

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting  
Monday, March 28, 2011, 6:30 pm  
Rinaldi Adult Center**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:45 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Rafael Garcia, Sid Gold, Edward Headington, Bill Hopkins, Josh Jordhal, Rahim Kazi, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Lydia Plescia, Ray Pollok, Steve Steinberg, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson. **Absent:** Wayde Hunter, Ralph Kroy; **Late:** Gary Holmen, Anne Ziliak. Quorum established with 19, then 21. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited. **Chair Comments:** Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders. Announcements: The GHNNC Open House date has been moved to May 21<sup>st</sup> from 4 pm to 7 pm. Food trucks will be in front of the VFW on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Ethics training class originally planned to be held at GHNNC offices will not take place, as it has been determined that the room cannot hold enough people; Board members are urged to take the course online. The NC elections committee has formally proposed to the city that the NCs take over the running of the elections rather than have the City Clerk run the elections as they did last time. The NCs would hire IEAs, Independent Election Administrators, as originally developed in conjunction with the League of Women Voters. This change is expected to save the city more than \$1 Million.  
GHNNC Reports from GHNNC Special Interest directors, scheduled for this meeting (Jordahl and Plescia) are deferred until the next meeting because of our special event. Later in the evening the Board will celebrate the decades of good work done by GHNNC Board Member and representative for Parks and Beautification, Mary Ellen Crosby, who is resigning and moving out of the area.
- 2) **Approval of February 28, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes:** approved with one abstention.
- 3) **Comment from Governmental groups:**  
**LAPD SLO Janine Angeles** reported on crime statistics in the LAPD Devonshire Division, which showed the most reduction in crime during this reporting period. The category of crime that remains the highest in the area continues to be “burglary/theft from motor vehicles.” She urged again that people not leave valuables in their cars, particularly where they are visible from the outside. There were also some burglaries; in one notable case, the thieves took a 400 lb. safe with all of its contents.  
SOLID, the volunteer organization that supports law enforcement, raised funds for a shooting training class. They plan a fundraising pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 am-10:30 am.  
On March 29<sup>th</sup>, LAPD met with representatives of the business community to discuss ways to decrease crime aimed at businesses.  
CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes will begin 6/27, and continue Mondays at 6:30 pm for six weeks.  
**Bill Larson (from city attorney’s office):** reminded the Board of the culminating hearing before City Council the next day, March 29<sup>th</sup>, downtown, on community care facilities. He commented that there is one such problem house in the Granada Hills area, with 100 residents, all of them ex-felons. The proposed ordinance is intended to strengthen the city’s ability to regulate these facilities. One change is to change from regulating the number of people to regulating the number of contracts. In another case, there was a raid in the area by federal agents, who found marijuana plants being grown inside a home. Residents were also committing credit card fraud. There was also a private home that was accepting stolen vehicles, which had their vehicle identification numbers obliterated. The criminals were brazen about it, openly using large trucks to deliver stolen vehicles to a residential address. Mr. Larson declined comment on the possible impact of the recently passed Proposition M on the City Attorney’s office.
- 4) **Public Comment: Julie Kim**, from Cleveland High School, spoke about the upcoming UN Global Debate project “People Speak” on Sunday April 10, 6:30-8:30 at CSUN. Topic: “all

nations should immediately ratify the UN convention of rights of migrants and their families.”

**Leeor Alpern**, SCAQMD, spoke about the upcoming Clean Air Fair at CSUN, which is geared at seniors 55+ of age. This includes a free lunch and a shuttle from the parking area. Information may be obtained at 909-396-2221. **Cherie Mann**, a stakeholder, spoke about a tour on Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 am at Chatsworth Reservoir, usually closed now to the public. This is an opportunity for the public to see the result of mitigation money.

- 5) **Elections for the Board Officers:** GHNNC President Kim Thompson turned the gavel over to Dave Beauvais, President of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, to manage the Board elections. Mike Kabo, also of the GHSNC, helped with the vote counts. The vote was taken in the reverse order listed. Results were:

**President: Kim Thompson.** Steinberg nominated Thompson; Thompson nominated DeVandry, who declined; Garcia nominated Hopkins. Vote: Thompson 17, Hopkins 1.

