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**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 29, 2007**  
Van Gogh School Auditorium  
17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, CA

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kim Thompson.  
**Roll Call:** Wayne Aller, Becky Bendikson, Patrick Casparian, Peter Chung, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Matt Hughes, Wayde Hunter, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Alex Palazzo, Dave Parikh, Ben Pedrick, Robert Ricketts, Kim Thompson, Joe Vitti, Anne Wells, Anne Ziliak. A quorum was established.
2. **Chair Comments:** Chairperson Kim Thompson gave her monthly report:
  - The Sesnon traffic signal was turned on Jan. 25. There are still some problems with it kicking in.
  - Candidate's night for GHNNC is March 24 election. All Board seats are open. Mayor's Budget Day was Sat., Jan. 27, 2007. Kim and Sid attended on behalf of the Board. The Mayor assured all in attendance that he is taking into account all their suggestions. Mayor's Budget Survey results: 1200 stakeholders and 1700 Board members responded from the San Fernando Valley.
  - Election needs: A Corresponding Secretary and a Communications Department are still vacant and need to be filled on the Board.
  - GHNNC is still considering sharing an office space with the newly certified Granada Hills South NC. The City Attorney has ruled that based on where the office space is located, the Neighborhood Council located in that boundary may use the office space for their Committee meetings.
  - An unnamed GHNNC Board Member has requested that the GHNNC terminate their participation in the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. The Executive Committee has determined that this action was not necessary. (At this time, Becky Bendikson asked why her request to have this item put on the agenda was not fulfilled. Kim said it was overlooked).
  - A GHNNC Board Member has asked that a meeting transcriber be used in place of the meeting minutes taker. Kim has requested information on this from Apple One, the official administrative services agency for the City Neighborhood Councils and is waiting for a reply.
  - Kim mentioned two stakeholders that had been active with the City who recently passed away.
3. **Approval Board Meeting minutes. Motion**(Aller/Marzillier) to approve the minutes of December 18, 2006. Revisions were requested at the meeting by Mary Anna Keinholtz and Becky Bendikson. Discussion followed regarding the minutes revision procedure established by the Board which requests all minutes revisions to be requested prior to the meeting so the Recording Secretary can present them in one document to the Board. DONE rep. Herrera-Robles stated that the City Attorney has rendered an opinion that communication by email to the Recording Secretary by individual Board Members may constitute a violation of the Brown Act. **Motion**(Gold/Vitti) moved to table the approval of the December 18, 2006 Board Meeting minutes until next month. The motion passed by consensus.

Both Kim Thompson and Leon Marzillier reiterated the need to keep the minutes revisions to a timely format, requesting those with revisions follow the procedure adopted by the Board. Mike Greenwald suggested moving this item to the end of each meeting's agenda.

**Treasurer's Report:** Scott Manatt has received DONE's audit report reconciliation for the four quarters 2QFY06 through 1QFY07 (October '05 -- September '06) and has submitted the (65 + page) report for 2QFY07 (October -- December of last year) -- incorporating comments from DONE's audits.

To help in understanding the GHNNC Treasurer's quarterly GHNNC reports, Scott briefly reviewed DONE's accounting structure -- there are three GHNNC accounts: (1) a checking account into which the City deposits our \$50,000 annual funding and writes checks in response to our demand warrants (required source for funding of single items over \$1,000); (2) a debit card into which we can transfer funds from the city checking account up to a card balance of, \$6,250 which we use to pay commercial vendors; and (3) a petty cash fund for small purchases and reimbursement of Board members for out-of-pocket GHNNC business expenses. Petty cash is funded by ATM withdrawals of up to \$500 from our debit card account up to once each calendar month. GHNNC's current total (as of December 31, 2006) is \$100,881. Our next scheduled funding is \$50,000 in July 2007.

59 Scott handed-out the 2QFY07 GHNNC quarterly Treasurer's Report; he pointed-out the addition of "cash  
60 flow diagrams" to help understand where the funding comes from and to where it goes and how individual  
61 account balances are affected.  
62

63 Since Scott Manatt's home is located within 500 feet of the proposed 11840 Highwater land-use project to  
64 be addressed tonight as agenda Item No. 5, he is deemed to have a financial interest under the Political  
65 Reform Act, and therefore prohibited from participation in any official manner as a Board member (2  
66 C.C.R. § 18704.2(a)(1) and § 18700(a)). Therefore he recuses himself from participation in this item as a  
67 Board member of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC).  
68

