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Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Minutes
Monday November 27, 2006
Van Gogh School Auditorium
17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, CA

Call to Order: 7:10 p.m., Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Wayne Aller, Becky Bendikson, Pat Casparian, Peter Chung, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue De Vandry, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Matt Hughes, Wayde Hunter, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Alex Palazzo, Dev Parikh, Ben Pedrick, Robert Ricketts, Kim Thompson, Joe Vitti, Anne Wells, Anne Ziliak present. Yvonne Chu was absent and Wayne Aller left the meeting early. Quorum is established.

Chair Comments: GHNNC Chair Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders and board members then read correspondence including the following:

- an invitation was received to do outreach at a Metro link sponsored outreach event, the GHNNC executive committee is looking at acquiring office space and sharing with the Granada Hills South NC
- payment was approved by the Executive Committee for the webmaster's most recent work
- a reminder to board members regarding ethics: to not represent their own interests on issues when serving in the capacity of a board member.

Approval of Minutes:

- a. **October 30 Regular Board Meeting:** The Board approved the minutes for the October 30th, 2006 general meeting with revisions from Scott Manatt and Becky Bendikson. The motion passed: 17-0-1.
- b. **November 8 Special Meeting Minutes:** This motion passed: 18-0-2.

Public Comment on Non Agenda Items:

Raymond Yu announced two upcoming meetings on Metro Rail improvement in Culver City and Chinatown.

Jeannie Plumb reported that there are discrepancies in the posting times on City zone changes. She has alerted the City Planning Department that notices are being removed before the hearing dates and that efforts need to be made to ensure the zone change posting notices stay up until the date of the hearings.

Mary Edwards thanked the Board for food donations for a food drive she is doing. She stated that the shelters desperately need the food. She also asked the Board to consider funding enrichment programs in area schools for music and the arts as these programs are being cut back and are an important part of children's education.

James Pavik, stakeholder, warned the Board to be on the lookout for porn shops posing as retail clothing operations. He said this is a trend that is taking place in Van Nuys, where the retail operation allows these businesses to operate legally, providing the hard-core pornography is only 30% of the stock. He has asked Councilmember Smith for assistance in taking preventative action. Chairperson Thompson asked him to bring this issue to the Executive Committee.

LAPD Commanding Officer of Devonshire Division, Capt. Sean Kane gave an update on efforts to track crime in the area:

- The Devonshire Division is now tracking sexual predators with transmitter bracelets.

- Emergency service from cell phones has been upgraded. Calls made to “911” now go directly to the LAPD switchboard.
- The police department is updating their radio equipment to provide better service.
- They are also using license plate readers, which can read 6,000 license plates in one shift. Patrol cars will be randomly reading license plates to spot those vehicles that have been involved in crimes and with the real time capabilities of this software; they will be able to make arrests on the spot.
- Another new technology being used are In-Car videos which record officers’ voices and actions via audio and video, transmitting it back to the station where it can be downloaded.
- Police are also able to patch into security systems in certain housing developments, where they can read cameras from a shared frequency.
- The police department is awaiting cutting-edge translation equipment that will be able to both print out translations and also produce audio translations in a number of different languages.
- A new police station will open in the Valley in November 2007.
- The police staff will be losing 319 people between April and October 2007 due to their contracts ending and it will have an affect on the organization.

Board Comment on Non Agenda Items

- Mike Greenwald referred to the prior meeting, before the board meeting, regarding the formation of a community plan saying he feels it’s important to have a succinct community plan clearly laid out.
- Leon Marzillier announced that he is collecting signatures to run for a position as a trustee on the board of the L.A. Community College District, of which three of the nine colleges lie in the San Fernando Valley: Mission, Pierce, and Valley, where Leon is a professor. Not one of the seven sitting trustees lives in the Valley.
- Becky Bendikson reported that she was invited to participate in a conference with the UCLA School of Law and Anderson School of Business at which a representative from the Governor’s Office presented a report on what items the Governor proposes recently passed Housing Propositions will be spent (copy of information was handed out).
- Mary Ellen Crosby is holding a Friends of the Park XMAS meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14.
- Peter Chung stated that BFI is working with the city Planning Community Advisory Committee on a proposal by the City Fire Department to use a portion of their landfill as a water drop for helicopters fighting fires.
- Sid Gold informed the Board that a recycling company that he visited, which had previously been turned down in their bid for a City contract, has now been invited to resubmit a bid.
- Wayde Hunter reminded the Board that community groups, on which some board members have served, have previously voted against the Fire Department proposal to land helicopters in the area of the BFI landfill.

DONE Project Coordinator – Amelia Herrera-Robles. Tabled.

CD 12 Liaison – **John Bwarie** of Councilman Greig Smith’s office, gave an update which included the following information:

- An ordinance that Councilmember Smith opposed was signed by the Mayor Nov. 27, this week requiring businesses located adjacent to a City facility (such as LAX) to pay employees a minimum wage that is higher than average.