**Vice President: Scott Manatt.** Ziliak nominated DeVandry, who declined; Marzillier nominated Manatt; Jordahl nominated Ziliak, who declined; DeVandry nominated Subar, who declined. Vote: unanimous for Manatt.

**Secretary: Agnes Lewis.** Ziliak nominated Lewis. Vote: unanimous.

**Treasurer: Rahim Kazi.** DeVandry nominated Kazi. Vote: unanimous.

**Financial Officer: Ray Pollok.** Thompson nominated DeVandry, who declined. Lewis nominated Pollok. Vote: unanimous.

**City Information: Sid Gold.** Marzillier nominated Gold. Vote: unanimous.

**Outreach: Edward Headington.** Pollok nominated Headington. Vote: unanimous.

- 6) **Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month (Hopkins):** This month’s item, free to all attendees, is a triangular bandage. He reminded stakeholders that there are always copies of an Emergency Preparedness Guide at the table in the back, at Board meetings.

- 7) **Mayor’s Budget Day Report (Buettner):** He attended the annual event on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-12:30 downtown. The event was attended by the Mayor, the City Attorney, the Controller, NC Budget Advocates, and other luminaries. There were breakout sessions on various budget topics. The city is facing a massive shortfall next fiscal year. He thought the most significant part was a presentation by the City Attorney that made the point that the city must change structurally, not just on the surface, to get real budget reform.

- 8) **Committee Reports:**

- a) **PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) (Ziliak):** A large part of the committee’s work involves negotiating with applicants for permits for new cell towers, to build “stealth” towers that are disguised in order to better fit into a suburban environment. There are currently three applicants who have not returned with revised plans as requested, and the committee feels that the GHNNC should go on record with the city to oppose approval of the current designs. **Motion** *That the GHNNC recommend denial of the following installations of the Above Ground Facility (AGF): Adjacent to: 17925 Indian Meadows Place, 91344; East side of Sesnon Blvd (17550 Sesnon), south of Jolette Ave; and Northeast side of Woodley Ave., 434’ Southwest of Pineridge Rd., until the applicant submits additional information and an improved design to the GHNNC PLUM committee. Carried 20-0-1.*

The committee also would like to submit a response to the city’s environmental report on a proposed subdivision, where the applicant has applied for higher density than allowed in the Specific Plan. **Motion:** [ENV-2010-2866-EAF: 11756 Lerdo; Six lot subdivision and concurrent zone change] *That the GHNNC submit the following comments to the ENV: The proposed plan does not conform to the “Granada Hills Knollwood Community Plan” or the proposed update. This property is within the footnote 12 of our current community Specific Plan, which is one-acre minimum and in the pending update the zoning for this area is A1, A2, or RE-40, all at least one- acre. The slope of the property is significant and if this zone change is allowed it may not be possible to comply with the equine-keeping requirements for the “K” overlay zone. Carried unanimously.*

There was a discussion about mitigation money paid by Tom Clark, developer of The Cascades. He paid mitigation money to the city to fund a traffic light at Knollwood Plaza. Hopkins commented that the city acknowledges that they have it, and apparently the multi-year delay in this project is not due to a suspected absence of mitigation money. The City Attorney's office has apparently solved the issue of the public and private mixed ownership of the affected properties.

