

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, April 30, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Rinaldi Adult School
17450 Rinaldi Street**

1) Call to Order at 6:30 p.m. by GHNNC President Leon Marzillier. **Roll Call:**

Present: Carl Buettner, Sue DeVandry, Bill Hopkins, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Lydia Plescia, Ray Pollok, Steve Steinberg, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson, and Anne Ziliak. **Quorum established with 14.**

Late: Neysa Frechette, Edward Headington, and Rahim Kazi. **Absent:** Patti Costa, Sid Gold, Wayde Hunter, and Josh Jordahl. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited.

Chair Comments: Leon Marzillier welcomed the audience, and explained the following: The current GHNNC office lease has not yet been paid for this current fiscal period; Gelb, DONE and the City Attorney have completed their part, and the next step is for CD 12 Councilmember Mitch Englander to present the lease to the City Council for approval. Once the prior year's lease has been paid, Gelb will start the process of improvement on the new office. On, Friday, April 27, Ralph Kroy, Bill Hopkins and Leon Marzillier attended the *Los Angeles Business Council 2012 Sustainability Summit* at the Getty Center consisting of speeches given by, amongst others, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Ambassador Mickey Kantor, Councilmember Eric Garcetti, and three panels. Items presented were partnership with China, changing from dark to light pavement, and trying to make voluntary use of recyclable shopping bags before making use mandatory. Marzillier did not believe spending NC funds to attend the annual meeting was worthwhile.

2) Approval of March 26, 2012, Board Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved 14-0-0.

3) Comments from CD12, any Government agencies: Senior Lead Office (SLO) Janine Angeles, 17A49, reported that part of her area, from Rinaldi south to Roscoe Blvd., and Balboa east to 405 Freeway, had a zero percent increase in crime. Reminded residence to close and lock windows and doors when leaving home. There is an increase in Grand Theft Auto (GTA) around Petit Park with the older model Honda Accord being targeted. SLO Angeles recommended the use of a vehicle steering wheel locking device as a deterrent. Some reminders: Saturday, May 19, is the \$8 SOLID [Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire] annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast at Devonshire Station. The next 17A49 Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held on May 22, 7 p.m., at the Emeritus of Northridge, 17650 Northridge St. The June 26 meeting will be at Valley Communications Division. Devonshire Station open house will be on Saturday, August 18, jail will be open, bring the grand kids.

SLO Dario Del Core, 17A35, reported on day time knock-knock residential burglaries north of Rinaldi. Items taken are jewelry, guns, money, and portable electronics. Residential areas of Glendale, Pasadena and Burbank are experiencing the same residential burglary problem. Let the door knocker know that you are home, but don't open the door. Get a description of the knockers and vehicle being used and call the police.

City Attorney Bill Larsen spoke again about the group homes being used as drug flop houses and housing 50 to 60 parolees (felons) who tend to make the crime rate rise in the surrounding neighborhood. A recent one near the Knollwood Country Club housed 55 people. There are about 20 such group homes in Granada Hills. Prosecution is one-by-one as issues arise. The City is dealing with an ordinance from the 1950s. Larsen also spoke about several instances where group home owners have confronted him in a public place.

4) Public Comment: none.

5) Motion to approve Cherie Mann as a Board Member representing Parks.

6) Motion to approve Kevin Kilroy as a Board Member representing Youth Groups. Marzillier brought up several members pre-meeting suggestion that a nominating committee should be formed instead of the above motions. Lewis made a *motion to have a nominating committee*, and

make a real effort to fill not just these two positions but the other open positions as well. Lewis would like to also hear from the above candidates tonight. Motion seconded by Hopkins. Vote on the motion, carried 8-7-0 (15 members present). Marzillier explained that with a nominating committee, the above open positions would have to go to a nominating committee. Discussion followed on the length of time the positions have been open, the outreach effort done to fill the positions, and the announcement of the open positions at every GHNNC function. Both Thompson and Steinberg mentioned that the board didn't discuss the motions to appoint after looking for months, why not appoint now as we are not mandated to have a nominating committee. Manatt asked for the Bylaws to be read, Thompson read "**5.6 Vacancies:** A vacancy on the Board shall be filled by a Stakeholder who satisfies the eligibility requirements for holding the vacated Board seat. Any Stakeholder interested in filling a vacant seat shall submit a written application to the Secretary within sixty (60) days of the date that the seat becomes vacant. After the lapse of such 60-day period, the Secretary shall forward the names of all applicants to the President. The President shall have discretion to fill the vacancy from the applicants or among any other qualified Stakeholders at any time, subject to a majority vote of the Board at a public meeting. The appointed applicant's term shall be limited to the term for the vacated seat." Subar stated that we already had a vote and I think we need to move on, we really haven't looked very well over the last year, we advertised in the newsletter and posted somewhere, but I really think we owe it to ourselves to go through the process. Lillenberg, who voted for the motion, requested to rescind his vote as having an ad-hoc election committee creates a lot of extra work by bringing the candidates back to the Board meeting, and he didn't understand the option at the time [of the first vote]. Frechette mentioned that the Board did not discuss the options before voting. Ziliak stated that the motion wasn't clear. Kazi asked to rescind his vote. Re-vote on the *Motion to Have Ad-hoc Nominating committee*; Motion failed 6-10-0 (16 members present).

