

1 **GRANADA HILLS NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
2 **BOARD MEETING**

3 **Monday, June 26, 2006**

4 Van Gogh Elementary School Auditorium  
5 17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, Ca  
6

7 **Call to Order:** 7:10 p.m. **Roll Call:** Becky Bendikson, Yvonne Chu, William Cotter, Mary Ellen Crosby,  
8 Sue De Vandry, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Matt Hughes, Wayde Hunter, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier,  
9 Alex Palazzo, Dev Parikh, Ben Pedrick, Kim Thompson, Joe Vitti, and Anne Ziliak. **Late:** Robert Ricketts  
10 (arrived at 9:15 p.m.) **Absent:** Wayne Aller, Linda Tcimpidis, Tom Tcimpidis, David Tipton, and Donna  
11 Zero.  
12

- 13 1. **Pledge of Allegiance, Welcoming Comments and Announcements:** Kim reminded the Board that  
14 there are presently three vacancies that need to be filled: Treasurer, Financial Officer and Corresponding  
15 Officer. She asked the Board to fill these vacancies, particularly the position of treasurer which Donna  
16 Zero is currently covering until someone else can be hired or appointed. Kim reviewed the recent vote  
17 taken at the Valley Alliance for the 912 Commission reps: Cindy Cleghorn, chairperson from the Sunland  
18 – Tujunga Neighborhood Council and Kenny Beardsley, recording secretary for North Hills West  
19 Neighborhood Council were the two reps selected for the North Valley Planning Area. Of the two, Cindy  
20 was chosen by the Mayor for a seat on the 912 Commission. Kim reviewed Mary Edwards' request from  
21 the May Board meeting, asking that funds be donated to Imagine Academy. She asked the Board which  
22 committee this funding request should go to. Alex Palazzo announced that he is scheduling a meeting for  
23 the Communications Committee for the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> with the location, Kim's home.  
24
- 25 2. **Approval of May 31, 2006 Minutes:** (Hunter/Marzillier) Passed: 13-0-4, roll call: Ayes: Chu, Cotter,  
26 Crosby, De Vandry, Gold, Hughes, Hunter, Manatt, Marzillier, Palazzo, Parikh, Pedrick, and Ziliak, Nos:  
27 None, *Abstentions:* Bendikson, Greenwald, Thompson, and Vitti.  
28
- 29 3. **Public Comments:**  
30 • Stakeholder Antonio Sanchez asked about plans for the proposed high school, traffic signals, and  
31 when the Board's minutes from previous meetings would be posted on the web site. Bill Cotter said  
32 that he has posted the last few minutes on the web site.  
33 • Mary Anna Kienholz requested that the Imagine Academy funding request be reviewed by an active  
34 committee in the next month.  
35 • Jeannie Plumb presented Kim with a decorative gavel to chair the meeting.  
36 • Stakeholder Deborah Bennett asked whether the Board could help regulate the traffic light timing at  
37 Balboa and Sesnon.  
38
- 39 4. **Introduction of new DONE Project Coordinator – Amelia Herrera-Robles:**  
40 Amelia reviewed her goals for helping GHNNC with upcoming projects and issues.  
41
- 42 5. **Update from Councilmember Greig Smith – John Bwarie:** John reported on a meeting held June 1<sup>st</sup> by  
43 Councilmember Smith and the Mayor to help businesses and manufacturers in the S.F. Valley. He asked  
44 that anyone who knows of a business interested in locating here, contact him so they can offer assistance.  
45 He spoke about a recent celebration held at Van Gogh School in which actor Kirk Douglas was present.  
46 He talked about efforts being made to curb speeding on streets in Granada Hills with the Councilmember  
47 designating funding for the purchase of an "elite" speed trailer. The trailer will be parked on streets where  
48 speeding is a known problem and will flash speeds for police enforcement. Councilmember Smith is also  
49 willing to split the costs for permanent speed signs, mounted on poles. John asked the Board to consider  
50 a future motion to allocate funding for speeding signs in problem areas of Granada Hills North so traffic  
51 and speeding problems can be addressed.  
52
- 53 6. **Presentation to Mary Ellen Crosby from Dwayne Finley, Director of Granada Hills Recreational**  
54 **Center:** Mary Ellen was presented with a plaque for her ongoing service at the park as Parks Committee  
55 Chairperson. Dwayne mentioned, in particular, her work on the annual Spring Egg Hunt.  
56
- 57 7. **Adriane Biondo, Chair of Los Angeles Conservancy Modern Committee** and recently named to the  
58 State Historical Resources Commission, reported on efforts to get the Balboa Highlands area of Granada  
59 Hills that features "Eichler Homes" (built in 1963 and 1964) included in the Historical Preservation Overlay

