

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, January 31, 2011 6:30 pm
Rinaldi Adult Center

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:36 pm by Scott Manatt, GHNNC Vice President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael Garcia, Sid Gold, Edward Headington, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Josh Jordhal, Rahim Kazi, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Lydia Plescia, Ray Pollok, Steve Steinberg, Jan Subar, Anne Ziliak. **Absent:** Gary Holmen, Ralph Kroy, Kim Thompson. Quorum established with 20. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited. **Chair Comments:** Scott Manatt welcomed stakeholders, as the GHNNC President was out of town.
- 2) **Approval of January 3, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes:** unanimous.
- 3) **Financial Reports:**
 - a) **Treasurer (DeVandry):** A Cash Flow Report for January 2011 was passed out, as well as a report of actual expenditures vs. budget. This showed a balance of \$50,786, but does not include items already committed, such as the office lease. A Board Resolution (DeVandry/Steinberg) was voted to approve the office lease, which had already been approved in conjunction with the annual budget. **Carried unanimously.** There was some discussion about various budget items. Question (Gold) about the cost of graffiti removal; Answer that the cost varies every year, and this year we're contributing \$1,000.
 - b) **Finance Officer's Report (Pollok):** Continued discussion of the actual expenditures vs. budget. The Outreach Committee has many large items that are semi-committed but where no final decision has been made. Pollok asked the Outreach Committee to finalize their plans. Also asked other committee Chairs to send him their revised budgets for the rest of the year.
- 4) **Public Comments on non-agenda items: Betty Moreno**, a stakeholder, spoke about the Frost Middle School PTSA, and asked whether garage sales are legal for the school. Board member Lillenberg responded that, if held on school property, there are no City restrictions; but the items must not block the sidewalk. Ms. Moreno said the garage sale would take place on a Saturday and asked for contributions. Headington said that if she e-mailed him the information, we would put it on our online community calendar. **Jeannie Plum**, a stakeholder, spoke about the meetings of the Recreation and Parks Commission; the Aliso Canyon Park project is again on their agenda for February 6th at their meeting venue at Exposition Park. They will vote on approving the design and letting it out for bid. She urged that the GHNNC continue to push for posting of trails in the new park. Current city ordinances prohibit wheeled vehicles on posted trails; the GHNNC has previously voted to make sure these rules continue to apply, thus mountain bikes cannot be used where they come in contact with hikers or horses.
- 5) **CD12 Report:** Vice President Manatt read an email from Megan Cottier, Field Deputy of CD12, who could not attend but sent a report of recent activities. The sidewalk grinding project has done 1854 "cuts" (each 1/8" deep, so that multiple cuts are often necessary on one bad sidewalk). There are about 2500 locations on the master list, of which 195 have been addressed. On mobile ad trailers – since AB 2756 passed, the City now has the authority to regulate these advertisement trailers. 30 have been cited; the penalty may be up to \$1,000 and/or 6 months in jail. Stakeholders wishing to report illegally parked trailers should call the DOT at 818-752-5100 (option 2) and provide the license number.
- 6) **General Announcements:** Manatt explained that he is presiding because the GHNNC President is out of town on a family emergency matter. Also spoke to Board members and requested that special-interest members give a report of their special interest activities on a rotating basis at least quarterly.
- 7) **Presentation:** Chrissy Scarborough of the Sierra Club handed out a flyer named "Beyond Coal" and spoke of the Los Angeles plans to replace coal as a source of energy for the LADWP by 2020. She asserted that coal is responsible for 30% of the CO₂ emitted, and that coal plants

produce 35% of the mercury in the air in the country. The IRP will be presented tomorrow (February 1st) at the DWP. Board member Hopkins clarified that only 39% of our energy comes from coal. DWP is committed to divest itself of the coal plant based on Navajo land. There were a few comments from the audience. Board member Gold said the issue had been discussed at LANCC (the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition), and said that the GHNNC should hear both sides of this issue.

8) Standing Committee Reports:

a) Outreach (Headington): There was no quorum at the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8th. There will be another candidate Forum (for the CD12 seat), sponsored by GHSNC, on February 17th. GHSNC has asked us for three questions for the Forum. Headington reminded all that at the December meeting the committee had decided to host a Forum during the runoff phase of the election for CD12. The OGHRG (Old Granada Hills Residents' Group) also will host a Forum on March 3rd at the library at Kennedy High School, open to the public.

The committee continues to work on a newsletter, hoping to get it out by the end of February. He again requested articles from committee Chairs and others. There was discussion about the necessity of holding a stakeholder meeting to approve bylaw changes (discussed below); perhaps we can time the newsletter to both announce our open house and to notify stakeholders of the bylaw meeting. This is advisable because the costs of mailing to nearly everyone in our area can run as high as \$4,000. Perhaps the Open House can be moved from March 5th to a later date to coordinate with the date of mailing.

