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**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 23, 2009**  
**Van Gogh School Auditorium**  
17160 Van Gogh Street

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

Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Comments.

2. Approval of January 26, 2009 Board Meeting minutes (**Leifer/Rosenberg**) **moved to accept the Jan. 2009 minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Public Comment on non-agenda items:  
LAPD Senior Lead Officer Janine Angeles spoke to the board and stakeholders. She is stationed out of the Devonshire Division. She explained the new division of territory showing the crime map. The #1 problem remains burglary of motor vehicles where people have left valuables in view. She requested citizens call her with any concerns at: (818) 325-7749 or via email: [30392@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:30392@lapd.lacity.org). You can also reach her through the main office number: (818) 363-1726.

Raymond Yu: Talked about what he learned at the Metro Expo and reminded stakeholders to vote in the March election.

Rick Stoff, of the non profit Chrysalis, spoke about how his organization is looking for beautification projects from the NCs where he can put the homeless back on their feet in the work force. They are looking for jobs doing weed abatement, trash pick up and other beautification projects.

Michael Hemming, a new stakeholder, complained of odors emanating from the Sunshine Canyon landfill. He is attending CAC meetings at Sunshine Canyon to see if he can get help from them but also asked the board to help. Leon placed this item on the March agenda.

John Bwarie, from Councilman Smith's office, spoke about new legislation the Councilman introduced last week to provide Water Conservation rebates to city residents. It would provide a rebate for automatic sprinklers that conserve water and other water conservation measures. Right now, the proposal has been assigned a Council File # but there is no date yet for it to be discussed.

48 On the topic of getting a signal light at the Knollwood Shopping Center John  
49 said there has been no progress made with the developer.

50

51 DONE Rep. Amelia Herrera – Robles announced the First Regional  
52 Neighborhood Council Conference in the SF Valley to take place at the  
53 Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys, Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. It is  
54 open to the public. She also commented on an item that came up for the  
55 board saying that NCs can take positions on different issues and can decide  
56 to support a candidate for office but cannot spend public funds on advocating  
57 these choices.

58

59 **4. Treasurer's report** – Scott Manatt – presented the treasurer's report  
60 showing the estimated closing balance for the first quarter broken down  
61 month by month February's estimated closing balance is \$106,144.00.

62

63 **5. Executive Committee Motion (Marzillier/Leifer) moved, "That the**  
64 **GHNNC adopt the attached agenda for its March 8, 2009 Education**  
65 **Session Retreat. The motion carried unanimously.**

66

67 **6. Executive Committee Motion (Leifer/Rosenberg) moved, "That the**  
68 **Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council recognizes the huge loss**  
69 **felt by those affected by the 2008 Marek, Sayre and Sesnon fall fires,**  
70 **and as an active measure of our support agrees to donate 10 cases**  
71 **of bottled spring water at a maximum cost of \$128.80 to the Board of**  
72 **Supervisors for use at events designed to bring comfort to those**  
73 **affected." The motion carried: 15-0-2.**

74

75 Skip mentioned that on March 7th, an event will take place at L.A. Lutheran  
76 High School for those people dislocated or affected by the three recent fires.

77

78 **7. Arts Committee Motion (Rosenberg/Casparian) moved, "That the**  
79 **GHNNC approve \$500.00 to the Arts in Education Aid Council**  
80 **(Federal ID #95-4800030) for an ad in their March 29, 2009 program**  
81 **for the 8th Annual Valley-Wide Student Art Show. The ad would read,**  
82 **"The Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council supports arts**  
83 **education in our schools and congratulates all students on their**  
84 **achievements today!" The motion carried: 14-0-4.**

85

86 Connie O'Shea of the Arts in Education Aid Council spoke about the  
87 upcoming show, which will take place at the Chatsworth Train Depot. There  
88 will be performances by the students and artwork displayed.

