

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Minutes for Board Meeting, April 24, 2006
Van Gogh Street School, 17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, Ca. 91344

- 11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
1. **Call to Order, Welcome** by Chairperson Kim Thompson. Councilmember Greig Smith was present and led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Roll call: 16 Board Members present:** Wayne Aller, Bill Cotter, Mary Ellen Crosby, Mary Edwards, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Matt Hughes, Wayde Hunter, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Alex Palazzo, Dev Parikh, Ben Pedrick, Robert Ricketts, Kim Thompson, David Tipton. **Absent:** Becky Bendikson, Sue DeVandry, Linda Tcimpidis, Tom Tcimpidis, Joe Vitti, and Donna Zero.

21
22
23
24
25
26
27

Minutes' Procedures: Chairperson Kim Thompson addressed the Board on setting policy for the agenda and minutes procedures. Kim requested that from this point on, all items to appear on the Board agenda be presented in writing 72 hours before the Executive Committee meeting, via email or phone. Kim said she would alert the Board as to the date for each Executive Committee meeting. When sending agenda items to her, she asked that Board members include in the subject line of their email "Agenda Request." After the minutes are taken and distributed to the Board by Leon Marzillier, any Board members who would like to make corrections must send them to Leon (and Leon only), at least three days prior to the next Board meeting. At the next Board meeting, all Board members should be prepared to review and vote on the final minutes with the changes that have been requested to Leon so the approval of the minutes can be done in a timely manner.

28
29
30
31
32
33
34

Other Comments from the Chair: Kim encouraged the Board to attend the upcoming Congress of Neighborhood Councils meeting at the Staples Center on June 17th. She also asked that each Board Member join at least one committee.

35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

Kim reviewed that a request made to send thank you letters to HOWS Market and Outback Steakhouse for their contributions to the April Community Service Clean Up. She asked the Board if anyone objected to her sending these letters. No objections were received so she will be sending those letters.

43
44
45
46
47

On the renaming of the PLU Committee, Kim stated that whereas the City refers to this committee as PLUM for *Planning and Land Use Management*, that she was recommending the GHNNC committee be renamed to PLUM (formerly PLU or PLUC). Michael Greenwald made a motion, seconded by Wayne Aller, "That the Planning and Land Use committee be changed to Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM)." The Board approved this motion unanimously with 16 votes in favor, no objections and no abstentions. Yvonne Chu was introduced as the candidate for student representative to the Board.

- 35
36
37
2. **Approval of March 27, 2006 Minutes:** The Board voted unanimously to accept the March minutes with the amendments presented prior to the meeting.

- 38
39
40
41
42
3. **Public Comment:** A stakeholder suggested that trash pick-ups be such that the blue and green cans be picked up every other week, with green cans being picked up in odd weeks and blue cans in even weeks. This would save money and energy, since fewer trash trucks would be used each week. The Board will send this request to the appropriate committee. She was then referred to Councilmember Smith's office for assistance.

43
44
45
46
47

A stakeholder asked for the Board's support in helping former GHNNC Board member and former Senior Lead Officer Rick Driscoll, who was injured in a motorcycle accident. The request was made for the Board to participate in a fundraising bowling tournament with details to follow.

48 **4. Acknowledgement of CERT Graduates:** Mike Greenwald introduced Ginger Fong to
49 hand out the City CERT bags (backpacks) to all the CERT program graduates and
50 thanked them for their participation and future service.

51
52 **5. Councilmember Greig Smith/Deputy District Director John Bwarie presentation:**
53 The Councilmember came to the meeting to officially thank Mike Greenwald for his two
54 years of service as GHNNC chair, noting that Mike had represented the community with
55 great diplomacy and that he's most proud of the way he helped build the community
56 through cooperation. He presented Mike with an official certificate of service from the
57 City of L.A. and congratulated Kim Thompson on her new role as Chair.
58

59 **John Bwarie then gave the CD 12 update:** He thanked the Board for their support of the
60 Community Volunteer Project in April. He spoke about Councilmember Smith's involvement in
61 the City budget hearings for the proposed \$6.1 billion dollar budget. As part of this process, he
62 said the Councilmember is supporting restructuring CERT and emergency preparedness in a more
63 direct way by increasing the budget.

64 John presented an area map of high fire danger zones in Granada Hills with red flagged areas
65 indicating restricted street parking.