69 However, on advice of the City Attorney, because Scott Manatt's spouse and Scott wholly own and live at  
70 their principal residence located within 500 feet of the proposed land-use project, under the expressly  
71 stated exception of the Political Reform Act (2 C.C.R § 18702.4(b)(1)(A), he is permitted to attend and  
72 observe public hearing(s) on the proposed land-use project, and to provide comment, the same as any  
73 member of the public would provide.  
74

75 During his participation in such hearings, he will be acting on the matter as related to his personal  
76 interests, and not in any official capacity as a Board member.  
77

78 Pat Casparian presented the report he prepared giving an overview of the current balance for the  
79 GHNNC account. Joe Vitti asked what the time frame is on spending the balance of City funds. Pat said if  
80 there is over \$100,000 left in the account as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the overage is returned to the City.  
81

- 82 5. **Election Update**, Ben Pedrick stated that due to an omission of language on this item for the agenda, the  
83 Board could not vote, as scheduled, on election procedures. This means the election will have to be  
84 rescheduled from the March 24, 2007 Election date. Ben also said that IEA Jerry Kvasnicka suggested  
85 the Board change their date for write-in candidates. This would require a Bylaws change and means that  
86 the current elections procedures are in violation of the Bylaws. Both items render the recent mailing  
87 obsolete. The Election is off until the Board gets these things squared away.  
88

89 DONE Rep. Amelia Hernandez - Robles confirmed that this is the case. She said that the Board needs to  
90 approve the election procedures no later than 60 days prior to the election. Since neither DONE nor the  
91 Board caught the error in the language about the "Write-In" candidate and since the evening's agenda  
92 does not state that the board can discuss and approve the election procedures, no vote can be taken on  
93 this. She recommended the Board hold a Special Meeting or empower the Elections Committee to make  
94 the decision for the Board. She said that the IEA is available on April 14 and April 28, 2007. DONE will  
95 provide funding for another mailer once this is agendized. Kim asked the Board to suggest dates they can  
96 be available for a Special Meeting to vote on the Elections Procedures. She will also check with Donna  
97 Zero to find out what dates the Van Gogh Elementary School is available for an Election to be held.  
98

- 99 6. **Public Comment**: Senior Lead Police Officer Dario Del Core's reported that due to funding shortages,  
100 there are only five patrol cars working the Devonshire Area with two, 12-hour shifts. Due to this situation,  
101 residents need to call the police if there is a problem: "911" for emergencies and 1-877-ASK-LAPD for  
102 non-emergencies. The average response time is eight minutes for emergency calls. There were 3,700  
103 arrests by the Devonshire Division last year. The Division is the second lowest in the City for violent  
104 crimes. There were no homicides in Granada Hills last year. For information on crime statistics, go to:  
105 [www.lapdepolicing.org](http://www.lapdepolicing.org). Officer Del Core said the biggest problem in the area are car break-ins and  
106 suggested residents hide their valuables from sight in their vehicles. While the streets are very safe, he  
107 recommended vigilance and always being aware and alert. Mike Greenwald asked the status of a police  
108 cruiser that was stolen in North Hollywood with weapons in it. Officer Del Core said both suspects were  
109 apprehended. Officer DelCore added that there were two crews of kids breaking into homes in the area  
110 and getting paid by an adult. The juveniles involved were also arrested.  
111

112 Former Board Member Mary Edwards thanked the Board for donations of warm clothing. Food items are  
113 in short supply, particularly canned goods. On another issue, she recommended the Board spend the  
114 monies in their budget rather than holding on to and accumulating money. Some options for spending she  
115 suggested include sending children in the schools to see the great whales that are running now, sending  
116 kids on other field trips, and funding the music programs for the schools. She suggested the Board trust  
117 the schools to provide information on the programs they most need.  
118

119 Board Member Wayne Hunter made an announcement on behalf of Wayne Aller, who had to leave the  
120 Board Meeting early. Wayne announced a public informational meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2007 at  
121 6:30 p.m. at Van Gogh Elementary School to discuss the proposed revision of the Solid Waste Facility  
122 Permit for Sunshine Canyon Landfill County Extension located at 14747 San Fernando Road, Sylmar.  
123 The meeting is to update the community on progress that has occurred with the proposed permit revision  
124 since last July 2006, when a public meeting was held at the Knollwood Country Club in Granada Hills.  
125 Wayne urged the Board to attend saying any comments made will be taken to the State Legislature for  
126 review before they vote on the permit.  
127

