

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, March 26, 2012, 6:30 pm
Rinaldi Adult School
17450 Rinaldi Street**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:46 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Patti Costa, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Edward Headington, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Rahim Kazi, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Lydia Plescia, Ray Pollok, Steve Steinberg, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson, and Anne Ziliak. **Absent:** Sid Gold, Josh Jordahl. Quorum established with 19. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited.
Chair Comments: Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders. She explained that GHNNC may only vote on matters that have been placed on the agenda before tonight's meeting: if other issues come up during Public Comment, they may be referred to a committee or put on the next month's agenda.
On April 12th 7-9 PM, GHSouthNC and the Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a Congressional debate at the Valley Academy of the Arts and Sciences (VAAS). GHNNC will help publicize it. Moderators will be Dr. Greg Valone, Principal of VAAS; Brian Bauer, Granada Hills Charter High School; and Susan Blake, Kennedy High School.
- 2) **Approval of February 2012 Board Meeting Minutes:** Minutes approved 17-0-2.
- 3) **Comments from CD 12, any government agencies:** Matt Margoulis, from Congressman Sherman's office, said that he is in constituent services, an important part of their function, helping to deal with issues including social security, Medicare, and veteran services. There was a Townhall meeting February 18th at Reseda High School that explored issues regarding residential mortgages. The next Townhall meeting will be April 1st at Birmingham High School, 3-4:30 PM (near Balboa and Hayvenhurst). The Congressman wants to hear the opinions of the public on federal issues.
Bill Larsen from the City Attorney's office spoke again about the problem of group homes; one at 17420 Lahey St had 35 residents in a single family home; another on Algiers St had 60 people. There are another 7-8 such homes in Granada Hills, mostly with parolees (ex-felons), so they tend to make the crime rate rise in the area. Group homes are being prosecuted one by one. The best way to reach him is by email, william.larsen@lacity.org.
- 4) **Public Comment:** Michael Powell, Green Party candidate for the 38th State Congressional District, spoke about "being robbed blind for the banks," whom he blamed for all the country's recent ills. He said there are 6 people running. Eugene Hernandez then spoke, endorsing Michael Powell and asking that he be included in the April 12th debate.
Monique Lukens spoke about the availability of programs to install solar power at homes. She said installation usually costs \$20-\$30k plus expensive maintenance, but new programs subsidized by the federal government now allow for leases, so that the purchaser essentially transfers payments to the utilities instead of the solar panel installer. Ms. Thompson said that this would be referred to committee for further action.
Vaune Kirby, a stakeholder, was distressed about last month's GHNNC vote on a measure opposing how LAPD will handle impounding of vehicles driven by non-licensed drivers. Thompson reassured Kirby that she had misinterpreted the vote and indeed agreed with it.
Vince G [no other last name given], spoke against the proposed ban on plastic bags, pointing out that this would cost more particularly for the poor. What next, he said, banning plastic forks?
- 5) **Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month (Bill Hopkins):** This month's item, free to all attendees, is a light stick that lasts for about 12 hours.
- 6) **Motion (Executive Committee):** *That GHNNC approves a budget of \$350 to pay for a bus to transport stakeholders to a downtown Board of Education meeting.* Mr. Steinberg reminded the Board that in January we had voted to write to the Board of Education (BoA), opposing the draconian cuts being discussed for adult education. The BoA are currently considering allocating only \$15M to the program (an improvement over the previously considered total shutdown), but this would leave only programs for recent high school drop-outs and eliminate English programs for immigrants, all programs for seniors, and all vocational programs. Another choice is \$33M, but this too would only leave 10 regional learning

centers and still eliminates senior services and ESL, though leaves some vocational training. The hearing is Tuesday, April 10th, at 1 PM, the trip would be about 4 hours, the bus holds 60 people, and the fee is for 5 hours. Interested stakeholders may sign up on our website. Ms. Lewis spoke in favor of the motion, pointing out that this addresses one of the core functions of NCs, encouraging communications between stakeholders and city officials. Mr. Hopkins (Ms. Ziliak seconded) offered a friendly amendment, increasing the budget “up to \$400.” Amendment **Carried** unanimously. Vote on the Motion as amended: **Carried** 18-0-1.

