

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, April 25, 2011, 6:30 pm
Rinaldi Adult Center

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:40 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Sue DeVandry, Neysa Frechette, Sid Gold, Edward Headington, Gary Holmen, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Leon Marzillier, Lydia Plescia, Ray Pollok, Steve Steinberg, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson. **Absent:** Gary Holmen, Josh Jordhal, Scott Manatt, **Late:** Rafael Garcia, Rahim Kazi. Quorum established with 17, then 19. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited. **Chair Comments:** Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders.
- 2) **Approval of March 28, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes:** approved with one abstention.
- 3) **Comment from Governmental groups:** The new principal for Valley Region High School #4 was announced and introduced: **Dr. Vallone**. He spoke briefly about the plans for the upcoming term at the new school, which has an emphasis on the arts.
Megan Cottier of CD12, speaking after agenda item #5, said that the Community Care Ordinance was approved in committee and will now go before the whole City Council. She spoke about the sidewalk grinding project, where there were 834 cuts in January and 2029 in February and March. There was a ground-breaking for a new S.A.F.E. Center (Solvents, Automotive, Flammables and Electronics), to accept household hazardous waste; it's expected to open in about one year. Aliso Canyon Park contract to be heard at Rec&Parks May 4th at Exposition Park. No plans for parking meters in CD12. Sue DeVandry asked Megan to make sure our drop-off point is included in their publicity for Citrus Sunday. Ms. Bendikson, a stakeholder, spoke about the problem of mud from the landfill on San Fernando Rd when it rains; Ms. Cottier said she would look into it.
- 4) **Public Comment: Sean Rivas**, GHSNC is organizing a movie night on Father's Day at the Granada Hills Recreation Center ("Megamind"). Mr. Rivas invited us to send someone to their ad hoc committee on food trucks.
- 5) **Special Guest Speaker: Congressman Brad Sherman**. The Congressman currently lives in Sherman Oaks, but before that was a long-time GH resident. He sits on Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services. His District has changed in shape and content, but includes most of the current area since 2006. Referred to **Constituent Services**, led by Carolina Krawiec; they handle things like problems with Social Security, visas, and problems with any federal agency. He considers himself an environmentalist, and was familiar with the landfill issues. He **presented Certificates of Recognition to Wayde Hunter, Anne Ziliak, and Becky Bendikson** for their work in the community. There will be a **Town Hall Meeting** on May 15, 3 PM at new Performing Arts Center at CSUN, with free parking. A **Redistricting meeting** is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2 PM at the City Hall, City of San Fernando. Mr. Sherman spoke about his office's help with finding federal funds to fix potholes, vegetation management after the fires, and the study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor that is trying to save open space. He spoke about **US involvement in Libya**, and the wide range of opinions about what the President is and is not allowed to do. The Congressman felt that it is important to follow the Constitution, and that the President has 60 days from the first date of action to get Congressional approval. The cost so far is reported at \$600 Million, but that is just the marginal cost of the missiles used and does not include items like salaries of the military. There is also a big problem in that **some of the leaders of the Libyan rebellion have strong ties to Al Qaeda**. Rebels should disassociate themselves from rebel leaders who took an active role in killing Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan.
He took questions from audience. Julie Carson about **vocational education**; he agreed that this is one way for people to achieve a middle class living. David Hyman, a postal worker, asked about recognition of someone who will be 100 years old – one of the things his Constituent Services does; will also get a letter from the President. **John Gerfen** asked about **"bike path to nowhere"**, saying that \$10M was spent on 2.2 miles not connected to anything, but brightly lit at

night and disturbing nearby homes. The Congressman agreed that seemed excessive, but spoke about other transportation issues he supported. **Mark Reed**, who previously ran against him, asked about the “**14.4 acres of Veterans Administration land given away** by the federal government,” and of the “Valley’s 17% unemployment rate” and that “1 of 3 businesses are leaving the SFV.” **David Kaye** asked about the T. Boone **Pickens plan for natural gas** and wind turbines to “avoid putting money in the hands of our enemies.” The Congressman agreed that converting fleets of large vehicles like trucks and buses was a good idea; encourage gas stations to carry natural gas (NG). If only 8M trucks were to convert, that would decrease our dependence on foreign oil by 50%. The Congressman noted that most of our oil comes from Canada and Venezuela, but of course it’s all part of a global pool and it does not matter which side you take the oil from. **Myrna Davis** spoke of the **futility of the UN**, citing the fact that both Libya and Syria had been Chairs of the UN Human Rights commission. The Congressman replied that it’s dysfunctional, but would be much worse if we were not there. **John Hockman** passed around currency, a 100 Trillion Dollar note from Zimbabwe; he pointed out that the **US dollar is down 50%** vs. a basket of other currencies, making our gas and food prices higher. The Congressman talked about TIPS, the US Treasury’s Inflation-Protected Securities, and discussed the **tradeoffs between a weaker dollar**, which helps exports and creates jobs, versus a stronger dollar that keeps inflation down. **Leon Marzillier** asked about helping students of community colleges, where there have been deep cuts. Mr. Sherman talked of **increasing Pell grants**. **Wayde Hunter** wanted to know whether we could count on his support on landfill issues. Congressman agreed. **Agnes Lewis** asked about **increasing the number of legal visas**, particularly for highly educated people. The Congressman talked about abolishing the visa lottery. **Ralph Kroy** asked about the UN charter and the NATO charter prohibiting involvement in other countries’ internal affairs, so why Libya? The Congressman replied he would rather concentrate on US laws. **Neysa Frechette** asked about some companies like GE paying few taxes. Mr. Sherman replied that most talk is about **lowering corporate taxes** because ours are the highest in the world. Also about changing the rules about foreign profits. The Congressman ended his talk by reiterating his office’s willingness to help constituents. **The office number is 818-501-9200.**

- 6) **Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month (Hopkins):** This month’s item, free to all attendees: two emergency water packets. North Valley Emergency Preparedness Team picked the date of Saturday, October 1, exact time and place to be determined. The SCAQMD has a lawnmower exchange program (gas for electric). Recycled Water public meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 5:30 PM at the Sun Valley library, 7935 Vineland, Sun Valley; and May 17, 6:00 PM at Sepulveda Community Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino.

