

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Minutes for General Board Meeting
Monday March 27, 2006
Van Gogh Street School, 17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, Ca. 91344

1. **Call to Order** by GHNNC Chairperson Michael Greenwald: 6:33 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome to audience**, Roll Call: 21 Board Members present: Wayne Aller, Becky Bendikson, William Cotter, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Mary Edwards, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Wayde Hunter, Matt Hughes, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Alex Palazzo, Dev Parikh, Ben Pedrick, Robert Ricketts, Linda Tcimpidis, Tom Tcimpidis, Kim Thompson, Joe Vitti, Donna Zero. David Tipton and Ginger Fong were absent.
3. **Public Comment** on Non Agenda Items
 - a. **Pat Kramer**, PDQ Personnel spoke on Minute Taking and Minutes not being approved.
 - b. **Anne Ziliak, GHNNC Planning and Land Use Chair**, told the Board that she was angry that a member of the Board made accusations involving her that were not confirmed, then e-mailed those accusations to City officials including the Council office and City Attorney. Since Anne represents the GHNNC, she said these accusations might have damaged the accuracy of her positions when testifying at City hearings, affecting not only her credibility but also that of the entire Board. She then responded to the accusations made to clear up the rumor that she was interested in the Neighborhood Group seat on the Board. She said that the complaint filed by Linda Tcimpidis could have been avoided if the Ad-Hoc Nominating Committee had been permitted to complete their report at the last GHNNC meeting. She said that if Tom Tcimpidis had qualified for the Neighborhood Group Seat, he could have been appointed to it last year when Mike asked Bill Cotter to move from his Residential Seat to the Neighborhood Group Seat. She requested that the Board return this back to the ad-hoc committee and asked the Board to do something to prevent this from happening again.
 - c. **Angela Ades, a stakeholder representing Knollwood Elementary School**, asked the Board to help the school with items desperately needed including a marquee for the back of the school and resodding for a grassy area on the school grounds. She estimated the value of those services to be around \$10,000.
 - d. **GHNNC Board Member Bill Cotter** addressed the Board regarding allegations made by some GHNNC Board Members about other Board Members.
 - e. **GHNNC Board Member Kim Thompson** announced that Van Gogh Elementary School is holding a fundraiser from 6 – 11 p.m., Saturday, April 1st with a Casino Night at Granada Hills Women's Club. She asked the Board to come and support it.
4. **Acceptance of minutes:** 11/28/05(Regular and special Meeting), 1/30/06 and 2/27/2006. **Acceptance of Minutes tabled.** Board Member Becky Bendikson opposed acceptance of all the minutes stating that there were errors in the reporting done by PDQ Personnel. She reiterated that she wants to review the tapes of several previous Board Meetings for omissions and errors. She then pointed out several changes and revisions she wanted made to the February 2006 minutes.

As a result, Chairperson Greenwald asked that acceptance of the minutes be tabled to allow Becky time to review the tapes and present changes to Pat of PDQ Personnel. Becky also proposed that she bring the issue of who should revise the minutes to the next City Attorney Round Table meeting, for which she is the appointed rep for GHNNC.
5. **Discussion and setting aside of Board's action** from February 27, 2006 meeting naming Tom Tcimpidis to the Board seat for Neighborhood Organizations, based on the demand to cure filed by GHNNC Board Member Bill Cotter.
6. **Nomination of Tom Tcimpidis to fill Neighborhood Organization Position** and introduction of a candidate for Student Representative.

Mary Anna Keinholz informed the Board that a vote of abstention counts as a “no” vote. She reminded the Board of the act of inclusiveness and suggested there was no reason for turning down anyone who wants to serve on the board.

Anne Ziliak told the Board that she was contacted by the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee about serving on the Board in the capacity of the Neighborhood position but she was not interested in that seat. She stated that she didn't feel Tom Tcimpidis had the qualifications to serve in that capacity and that another candidate, who had expressed interest in that seat, had not been afforded the opportunity.