60 Zone (HPOZ). The subdivision referenced is described as “an excellent example of modern architectural  
61 homes built by internationally renowned Bay Area developer Joseph Eichler,” who built over 11,000 tract  
62 homes in Northern California. The Balboa Highlands homes (on Lisette, Nanette, Darla, and Jimeno  
63 Streets) are the only Eichler tract built in L.A. County and have cultural and architectural significance to  
64 the City of L.A. It is hoped that the HPOZ will take place in the next year and a half.  
65

66 **Presentation: “History of Granada Hills:”** Kenneth Morris, director of the San Fernando Valley  
67 Historical Society, delivered an informative presentation about the settling and founding of Granada Hills.  
68 Highlights included the following: Granada Hills, formerly the Sunshine Ranch, was subdivided in 1926  
69 and christened “Granada” after the city of Granada in Spain on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1927; the addition of “Hills” was  
70 not added to its name until 1942. During the mid ‘20s, one of the first industries attempted for profit was  
71 the raising of rabbits for their meat and fur with the establishment of the Granada Rabbit Association. Mr.  
72 Morris recalled the old Ford Model TT fire trucks that had to be pushed, the first post office, which  
73 operated out of Mrs. Roy Miller’s grocery store in the Granada Building at White Oak Avenue and  
74 Chatsworth Street, and his families’ first home, purchased for \$1,625 in 1936. In the early ‘30s, Granada  
75 Hills was known as one of the first communities to pave all its streets encompassing some 14 miles  
76 between the town’s original borders of Zelzah Avenue, Balboa Boulevard, and San Jose Street (he did not  
77 name a northern designation).  
78

- 79 8. **CD 12 Service Cabinet Meeting Report**– Scott Manatt reported on the Service Cabinet meeting that was  
80 held on June 8th with reps from all the District 12 NCs in attendance. Councilmember Smith reviewed the  
81 City’s budget while service organizations throughout the City were present to answer questions.  
82

83 9. **Committee Reports**

84 **Outreach** – Sue De Vandry said the web site is being finished and should be up and running by next July  
85 7. Several Board Members questioned who is responsible for overseeing the content for the web site.  
86 DONE coordinator Amelia Herrera – Robles said that it is up to each NC to set their own rules as to  
87 content, design, etc. She suggested appointing an Ad Hoc Committee to respond to this issue. Kim said  
88 this would be addressed at the upcoming Communications Committee meeting in July to make  
89 recommendations for Board approval.  
90

91 **Policy and Rules** – Mary Anna Kienholz said her committee is still working on the bylaws.  
92

93 **Ethics** – Ben Pedrick reminded the Board to review the grievance/complaint process approved at the  
94 Board’s last meeting.  
95

96 **PLUM** – Anne Ziliak reviewed several ongoing projects and issues including:

- 97 • 15701 San Fernando Mission Blvd at the 405 freeway where a Church will be locating. She and her  
98 committee will be informing neighbors or any progress on this project.
- 99 • Aliso Canyon – Anne hiked the trail with some of her committee members and noted issues with trail  
100 maintenance and a few safety issues.
- 101 • Equestrian Trail closures and maintenance: Jeannie Plumb and Anne reviewed the trails where  
102 complaints have been noted and will pass information on to Recreation and Parks as well as the City  
103 Attorney.
- 104 • Highwater/Shoshone: Anne has made inquiries to the inspectors and is watching this development as  
105 it progresses.
- 106 • Traffic Signal @ Sesnon and Balboa: While this signal was supposed to be completed in March, it is  
107 still not done. Michael Greenwald added that the contract has been awarded and the Council office is  
108 aware of this. Anne held off making a motion on this item after Scott Manatt suggested it would be  
109 counterproductive at this time.
- 110 • San Fernando Mission Project, 15810 San Fernando Mission Blvd: Anne has not heard any more on  
111 this yet.
- 112 • Cingular co-location at 11918 Balboa Blvd: Anne said the Board voted to make sure requirements are  
113 followed. She will meet with Cingular’s reps in a few weeks to review this further.
- 114 • Update on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Anne said she could no longer attend MOU  
115 meetings at the DWP’s downtown office, held on Saturdays. She asked for someone to replace her.
- 116 • 17900 Ridgeway Road: 2005-3201-ZC and ENV-2005-3158: Anne said that this is a controversial  
117 project. She will reiterate the Board’s position on this to the Planning Dept.

- Bull Creek Restoration Project: This matter, brought forth by Mary Edwards at a previous meeting, was tabled until Wayne Aller is present.

**Safety Committee** – Mike Greenwald reiterated that the traffic signal proposed for Sesnon and Balboa has been assigned to a traffic engineer, working with DOT. He thanked Anne’s PLUM committee for getting this project funded and said they are working on resolving the issue between DOT and the traffic engineers.

Mike said his committee has requested accident figures for Balboa Boulevard from the last five years to see what the patterns are. With an influx of new development taking place, he predicted more traffic on this main roadway. He reported that the freeways coming out of Antelope Valley: at the juncture of the 14 and the 5 are going to be a problem. While the freeways are being widened further up in Santa Clarita, L.A. will not be widening the 5 freeway. **Motion**(Greenwald/Pedrick) That the GHNNC work with CD 12 and other entities to fund and install a traffic signal at the intersection of Timber Ridge and Balboa. Mike said the cost would total around \$125,000.00. Failed: 3-7-7, roll call: *Ayes:* Greenwald, Pedrick, Ricketts, *Nos:* Cotter, Crosby, De Vandry, Hunter, Marzillier, Parikh, and Vitti, *Abstentions:* Bendikson, Chu, Gold, Hughes, Manatt, Palazzo, Thompson, and Ziliak.

**Parks and Beautification – Motion**(Crosby/Cotter) To request that Recreation and Parks landscape the strip in front of the fence [by Balboa] with drought-tolerant plants and trees leaving it a wildflower meadow. The City will need to re-seed when trimming. Passed: 15-0-3, roll call: *Ayes:* Chu, Cotter, Crosby, De Vandry, Greenwald, Hughes, Hunter, Manatt, Marzillier, Palazzo, Pedrick, Ricketts, Thompson, Vitti, and Ziliak. *Nos:* None, *Abstentions:* Bendikson, Gold, and Parikh.

10. **Discussion regarding hiring practices of those who obtain building permits in GHNNC area:**

Tabled.

11. **Discussion and vote on Outreach money for website:** Kim recommended that funding be made available for payment of \$2,000 for the GHNNC web site development, as approved at the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. She asked for a motion to utilize monies from the Outreach budget for the payment of the initial work. After that, the Communications Committee will be providing web site maintenance services. Michael Greenwald suggested that the monies be taken, instead, from the general funds. After further discussion, DONE coordinator Amelia Herrera – Robles suggested to the Board that they wait on passing this motion until a grievance is reviewed that was filed with the City Attorney over a possible conflict of interest related to the web site development.

**Motion** (Gold/Vitti) That the GHNNC give the City Attorney 48 hours to respond to the conflict-of-interest grievance, and if there is no response in that time, we pay the \$2000 for the website. Because the hour was late and several Board members had left, this motion was tabled until our July meeting.

12. **Board Member Comments:** None.

13. **Meeting Adjourned:** 10:10 p.m.

- Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Apple One -