- b) **Policy and Rules (Marzillier):** working on bylaws, next meetings April 8; the committee is asking for an extension of the date for the stakeholder meeting to approve the changes. The discussion of the date was deferred until later in the meeting [see below].
- c) **Outreach Committee (Headington):** He attended the annual Mayor's prayer breakfast, as did Ralph Kroy. There were more than 600 attendees.  
The date for the Open house has moved to 5/21/2011 from 4 pm to 7 pm. Volunteers will be needed. Citrus Sunday will be Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>; volunteers are also needed for that. The committee is planning an outreach event in June, Line dancing. There are three possible dates and the venue will probably be at St. Euphrasia School. Question from a Board member on whether the event should be geared to families or adults and young adults. No motion was made and no formal vote was taken, but the members of the Board strongly favored an evening event primarily for adults. The Outreach Committee is also planning a movie night, possibly in August.
- d) **Public Safety (Pollok):** A neighbor has complained about child pick-up traffic at St. Euphrasia school. Apparently it has become less orderly than before. Pollok asked DeVandry to talk to them. The committee is planning to offer a CERT class to the public, date to be determined; this requires coordination with the LA Fire Department, which supplies the instructor. Hopkins is following up. Subar gave a report on the Neighborhood Watch sign project. 18 have been placed, and others are in the works. Subar is also continuing to communicate with the principal of Frost Middle School and the LAPD regarding traffic management near the school.
- e) **Treasurer's Report (DeVandry):** Handed out Cash Flow Report for February, and pointed out that the costs of the lease have not yet been taken out. The lunch for the faith-based group, authorized at \$200, cost about \$180.
- f) **Financial Officer's Report (Pollok):** will need "final" budget review next month; he does not expect us to have time for any further revisions. Items approved for this year should be procured before the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. There is still reason to worry about our funding levels for next year.
- g) **Citywide Issues (Gold):** The Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates will issue a report next week regarding the city's budget problem. They are coming out with proposals and defending NC funding, which they believe to be in danger. Gold reported that at a meeting of LAANC (Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) there was a report from Animal Services. Their staffing has been cut from 412 to 327, with some locations closing. This is causing a rise in the rate of animals euthanized.  
Gold commented on propositions I and J, regarding DWP accountability. The propositions were vague on how the oversight committee is to be chosen, leaving it up to the ordinance to clear it up. There are various proposals on how this should be done. He said it is important that neighborhood councils participate in the process.

There is increasing evidence that the city is considering putting parking meters particularly in commercial areas of CD12, in order to raise revenue. He pointed out that historically the purpose of parking meters was to ensure periodic turnover of people in a business area; the meters were never intended to provide a revenue stream. When the City of Ventura installed meters, foot traffic at nearby stores dropped by more than a third. **Motion:** *That the GHNNC oppose the installation of parking meters in CD12.* **Carried** 19-2-0.

The proposed football stadium downtown has been discussed thoroughly in the media. There is some concern that the project would end up costing citizens tax money. Mostly comments

from the Board were about taxpayer cost, in general for or neutral on the stadium itself, but opposed to using public funds. **Motion:** *That the GHNNC oppose all City financing in the form of bond support, subsidies, deferred taxes or fees, appropriation of property or any financial resources be provided to the developers of the proposed downtown football stadium.* Garcia offered a friendly amendment, to strike the word "football" so as to make our position more generally opposed to building any sports venue. The amendment was accepted, and **amendment carried** 20-1-0. The motion as amended **passed** 20-1-0.

- h) Executive Committee (Thompson): Motion:** *That the GHNNC move the date for the stakeholder meeting from Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 to Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for approval of bylaw changes.* It was clarified that this would be immediately before the Board meeting. **Carried** unanimously. There was discussion of hiring a note taker to produce minutes of Board meeting sooner after the meeting. **Motion:** *That the GHNNC hire DONE-approved staff for the purpose of taking monthly minutes.* Currently they are taken by the Secretary. The discussion was over the trade-off of timeliness versus cost. Some felt that Board members could then use the minutes as reminders of action items. Others felt that members should take their own notes for that purpose, and that the minutes were more of a historical record. Some said the minutes taken by a scribe did not properly weigh the subject but rather produced more of a raw transcription. There was a suggestion that a note taker produce preliminary minutes and the Secretary review and approve. No cost estimate was given. Steinberg called the question. Headington moved that the motion be tabled. Gold seconded. Carried 19-2-0. **The motion was tabled.**

**\*\*\*\*Special Event, recognition of Mary Ellen Crosby's long and effective service.**

Board member Mary Ellen Crosby is moving out of the area and has resigned her seat. The Board wished to recognize her many contributions to the community, and especially her tireless efforts to defend and improve the parks in the area. Dianne Kartiala, former deputy to Councilman Smith, presented her with a plaque. Ms. Crosby acknowledged receiving phone calls from the Councilman. Many Board members and many from the public spoke about their appreciation for her work. She also recounted many reminiscences of her interactions with the staff of the Recreation and Parks department, and with many people who enjoyed the parks. A celebratory cake was shared by all, amid fond and tearful remembrances.

- 9) Board Member Comments:** Steinberg reminded all that schools, including the Rinaldi Adult Center, are closed April 1<sup>st</sup>. Hopkins reported that the Recycled Water Advisory Group will hold meetings for the public in the Valley, date to be determined. Gold advised that there would be a NC Congress September 24<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

- 10) Adjourned at 9:05 pm.**