66 When asked by the Public Safety Committee for an update on the Sesnon/Balboa traffic signal, he
67 said he would check on that. Sid Gold also asked about the maps being distributed by the
68 Councilman's office. John said the Planning Department could provide more insight into that
69 question.
70

71 **6a. Reassignment and Confirmation of New/Standing Committees (* = facilitator of first
72 meeting):**

73 *Communications Committee:* This committee will include five related areas: The City Info
74 Officer (Alex Palazzo*), Media Officer (Bill Cotter), Communications Info and Outreach (Sue
75 DeVandry), Recording Officer (Leon Marzillier), and Correspondence Officer (Tom Tcimpidis).
76 Stakeholders are also invited to join this committee.
77

78 *Elections Committee:* Election Officer, (Ben Pedrick*). Stakeholders are invited to join. Kim
79 noted that the Outreach surveys indicated an interest by many volunteers to serve on a committee.
80 She said they would be called and invited to participate.
81

82 *Ethics Committee:* Ben Pedrick*, Mary Anna Kienholz, Wayne Aller, Sid Gold, and Bob
83 Ricketts. Ben Pedrick distributed the following list of procedures to follow when a grievance is
84 lodged: "Those seeking redress of alleged violations concerning matters of procedure must request
85 and fill out forms provided by the Council Recording Officer. These will state stakeholder status,
86 outline the reason the complaint is being lodged, and any documentation the petitioner wishes to
87 provide. This material will be provided to all Board members and the item will be agendized
88 within 60 days. Grievances may be appealed to DONE."
89

90 *Financial Committee:* Financial Officer (formerly Matt Hughes) and Treasurer (David Tipton*).
91 Matt Hughes told the Board he needs to relinquish his acceptance of this position. The Financial
92 Officer position is now vacant.
93

94 *Outreach and Publicity Committee:* Sue DeVandry*, Mary Anna Kienholz, Mary Ellen Crosby.
95 Stakeholders may also join this committee.
96

97 *Parks and Beautification Committee:* Mary Ellen Crosby*, Barbara Iversen, Matt Hughes, and
98 Mary Anna Kienholz, Mary Edwards.

99

100 *Planning and Land Use/Research Committee:* Sid Gold*. The Board referred this committee's
101 goals to Policy and Rules for further clarification.

102

103 *Special Events Committee:* covered by the Outreach and Publicity Committee.

104

105 *Planning and Land Use Management:* Anne Ziliak*, Kim Thompson, Mary Edwards, Barbara
106 Iversen, Jeannie Plumb.

107

108 *Public Safety:* Michael Greenwald*/Ginger Fong*, Wayne Aller, Scott Manatt, Robert Ricketts,
109 Art Malone.

110

111 *Policy and Rules:* Mary Anna Kienholz*, Dev Parikh, Mary Edwards, Barbara Iversen, Sid Gold,
112 Leon Marzillier.

113

114 *Ad Hoc Nominating Committee:* Michael Greenwald*, Dev Parikh, Alex Palazzo.

115

116 **6b. Board Member Recommendations:** Joe Vitti was not present for his agenda item proposing
117 an Ad Hoc Committee on "Clean Money." Sid Gold explained the concept, which sets limitations
118 on donations to candidates, to minimize undue influence by big money donors. A meeting takes
119 place on May 9th on this subject with Councilmember Eric Garcetti. **Motion (Parikh/Gold), that**
120 **the GHNNC form an Ad Hoc committee to look into the issues regarding "Clean Money."**
121 **Passed: 9-6-1**

122

123 Vice Chair Sid Gold proposed that the GHNNC form an Education Committee to look into
124 changes in the educational process in the City of L.A. with the Education Chair as part of this
125 committee. Motion (Gold/Aller), to form this committee. However, after Michael Greenwald
126 suggested that this could be a conflict of interest for Donna Zero, Wayne Aller withdrew his
127 second. **Motion (Gold/Ricketts) to refer the issue of the reorganization of the LAUSD to the**
128 **Research Committee. Passed: 14-0-1 (Matt Hughes out of the room)**

129

130 Mary Ellen Crosby thanked the Board for their flowers and gift when she was in the hospital. She
131 said she regretted not being able to attend the Egg Hunt and thanked the volunteers who made the
132 event happen. Photos of the event have been posted on the website.

133

134 On the subject of the missing swings at Bee Canyon Park, she said there was a recall by the swing
135 manufacturer and had been told new swings would be coming within the next six weeks.

136

137 She asked that the Board write a letter to the Parks Department regarding the lack of follow-
138 through on two oak trees that were promised to the GHNNC last May. Mike Greenwald
139 suggested the matter be referred by the Chair to Councilmember Smith's office as a CD 12
140 Request.

