

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, May 24, 2010 6:30 pm
Van Gogh Elementary School**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:40 pm by Leon Marzillier, GHNNC President. **Roll Call:** (Quorum established with 16 board members): **Present:** Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael Garcia, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Gary Holmen, Josh Jordahl, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollok, Jan Subar, Anne Ziliak. Late: Sid Gold. **Absent:** Mike Greenwald, Joe Vitti. [After the new Board was sworn in, present were new members Carl Buettner, Edward Headington, Rahim Kazi, Steve Steinberg, and Kim Thompson.] **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited. **Chair Comments:** Leon Marzillier noted the procedures for public comment and general participation in the Board Meeting.
- 2) **Approval of April 26, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes:** Minor corrections were made. **Motion to approve** carried unanimously.
- 3) **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**
 - a) **Glenn Bailey**, from Encino Neighborhood Council, spoke about the new proposed sidewalk repair ordinance. The City has not been keeping up with sidewalk repair over the last 37 years. In 2007, there were 57 miles of sidewalks awaiting repair. Now the estimate is for 640 miles, which would cost about \$1.2 Billion to fix. The proposed ordinance goes to the City Council soon. Five NCs submitted impact statements. In 2007 an advisory committee was set up, but it had not one neighborhood council member and not one representative from the San Fernando Valley. The ordinance will shift to homeowners both the responsibility to repair sidewalks, and the liability. (The City pays \$3-\$5M per year for "trip and fall" liability.) When a property is sold, the sidewalk must be brought up to code. The City can, however, require repairs at any time, and repairs will then have to be made within 90 days. The City will also charge a 40% administrative cost on top of the repair cost.
 - b) **Sean Rivas**, of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, announced that City Controller Wendy Gruel will speak at their meeting, at Granada Hills Charter High School, at 6:30 pm.
 - c) **John Bwarie**, Deputy District Director of City Council District 12, (CD12) spoke about City budget issues. The budget has been adopted by the City Council. There are some assumptions which may not come to fruition, for example the sale of parking structures may not be realized. That may lead to furloughs of City employees as early as October. Negotiations with service unions are ongoing. The budget for the Neighborhood Councils for next year stands at \$45k, though that could change.
- 4) **New Board is sworn in, by BongHwan Kim**, General Manager of DONE (Department of Neighborhood Empowerment). A new quorum was formed, with all members present (21).
- 5) **Motion:** (Executive Committee): *That the GHNNC appoint Gary Holmen as Youth Group Representative.* There was discussion of the City Clerk's error during the elections, which prevented anyone from voting for this seat due to the mistaken interpretation that only people under 25 years of age could vote for this position. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) **BongHwan Kim swore in the newly appointed Board member**, then a Q&A session followed. Participants wanted to know whether we could do anything to prevent the merger of DONE with another City department (CDD, Community Development Department). Kim remarked that the most important thing is to make sure that the *function* of DONE survives. Councilman Krekorian's E&N Committee (Education and Neighborhoods) has recommended a 90 day delay in the merger while the matter is discussed further. Kim has resigned as of the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. Discussion of City budgets led to a question about the promised rollover funds, and whether the money must be spent by June 30th. Kim said that is not the case, though because of the City's budget difficulties, anything may change. In response to another question about what NCs could do better, Kim remarked that the City has more than 4M people in more than 460 square miles. In his view, middle and affluent neighborhood councils are doing well, with people involved there is high participation, and the NCs are providing valuable information to improve city services. Clearly some NCs are struggling. It really comes down to one thing, leadership. Three NCs have been de-certified. Some in south L.A. are struggling, with no candidates for the upcoming NC elections. DONE's field staff has been reduced from 20 to 7 and can't do much to help.

The NC budget has survived several rounds of budget cuts, and that says something about the value of the system. There are about 1800 volunteers in the NC system. This is a grand experiment in L.A. New York has something similar, but participants are appointed, not elected. Elected participants are more answerable to the community than to political figures. Their impact is more clearly felt at council offices rather than citywide.

