

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting  
Monday, May 29, 2012, 6:30 p.m.  
Rinaldi Adult School  
17450 Rinaldi Street**

**1. Call to Order** at 6:35 p.m. by GHNNC President Leon Marzillier. **Roll Call:**

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

**Late:** Sid Gold, Edward Headington, Rahim Kazi, and Steven Steinberg. **Absent:** Neysa Frechette, Josh Jordahl, Kevin Kilroy, Cherie Mann, and Lydia Plescia.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Agnes Lewis.

**Chair Comments:** Leon Marzillier welcomed the audience and mentioned that by the end of this week they should receive a GHNNC Newsletter by mail, and copies are available tonight. He thanked the Outreach Committee – Sue DeVandry, Bill Hopkins, and Jan Subar – and especially Bill Hopkins who worked on several versions before the final, for their effort in producing the Newsletter. Marzillier also reminded anyone using the GHNNC Office (Board members, stakeholders, and committee chairs) to clean up after themselves, and especially not to leave food items in the trash.

Secretary Carl Buettner distributed copies of a GHNNC Committees and Other Commitments spreadsheet to each end of the table for Board members to indicate the committees they attend, and any other organizational meeting they may attend or participate in.

**2. Approval of April 30, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes.**

*Motion to approve the April 30, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes: Approved 9-4-1*

**3. Comments from CD12, Senior Lead Officers, Mayor's Valley Representative, or government agencies.**

Item skipped at this time.

**4. Public Comment on non-agenda items.**

Christine M. Patrick, re: Alison Canyon Park: Who is responsible for patrolling the park to suppress graffiti and trashing? Vice-President and PLUM Chair Ziliak provided that Recreation and Parks would handle the graffiti, LAPD would handle motorcycles on the equestrian trail.

Barbara Iversen, re: O'Melveny Park: After over a year of being vacant, we now have a tenant in the Park's rental unit, Jim Newsom and his wife.

**5. Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month – Bill Hopkins – An Instant Cold Compress**

Request from Agnes Lewis to do the budget items [10c] first. Since Items 6 and 7 were passed over at last meeting, decision by Marzillier to do budget items after Item 7.

**6. Election of Outreach Officer**

As Sue DeVandry is now the Financial Officer, Marzillier asked for nominations for the Outreach Chair. As there were none, he will chair the next Outreach Committee meeting and ask for a volunteer then. With the new, soon to be approved, Bylaws, the Outreach Chair can be elected by the Outreach committee.

**7. Report from Steve Steinberg, Educational Representative**

Steinberg read a letter signed by fifty students from the Rinaldi Adult Learning Center, Program for Older Adult (POA) Students, addressed to the GHNNC, and dated April 20, 2012:

“To the Board Members of the GHNNC, We, the undersigned students from the Rinaldi Adult Center, wish to express our thanks and gratitude to all the GHNNC Board Members for your strong and unanimous support for Adult Education and in particular the Kennedy-San Fernando Community Adult School and the Rinaldi Adult Learning Center. As the first Neighborhood Council in the City of Los Angeles to pass a motion in support of Adult Education, you have led the way. As of this date, more than twenty Neighborhood Councils have joined you in voicing their support of the Adult Education system in Los Angeles, and urging the LAUSD School Board not to eliminate Adult Ed.

“But you truly showed your support of Adult Education and the educational stakeholders of the GHNNC when you again unanimously agreed to hire a bus to enable forty of us to attend the April 10, 2012 LAUSD School Board meeting allowing us to voice our objections to the elimination of Adult Ed directly to the School Board Members.

“Thank you for listening to the concerns voiced by our GHNNC Educational Representative, Steve Steinberg, and even more thanks for agreeing to spend some of your budget to let your stakeholders voices to be heard at the LAUSD Board Meeting.

“With sincerity and gratitude, The Older Adult Students of Rinaldi Adult Center”

Discussion followed on the decline of the California educational system since 1968.

