

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting  
Monday, January 3, 2011 6:30 pm  
GHNNC Office**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:36 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Rafael Garcia, Edward Headington, Gary Holmen, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Lydia Plescia, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson. **Absent:** Neysa Frechette, Sid Gold, Rahim Kazi, William Lillenberg, Steven Steinberg, Anne Ziliak. **Late:** Josh Jordhal, Ray Pollok. Quorum established with 16. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited. **Chair Comments:** Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders.
- 2) **Approval of October 26, 2010 and November 29, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes:** unanimous.
- 3) **Comments from Government entities:** Donna Smith, of LAUSD District 1, spoke about VRHS#4 (Valley Regional High School #4). Three groups remain who have applied to run this new high school. All have developed and submitted plans. The public is invited to an information meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Monroe High School. After the information segment, the community will be asked to cast an advisory vote. On January 29<sup>th</sup> the advisory vote will continue at Monroe High school between 9 am and 3 pm. The League of Women Voters will oversee the process. Mr. Cortines, the Superintendent of the school district, and his committee drawn from colleges and universities throughout the state, will make a recommendation to the Board of Education, which is expected to make a decision on February 22.
- 4) **Public Comment: Phyllis Dougherty** spoke about new proposed legislation which would increase the number of allowed pets (dogs and cats) from three each to five each per property. She has a concern that this would make it easier for “puppy mills” to continue to operate without licenses. She pointed out that there are an estimated 2M dogs in Los Angeles, only 108,000 of which are licensed. Only rabies shots are required for the license. There is very little enforcement because there are only 54 animal control officers on duty and they have to cover the city 24 hours a day 7 days a week. There are 1455 breeding permits. Questions and comments from the audience and Board members elicited the information that some foster groups may be for the legislation. This matter had been referred to the Citywide Issues committee, which declined to take it up. Now it was recommended that she take it to the PLUM committee instead. **Glenn Bailey** spoke about the problem of the city gardens. There are 9 of these throughout the city. The Rec&Parks Commission has raised the annual fee to users by 400% without notice. Mostly retirees and other people with limited income use these gardens to grow their own plants and vegetables. Some Board members agreed with Glenn’s observation that the department of Rec&Parks seems to have dropped the ball on several instances lately where they have held meetings without public notice, or changed them at the last minute. The same thing happened with the issue of the Aliso Canyon Park; meetings were held in new venues without notice. This is probably a violation of the Brown Act. Another issue in this area is the new proposal for parking meters at all commercial locations within CD12. The CD12 office denies this is the case, but Councilman Rosendahl, Chair of the City Transportation Committee, has asked for meters in all business districts, starting with CD12. There were many comments from attendees that the city is apparently so starved for money that they are resorting to these annoying raises in fees. On the topic of city sidewalks: in April the City Council decided to transfer responsibility for repairing sidewalks to the property owners, and asked the city attorney to come back with a proposed ordinance. This has now been done (City Attorney report of 12/10/2010 #051853). Property owners would be given 90 days notice to make repairs, using contractors from a city approved list. If not done within that time, the city would do the work and charge the property owner and add a 40% administrative charge. The City Council will vote on this. There were many remarks from attendees about the expected higher-than-necessary costs if only a select few contractors can be used. Also the 90 day notice period may be too short, as the repairs may be costly. **Navraj**

**Singh**, candidate for CD 12, spoke about his candidacy. He came here 35 years ago from India with \$7 in his pocket. He quoted Lee Iacocca (ex Chrysler CEO), that “there is a time to learn, a time to earn, and a time to return.” Mr. Singh says he wishes now to “return” by serving in the City Council. He opened 17 restaurants in L.A. He observed that in this recession we all have to tighten our belts, but the problem is that our leaders are not tightening theirs enough. Parking meters will not solve the budget crisis; Los Angeles needs to bring in more healthy businesses to improve the economy.

- 5) **Recycled Water Advisory Group** report (Hopkins): the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the group took place October 18 at the Sepulveda Garden Center, one of the gardens described before. This serves 800 families. About 75 attended. About 46.7cents per 100 cu ft from our water bills goes to fund recycled water and related project: \$62M for recycled (and treated) water, \$28M for conservation,\$7M for storm water capture, and \$1M for groundwater storage. Some of the recycled water is used for ground water replenishment, which takes 6-8 years to percolate. The DWP pays homeowners for replacing lawns with other acceptable alternatives. On parkways, they will not accept ivy, big bushes, or rock and gravel. There are 30-40 plants that qualify (information on their website); that will get a \$1/sq ft rebate. Sprinklers may not be used. Photographs, before and after, must be submitted. LADWP may go to 3 tiers for water rates. There is a pilot program for sea water desalination using reverse osmosis, in Redondo Beach.

