survey Two, which contains thought-provoking questions. Board members who have not yet submitted comments are encouraged to do so by next week. Wayde Hunter remarked that the new assigned seating for the Board is not working too well, as some areas have too many people to be comfortable. Lydia Plescia said she would add a table for the next meeting.).
- 11) Adjournment at 9:08 pm.**