Cherrie Mann was given the opportunity to speak and mentioned that we have the park [O'Melveny] during the day and the wild life has it at night. One of the quarterly meetings will be a walk in the park to see what needs to be done. Manatt questioned her about being involved in our three parks. Motion to approve: 14-0-2 (16 members present)

Kevin Kilroy has been involved in AYSO for 25 years, baseball for 15 years, and has lived in Granada Hills for 40 years. Lewis asked if he will bring needs and complaints here once a month. Subar asked if he will be willing to work with other youth groups. Kilroy mentioned he had been a very active basketball coach at Northridge Park. Lewis mentioned that it is a wider assignment than AYSO. Ziliak mentioned that it was youth groups period. Kilroy added that he had also been active with the Girl and Boy Scouts. Tell him who he should meet with. Motion to approve: 15-0-2 (17 members present)

7) Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month (Bill Hopkins): This month's item, free to all attendees, is a 10 yard roll of cloth bandage tape.

8) Motion (Executive Committee): that the GHNNC Board Meeting for May be on May 21, 2012. The Board usually meets the last Monday of the Month, in May it is the Memorial Day Holiday. There are three days proposed by the Executive Committee: Monday May 21, Monday June 4, or Tuesday May 29. Rinaldi Adult School will be available on May 21 and 29, but not on June 4. Motion amended by Ray Pollok, *that the GHNNC Board Meeting for May be on May 29*, seconded by Thompson. Vote on the Motion as amended: Carried 12-2-1

9) Reserve Animal Control Officers – Paul Darrigo [Skipped, presented later]

10) Motion (Executive Committee): That GHNNC approves the amended budget [Skipped, presented later].

11) Discussion and possible motion regarding NC elections in 2012. Marzillier spoke with Grayce Liu at DONE and was given two options: (1) Election process August 6 to 12, with candidate 60 days filing in June; if no contested seats, we can have a board selected by affirmation: contested seat would result in an election in August. (2) Selection process, same 60 days candidate filing period, can have the Selection process in November, vote is not by secret ballot; stakeholders meet and vote by raising hands. If no seat is contested, selection done by affirmation. This requires a change in our bylaws. DONE does not want the neighborhood councils to spend a vast amount on outreach: sufficient to place in newsletter one sentence similar to, GHNNC is going

to have elections for the board of directors, stakeholders interested in being candidates for a seat on the board should contact (blank) to express their interest. Discussion ensued on Bylaws, DONE, current voting process, newsletter outreach, and national voting in November. Becky Bendikson questioned what input has been gathered from the public regarding the election process; and this process needs to be explained. Steinberg: *Motion for election process in August, June candidate filing period, August election* -- Lewis second: passed 8-7-2 (16 members present), recount 7-7-2. Thompson suggested doing nothing and DONE would affirm us. Frechette: since selection process would be a town hall style election, we would have more time to get people involved; better to have election in November before people leave on holiday: *Motion to have selection process in November*, second by Kroy. Discussion followed and Marzillier explained that the election need not take place in November; it could be in October to avoid the national election and Thanksgiving. Carried 9-5-2 (16 members present).

CD12 – Megan Cottier mentioned that Councilmember Englander is Vice Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Last Friday was the first of the budget hearings. City of LA budget is \$7 billion, of that \$3.3 billion is in the general fund from which the council can allocate money, but there is a \$200 million short fall. As the economy improves, the City is usually about a year behind before seeing any recovery. Some of the items being looked at are the outdated 311 system, and performance based budgeting. The Councilmember puts out a weekly e-newsletter that can be signed up for at cd12.org Please call the CD12 office for a fact check on the budget cuts. Saturday, June 2, in Northridge Park, at 8:30 p.m. will be an animated feature Puss & Boots. Marzillier requested Councilmember's help with submitting the GHNNC lease to the City Council for approval. Becky Bendikson mentioned the Bureau of Sanitation Open House on several Saturdays [bureauofsanitationopenhouses.blogspot.com]. Megan also discussed the Councilmember's opposition to requiring a home owner to pay for sidewalk repair, and referred to California Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes' bill AB 2231 to ensure that local entities will remain responsible for sidewalk damage, rather than trying to have property owners foot an estimated \$6,000 or more cost to repair the sidewalk.

10) Motion (Executive Committee): That GHNNC approve the amended budget.