On the budget for hosting a lunch for faith-based organizations, Kroy has rescheduled to March 15th. On the Spring Egg Hunt, Crosby spoke about conversations with Rec&Parks about moving the Hunt back to O'Melveny. She met with a lot of resistance. Rec&Parks said that the residents of the apartment buildings near Petit Park are less able to drive to another park, so the egg hunt will remain there. The Egg Hunt was originally developed by Friends of the Park and followed up by the GHNNC, but now Rec&Parks has assumed control.

b) Ethics Committee (Steinberg): There are still Board members who have not completed this required training (must be repeated every two years). Steve will send out the link to the online training, as plans for an office live version have not been completed.

c) Public Safety (Pollok): The railing at Balboa near Bull Creek has been fixed, finally. On the Frost Middle School pedestrian complaints, Subar has taken the lead and has invited the Principal to come to the next Public Safety meeting to discuss what could be done. Headington mentioned that he took part in the Community Policing Academy; there were representatives of 8-9 other NCs there. He will give a more complete report at the Public Safety meeting next month.

d) PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) (Ziliak): as reported also during Public Comment, the Aliso Canyon Park matter will go before the Rec&Parks Commission February 6th. We will re-submit our earlier letter, and Hunter and Lewis will attend the hearing. PLUM discussed the proposed changes to the City zoning code. One of the problems is that the issue is complex. Some of the changes make sense, but there is no overall roadmap of what the city is trying to do, so it's difficult to judge proposals out of context. No Motion will be submitted by the PLUM committee this month. Hunter spoke about Sunshine Canyon landfill – there are conflicting requirements by the SCAQMD and LA County requiring soil cover on the working face. There have also been 2 landslides in the last two weeks; more information will be available at the next meeting. A new cell tower has been installed at Woodley and Balboa, disguised as a cypress. This is one where PLUM worked with the applicant to improve the “stealth” design.

e) Policy and Rules (Marzillier): The City is requiring that the Bylaws be re-organized according to the new required Table Of Contents before April 5th. The committee thinks this date can be achieved, but we have requested a postponement. Marzillier proposed a stakeholder meeting an hour before the general meeting, on March 28th. Two meetings of

the committee are scheduled before that, on February 11th and March 11th. Question from Board member, does the Board not have to approve before a stakeholder meeting? An approval is necessary from stakeholders, but generally the Board should submit a matter for stakeholder approval, not a committee. The section of the Bylaws was read aloud, but again there were two different interpretations. Hunter asked what would take so long, if all we need is a cross-index? There was a lot of discussion on this; the requirement is not just for a cross-index; instead the bylaws sections must be reorganized. The content of the sections does not need to change. Manatt opined that this is basically a matter of editing, not changing, so the deadline is probably achievable. Hopkins objected to scheduling the stakeholder meeting immediately before the Board meeting – it would take too much time. Hunter suggested there should be a spreadsheet showing where things have moved.

Motion *To schedule Stakeholder Bylaw revision approval meeting March 28, 2011.* **Motion carried** 16-2-2.

- f) **Citywide Issues committee (Gold):** presented a series of motions from the committee:
- i) **Motion** [sidewalk repair] *That the GHNNC recommend that the draft report regarding Municipal code 62.194 as written be amended as follows: Property owners be allowed to pick any licensed contractor of their choice to do repairs, that property owners be given six months to complete repairs, any permits fees regarding the repairs including tree removal be waived by the city.* The words “that the GHNNC recommend that...” was offered as a friendly amendment and accepted. History: in 1904, homeowners were responsible for sidewalk repair; that changed in the ‘70s, when the city had the funds. There are more than 10,000 miles of sidewalks. There was a plan for a 50/50 sharing of costs, but that, too, dried up. Our recommendations are meant to accept that the homeowners will do the repairs, but also to make it easier for homeowners to pay for them. Recommendations will be sent via letter to the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Attorney. **Motion carried:** 15-0-5.
 - ii) **Motion:** *That the GHNNC offer the following amendment to the proposed increase of animals draft ordinance 10-0982 proposed by councilmen Rosendahl and Koretz be amended by addition as follows: That any dog or cat accepted onto a property, above the present number allowed per property, would have to be spayed and or neutered prior to being allowed onto the proposed property.* Hunter and Subar spoke against the motion; a friendly amendment to add the words “4 weeks or older” after “.accepted onto a property...”. Amendment carried 14-3-2 (one person had left the meeting, quorum still at 19). **Motion carried** 15-3-1.
 - iii) **Motion:** *The GHNNC recommend that Neighborhood Councils (NC's) through the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition (LANCC) form a task force to work with appropriate city officials and departments in exploring methods of conducting elections and report back to LANCC and the NC's any proposals prior to their implementation.* Question from Board member, should we offer to participate. It was pointed out that members of the Citywide Issues committee routinely participate. **Motion carried** 18-0-1.
 - iv) **Motion:** *That the GHNNC recommend that no City resources go toward the building of any private sport venue within the City of Los Angeles.* There was lively discussion about this issue; many commented that this prohibition would be overly broad. Others said the city is broke, the county is broke, the state is broke, and sports venues almost never bring in the amount of business projected. **Motion failed** 9-5-4.
 - v) **Motion:** *That the GHNNC recommend that the Department of Water and Power (DWP) retract the offered Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and work with appropriate consultants that will prepare an acceptable and understandable IRP.* **Motion tabled and referred back to committee**, as there have been changes to the IRP.
 - vi) **Motion:** *That the GHNNC oppose the propose fee increase on community farms, and supports the present fee level to be maintained.* **Motion withdrawn**, as the proposed fee increases have been deferred.