- 7) **Election of Officers: John Bwarie**, office of CD12, conducted the election for President. Barbara Iversen, a member of the PLUM committee, nominated Kim Thompson and spoke in favor of electing her. Cherie Mann, of Friends of O'Melveny Park, also spoke in favor. Bwaire opened the floor for nominations. Pollok nominated Leon Marzillier; Ziliak nominated Kim Thompson. Garcia asked to hear from the candidates, who each spoke for two minutes. Thompson won the vote, 16 to 6. Thompson took over the running of the meeting and thanked Bwaire for his role. Nominations were opened for Vice President, with Ziliak and Manatt nominated. Ziliak declined the nomination and Manatt was elected unanimously. For Secretary, Lewis was nominated by four people and won unanimously. For Treasurer, DeVandry was nominated by multiple people and won unanimously. Pollok was nominated by Marzillier and won unanimously for Financial Officer. For City Information Officer, Gold was nominated by Marzillier and won unanimously. For Outreach Officer, Headington was nominated by Lewis and won unanimously.
- 8) **Discussion of the District Two Representative.** Due to contested interpretations of our ByLaws by the City Clerk, Rahim Kazi was put into the District Two seat, which is meant to represent the industrial interests in our neighborhood, particularly the LADWP and the MWD. Both have significant upcoming projects expected to have a large impact on the community. There was lively discussion on how to remedy this situation, with the goal of keeping Kazi on the Board as elected. Discussion centered on moving him to another seat so that he can stay on the Board and yet not be in the seat reserved for industrial interests. Some argued that Kazi cannot possibly represent these interests, yet he was duly elected and so is entitled to a seat on the Board. Others maintained that the situation should remain as is. This was recognized as a subject for long debate and was deferred until the next Board meeting.
- 9) **Motion:** (Executive Committee): *That the GHNNC appoint an ad hoc Nominating Committee to recruit candidates for Board vacancies.* **Carried** 20-0-2.
- 10) **Assigning** responsibility for calling the first meeting for the various committees. Citywide Issues; Gold; Ethics, Steinberg; History (none); Outreach, Headington; Parks and Beautification, Crosby; PLUM, Ziliak; Policy and Rules, Marzillier; Public Safety, Pollok; Ad Hoc Nominating Committee, DeVandry. These will call the first meeting of the committees, which will then elect their respective chairs. Any stakeholder may participate in committees.
- 11) **Motion** (Executive Committee): *That the GHNNC approve the recommended budget and expenditures for the rollover funds.* Copies of the Rollover Budget – Version 1 for the Fiscal Year 2010 were passed out. Pollok clarified that even if passed, the funds cannot actually be expended until a new credit card is issued to the new Treasurer. Motion **passed** unanimously.
- 12) **Motion** (Executive Committee): *That the GHNNC approve the recommended budget and expenditures for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.* Pollok explained that this budget is preliminary, since the new Board has not voted on it, and the City has not approved the final budget. Copies of Proposed Budget- Version 1 for the Fiscal Year 2011 were passed out. **Carried** 20-1-1.
- 13) **Report from the Recycled Water Advisory Group (RWAG)** Hopkins. This was the third meeting of this group, not as well attended as before. Participants broke into groups, Harbor, Central, Westside, two Valley groups. Although the Sierra snowpack was heavier than normal, restrictions at the Sacramento delta and elsewhere are keeping water supplies tight for Los Angeles. We're still in Phase Three restrictions. There's discussion about altering the allowed watering schedule, so that MTh are for addresses with odd numbers, while TF are for even numbers. Restrictions about time of day, and two days a week, remain in force. The rate of replacement of old pipe is less than ½% per year. The large number of houses turning on sprinklers on the same day may be damaging marginal pipes. State restrictions prevent recycled water from being charged at a higher rate, though it costs more. Board members questioned the feasibility of charging more for recycled water anyway, if the city hopes to encourage large industrial uses for recycled water. The site for a tertiary treatment pilot plant has not been determined, and the LADWP is pursuing the environmental process for two sites, either of which would result in some undesirable result – the loss of the City's only cricket fields near the Tillman plant, or

losing land from Woodley Park instead. The Valley Generation Station is back on the table as a possible location for the treatment plant.

14) Committee Reports:

- a) **PLUM** (Ziliak): **Motion:** *That the GHNNC oppose the installation as proposed of a T Mobile Above Ground Facility on the northeast side of Woodley Ave., 434' southeast of Pineridge Rd, and support equipment on the northeast side of Woodley Ave., 609' southeast of Pineridge Rd.* There was discussion that the applicant needs to provide some camouflage for this equipment, which would become an eyesore if approved as is. Passed unanimously. **Motion:** *That the GHNNC submit comment indicating that we support the new Baseline Hillside Ordinance provided that any exemption or modification require a public hearing.* Carried unanimously.
- b) **Outreach** (DeVandry as out-going Chair): **Motion:** *That the GHNNC allow the Outreach Committee to create Twitter and Facebook accounts for the purpose of promoting GHNNC events and activities. These sites will be monitored and administered by the Outreach Committee.* There was discussion about appropriate safeguards. It was decided that this would be a good way to share photos and videos, and a good outreach vehicle. There should be no opinion or commentary. Carried 20-0-2. Observation that we would participate in Council District 12's Citrus Sunday event, in which stakeholders drop off fruit from their trees which we help collect and CD12 then passes along to food banks.

15) Board Member Comments: Kroy read aloud a lengthy commentary letter about the various errors and mishandlings of the City Clerk's office during the elections, some of which we are still trying to rectify. Lillenberg commented that he picked up a commendation at the Devonshire PD station for the GHNNC. Hopkins reiterated advice on emergency preparedness; if there is a major disaster, chances are emergency personnel will be occupied with helping mass situations and will not be able to assist individuals, who therefore must be prepared to fend for themselves for a few days. Gold offered to change his method of notifying Board members of upcoming Citywide Issues meetings. Thompson urged members to write to Councilman Krekorian opposing the merger of DONE with CDD. Steinberg offered to pursue the possibility of obtaining free meeting space for the June 28th meeting at the Adult School on Rinaldi St. Marzillier brought up the method of checking for conflicting meeting times at the office (Sue DeVandry keeps the schedule). Crosby thanked DeVandry for her long and effective service as Outreach Chair. Thompson talked about the importance of a Board Retreat to discuss our goals for the upcoming term.

16) Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm. Next meeting on June 28th, 6:30 pm, at Van Gogh Elementary school.