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**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 22, 2008**  
Van Gogh School Auditorium  
17160 Van Gogh Street, Granada Hills

**1. Call to Order:** 6:40 p.m. **Roll Call:** Jonalyn Cooper, Mary Ellen Crosby, Michael Deering, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael Garcia, Sid Gold, Michael Greenwald, Wayde Hunter, Joshua Jordalh, Skip Leifer, William Lillenberg, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollok, Eric Rosenberg, Jan Subar, Joe Vitti, and Anne Ziliak. Quorum established. **Absent:** Pat Casparian, Mil Tossoun, Natasha Vetlugin, and Kathy Wagenbach. Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Comments.

**2. Approval of Board Meeting minutes. (Marzillier/Cooper)** moved to accept the minutes as corrected for November 24, 2008. The motion carried: 18-0-2.

**3. Public Comment on non-agenda items:**

- Stakeholder Bill Hopkins commented on cell phone receivers being moved to lower installations rather than high up on poles.
- Mary Ellen Crosby spoke on behalf of several stakeholders on the lack of preparedness by the Red Cross during the fire evacuations in Granada Hills. She stated that the food was not fresh, coffee ran out, and cots were not set up when residents needed shelter at Kennedy High School. She asked whether it wasn't the responsibility of GHNNC to provide funding in case of emergency to help residents and suggested the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to better organize and prepare for disasters. Leon suggested she put this item on the Jan board meeting agenda for further discussion.
- Stakeholder Michael Godfrey, a Neighborhood Watch and CERT Level 2 volunteer, agreed with Mary Ellen about a lack of preparedness during the recent disaster. As a former school administrator, he was involved in trying to set up the facility but due to the greater need for emergency personnel in Sylmar, he said resources were stretched pretty thin. He suggested contacting the Red Cross to find out why there was a delay in getting Kennedy High set up.
- DONE rep. Amelia Herrera-Robles agreed that it would be good for GHNNC to set up an Emergency Preparedness Committee, something that other NCs are doing. She also stated that with the city on a spending freeze, there is a need for funding for emergencies and NCs can help in this way, as well. Amelia also asked that board members visit the Mayor's Budget Survey online and let them know they consider emergency issues for city funding. There is also an online Conflict of Interest training, which, in the future, may become a mandated training.

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- Battallion Commander Jeff Marcus spoke to the board about the recent efforts by his 3 platoons during the fires. He stated that they took turns covering their entire area on a 24 hour schedule. The Battallion goes from the 5 Freeway to the Ventura County line and down to Roscoe Blvd. Right now, their big concern is the possibility of mudslides. He projects it will take 2 - 3 years before new growth returns and the hillsides stabilize. They have put together a Task Force to work on these issues. He thanked stakeholders for their efforts to clear brush around their homes. He said it really helped Fire Crews because the fire came through like a 'freight train' and everything flammable immediately caught fire. He thanked everyone for assistance with food and other needed supplies and noted that the Granada Hills neighborhood is closely knit and works well with the police and fire departments.
  - He then took questions from the board and stakeholders. One question asked was whether homeowners should turn on their sprinkler systems to 'help' firefighters during a crisis. He emphatically stated "NO." Turning on hoses or sprinklers depletes water resources available to firefighters. It is best to evacuate and let trained personnel do their jobs.

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**4. Treasurer's report** – Scott Manatt spoke about adjustments in the projected budget for the second quarter of '09, among other issues. He then stated that he had received a letter from DONE requesting a non mandatory audit be done of the GHNNC books at the cost of \$150 - 300/hour and paid for by GHNNC to cover the last 8 quarters. He recommended against funding this non mandatory audit. **(Manatt/Greenwald) moved, "That the GHNNC decline an optional audit of our financial books and reports pending resolution of budget cost questions."** The motion carried 19-0-1.

