

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Van Gogh Elementary School, Granada Hills
Monday, July 30, 2007**

1. **Call to Order** (7:07 p.m.), **Roll Call:** Present: Dale Alloway, Pat Casparian, Jonalyn Cooper, Mary Ellen Crosby, Michael Deering, Sue De Vandry, Scott Fisher, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Wayde Hunter, Skip Leifer, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Robert Olander, Natasha Vetlugin, Joe Vitti, Kathy Wagenback, Anne Ziliak. and Joshua Jordahl (late). Absent: Matt Hughes & Robert Campbell. Quorum established with 20 board members.

2. **Chair Comments:** Chairman Leon Marzillier addressed stakeholders on the guidelines and mission of the GHNNC.

3. **Approval of Minutes for June:** Motion carried with one abstention. 16-0-1.

4. Public Comment:

Senior Lead Police Officer Dario Del Core's Report: Crime has declined in the 3rd quarter of 2007. Officer Del Corte said there has been a climate of burglaries that occur during daylight hours when people are at work. He asked people to keep eyes out for prowlers and to use the police dept's non-emergency number or to call "311" to the City. There have also been car burglaries where valuable items have been left in cars and are visible to bystanders. However, there have been very few grand theft autos and no homicides in the Granada Hills area in 2.5 years. Violent crimes are also down 12% and to date, the Devonshire district has written 4,000 traffic tickets in 2007, which is keeping the streets safer.

- Rayond Yu, Chinatown stakeholder, spoke about the Chinatown parade and the Simpsons movie.
- Mary Edwards, former GHNNC board member, talked about the importance for planting and caring for trees.
- Kim Thompson, former GHNNC president, mentioned she has information on the tree program that is available to board members.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Scott Manatt gave a detailed report on GHNNC's finances for the fiscal year ending. DONE has already approved GHNNC's budget for the next fiscal year and there is additional funding anticipated with the estimated rollover. Financial Officer Pat Casparian will figure out where he thinks the money should go and report back to the Council at a later meeting. Mr. Manatt suggested that board members use Postal Plus for copying board materials. He explained the process for submitting invoicing and mentioned that they had been useful in duplicating his 90-page report to DONE that is required for auditing purposes.

6. Guest Speakers:

a. Daniel Ruiz, West Valley Alliance (a not for profit organization) explained how his company works to remove graffiti in the community. They have been in business for seven years and work a seven-day schedule including holidays. To report graffiti instances to them, call: (818) 227-9722 or call the City's "311" and request graffiti removal. In the West Valley, the instances of graffiti have risen from 4,000 per month to 7,000 per month, as gangs are moving northward. His company has hired two additional employees to keep up with the extra work. He noted that Council members Greig Smith donated \$20,000 and Dennis Zine has committed \$24,000 to their

operations. He asked for the GHNNC's support with paying for additional supplies and also overtime for their employees.

(Ziliak/Marzillier) moved, "That GHNNC support funding for the W. Valley Alliance for the ongoing operation of graffiti removal/neighborhood beautification projects within the GHNNC boundaries." (Manatt/Leifer) amended the motion to allow up to \$9,000. Wayde Hunter asked that the supplies be restricted to their usage in only the GHNNC area. Pat Casparian recommended the amendment be amended to 'up to \$8,000' based on monies available in the budget.

Discussion: Mike Greenwald asked for specifics on the # and locations the Alliance has provided graffiti removal in the GHNNC area. Anne Ziliak spoke in favor of the motion listing several other functions the company has provided for cleaning up the community. Sue De Vandry spoke in favor of the Alliance saying this is a need for their services and it is covered by the budget. Jonalyn Cooper suggested the company provide documentation on where their service calls in the GHNNC area. Mary Ellen Crosby spoke about her home being a victim of graffiti and the difficulty in providing accurate reporting on these incidences. Barbara Iverson, stakeholder, spoke in support of West Valley Alliance. Joe Vitti asked if this would be for specific graffiti abatement in GHNNC boundaries.

Amended Motion: "That GHNNC support funding up to \$8,000 for the W. Valley Alliance for the ongoing operation of graffiti removal/neighborhood beautification projects within the GHNNC boundaries."

Vote to accept the amendment: 10-0-1. Motion carried.

Vote to approve amended motion: 19-1-0. Motion carried.

b. Jim Summers, Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, led a lengthy discussion on GHSNC's opposition to a proposed development at the Granada Village Shopping Center by FWCA, Granada Village, LLC, Regency Centers. He stated that the community does not support this development; they want to keep the Mom and Pop atmosphere. The proposed project would demolish the existing 43,000 sq. ft. Ralph's market and 11,000 sq ft retail shops to construct an 88,000 sq. ft. Kohls department store. They would like the project to be downsized by the developer is not amenable to discussing this prospect. He asked for GHNNC's support in opposing this development.

Discussion: Nancy Norris, stakeholder in GHSNC, says this is a quality of life issue. They don't have the area and parking needed for such a large store. The community's voice is not being heard by Councilman Greig Smith's office. Maria Fisk, GHSNC stakeholder, said they foresee this development taking over other property in the area and setting a precedent of businesses being allowed to do this to the community, against the community's wishes. Jeannie Plumb, PLUM committee member, suggested putting pressure on the Councilman about the issues, which require legislative discretion under the Design Review Board. Ernest Dilberg, stakeholder, asked what the impact would be on existing stores like TJ Max.