- 7) **Discussion of Spring Egg Hunt Event:** Sean Rivas of the Granada Hills Recreational Center (part of the Los Angeles Parks & Recreation Dept), introduced two others, Brenda Shaw and Evelyn Gregoryana. They spoke about the event scheduled for Saturday, March 31, from 10:45 AM on, at the Petit Park venue. They asked for a \$500 contribution in return for displaying our logo. This item had been referred to the Outreach committee for consideration, but this month’s meeting was cancelled. There was a long discussion about the history of the event, which used to be held within GHNNC boundaries at O’Melveny Park but was moved two years ago to the Petit Park location. Board members pointed out that most of the attendees were from the immediately adjacent apartments, and we had been unable to get much in the way of sign-ups at our booths the last couple of years. GHNNC, in conjunction with Patriot Oil, had offered to provide all the volunteers for the event if it were moved to O’Melveny, and had suggested that the locations switch year to year. Patriot Oil had offered to pay for buses to transport people from Petit Park to the O’Melveny location. All offers were refused. Several Board members had trouble with the Rec Center’s intention to broaden the occasion to include video game trucks, taking the focus away from an event geared to little children. In response to questions, Mr. Rivas said he did not know how the department’s decision was made to refuse all offers of help. One stakeholder suggested that next year the director should come before the community and speak on the subject. Other Board members said that there was no budget for this.

Ms. Frechette offered an amendment to cut the proposed budget to \$250. (Mr. Steinberg seconded).

Amendment carried 14-3-2. **Vote on the motion as amended:** 7-11-1; failed.

- 8) **Officer Elections: Mr. Dave Beauvais**, of GHSNC, chaired this portion of the meeting. There were 7 offices up for a vote: they would be addressed in high-to-low order. If there were any opposition for a position, each candidate would get about 1 minute to state their case.

President:

Bill Lillenberg nominated **Leon Marzillier**, and said that, as he had been President before there would be a smooth transition.

Kim Thompson nominated **Sue DeVandry**, and said that Sue had a lot of experience with NCs and DONE.

Ray Pollok nominated **Scott Manatt**, saying that he had previously been Treasurer and Vice President and would be a great choice. Mr. Manatt declined, saying that he had served five years on the Board, but that health issues prevent him from accepting the nomination.

Mr. Marzillier said he had been President before and also served as Chair of Policy and Rules, and had learned several things that would help him improve. He was impressed by the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Goals and Priorities, and would take some of the suggestions.

Ms. DeVandry said this was her 8th year with GHNNC, and had been Outreach Chair and Treasurer, and she had proved herself worthy of this step by being honest and hard working and putting a lot of effort into GHNNC.

Mr. Marzillier won, 10-9.

Vice President:

Ms. Thompson nominated **Anne Ziliak**.

Ms. Frechette nominated **Kim Thompson**, who declined.

Ms. Lewis nominated **Jan Subar**.

Ms. Ziliak said she had been VP once, and is now Chair of the PLUM committee. She agreed that the Ad Hoc report had many good ideas, and she is willing to keep an open mind. She has been with the NC since the beginning, and is familiar with DONE. She is willing to make tough decisions.

Ms. Subar described herself as concise, capable, efficient and organized. She is involved now in Neighborhood Watch but not any other organization, and had no wish to build a resume, and could devote full attention to GHNNC. As an experienced speaker, she could represent GHNNC. Life blood of any organization is new blood, and she said we should put effort into recruiting.

Ms. Ziliak won, 10-9.

Secretary: Ms. Thompson nominated **Carl Buettner**, who accepted. Approved 17-0-2.

Financial Officer:

Ms. Ziliak nominated **Sue DeVandry**, who declined.

Ms. Lewis nominated **Ray Pollok**, who accepted.

Ms. DeVandry nominated **Agnes Lewis**, who declined.

Mr. Buettner nominated **Rahim Kazi**, who declined.

Mr. Steinberg nominated **Jan Subar**, who declined.

Mr. Pollok approved, 16-0-3.

Treasurer:

Ms. Ziliak nominated **Agnes Lewis**, who declined.

Ms. Frechette nominated **Kim Thompson**, who accepted.

Ms. Subar nominated **Bill Hopkins**, who declined.

Ms. Lewis nominated **Jan Subar**, who declined.

