

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



GRANADA HILLS
NORTH
NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL

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Citywide Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

7:00 PM

**GHNC Office, 11139 Woodley Ave.
Granada Hills, 91344**

The Agenda is posted for public review at GHNC Office, 11139 Woodley Ave, HOWS Market located at 11900 Balboa Blvd., Sugar Suite located at 11858 Balboa Blvd., Bee Canyon Park Kiosks (2) – one located across from 17160 Van Gogh St. and the other at the playground between Van Gogh and Sesnon Blvd. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Project Advocate at (213) 485-1360

All agenda items are subject to discussion and possible committee action

1. Call to order: the meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM
2. Roll call: present, Carl Buettner, Sidney Gold, Bill Hopkins and Ralph Kroy; absent, Rafael Garcia, Edward Headington and Joe Vitti
3. Public comment: there was no public comment.
4. City sidewalk ordinance: Sid Gold updated the committee that the proposed sidewalk ordinance was still in committee. Sid mentioned that he would explore methods to notify appropriate departments regarding the motion passed at a previous Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council meeting regarding sidewalk repair.
5. Discussion regarding DWP Issues, Proposal regarding makeup of DWP board if prop I and J pass, discussion regarding DWP plans to build 11.6 Megawatt System near Adelanto

Sid Gold updated the Committee regarding actions taken at the DWP oversight and political action committees regarding the fact that propositions. I and J passed at the recent election. Sid pointed out that the process to appoint the committee that would pick the manager for the new Department of Public Accountability was not spelled out in the language of the proposition. He reported that it was important that neighborhood councils be involved in and represented on the committee that selected the manager of this

department. He reported that the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition had passed a resolution regarding the process. The committee voted 4 to 0 to approve the following amended resolution:

Whereas Charter Amendment. I created an Office of Public Accountability for the Los Angeles DWP and a Citizens Committee whose function was to select the Executive Director of the Office of Public Accountability and the selection of this committee is left to a later enabling ordinance, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Committee request that the Los Angeles City Council enact the following resolution

- 1. The citizens committee for the DWP office of public accountability shall be permanent, so that it may be available to the Executive Director and assist in creating the organizational structure of the Office of Public Accountability. Additionally, the Citizens Committee will serve as a connecting source for the Office of Public Accountability and aid in communicating its mission and objectives to the government and the community.**
- 2. The citizens committee will be composed of five Los Angeles city residents selected as follows:**
 - One selected by the Mayor with the term to and on June 30, 2013**
 - One selected by the city Council with the term to and on June 30, 2012**
 - One selected by the neighborhood councils with the term to end on June 30, 2014**
 - One selected by the city Council with the term to end on June 30, 2015**
 - One selected by the neighborhood councils with the term to end on June 30, 2016**
- 3. At the end of each term, as noted above, a new member will be appointed by the designated appointing authority to a new five-year term. If a member resigns or is unable to serve, the appointing authority shall appoint a replacement to complete the member's term of office**
- 4. The members of the citizens committee shall serve as volunteers with no compensation. A member of the citizens committee shall not be excluded from being selected as a member of the staff of the Office of Public Accountability. Any member accepting a position with the office of public accountability shall wait at least one year from office before hiring. No member of the Citizens Committee shall serve simultaneously as a member of the staff of the Office of Public Accountability or as an employee of the Department of Water and Power, the Port Authority of the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles worlds airports authority or be a paid employee of any city agency, city contractor or city employee union, also resolved.**

Granada Hills North neighborhood Council shall send this resolution to all appropriate city officials, managers, public employee unions and proprietary agencies.

6. Ordinance regarding the number of animals in a home, Overview of Report from Brenda Barnette Manager of Los Angeles Animal Services:

Sid Gold reported that Brenda Barnette, there director of Los Angeles animal services reported an overview of her department to Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition meeting. She reported that the ordinance regarding the increased number of animals allowed on properties within Los Angeles remains in committee.

She reported that there had been significant cuts in her department's budget. The number of full-time employees has decreased from 412 to 327.

She also reported that many facilities were closed and because of the lack of space or animals were euthanized than in the past.