89

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

91 *Citywide Issues* – (Gold) moved on behalf of the **Citywide Issues**  
92 **Committee, "That the GHNNC oppose Measure B, "Green Energy and**  
93 **Good jobs for Los Angeles Program," which will be on the March 3,**

94 **2009 ballot and that the GHNNC communicate its opposition to**  
95 **Measure B to all appropriate parties.” The motion failed: 4-8-6.**  
96

97 There was opposition from board members who wanted to hear from  
98 advocates for Measure B. Sid explained that the Citywide Issues  
99 Committee, which is made up of wide scale NC support throughout the  
100 city, had already heard from both sides and were unanimous in their  
101 decision to oppose this measure.  
102

103 **(Gold) moved on behalf of the Citywide Issues Committee, “That the**  
104 **GHNNC support the attached resolution on billboards and signs**  
105 **which states:** “Whereas as an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) was  
106 proposed by City Council on December 17, 2008 prohibiting erecting new  
107 billboard, conversion of existing billboards to digital, super graphics signs  
108 on the sides of buildings and alteration of existing billboards and super  
109 graphic signs and, whereas the City’s previous ordinance allowed  
110 exceptions to the ban and, whereas the exceptions created supplemental  
111 use districts which resulted in billboards being erected along freeways  
112 which breached a 55 year ban on billboards facing freeways within Los  
113 Angeles City and whereas there is no current inventory of billboards in the  
114 City and whereas DWP meters have been possibly connected to  
115 billboards without permits and whereas a law settlement by the City and  
116 billboard companies (Vista Media, Clear Channel, CBS Outdoor, National  
117 Advertising and Regency Outdoor) resulted in allowing signs illegally  
118 installed to be retroactively legalized and allowed the companies to  
119 convert 878 of their existing signs to digital and whereas digital signs may  
120 not only be a nuisance but also a danger to drivers, Be it resolved that the  
121 GHNNC supports retention of the Citywide ban on new billboards  
122 including ones along the freeway and further be it resolved that GHNNC  
123 supports repealing the supplemental sign district ordinance and further be  
124 it resolved that GHNNC supports repealing the provision allowing specific  
125 plan ordinances to permit billboards and further, be it resolved that  
126 GHNNC supports the repeal of the provision allowing developmental  
127 agreements to allow billboards and further, be it resolved that GHNNC  
128 supports the prohibition of further conversions of signs to digital billboards  
129 and further, be it resolved that GHNNC supports the prohibition of super  
130 graphic signs on the sides of buildings and further, be it resolved that  
131 GHNNC supports consideration of disallowing bench and shelter  
132 advertising if this part of any appeal ion regard to the lawsuit of *Metrolights*  
133 *vs. City of Los Angeles* and further, be it resolved that GHNNC encourage  
134 the city to reexamine the billboard agreement to see if it may be  
135 renegotiated or overturned and further, be it resolved that the City of Los  
136 Angeles develop appropriate fines and possible criminal prosecution of  
137 those companies from violating the billboard ordinance and further, be it  
138 resolved that fines from these violations be used to help the Department of  
139 Building and Safety, Department of Public Works and Department of City  
140 Planning to develop appropriate monitoring of billboards and signs in the

141 city and further, be it resolved that the GHNNC communicate to DWP and  
142 City Council to develop programs to prohibit of establishing electrical  
143 connections to any billboard or sign which is not properly permitted and  
144 further, be it resolved that GHNNC communicate to all appropriate  
145 persons and agencies of these actions.” **The motion carried**  
146 **unanimously.**

147  
148 Sid said the Committee also had discussed the Council File process as it  
149 pertains to Neighborhood Councils but could not come up with any  
150 recommendation.

151  
152  
153 **PLUM – (Ziliak) moved, “That the GHNNC conditionally approves the**  
154 **storage of a historic vehicle collection on the property located at**  
155 **17745 Ridgeway Road with the following conditions:**

156 **The property owner comply with all provisions of sec 12.03 of**  
157 **the City of Los Angeles Zoning Code, the department of Building and**  
158 **Safety review the conditions and maintenance of the property and**  
159 **that all existing code violations be remedied prior to approval.” The**  
160 **motion carried: 15-0-2.**

161  
162 **(Ziliak) moved, “That GHNNC deny the request to parcel 17891**  
163 **RIDGEWAY ROAD due to insufficient information regarding the**  
164 **existing protected trees located on the property and compliance with**  
165 **the K-overlay (equestrian zone) requirements. The motion carried:**  
166 **15-0-1.**

167 Anne added that the Balboa Historic Preservation Overlay Zone will hold  
168 their first public meeting in April.

169  
170 **Ad Hoc Office – (Ziliak) moved, “That the GHNNC allocate up to \$3,500**  
171 **for the purchase of chairs, tables, shelving, storage and water**  
172 **dispenser for the GHNNC office.” The motion carried unanimously.**

173 Anne mentioned that she is working on getting donations of furniture for  
174 the office from LA Share. However, that process involves a lottery and to  
175 date, they have not ‘won’ any of the items they have requested from this  
176 process. The board discussed tracking how is using the office and when  
177 they are to hold meetings.