Anne Ziliak pointed out that the plan the developer is proposing is asking for a smaller set back on this property, which could negatively impact any future street improvements for Zelzah. Wayde Hunter suggested language that specifically talks about opposition to a mega Kohl rather than opposition to Kohl's in general. Mary Ellen Crosby says it would end Granada Village and the atmosphere that makes this area special. Sid Gold asked whether there were height limitations on the proposed building under Prop U. Joe Vitti suggested working with Kohls, which has told the GH Chamber that they would improve the entire complex. He asked if the developer could be invited to another GHNNC meeting before they make a decision.

(Greenwald/Cooper) moved, “That the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council opposes the proposed project of the Kohls Store, case number APCNV-2006-5084-SPE-ZV-CU-ZAD-SPR-SSP. That the GHNNC’s Planning and Land Use Committee submit a Community Impact Statement to the City Clerk of LA for inclusion on the appropriate agendas of the City Council, its committees and City Commissions. That the GHNNC present these resolutions to the decision makers of this proposed project including by not limited to the LA Dept of Planning, the N. Valley Area Planning Commission, City of LA Council members and urge them to take prompt action on this matter.”

Vote: 16-1-3. Motion carried.

7. Nominations:

City Attorney Roundtable Liaison: The Board unanimously nominated board member Skip Leifer with Bob Olander as his alternate.

Valley Alliance of NCs Liaison: The Board unanimously nominated board member Jonalyn Cooper with Sid Gold as her alternate

8. Nomination of three representatives to Council member Smith’s Service Cabinet: The Board nominated board members: Michael Greenwald, Anne Ziliak, and Scott Manatt with alternates: Leon Marzillier, Wayde Hunter and Mary Ellen Crosby by a vote of: 19-1-0.

9. Granada Hills Street Faire. The Outreach Committee:

(Sue De Vandry, chair) moved that the GHNNC reconsider the June vote to support the Granada Hills Street Faire. The Board voted: 15 –2-1 to reconsider the request for support. (Motion failed in June).

Cheryl Ford, a director of the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce, spoke about event and the need for financial support from the GHNNC. (De Vandry) then moved, “That the GHNNC authorize an additional \$1800 to the Granada Hills Chamber and \$500 for miscellaneous (promotional items, helium tanks, balloons, decorations, etc) for the October 6th, 2007 Granada Hills Street Faire organized by the Chamber of Commerce for outreach.”

Discussion: Mike Greenwald questioned why the Chamber doesn’t do outreach to residents and questioned whether people actually remember logos or businesses that sponsor events. Sue said they have talked to hundreds of people at this event in the past and believes the \$2,000 is a good investment for the money spent; that businesses are there to partner with the residents.

MOTION: “That the GHNNC grant the Outreach Committee an additional \$1800.00 for advertising and expenses for the Granada Hills Street Faire organized by the Chamber of Commerce. The Outreach Committee is requesting GHNNC form a Picnic in the Park Ad Hoc committee.”

Vote: 17-2-0. The motion carried.

9. Committee Reports:

PLUM (Ziliak) moved, “That the GHNNC Board approve the conversion the apartments at 11541 N BLUCHER AVE to a 52-UNIT NEW RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM complex as presented on July 16, 2007 to the GHNNC PLUM Committee and request that the approved landscape plan dated 8/12/2002 be revised to increase the box size of the trees to be planted.”

Anne then asked to amend her motion adding, “**And to ask them to consider improvements to Blucher Ave. adjoining the subject property to the satisfaction of the City engineer.**”

Vote to accept the amendment: Unanimous.

Vote on the amended motion: Unanimous.

Parks and Beautification:

At the invitation of Mary Ellen Crosby, Parks and Beautification chair, a presentation was given by Nidia Garcia of North East Trees (the Mayor’s Million Trees Program). Nidia spoke about the tree planting program and how it would include replacement trees as well as new trees giving the community a chance to choose the trees they desire specific to their areas’ foliage needs.

Parks and Beautification (Crosby) moved, “That the GHNNC support the proposal made by North East Trees to have up to 100 trees planted at a cost of up to \$12,000 which includes planting, watering, mulching and weeding for one year.”

Discussion: Barbara Iverson said she felt more info was needed on the workings of this organization. Ernest Hilberg said there is enough existing trouble with the trees that are in the community not being watered and maintained by the City. He recommended taking care of the existing trees first. After more discussion, **Kathy Wagenback moved to table this motion.**

Vote to table: unanimous. The motion was tabled.

Communications Committee:

The Communications Committee (Robert Olander, chair) moved, “That the positions of Communications Officer, Media Officer and Corresponding Officer be combined and referred to the Policy and Rules Committee for a change in the By-Laws; and further, that in the interim the Communications Committee Chairperson chair the combined committees until such time as there is a change in the By-Laws.”

Vote: 14-0-1. The motion carried.

Public Safety: Tabled.

Ethics and Policy Rules: Leon Marzillier reported they need volunteers for committees.

Meeting adjourned: 9:37 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Apple One.