141

142 Mary Ellen also clarified questions about the lot at Bee Canyon and Balboa, saying it was a
143 wildflower patch, not a weed patch. Mary Edwards suggested referring this issue to the
144 Conservation chair. Scott Manatt suggested the Parks and Beautification Committee discuss it.
145 Wayne Aller suggested asking the public for input on what they want to see there. Jeannie Plumb
146 said the Audubon Society could provide insight into what plants to keep and what to hand weed
147 out. She noted that the native plants attract birds, insects and animals that are needed in this area.

147

148 **7. Appointment of Representative to CD 12 Cabinet.** Scott Manatt was appointed with Mike
149 Greenwald as the alternate to the CD 12 Cabinet.

150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200

8. Self Assessment Survey, Mary Anna Kienholz: Mary Anna reviewed this survey, mandated by the City Charter saying this process needs to take place once every two years. The Board recommended that Mary Anna refer this issue to the Outreach Committee for discussion on how to get this assessment of the GHNNC to stakeholders.

9. Discussion and Vote on Time Change for Board Meetings: Motion (Aller/Cotter) to change the Board Meeting starting time from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Passed: 12-1-3

Motion (Thompson/Marzillier) to change the date for the next Board meeting to *the last Wednesday of May: May 31st* (due to the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 29th). Subsequent meetings will revert back to the normal schedule. Passed (15-0-1)

10. Conditional Use Permit for Sunshine Canyon, Wayde Hunter: Wayde reviewed past issues with BFI applying for a permit, being opposed in getting that permit, being denied the permit, then appealing the decision to the Board of Supervisors for a hearing on Tuesday, May 23. He asked for and got the Board's permission to send to the Board of Supervisors his previously drafted letter to the Regional Planning Commission, opposing the permit. Board members Hunter, Thompson, and Edwards asked the Board and stakeholders for their support at this very important hearing.

11. Emerging Technologies Forum: Wayne Aller reported on some of the findings for recycling and reducing waste that he garnered at the two-day conference in Sacramento, attended also by Kim Thompson, Anne Ziliak and Wayde Hunter.

12. Discussion of 912 Commission, Mary Anna Kienholz: Mary Anna asked for the Board's support in getting people to serve on this Charter-mandated Commission which must be done by Neighborhood Councils in 2007. Mary Anna stated that the commitment to serve would be about a year long. The Board referred this matter to the Policy and Rules committee.

13. Resignation of Mary Edwards: Mary Edwards announced her resignation from the Board after 3 ½ years of service. She said the Board was welcome to continue to hold meetings at her home so that she can continue to participate. The Board gave her a standing ovation.

14. Committee Reports:

- *Ad Hoc Technology:* Bill Cotter gave the report for absent Board member Linda Tcimpidis. Bill stated that the existing website is very difficult to work with and that they are not using the full capacity offered. Bill said he is working with a vendor on technical problems and is looking to send an RFP out for redesign of the website.
- *Public Safety:* Mike Greenwald reported that the Council office is doing a traffic study on Balboa. He asked John to follow up on that and report what is taking place.

15. Request by Bordering NCs to co-sponsor SD 20 Debate Discussion and vote. Kim reported that the Neighborhood Councils in Sylmar, Sunland-Tujunga, and other areas have asked for GHNNC's support for a Senate District 20 debate and discussion on May 26th with candidates campaigning to replace Richard Alarcon. The proposed location for this is Mission College and would require a fee of \$166.00 from each NC. **Motion (Greenwald/Cotter): that we approve an expenditure of \$166.00 contingent upon verification that the organizers have notified all candidates and received responses from them all. Passed: 13-0-2 (Ben Pedrick out of the room)**

201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220

16. Board Member Comment

- Bill Cotter: Asked whether there had been a resolution of a complaint he had made. Chair Kim Thompson referred this matter to the new Ethics Committee.
- Bill then requested that only “official business” emails be sent to the Board mailing list, as opposed to jokes and other emails that were not for business.
- He added that emails only be marked “urgent” when they were truly urgent.
- Leon Marzillier: Asked the Board to bring a copy of February’s minutes with them to the next Board Meeting, May 31st, so that they could be voted on.
- Sid Gold: Reminded the Board of the upcoming Democratic candidates’ debate.
- Mike Greenwald: Asked that board members, who generate requests for other Board members, take a more active role on the Board.

17. Public Comment: None.

18. Calendar: The next GHNNC meeting takes place on May 31st at 7 p.m.

19. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

-Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, PDQ Personnel-