128 Dave Beauvais of Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council announced they are hosting a local  
129 Candidates Night on February 1, 2007. There will be a community event known as "Citrus Sunday" on  
130 May 6, 2007 where residents are asked to pick any fruit on their citrus trees and donate it to the local food  
131 pantry. (Granada Hills Recreation Center is one location). Dave said that citrus is in short supply to needy  
132 residents because it doesn't keep for very long. The event is designed to help in utilize the abundance of  
133 fruit that residents might not otherwise use. Last year, 18 tons of fruit were donated. Dave said they are  
134 asking each area Neighborhood Council to allocate \$250.00 in funding for volunteers to pick fruit for  
135 residents who cannot do it themselves but want to participate. He asked that this item be put on the next  
136 agenda for a vote.  
137

138 Council District Report, John Bwarie, Deputy for Council member Greig Smith said the Council member is  
139 asking each Neighborhood Council to schedule another CERT training in 2007 for Earthquake  
140 Preparedness. The Council member has introduced seven new motions for emergency preparedness for  
141 individuals and businesses. He is planning an Earthquake Conference. He is also asking the City to  
142 provide emergency kits in each City vehicle. Another motion asks the City to identify ways to improve the  
143 City's Basic Police Car Plan, which originally designated a police car for each of the City's 168 grids for a  
144 full 24 hours each day. Council member Smith is seeking ways for the City to increase public safety and  
145 to provide Basic Car Training. For more information on recent motions, go to: [www.cd12.org](http://www.cd12.org)  
146

147 Jim Summers, Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council reported that GHSNC's Board is in favor of  
148 sharing office space with GHNNC. He asked for a consensus on whether the Board supports this  
149 proposal. He also spoke about Granada Hills History Project, which is seeking historical photographs  
150 from residents by February 10, 2007. On February 8<sup>th</sup> the GHSNC holds their next Board Meeting at the  
151 Granada Hills Branch Library. They will be discussing a proposal for building a Kohl's Store at the former  
152 Ralph's location at Chatsworth and Zelzah.  
153

154 Juan Rodriguez, Music Teacher at Frost Middle School, asked the Board to support his school's need for  
155 funding. Currently, they are not funded. Any residents who want to donate used musical instruments are  
156 encouraged to contact him at Frost Middle School.  
157

158 DONE Rep Amelia Herrera-Robles announced DONE Academy's upcoming trainings, which are open to  
159 the public and free. An RSVP is required. More information is available on the DONE website. Amelia  
160 also reminded the Board to think about scheduling a Board Retreat.  
161

162 There was a break from 8:16 p.m. to 8:25 p.m.  
163

164 7. **Committee Reports:**

165 **PLUM**, Anne Ziliak presented a report on two proposed cell phone towers: 17858 Sidwell Street at 17864  
166 and 17854 Tuscan Drive and 12840 Jollette at 17366 Tennyson Place. The Committee felt Verizon did  
167 not provide adequate notification to stakeholders beyond the immediate residences surrounding the  
168 proposed locations. Anne stated that while the Bureau of Engineering has given her Committee  
169 notification prior to granting approval, her Committee has very little power to oppose them. Since they are  
170 public utilities, they have the right to locate in a commercial zone as long as they are not within 500' of a  
171 school. Discussion then followed:  
172

- 173 • An unnamed stakeholder expressed opposition to having the cell towers close to public sidewalks  
174 wondering what the safety implications are of any energy being put out by the signals. Anne said there is  
175 no knowledge as to what power they put out. Verizon hasn't addressed this but she will ask for that  
176 information.
- 177 • Kim Thompson asked who would be responsible for any graffiti on the poles. Anne said it would be up to  
178 Verizon to maintain them.

- 179 • Leon Marzillier asked why LAUSD is opposed to having cell phone towers located near schools. Anne
- 180 said her understanding was that a number of parents opposed having the towers near their kids' schools.
- 181 • Sid Gold asked if PLUM has a recommendation. Anne said they did not. As long as the towers are
- 182 similar in height to a streetlight and are in a public Right of Way, PLUM cannot oppose them.
- 183 • Ralph Kroy asked why Ham radio operators have restrictions when cell phone companies do not for their
- 184 towers. He feels any dangers should be questioned in advance, particularly in areas where there are
- 185 three or more towers. He also asked at what point it becomes a hazard.
- 186 • Mary Ellen Crosby said she was in favor of having the cell towers because there are dead zones in Bee
- 187 Canyon Park and people who use cell phones need an improved signal. She suggested a possible
- 188 compromise on the number of towers. She also asked whether the towers could be put in the park itself.
- 189 Anne said that Rec and Parks would not allow cell towers.
- 190 • Patrick Casparian said he wanted to go on record as opposing the cell towers since he does not feel
- 191 there was adequate notification. He lives in sight of the proposed towers and did not receive any
- 192 notification from Verizon.
- 193 • An unnamed stakeholder on Tennyson said he is an engineer for a Satellite Group but does not know
- 194 what the health impact is from cell phone towers. He thinks the cell phone companies should provide
- 195 proof of their safety to those who live in the proposed areas detailing the impact on humans and animals.
- 196 • CD 12, Mitch Englander said that in a previous case, the City was sued by a cell phone company for not
- 197 allowing towers in a Public Right of Way and lost. He said the Board of Public Works controls the
- 198 approval process, which is based on aesthetics and design.
- 199 • Mike Greenwald asked whether there are any height requirements. Englander said there are set limits.
- 200 Ralph Kroy offered to provide information he has received to PLUM from the cell phone companies.
- 201