Other comments included Becky Bendikson speaking in favor of Tom Tcimpidis serving at the Neighborhood representative on the Board. Mary Edwards asked that the Nominating Committee be utilized to search out qualified candidates. Mary Anna Keinholz informed the Board that the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee had been disbanded. Kim Thompson pointed out that the Ad Hoc Committee had worked hard to fill every position needed except for District 2 and the Student representative. Bill Cotter recommended that the Chair be supported in submitting names for any open positions. **Chair Mike Greenwald made a motion to Call the Question and cut off further Board comment. The Board did not pass this with the necessary 2/3's vote. The vote, instead, was: 13 for, 8 opposed, and no abstentions.**

7. **Chair's Nomination of Tom Tcimpidis:** The Board then voted on Chairperson Michael Greenwald's nomination of Tom Tcimpidis for the Neighborhood position on the GHNNC Board. **The motion passed with a vote of: 12 for, 8 opposed, and 1 abstention. In doing so, Tom Tcimpidis was officially added to the GHNNC Board.**
8. **Neighborhood Organization Watch Report,** Tom Tcimpidis gave the Neighborhood Watch police report with current crime statistics.
9. **Election of 2006 / 2007 Officers for the GHNNC Board:**

John Bwarie from Councilmember Greig Smith's office officiated as an impartial third party in the election of the new slate of officers for the GHNNC 2006/2007 Board.

Chairperson: Ben Pedrick nominated Kim Thompson for Chairperson. The Board voted to elect Kim as Chairperson by a vote of: 17 for, 4 opposed, no abstentions.

Others nominations for Chairperson:

- Tom Tcimpidis nominated Sid Gold, who declined.
- Michael Greenwald nominated Joe Vitti, who declined.
- Becky Bendikson nominated Leon Marzillier, who declined.
- Becky Bendikson nominated Wayne Aller, who declined.

During the discussion of Kim's nomination for Chairperson, the following comments were made: Chair Michael Greenwald said that he had issues with Kim's conduct during meetings. He said that he hoped that she would observe guidelines regarding Board decisions and not make executive decisions on her own, if elected.

- Becky Bendikson said that she could not support Kim as Chair because she believed that Kim did not observe Brown Act regulations.
- Ben Pedrick said that he did support Kim. He said that, over the previous six months, the Board had descended into a state of chaos.
- Wayne Aller spoke in favor of Kim, who he noted had helped start the Neighborhood Council.
- Bill Cotter asked the Board to focus on looking forward rather than at the past.
- Mary Ellen Crosby said she felt Kim represented the youthfulness of the Board and that was good to have.
- Tom Tcimpidis said that he could not support Kim due to a comment she had made at the Special Board meeting, that the Brown Act was only a guideline and that she didn't have to follow it.
- Kim Thompson said she most certainly DID believe in the Brown Act, but that she doesn't like Robert's Rules.

- Mary Edwards asked the Board to show flexibility. She said that everyone makes mistakes and that no law is perfect, but the Board needed to do the best they could.
- Linda Tcimpidis backed Tom's comments about Kim's comment but said she believes that people can move forward. She added that she hoped she would hope to hear Kim say that she had made a mistake.

Vice Chairperson: Ben Pedrick asked Kim to nominate her Vice Chair. Kim nominated Bill Cotter, who declined. Kim then nominated Sid Gold, who accepted. The Board unanimously elected Sid Gold as Vice Chairperson.

The only other nomination for Vice Chair was Becky Bendikson's nomination of Wayde Hunter, who declined.

City Information Officer: Kim nominated Becky Bendikson, who declined. Becky nominated Alex Palazzo who accepted. The Board unanimously elected Alex as City Info. Officer.

Media Officer: Mike Greenwald nominated Bill Cotter, who accepted. However, Bill also nominated Tom Tcimpidis, who declined. The Board unanimously elected Bill Cotter as Media Officer.

Community Info and Outreach Officer: Mike Greenwald nominated Becky Bendikson, who declined. Kim Thompson nominated Sue DeVandry, who accepted. The Board unanimously elected Sue DeVandry as Community Info and Outreach Officer.

Recording officer: Mike Greenwald nominated Leon Marzillier, who accepted. The Board unanimously elected Leon Marzillier as Recording Officer.