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- Councilman Smith has seconded a motion to review how City cases, greater than one million dollars, are settled. He said this motion would establish a process for transparency.
 - The City Council will be taking a two-week holiday the third week of December.
 - There will be a Metro link Holiday Express event held on Dec. 16 in Northridge and Chatsworth. This is a free community program for the holidays.
 - The Granada Hills Holiday parade takes place Dec. 3rd at 1 p.m. in Granada Hills.
 - Councilmember Smith rededicated a park for Veterans Day at Chatsworth and Zelzah.
 - The Councilman will lead a hike with the Sierra Club in Bee Canyon/O'Melveny Park on March 31, 07. For more details on any of these items, visit: www.CD12.org

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Discussion and Possible Board Action on GHNNC policy regarding the hiring of undocumented immigrants. Motion (Gold/Pedrick), opposing the hiring of undocumented immigrants on construction sites. (Attachment "A")

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During discussion, Anne Ziliak noted that her PLUM committee had reviewed this motion but turned it down, stating that the City attorney would not allow them to enforce it, even if the Board did pass it. Chair Thompson added that the City Attorney had recommended a vote against this motion. Other board members added their comments, which questioned whether it would be possible to enforce a motion of this sort or whether it would just be a moral stand on the part of the Board. Roll call: Ayes: Casparian, Gold, Ricketts, Noes: Crosby, De Vandry, Hunter, Marzillier, Palazzo, Parikh, Pedrick, Thompson, Wells, Ziliak, Abstentions: Bendikson, Chung, Greenwald, Manatt, Vitti, (Aller, Hughes absent for this vote). Failed, 3-10-5.

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Mayor's Budget Day Representatives: Kim Thompson and Sid Gold will represent the Board again in this yearlong process.

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Committee Reports:

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- **Outreach** – Sue DeVandry reported that her committee met on November 1, 2006. Their next meeting will be held Dec. 6, 2006 at 1 p.m. She said their big outreach event, Picnic in the Park, had a low turnout. The outreach committee exceeded their initial budget of \$1,000 by \$392.29. Sue said her committee would have to decide whether to repeat this event again. Sue also distributed a Self Assessment survey to the Board to fill out. She asked whether anyone on the Board is willing to write monthly articles for the new community paper, North Valley Reporter, a bimonthly paper co-published by Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council board members Nina Royal and Jeannine Crowley.
 - **Public Safety** – Michael Greenwald reports that his committee will be working with John Bwarie of Councilman Smith's office to start the process of implementing the recently approved projects brought to the GHNNC. They will look for guidance on bringing these projects to fruition.
 - **Treasurer** – Scott Manatt reported on the gasoline/mileage reimbursement issue. He said that he had previously postponed reimbursement of Board member gasoline driving expenses pending new direction from DONE; to date, he has not received this information. In order to relieve expenses being incurred by Board members, he said he would begin processing gasoline (only) expenses for Board members with proper receipts and justification for trips required for GHNNC business.
 - **Election** – Ben Pedrick reported that the election draft procedures approved at the board's Special Meeting have been sent to DONE. He is now waiting for their comments. He thanked Wayne Hunter for his help and said the next step is to do a mass mailing. When DONE contacts him, his committee will have comments on the

- 148 procedures. He reminded the board to be on the look out for new candidates to fill the
149 board's vacancies.
- 150 • **PLUM** – Anne Ziliak presented a motion pertaining to property at 12051 Shoshone Ave:
151 Case #98-0050: **Motion:** That the GHNNC write a letter to Councilman Smith and
152 present this letter at the CD 12 Service Cabinet expressing concern over the lack of
153 maintenance on the property, the state of preparedness for the rainy season, and the
154 public safety threat that this may have to the surrounding residents and ask him to help
155 seek compliance on the maintenance of the property. Passed unanimously.

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157 **Liaison Updates:**

158 **CD 12 Service Cabinet** - Scott Manatt said he would speak on behalf of PLUM regarding
159 the motion just passed.

160 **Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils** - Becky Bendikson will be attending their
161 Dec. 14, 2006 Holiday Mixer at the Air Tel Plaza in Van Nuys. She requested anyone who
162 can contribute prizes to contact them prior to this event.

163 **Aliso Canyon CAC** - Anne Ziliak said her committee has discussed suitable uses for the
164 five-acre frontage. So far, they have received one request – from the non-profit “Ride-On”
165 which works with physically disabled children.

166 **DWP MOU** – Joe Vitti announced that the DWP’s Holiday Light Festival has begun at
167 Griffith Park. DWP will hold their fall budget workshop on Dec. 9 at their Hope Street HQ,
168 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

169 **City Attorney Roundtable** – Becky Bendikson gave an informative report on the meeting
170 she attended with the City Attorney, distributing a packet of information reviewing
171 Neighborhood Council Bylaws. She briefly reviewed bylaws best practices as it relates to
172 minimum age for youth voting, removal of board member provisions, dealing with
173 vacancies/quorum issues, using standing rules and rules of order, and election procedures
174 compatibility.

175 **Congress of NC’s** – Joe Vitti said that DONE has been requested by the Los Angeles
176 Neighborhood Council Congress [LANCC] to get together to plan the next Neighborhood
177 Councils Congress of NC's . About half of the NCs in the City are already a part of the
178 LANCC. There is a tentative discussion about holding a Congress next April,. Joe asked
179 for input on any subjects that board members or stakeholders are interested in having him
180 present to the committee that is planning the event.

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182 **Announcement of the holiday schedule for the next Board Meeting:**

183 December 18, 2006 at 7 p.m.

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185 **Meeting adjourned:** 8:55 p.m.

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187 Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Apple One, November 28, 2006