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**5. New Office Lease/Letter of Appreciation:** Joe Vitti spoke about the GHNNC's new lease for an office and said that a lot of the credit for this goes to Councilman Smith's Chief of Staff, Mitch Englander for convincing landlord Rickey Gelb to sign the terms the City requested for this lease. **(Vitti/Greenwald) moved, "That the GHNNC send a letter to Mitch Englander expressing our sincere appreciation for all his efforts in helping the GHNNC with the terms of the lease for office space located at 11139 Woodley Ave. Mr. Englander's timely persistent involvement in the negotiations with all parties involved is the primary reason the GHNNC, after years of searching, will finally have an office within our boundaries that meets our budgetary and committee meeting requirements."** The motion carried: unanimously.

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A request was made by board member Michael Deering that this and any other letters written on behalf of the GHNNC also be posted on the GHNNC website. Leon suggested that this be a routine action overseen by the Communication Committee.

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**6. Ad Hoc Committee for Office: (Marzillier/Leifer) moved, “That the GHNNC approve an Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by former GHNNC Chair Kim Thompson, to decide on what alterations, flooring, paint, furniture, and other interior decorations should be done to the new GHNNC office, and to authorize the chairperson of this Ad Hoc Committee to communicate the Committee’s decisions to the landlord, Rickey Gelb, for implementation.”** The motion carried unanimously.

Several board members volunteered to serve with Kim Thompson. They are to email her at [kthompson@GHNNC.org](mailto:kthompson@GHNNC.org)

**7. Beautification Motion (Frechette/Leifer) moved, “That the GHNNC authorize allocating up to \$500 for the beautification of the corner at Balboa and Sesnon to plant the small strip of land with drought tolerant, low maintenance succulents.”** The motion passed: 18-0-1. DONE Rep.

Amelia said she would handle any questions regarding potential homeowner liability or lawsuits noting that the Bureau of Public Works may provide shovels and other equipment.

**8. Committee Reports and possible action items:**

*PLUM – Chairperson* Anne Ziliak moved the following motions on behalf of the Committee: **“That the GHNNC strongly recommends that the DWP address the MND shortcomings of the Terminal Hill Tunnel and Shaft Project dated September 2008, and not use of the area at the intersection of Balboa Boulevard and Foothill Boulevard as a stockpile location; that the DWP avoid any impact to the neighboring residential area, and impacts to said roads limiting them to an alternate site like Magazine Canyon, and that all the excavated material be placed in a location protected from wind and properly treated with a fixative to prevent fugitive dust emissions in this extremely windy location.** The motion carried as stated above: 18-0-1.

**“That the GHNNC adopt a minimum green building certification standard that requires all new residential construction to choose one of three green building certification standards: LEED for Homes, CA Green Builder, or Green Point Rated. That the GHNNC also transmit this proposal to the City of Los Angeles requesting that they also adopt this for all residential projects.** The motion carried: 13-0-6.

**“That the GHNNC Board allocate \$800 (\$400 per person) for two members to attend the ‘23rd Annual Land Use Law and Planning Conference on Friday, January 23, 2009, (a UCLA extension Public Policy Program) at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.** The motion carried: 17-0-2.

*Parks & Beautification –* Mary Ellen Crosby reported that the fire damage at O’Melveny Park will not be remediated for a while. Cleanup now consists

141 of thinning out burned trees and clearing debris out of the creek bed.  
142 Wood fencing has all been destroyed as has the arch entry. A lack of  
143 funding is currently limiting further improvements.  
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145 *Public Safety* – Michael Greenwald reported that there is still no decision on  
146 a start date for the traffic signal at Knollwood Plaza. There were several  
147 comments regarding the safety of the chlorine storage and train tank cars  
148 on or near the MWD facility. MWD is preparing a response to several  
149 complaints and questions dealing with the issue.  
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151 *Outreach* – Sue DeVandry thanked everyone who prepared and participated  
152 in the Granada Hills Holiday Parade.  
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154 **9. Board Member Comment on non-agenda items**

155 Sid Gold read a letter from the Arts and Education Council promoting a  
156 student art show. Details will be put on the GHNNC website. He also  
157 presented the President’s Volunteer Service Award and letter commending  
158 each board member from President George W. Bush for their dedicated  
159 service.  
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161 **10. Meeting adjourned: 8:42 p.m.**  
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164 - Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One, and Skip Leifer, Recording Officer