Ms. Thompson **approved**, 17-0-2.

Outreach Chair: Ms. Ziliak nominated **Sue DeVandry**, who accepted; **approved** unanimously.

City Information Officer: Ms. Thompson nominated **Sid Gold**; **approved** unanimously.

Elections were followed by a brief break for pictures, taken by Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Plescia, Mr. Kroy.

Mr. Marzillier took over the meeting.

9) Recycled Water Advisory Group (RWAG) – Hopkins: This was the 8th workshop of the Recycled Water Advisory Group (RWAG) on 2/28/12. Glen Singley, Directory of Water Engineering & Technical Services Division provided updates on the water program: Dr. Frederick Pickel was appointed Feb. 1 by City Council as the LADWP Executive Director of the Office of Public Accountability, aka, Ratepayer Advocate, for a 5-year term. City Council also approved the 35 cents/hcf (35 cents/billing unit) hike in the Water Quality Factor on Feb. 8. It will fund nearly \$600 million in mandated upgrades to the water system. The Department=s water pipe repair schedule has been improved from every 400 years to about every 150 years, although most water pipes have a 100-year design life. There are still some steel riveted trunk lines in the system. Paul Liu, Waterworks Engineer, discussed the 53 comments received on the draft Recycled Water Master Planning (RWMP) documents. Two of the many key issues raised were: How was the volume split between Ground Water Recharge and Non-Potable Reuse determined? (Asked 24 times); We need greater financial disclosure, such as the total investment, investment to date, and planned expenditures (Asked 13 times). The final Recycled Water Master Planning (RWMP) documents are scheduled to be published in the spring of 2012. DWP continues to work on ground water cleanup, especially in the San Fernando Valley aquifer. Breakout sessions were conducted to address ongoing outreach about the recycled water project.

10) Committee Reports: (Vote count lowered due to Frechette, Headington, and Subar leaving.)

a) PLUM (Planning and Land Use) – Anne Ziliak:

Motion: *That GHNNC approve up to \$500 for three PLUM Committee members to attend the Los Angeles Business Council 2012 Sustainability Summit, Friday, April 27, 2012, at The Getty Center (cost is \$135 per person for admission and parking).* **Carried** 14-1-1

Motion: *That GHNNC request that AQMD make an overall assessment of the cumulative impacts of all the gas handling and processing projects at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill for both current and projected volumes, then provide this information at the April 18, 2012 AQMD meeting.* **Carried** 15-0-1

b) Treasurer's Report – Rahim Kazi: The Treasurer's Cash Flow Report for March 2012 was distributed. **Motion** (Kazi/Manatt): *That GHNNC approves the Treasurer Report for March.* **Carried** 12-0-3 (Thompson left prior to motion.)

c) Financial Officer – Ray Pollok: Two sheets as of 3-26-2012 were distributed, (1) Board Approved Budget Remaining, and (2) For Board Approval-Budget Remaini[g]. A discussion followed on voting for the updated budget items as indicated on item (2) with the Board requesting to table the item until more itemized information was provided on the Surveillance Team Microphones. **Motion:** *To Table Budget Items,* **Carried** 13-2-0.

d) Outreach Committee – Sue DeVandry: Summer Social II is planned for July 14 at St Euphrasia, with a Luau theme, Hawaiian food trucks, and Polynesian dance. Newsletter articles are due by May 1st. Next Outreach meeting is Tuesday, April 10 at 10 a.m.

e) Public Safety – Ray Pollok: Frost Middle School PTA has handled the traffic congestion around Frost Middle School during student drop off and pickup by re-directing traffic through the campus. Public Safety meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, alternating at 2 and 7 p.m., the next meeting 2 p.m. on the 10th, and the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

f) Policy and Rules – Leon Marzillier: The committee is going through the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee on Goals and Priorities to create a list of Best Practices that GHNNC might follow as suggestions, rather than making specific rules to be adhered to. The committee decided to meet from 8:15 to 10:15 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, the next meeting being Tuesday, April 3, 2012.

11) **Board Member Comments:** Next Board Meeting on April 30, 2012, same place, Rinaldi Adult School. The Executive Committee will meet April 23rd, 4:30pm at GHNNC Office.

12) **Adjournment:** at 8:59 p.m.