6) **Committee Reports:**

- a) **PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management)** (Hunter): summarized the minutes of the last PLUM committee meeting (available at [www.ghnnc.org](http://www.ghnnc.org)), then talked about the process of reviewing and commenting on proposals for cellular towers. For example, there is one proposed as a “fat” flagpole at the site of the McDonald’s on Balboa at Midwood. The committee found that unacceptable and asked T-Mobile to come up with a better design. A new version using a “monopalm” has been developed, where the tower is disguised as a palm tree, which will fit in better at this location. Eric Lilliodahl of T-Mobile answered questions. He commented that the towers are needed because many people are dispensing with their land lines and using cellular phones instead, but often there is a problem with low signal strength inside buildings. There was a question about lack of reception in large parks such as O’Melveny; can they put cell towers in parks? The city does not allow it, but that may be changing, because people need to call police, fire department, etc.

- i) **Motion:** *That the GHNNC Board support ZA-2010-2702-CUW: 11840 North Balboa Boulevard for the installation of a cellular antenna conditional upon receipt of modified design of the stealth (antennas are under the dead palm fronds) and equipment cabinet, tree not to exceed 50-ft, existing tree be relocated to another area within lot, the equipment cabinet be screened with vines, that the structure and equipment be maintained, that the dead palm fronds shall screen the six-panel antennas in good condition at all times, and no co-location be permitted. Motion carried 15-1-0.*
- ii) **Motion:** *That the GHNNC Board submit the following comments regarding CPC-2010-1572 :ENV-2010-1573NG-10-226-PL: As proposed this ordinance should not be adopted. That moving the Historic Vehicle Collection Section 12.03 from Definition to Section 12.24X28 is appropriate and we support this change. Changes to the Findings for Section 12.24U and V are for Major Projects such as (1) Airports, (7) Electric Power Generating Plants, (18) Off-Shore Oil Drilling, (25) Sea Water Desalinization Facilities, etc. that have regional impact. That is why these are assigned to the City Planning Commission (CPC) for action. Changes to the findings for section 12.24W and X are smaller in scope. Proposals such as: (1) Sale of Alcoholic Beverages, (5) riding Academies, (9) Churches, (18) Dance Halls, (21) Fraternity/Sorority Houses, (49) Wireless Cell Phone Facilities, etc. are Site Specific. In most cases the impact of these Site Specific proposals are within an immediate area and the current set of Findings used by City Planning address each unique neighborhood. The residents of the neighborhood that is impacted want protection and clarity and not the academic generalization that will be utilized if the proposed changes are adopted. The Standardization of the Findings to a “New Core” listing does not fit ALL Conditional Use Categories, and will affect the most impact in our neighborhoods; therefore it is our recommendation that*

*Section W and X NOT be included in the proposed rewrite to the Zone Code. Inclusion of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is part of the determination /action for the decision maker and necessary. Omitting it would give the applicant the impression that CEQA is not required, which will cause unintended consequences.* There was a friendly amendment to add “and should remain there” after “assigned to City Planning Commission for action...” The amendment was accepted, and the **Motion carried 16-0-0.**

- b) **Outreach** (Headington): The GHNNC won a first-place trophy for best float at the Granada Hills Holiday Parade! Thanks to all who helped put it together. There is an Open House planned for March 5<sup>th</sup>. This has been rescheduled from an earlier date so there would be time to send out the newsletter. **Committee Chairs and others should turn in articles as soon as possible.** There will be a CD-12 candidate forum on January 31, which conflicts with our next meeting, but GHNNC is planning a later one, date to be determined.
  - c) **Policy and Rules** (Marzillier): The GHNNC is required to re-configure the Bylaws to conform to the new city-wide Table of Contents. This must be done by April 1. The next meeting of the committee will be Friday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.
  - d) **Public Safety** (Pollok): Following up on stakeholders’ request to do something about the traffic near Patrick Henry Middle school. There are many hazards in the area, including missing crosswalks. Subar is checking with the principal to see whether there is anything already in motion; otherwise this will be taken up with the DOT. The rails separating the sidewalk on Balboa from a precipitous drop at Bull Creek (north of the auto repair complex), have finally been replaced.
  - e) **Treasurer’s Report** (DeVandry): Copies were distributed of the Cash Flow report. There was a balance of \$51,098, but several big items (like the office lease) have not yet been paid.
  - f) **Finance Officer report** (Pollok): Comment that committee Chairs should check their budgets and make sure that committed purchases are not left until late in the fiscal year, as we have seen that the city then has problems with cash issues.
- 7) **Emergency Preparedness item of the month** (Hopkins): This month’s item is an emergency poncho. All attendees may take one.
- 8) **Board Member comments:** **Hopkins:** There is now a citywide project to fix potholes, on a first-come-first served basis. Stakeholders should call 311 and report the exact location. **Thompson:** can report potholes or graffiti also through an iPhone or Blackberry at citysourced.com, and send a picture of the problem and its GPS location. **Holmen:** suggested that, if members cannot respond or interact with public comment, then also the President should remain more neutral on issues and invited speakers. **Subar:** perhaps if we have our own candidate forum, we can spend more time with the candidates discussing issues closer to home. **Thompson:** we need more help with setting up and tearing down the meeting setup. All Board members will be required to help. **Thompson:** peer mentoring groups are setting up, to help new NCs come up to speed.
- 9) Adjourned at 9:01 pm.