7) **Committee Reports:**

a) **PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) (Ziliak): Motion:** *That GHNNC submit the following comments to the City Department of Sanitation: That owners of non-high risk (OWTS) or Septic Tank Systems shall be required to get an inspection initially or within three years of the adoption of the ordinance, of all existing septic tanks by a licensed, certified service provider and there should be an opportunity for homeowners to repair minor problems.* **Discussion** centered on the reasons for the ordinance: Ziliak clarified that there was a Memorandum of Understanding that gave the City, after extensions, until June 30, 2011 to pass a law regulating septic tanks (“Onsite Wastewater Treatments Systems” or OWTS); if there is no ordinance by then, the State’s rules will apply, which are more onerous. This is the City’s third attempt at producing an ordinance. The rules have been made simpler. Owners of non-high-risk systems now can sign an affidavit every three years that their system is operational. The part in the Motion to require an inspection is so that there is a known beginning point. As currently planned, owners will not be allowed to make even very minor repairs; once there is a problem they would be mandated to hook up to the sewer; we think they should be allowed to make minor repairs. What makes a system “high risk” or “non-high-risk” is their distance from bodies of water. Comment (Gold): sometimes the cost is prohibitive; he knows one person whose cost would be more than \$70,000.

Comment (Lillenber): homeowners should be given an opportunity to repair; and there should be some limit to the cost they would be required to bear. **Carried:** 18-0-1.

Motion: *That GHNNC submit the following comments to the LA City Department of Sanitation and the County Assessor: if a property is required to hook up to a sewer the City provide a mechanism for the homeowner to pay the bonded sewer fee over time.* **Carried:** unanimously.

Motion: *That GHNNC send comments to the City, County, and AQMD to insist on immediate action [on odor abatement] since the number of odor complaints and Notices of Violation (NOVs) at Sunshine Canyon Landfill have increased astronomically.* **Discussion:** there were 221 odor complaints in March, the highest ever. Question (Gold): what is meant by "immediate action?" Answer (Hunter): The neighbors are tired of hearing that there are studies to find out what's causing the odors; it has gone on for far too long. The intent of the motion is to get one of the regulatory agencies to come in and apply whatever leverage they have in their jurisdiction to stop it. Comment (Garcia): the AQMD is the lead enforcement agency on this. This is a complex problem, and getting more agencies involved will make it worse. **Carried:** 18-1-0.

Tom Clark of The Cascades will be at next Plum meeting. His project provided the funds for the traffic light at Knollwood Plaza.

- b) **Outreach Committee (Headington): Citrus Sunday: May 15, 8:30-1:30 NEED VOLUNTEERS. Open House: May 21, 4-7 pm.** The President emphasized that **all Board Members are expected to attend.** The idea is to have "stations" in the office for the various committees; committee chairs are requested to make up a foam board of information about that committee. The **Newsletter** was delayed due to family emergency. Trying for Monday of next week; the newsletter team is taking over.
 - c) **Policy and Rules (Marzillier):** working on bylaws, next meeting May 13; may need more meetings before stakeholder's meeting. [changed after the meeting to May 6 and May 13.]
 - d) **Public Safety (Pollok):** discussion of "Drano bombs," turned out not to be in California. Girl hit by a car while biking to Kennedy HS.
 - e) **Treasurer's Report (DeVandry):** Approval of Third Quarter Report for DONE. **Approved** 18-0-1. The office lease, which has been in process for several months, is scheduled to be approved next week. Budget for next year is projected to be 10% less, \$40,500 if approved by City Council. Rahim Kazi to take over as Treasurer this month. There will be approximately \$21,000 left in the budget to spend on items for the balance of the year.
 - f) **Financial Officer's Report (Pollok):** New landscaping project from Neysa Frechette, on planting the corner of Balboa and Sesnon. There is money in the budget for beautification. Long discussion about the revised budget for the balance of the year as approved by the Executive Committee. Alternative proposal from DeVandry to pre-pay our office lease for next year (January-December 2012). Comment (Ziliak): We are not using Postal Plus anymore, so we should be buying a LOT of printer paper. Gold called for end to debate; Hunter seconded. Passed 12-4-3. Lewis **moved to adopt the budget as proposed by the Finance Officer.** Hunter seconded. **Carried** 12-6-1.
 - g) **Beautification Committee (Frechette):** Budget of \$750. Planting lots of succulents and other non-thirsty plants. Not specifically voted on, but budget item exists.
 - h) **Citywide Issues (Gold): Motion:** *That GHNNC contribute \$500 toward funding of the annual Citywide Congress of Neighborhood Councils.* **Carried** 16-0-3.
Motion: *That GHNNC submit comments on the process for appointing the Citizen's Committee, whose function will be to choose the Executive Director of the LADWP's Office of Public Accountability.* **Carried:** 17-0-2.
 - i) **Special Interest Representative reports** deferred to next meeting.
- 8) **Board Member Comments:** Kroy: there is a tree in Bee Canyon that needs to be removed: CD12 wants an approval letter from GHNNC. Referred to PLUM. Kroy: planning next faith-based event in the Fall. .
- 9) **Adjourned at 9:35 pm.**