10b. **Budget**, Sue DeVandry, Finance Officer, mentioned that GHNNC has until June 15<sup>th</sup> to spend funds before the fiscal year cut off. The spreadsheet handed out indicates the budget as approved at the March 2012 Board meeting with \$2,720 funds remaining after April and May expenses and demand warrants are subtracted. DeVandry discussed the items in the \$6,533 Add and \$3,814 Subtract columns. Discussion followed on the pros and cons for a security camera installation for the office (four cameras and video recorder). The use of the security cameras at the VFW was explained by Ray Pollok. Cons were expressed that the security cameras was an invasion of privacy, we don't want to be watching each other, and it was up to the property owners to police the grounds to stop graffiti. Pros were expressed for its usefulness in deterring crime, as a security aid for those using the office if something happens inside as the new office is next to a bar and has a rear door to the alley, no dollar amount can be put on the safety and peace of mind of those using the office, and this is for our safety, not policing ourselves. Both Anne Ziliak and Ralph Kroy brought up the fact that since our meetings are public and comply with the Brown Act; our meetings can be subjected to audio and video recording. Gold/Subar -- Motion to strike the \$2,000 -- Failed 3-10-3. Lewis/Gold – Motion to have cameras outward facing only – Failed 5-9-2. Motion to approve the GHNNC amended budget – Approved 12-3-1.

**CD12 -- Megan Cottier** -- District Director for City Councilmember Mitch Englander's office. Englander is Vice Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Spoke about the budget and closing a \$220 million shortfall. Layoffs have been put on hold for 6 months. Several things added such as performance based budgeting, improving LAFD ambulance service, increase funding for recreation and parks maintenance, and a customer relationship management system to provide tracking numbers when one makes a telephonic service request of a City department.

Cottier invited three Board members to the quarterly “Conversations with Councils” meeting on Wednesday, June 13, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Fire Station #87, to discuss the Budget with CAO Miguel Santana, and have the chance to ask budget questions. Please RSVP for Neighborhood Council board members only.

Once the plastic bag ordinance passes, there will be a six months waiting period before the use of plastic bags are banned. There will be a 10 cent fee for paper bags at the store, and after a year it will be reviewed to see if they need to be banned. Because of the problems with bags from the Sunshine Canyon Land Fill, the ordinance was started here by Councilmember Smith and continued by Englander.

The Community Care Facilities Ordinance is not supported by some councilmembers and neighborhood councils: Cottier urged our support for it.

This Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the free Valley Family Festival will be at the Northridge Park with gourmet food trucks, bouncers, arts and craft, and the animated movie, "Puss in Boots."

**8. Motion (Executive Committee):** *That GHNNC approves changing one of our five posting places from HOWS Market to Fresh & Easy Market.*

Becky Bendikson mentioned that the posted agenda needs to be available (visible) for 24 hours. Marzillier asked for the motion to be passed, he will check to determine if posting inside will work, if not, he will bring back the motion to the Board at the June meeting. Approved 14-0-1

**9. Discussion and possible motion regarding the selection of our Board in the fall.**

Marzillier has a list of procedures to go over for the selection process of new board members in November; since there is no rush, he will bring the paperwork to the Executive meeting and then have something for the Board in June for the selection process.

*Point of Order* by Wayne Hunter: When anybody leaves the horseshoe they should turn down their name tags. We've had two people leave the room and their name tags still show. Whenever you leave your chair to get a cup of coffee, you should turn down your name tag and when you return bring it back up. And when you leave you most certainly should turn it down so we know you're not here.

**10. Committee Reports and possible action items:**

a. **PLUM** – Anne Ziliak

**Motion:** *The GHNNC Board submit a request to the DWP for a complete outline of all the existing projects and/or proposed projects being considered for the DWP LA Reservoir area and what approvals were obtained and by whom and what documentation exist for such projects.*

Becky Bendikson suggested that GHNNC subscribe to the Los Angeles Times as DWP posts their project information in the Thursday edition of the Los Angeles Times, and that the above become a City wide issue. Ziliak mentioned that the issue is due to DWP not communicating with the Neighborhood Council on changes made to a project in order to circumvent a Council Planning and Land Use Management comment about the change during the comment period.

Sid Gold mentioned that there is a DWP MOU and a Critical Action Committee, and he would gladly bring this resolution if passed before the MOU Committee for discussion.

Approved 15-0-0

**Motion:** *That the GHNNC Board submit a letter to the City Council indicating our support of the [Community Care Facilities] ordinance with the following comments: "Prohibit locating such sites within 1500 feet of another, maintain current zoning codes that regulate Community Care Facilities serving seven or greater residents, prohibit boarding/rooming houses of seven or more people in areas zoned one or single family. Require a Conditional Use Permit to locate in all other zones (including R3 and less restrictive zones). Prohibit subleasing under the Parolee/*

*Probationer Home definition, maintain Parolee/Probationer Home definition, and permit them as conditional uses in R-3 and less restrictive zones. This element must not be left intact as part of this ordinance, add an Administrative Code Enforcement penalty provision to strengthen nuisance abatement regulations. Non-compliant boarding/rooming/parolee houses that exist prior to the effective date of the enactment of this ordinance are required to comply within 6 months of the effective date.”*

This ordinance is in response to complaints from stakeholder neighbors of these community care facilities experiencing crime and quality of life issues with no enforcement being available due to the facilities being licensed by the State.