Correspondence Officer: Mike Greenwald nominated Becky Bendikson, who declined. Tom Tcimpidis volunteered for this position. The Board unanimously elected Tom Tcimpidis as Correspondence Officer.

Financial Officer: Mike Greenwald nominated Linda Tcimpidis, who declined. Becky Bendikson nominated Mike Greenwald, who declined. Becky nominated Donna Zero, who declined. Becky nominated Bob Ricketts, who declined. Mike nominated Matt Hughes, who accepted. The Board unanimously elected Matt Hughes as Financial Officer.

Treasurer: Sue DeVandry nominated Becky Bendikson, who declined. Mike Greenwald nominated Scott Manatt, who declined. Kim Thompson nominated Donna Zero, who declined. Becky nominated David Tipton. David Tipton was reached by cell phone (he was not present at the Board Meeting). David accepted. The Board unanimously elected David Tipton as Treasurer.

Election Officer: Ben Pedrick volunteered for this position. The Board unanimously elected Ben Pedrick as Election Officer.

Former Chair Mike Greenwald thanked the Board their support and for helping in their individual roles.

Committee Reports:

Parks and Beautification Committee, Mary Ellen Crosby reported on the upcoming Spring Egg Hunt and gave her Committee's report. She also alerted the Board that the swings have been removed from the O'Melveny Park. She then asked the Board to volunteer prepare for the Egg Hunt by working with her team from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 8th.

Financial Committee, Linda Tcimpidis did not have a report:

Treasurer's Report, Donna Zero handed out the spreadsheet showing expenditures. She reminded the Board that they needed to submit any bills they had to her, this evening. However, Donna said she would continue to help out in this role until David Tipton is trained.

Planning and Land Use Committee, Anne Ziliak:

- **Update on 15810 San Fernando Mission Blvd.:** Anne reported that the traffic flow, the entry/exit to the units, the height of the units and the number of units proposed has not been fully addressed therefore, the PLU Committee unanimously opposed the project as presented. She presented the motion: **"That the GHNC Board write a letter to disapprove the proposed project at 15810 San Fernando Mission Blvd. (ENV-200-1555-EAF)."** The Board passed the motion voting: 19 for, 2 opposed, no abstentions.

- **Emerging Technology Forum Symposium:** Anne presented the motion, “That the GHNNC allocate \$800.00, per person, to attend the two day symposium on Emerging Technology in Sacramento on April 17 &18 presented by State University, Sacramento, College of Continuing Education.” *Scott Manatt made a friendly amendment:* “That the GHNNC authorize expenses not to exceed \$800.00, per person, to attend the two day symposium on Emerging Technology Symposium in Sacramento on April 17 &18, presented by State University, Sacramento, College of Continuing Education.” The Board approved the motion by a vote of: 14 for, 6 opposed, 1 abstention.

Anne recommended sending Wayde Hunter, Kim Thompson, Wayne Aller, and herself, Anne Ziliak. John Bwarie suggested that the Board check with DONE on whether they would pay for expenses for non - Board members to attend conferences.

- **Senate Bill 1818: Density Bonus for affordable housing development.**

Anne updated the Board on this CA state bill that was passed in January. Anne presented the motion, “That the GHNNC Board file a community impact statement to the L.A. City Council indicating our support of Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council position on SB 1818. To also strongly object that part of the ordinance that will do away with conducting a public hearing (if a developer chooses from a menu of incentives) unless someone appeals the determination.” The Board voted unanimously for this motion.

- Protected Tree Ordinance 177404 was approved on March 13, 2006 and became effective on April 23, 2006. This ordinance changes the protection of trees.
- Knollwood Shopping Center traffic light update: The Sesnon light is ready to go and work will start within a couple of weeks.
- Update on MOU Planning Department: Kim Thompson and Anne Ziliak attended the March meeting where the group began reviewing changes to the draft.

Executive Committee. No action

Next meeting: April 24, 2006, 6:30pm at Van Gogh School.

Board Comment: No comments.

John Bwarie announced the Saturday, April 1st community clean up on Balboa.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Pat Kramer, PDQ Personnel and approved at the April meeting.