178  
179 **Outreach – Neysa Frechette presented Certificates of Appreciation to two**  
180 **members of the Noteworthy Neighbor Project: Melissa Densmore and**  
181 **Michael Reess, (two other members, Justin Keene and James Germann,**  
182 **were acknowledged for their efforts but were not present at the meeting)**  
183 **for helping with the beautification project/plantings at the corner of Balboa**  
184 **and Sesnon.**

185  
186 **(DeVandry) moved, “That GHNNC participate in Councilman Smith’s**  
187 **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Citrus Sunday on May 3, 2009. We authorize the**

188 **allocation of up to \$450.00 for outreach and associated expenses of**  
189 **the project.” The motion carried unanimously.** GHNNC will set up a  
190 booth at the Fire Station for this event. Sue thanked Ralph Kroy for  
191 repairing the glass on kiosk at Bee Canyon. She also requested donations  
192 of photos, certificates or pictures for the walls at the new office. Sue is  
193 putting together the next newsletter and asked for articles by March 30.  
194 There are a few upcoming Outreach events: A Western Day at Van Gogh  
195 Elementary, an Egg Hunt at Bee Canyon Park on April 4<sup>th</sup>, and a  
196 Safety/Disaster Fair, which GHNNC will be working on. Bob Ricketts, who  
197 chaired the last Safety Fair/Disaster Event, asked the board to help make  
198 this year’s event as good as or better than last year’s.

199  
200 *Ad Hoc Graffiti Removal – (Pollok) moved, “That the GHNNC move the*  
201 **\$10,000 allocated for Graffiti Removal in the budget for fiscal year**  
202 **July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 to General Community Projects category**  
203 **of the GHNNC Budget. Further, for the fiscal year 2009-2010 the**  
204 **GHNNC budgets \$3,500 in the Graffiti Removal category.” The**  
205 **motion carried unanimously.** Ray explained that the graffiti removal  
206 project has received funding through the Council office already.

207  
208 *Parks & Beautification – Mary Ellen Crosby reported that the Egg Hunt this*  
209 *year at Bee Canyon will include a reference to donations by GHNNC. She*  
210 *has learned that the Parks Dept. will be looking to install a fireproof metal*  
211 *bridge by the entrance to O’Melveny Park. They are also looking at taking*  
212 *down the tall poles. The work to rejuvenate the park is expected to take*  
213 *about three months.*

214  
215 *Public Safety – Michael Greenwald gave a Safety report saying that the*  
216 *DOT has retimed the traffic light at Sesnon so traffic doesn’t get so backed*  
217 *up in peak travel times. He spoke about the Safety Faire and alerted*  
218 *residents to be on the watch for a red Saturn with Texas plates. The*  
219 *occupants are armed and dangerous and are known to be 2 – 3 black*  
220 *males who have been committing burglaries/home invasions in Porter*  
221 *Ranch and at the boundary of Granada Hills. If anyone sees this car, he*  
222 *suggested calling “911.”*

223  
224 **9. Board Member Comment on non-agenda items:**

225 There will be a dinner followed by an astronomy event at Van Gogh  
226 Elementary this Friday at 6:30 p.m. (reported by Leon on behalf of Ralph  
227 Kroy).

228 GHSNC board member Jerry Askew spoke about their efforts to remove  
229 illegal signage in the south end of GH. This effort is producing about \$10,000  
230 a month in fines for the City’s coffers. Efforts are underway to prevent  
231 Verizon from installing more telephone pole boxes which are large and  
232 intrusive.

233 Scott Manatt said the Board needs to focus on changing and updating the  
234 bylaws. He suggested putting together another Ad Hoc committee.

235 Pat Kramer mentioned that BONC board member Al Abrams has said that the  
236 City is looking to take about \$3,500 in funding away from each NC in the next  
237 fiscal year.

238 **10. Meeting Adjourned : 8:58 p.m.**

239

240 -Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-

241 - Amended by Skip Leifer, Recording Officer

242