202 **Parks and Beautification**, Mary Ellen Crosby reported that the Bee Canyon Park recently received eight

203 Live Oak trees, which have been installed by the playground. Landscaping is continuing by Balboa where

204 wildflowers and 25 lbs. of poppies have been planted by Patriot Oil with the help of twenty volunteers at

205 Bee Canyon Park.

206

207 **Public Safety**, Michael Greenwald reported that the Police were successful in apprehending two crews of

208 juvenile burglary suspects in the Mission area that were robbing houses between 10 and noon and

209 turning stolen items over to an adult. Mike attended the Comstat meeting in Valley and said it was very

210 productive. His Committee will recommend the Board support Council member Smith's proposal to fund

211 LAPD from sanitation charges. He requested the motion be put on the Special Meeting agenda.

212

213 **Outreach**, Sue DeVandry: Tabled.

214

215 8. **Liaison Updates:**

216 **CD 12 Service Cabinet**, Scott Manatt: Tabled.

217 **Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils & City Attorney Roundtable** updates, Becky Bendikson

218 gave a report.

219 **Aliso Canyon CAC**, Anne Ziliak said four proposals were presented for Aliso Canyon including proposals

220 for horse boarding, a remote control car racetrack, and an Audubon usage, in addition to the CAC

221 proposal. No decision has been made yet. In March, the public will be asked for input at the Scoping

222 Meeting.

223 **Congress of Neighborhood Councils**, Joe Vitti: A DWP/MOU meeting will take place on Wednesday,

224 January 31, 2007 at the DWP headquarters to discuss some changes to the latest MOU. The Congress

225 meets on February 3, 2007. The **Neighborhood Council Review Commission** will hold their next public

226 hearing on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at Erwin Street Elementary School, 13400 Erwin Street, Valley

227 Glen from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

228

229 9. **Board Member comment:**

- 230 • Robert Ricketts asked who attended the Election Committee meeting held recently at UCLA.
- 231 • Becky Bendikson announced a Public Preparedness Workshop: Shift Happens. March 17, sponsored by
- 232 Van Nuys/Balboa Neighborhood Council.
- 233 • Wayne Hunter announced the Board of Supervisors Meeting on February. 6, 2007.
- 234

235 10. Kim announced the next GHNNC Board Meeting is February 26, 2007 and reminded the Board to alert

236 her to their availability for a Special Meeting.

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238 11. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

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Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Apple One.

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**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council**  
**Special Bylaw Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 29, 2007**  
Van Gogh School Auditorium  
17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills, CA

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:49 p.m. by Chairperson Kim Thompson.

**Role Call:** Wayne Aller, Becky Bendikson, Patrick Casparian, Peter Chung, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Matt Hughes, Wayde Hunter, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Alex Palazzo, Dave Parikh, Ben Pedrick, Robert Ricketts, Kim Thompson, Joe Vitti, Anne Wells, Anne Ziliak. A quorum was established.

**Presentation by DONE Rep. Amelia Herrera-Robles on Bylaws change:**

Amelia presented the three proposed bylaws changes to the GHNNC Bylaws:

1. Revision of Article 9: Officers of the Board and their Duties from "Nominations and elections for these positions will take place at the first meeting in March" to **"Nominations and elections for these positions will take place during the first meeting after the certification of the election by the IEA or FDM."**
2. Removal of Article 6.8 Voting Disputes. Language is not necessary due to existing language in the Citywide Election Procedures.
3. Revision of Article 6.9 from "If for any reason the election is delayed or the newly elected Board is not seated, a quorum (13 members) or more of the present Board will conduct business at the regular monthly meetings until the newly elected Board is seated," to **"If the election is delayed or in the event that the IEA or FDM has failed to certify the election, then the existing board members will continue to serve on the board."**

Amelia explained that these requests were previously recommended by DONE and discussed by the Board. **Motion**(Aller/Marzillier) to approve the revised Bylaws as previously stated by Amelia. (7 stakeholders were present in the audience and voted: 7-0-0 to approve the Bylaws changes). The motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:00 p.m.

-Minutes taken by Pat Kramer, Apple One-