Changed items indicated on FOR BOARD APPROVAL-LATEST BUDGET for DONE Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12): 7-1-2011-6-30-2012 (as of 4-23-2012) was discussed. Reduced items: P.O. Box Rental, PLUM Copying Expense, PLUM Training/Conferences, Misc. General Operations, Elections, Newsletter, and Website Expenses. Added or increased items: Wireless Microphone System, Office Supplies, Summer Social, Hearing Attendance Bus, General Neighborhood Outreach, Parade, Emergency Preparedness Promotional Items, and Surveillance Team Microphones. (Bill Hopkins recited a list of Emergency Preparedness Promotional Items currently in his possession: 127 emergency blankets, 159 triangular bandages, 25 plastic whistles, 144 instant cold packs, 598 water pouches, 154 emergency ponchos, 192 12-hour light sticks, 211 LED keychains, 109 N95 flat-fold mask, 44 Spanish emergency preparedness booklets, 122 safety goggles, 102 eyeglass repair kits, 115 elastic [2"X 5 yard] bandages, 55 folding can openers, and 121 cloth [½"X 10 yards] adhesive tapes.) President of the Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST) gave a presentation on what the group does to combat crime, including residential burglaries. Funding for VST comes from various sources and only equipment that is needed is asked for. Within the Devonshire area, VST assisted in 14 arrests for felony residential burglaries this year. *Motion to approve the amended budget:* carried 14-2-0.

9) Reserve Animal Control Officers – Paul Darrigo: L.A. Animal Services discussed two items: Reserve Animal Control Officer program, and an animal liaison to the Board to determine what the animal issues are within GHNNC. Currently there is a 45% euthanasia rate with domestic animals dumped in the hills and the local area. There are six city animal shelters, West Valley responds for Granada Hills. Only two officers are on duty for all of Los Angeles, from Sylmar to the L.A. Harbor. The Reserve Animal Control Officer volunteers their time, two days per month for a year. Training for the reserve program costs \$1,500. The Animal Liaison finds out about local animal issues, for example, a complaint in Panorama City by someone who had to constantly pick up chicken feathers from their yard led to a cockfighting investigation and arrests. Animal Services has a spay and

neuter van that can be brought to a fix the strays outreach event. [Marzillier has contact information]

12) Committee Reports and possible action items:

a. PLUM – Anne Ziliak: no motions for this month, but a few items to report – Met with Sunshine Canyon Landfill Citizen Advisory Committee and Fire Department Air Division to discuss the number of landings at Sunshine Canyon landfill affecting a sensitive area that is being re-vegetated. Able to get a commitment from LAFD to change the helicopter approach and have the number of landings reduced, or move the landing zone. The helicopter exhaust and rotor wash are affecting the plants. AQMD held a meeting at the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences High School: not a very successful meeting as the environmental impact report was sent on the same day of the hearing. No time to read it before the meeting. Becky Bendikson mentioned that a CD recording of the meeting will be on the Citizen Advisory Web site. Ziliak further mentioned Bureau of Sanitation approved the exclusive franchise waste hauling system [one hauler per franchise area for the collection of solid waste from commercial, industrial, institutional, and multifamily (privately serviced) properties].

b. Treasurer's Report – Rahim Kazi: The Treasure's Cash Report for April 2012 was distributed and discussed. Motion: *That GHNNC approve the Treasurer Report [for April]*. Carried 13-0-1. The Treasurer's Report Fiscal Year (2011-2012) – 3rd Quarters (January 1, 2012 – March 31, 2012) was distributed and discussed. Motion: *That GHNNC approve the 3rd Quarter [Treasurer's] Report*. Carried 11-0-3.

c. Financial Officer Report – Ray Pollok: Nothing further to report.

d. Outreach Committee – Sue DeVandry (at first handled by Lydia Plescia): Started as a discussion by Ziliak on how the newsletter was created and how articles and suggestions were not received by Hopkins, especially at the Executive meeting. Subar explained the process involved in creating this newsletter, and stated that this [discussion] was a waste of time. Marzillier wanted to move on, and gave his position on the newsletter process and the last-minute changes that DeVandry wanted at 5 o'clock on a Friday before the newsletter was sent to the printer. DeVandry, as Outreach Chair, said she expected to review the final newsletter before it went to the printers. Ziliak expected the newsletter to be brought before the Board for approval. President Marzillier became involved in the verbal exchange with DeVandry by Subar and Hopkins, and was asked by Becky Bendikson to relinquish the Chair for the duration of the discussion. Vice President Ziliak replaced the President as Chair for the discussion. More discussion followed. Kroy spoke about his Mayor's Prayer Breakfast article not being included. Thompson mentioned that there is no requirement to publish by a certain date. Frechette added that it was important to be happy with the newsletter, as it should be one that we can all be proud of. It was decided that the newsletter should go back to the Outreach Committee to finalize the newsletter. *Motion to have a meeting to finalize the newsletter*, carried 14-0-0.

14) Election of Financial Officer: Ray Pollock resigned, Sue DeVandry nominated by Ziliak/Steinberg, *Motion to elect Sue DeVandry as Financial Officer*, carried 11-0-3

16) Adjournment: 9:20 p.m.