She also reported that veterinarians were going to be allowed to issue licenses for animals within the city limits of Los Angeles.

She reported that money collected from licenses go to trust funds and are not part of the general fund. This distribution is made on a 50% basis.

She also stated that she saw no problem with the resolution passed by the Granada Hills North neighborhood Council regarding the spaying and neutering of animals if there is an increase of the number of animals allowed on properties within Los Angeles

Ms. Barnett also said that she is available to answer questions or address problems involving her department. She distributed her e-mail address, Brenda.Barnette@lacity.org and her cell phone number is 213-435-0815

7. LANCC proposal for task force regarding NC election process

Sid Gold reported that the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition is meetings with the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the city recorder regarding the process to conduct future neighborhood Council elections.

There will be a citywide meeting to discuss and have input regarding future elections.

8. NC citywide congress update, Proposal to help fund congress scheduled September 24, 2011 at LA City Hall:

Sid Gold reported that the neighborhood Council coalition is working to set up a citywide neighborhood Council Congress. The committee establishing this Congress is asking for financial support from neighborhood councils. The citywide committee deferred making a decision regarding contributions until a more detailed budget is provided. Sid gold stated that he would try to contact the organizers to get further information regarding this matter.

9. VANC 8th Anniversary party, March 10, 2011 update

Sid Gold reported that many Valley neighborhood councils were present at the anniversary mixer. He also reported that many city dignitaries were present. Various neighborhood councils received awards of merit for activities. Also, some of the city dignitaries were given awards of merit for their support of neighborhood councils.

10. Discussion regarding NC budget advocates proposals, Plan to save services, jobs., also plan to preserve NC budgets

Sid Gold reported that the neighborhood Council advocates and change your name from the Mayor's budget advocates to the neighborhood Council budget advocates. The advocates have been meeting with city Department managers, City Council members, employees and union officials regarding the budgets of various departments. The advocates report that they have found many areas where money may be saved. The budget advocates will be giving a presentation of their findings sometime in March.

The budget advocates are also asking neighborhood councils to complete forms about volunteer activities initiated or sponsored by neighborhood councils. The advocates wish to compile this list to establish the number of volunteer hours provided by the 92 neighborhood councils in Los Angeles. They believe this process will demonstrate the financial benefits provided by neighborhood councils and give more support as to why the budget for neighborhood councils should be preserved

11. Football Stadium in Los Angeles Further discussion

The citywide issues committee reviewed new evidence regarding financing of the downtown football Stadium. AEG the developers for this program states that no city money will be at risk. Other reports suggest that AEG is looking for the city to provide municipal bond support for the tearing down and replacing part of the Los Angeles Convention Center. The amount of money here is greater than \$300 million. The committee reviewed materials that suggested that there is no guarantee that this money will be safe and protected.

The citywide issues committee proposes the following resolution:

Granada Hills North neighborhood Council resolves:

No city financing, bond support, subsidies, deferred taxes or fees, appropriation of property, or any other unpaid city financial resources should be provided to the developers of the downtown football Stadium and further

This resolution should be presented to all city Council members, the Mayor, city planning and any other departments or committee involved in evaluating the downtown football Stadium

12. Possible update on Community Gardens, Parking meters in CD 12

Sid Gold reported that the issue regarding fees charged for community gardens will be discussed at an upcoming parks and recreation committee meeting.

Sid Gold reported that Councilman Greg Smith had reported to city Council that CD 12 does not have any parking meters in business areas. The Councilman also offered the opportunity to install parking meters in district 12 as a possible revenue generator.

The history of parking meters suggests that parking meters were installed, so that cars in a business district would be moved on a regular basis and not as a revenue enhancer. The committee believed that the installation of parking meters in CD 12 would be another unneeded intrusion for the residence and stakeholders of CD 12.

The committee proposes the following resolution;

Granada Hills North neighborhood Council opposes the installation of any additional parking meters within CD 12 and also

This resolution should be passed on to Councilman Smith.

13. Comments by committee members: there were no comments by committee members

14. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Submitted

Sid Gold

GHNNC, City Information Officer