GHNNC submitted a resolution in favor of this ordinance, and then were asked by a coalition of neighborhood organizations to support their ordinance comments which the PLUM committee went through and selected those comments they felt were necessary.

*Gold/Ziliak – Motion that GHNNC inform the Inspector General (IG) of the Social Security Administration that proprietors of these aforementioned residences may be misusing the social security and food stamp benefits of the residents of these facilities inappropriately, and request an investigation.*

This would add to the community care facilities motion a letter to inform the Social Security Administration that food stamps and social security benefits may be used to fund these facilities by being signed over to a third party, the facility owner or agent. The Administration has inspectors that go out to see if social security is being used inappropriately. *Amendment to original motion; Approved 13-0-2*

*Original Motion above; Approved 13-0-2*

**b. Treasurer Report** – Sue DeVandry

**Motion:** *To approve the Treasurer’s Report for May. Approved 16-0-0*

**d. Outreach Committee** – skipped

**e. Public Safety** – Ray Pollok

The Public Safety Committee is dealing with an issue that Ralph Kroy brought forward where at least one church wishes to install a shipping container for emergency preparedness items but the installation currently requires costly City permits.

Emergency Preparedness Sub-committee -- Bill Hopkins: Had a good turnout, discussed how to prepare oneself for released radiation. Hopkins is creating a handout sheet for the next meeting with updated information. At the next meeting will have a speaker from the Southern California Gas Company on safety around natural gas.

**f. Policy and Rules** – Carl Buettner

We met on May 1<sup>st</sup> and continued gleaning information for the Best Practices document from pages 4 through 9 of the Goals and Priorities Final Report. No motions to bring before the Board. Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 5 at 8:30 a.m.

**g. Citywide Issues** – Sid Gold

**Motion:** *That GHNNC recommend [to the State Water Commission] that part of any Environmental Impact Report process include an economic impact statement and that the economic impact report would indicate the cost to taxpayers for the proposed [DWP] project.*

Reason that we discussed this is that DWP has a rate hike with part of that due to mandatory Federal and State guide lines that all power generating stations along the coast must install cooling systems that don't use ocean water for cooling. The cost for re-powering with air-cooled generators will be \$2.5 billion. This causes a major effect on the rates. No one really knows the economic impact of the environmental regulations. DWP General Manager Ron Nichols spoke with the Coastal Water Commission and was informed that the economic impact is not considered when the Commission makes these decisions to help the environment.

Ziliak mentioned that DWP doesn't have an EIR process; it should be Notice of Intent. Marzillier stated that the motion was vague, and not clear. Gold: These environment regulations are passed by various legislative bodies but they never put a dollar amount on the impact they have upon the community. The impact isn't known until after the project to conform has been approved. Lillenberg: Only 2% of the projects require an EIR. This would kill every large project. We want to keep businesses here, not scare them away. Thompson and Ziliak asked for a better explanation of the intent of the motion and suggested that instead of the EIR it should be as any part of any environmental review, as DWP doesn't go through the EIR process; they submit a letter of intent. If this means that when some legislative action is taken they should consider the economic impact, then this needs to be cleaned up for the Board to understand the intent of the motion and where it is going to be directed. Ziliak/Manatt: *Motion to table.* Approved 13-3-0

**Motion:** *That GHNNC oppose any defunding of Braude Center LA City Council meeting communications.*

Even though the City budget is passed; we can still raise an objection to closing the meeting communications facility. Jan Perry mentioned that even though the budget is settled it will come back for review in a couple of months. Approved 12-2-2

**Motion:** *That GHNNC oppose any defunding of monthly Council meetings scheduled to take place in the San Fernando Valley.* Skipped due to limited venue time.

**Motion:** *That GHNNC encumber \$500 from 2011-2012 budget to support NC Congress.*

DeVandry discussed this motion previously as an expenditure in the May 29, 2012 Amended Budget (Item 10b Budget above), and was included and approved with the amended budget.

**Motion:** *That GHNNC support in principle NC Budget Advocates guidelines to restructure the LA City budget.* Approved 14-0-2

## **11. Board comment on non-agenda items.**

Bill Lillenberg read in the newspaper, that the city clerk doesn't have any money for the Neighborhood Council elections and passed the ball back to DONE.

## **12: Adjournment 8:55 p.m.**