- vii) **Motion:** *That the GHNNC appoint representatives to work with the City Attorney's office.[on matters of interest to the GHNNC.]* **Motion carried** 17-0-2.
- viii) **Motion:** *That the GHNNC ask the DWP to allow NC representatives to have free access to parking at DWP facilities to attend DWP committee meetings.* An amendment was offered and withdrawn, that would have added a request for parking to be made available to the general public; it was thought that the DWP would be unlikely to consider this because of security concerns. **Motion carried** 18-0-1.
- g) Parks and Beautification (Crosby):** Crosby has been lobbying Rec& Parks to return the Spring Egg Hunt to O'Melveny Park where it started years ago through the efforts of the community. Last year Rec&Parks moved the event to Petit Park. They refuse to move it back, claiming that the residents of the apartments adjacent to Petit Park are more in need of this event. Some comments were made that Rec&Parks essentially "hijacked" the event. There was general consensus not to fund the project this year.
- 9) Report on sidewalk grinding project /Can of the Month / Emergency Preparedness (Hopkins):** Tomorrow (February 1) is the last day to turn in the sidewalk reports on areas that need grinding. Hopkins will take to Council office. Several squares in the map grid remained unclaimed by anyone. On "Can of the Month," Hopkins reminded people to bring a can to each meeting; they are donated to Valley food banks. The Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month is an emergency reflective blanket, free to all attendees.
- 10) Discussion of regularly scheduled Special Interest Director Reports (All):** Several Board members are elected to represent special interests, such as Environmental, Students, Neighborhood organizations, Faith-based, etc. They have not heretofore given regular reports. They are now requested to do so at least on a quarterly basis. Volunteers were requested for the try-out of this new process. Volunteers were Subaru (Neighborhood Organizations), Frechette (Student), and Plescia (Homeowners Associations).
- 11) Status of office computer, phone, copier, fax:** Manatt wanted Board members to be aware that all is set up and available for use.
- 12) Newsletter status (Headington):** This agenda item was mostly covered as part of the Outreach report. Headington has NOT received articles from anyone. It was repeated that the writing part of the newsletter must be completed by the end of February if we are to mail it timely for the stakeholder meeting and the open house. Headington to send an email link for where documents may be uploaded.
- 13) CD (Council District) 12 candidate forums:** The information was repeated about the one on February 17th at GHSNC and the one on March 3rd at the OGHRG (Old Granada Hills Resident Group).
- 14) Valley Regional High School #4 (Manatt):** the process of choosing who will run the new high school (Balboa near Devonshire) is coming close to completion. There was an advisory vote at Monroe High School January 29th; several Board members attended. Manatt recounted that different groups were given ballots in different colors (e.g., one for students, another for parents, another for community stakeholders), leading some to question whether different categories would be given more weight. Pollok added that he saw "a massive turnout." A decision is expected by February 22nd.
- 15) Future Board meetings:** It was noted that the May meeting falls on Memorial Day and should be rescheduled. May 23rd was proposed, but no decision was made. The June meeting is scheduled for after the end of the school year, which may cause problems at Rinaldi Adult school. Two Board members were to look at alternative venues for the summer, including the meeting room at St. Euphrasia school, which is often used by other secular community groups.
- 16) Board Member comments on non-agenda items: Gold:** "LA Clean Sweep" has endorsed either/both Brad Smith or Kelly Lord for the CD12 seat. **Steinberg:** the decision is now final that the "Community Day School" for troubled students will not be relocating to the site of the Rinaldi Adult Center. **Hopkins:** there is a flyer at the front of the auditorium that discusses the upcoming ballot measures.
- 17) Adjourned** at 9:05 pm.