

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting  
Monday, February 27, 2012, 6:30 pm  
Rinaldi Adult School**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:46 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Patti Costa, Sue DeVandry, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Josh Jordahl, Rahim Kazi, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, Bill Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Lydia Plescia, Ray Pollok, Steve Steinberg, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson. **Late:** Edward Headington, Sid Gold, Anne Ziliak. **Absent:** Neysa Frechette. Quorum established with 17, later 20. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited. **Chair Comments:** Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders. GHNNC congratulates Dave Beauvais, who was named by the Chamber of Commerce as the Volunteer of the Year. On a different note, Fresh & Easy opened February 22, at the site of the old HOWS market on Balboa near Midwood. At the City Council, committee assignments have changed. The Education and Neighborhoods Committee, which has jurisdiction over DONE and neighborhood councils, is now under Councilmember Parks instead of Krekorian. They will have a Valley meeting at the Braude Center on Van Nuys Blvd on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM.

On April 12<sup>th</sup> GHSouthNC and the Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a Congressional debate. GHNNC would need to help publicize it. In response to questions, Richard Fisk said the questions are still being discussed, nothing is yet firm. By a show of hands, there was near unanimous approval of helping to publicize the event. Glenn Bailey (audience) said that on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> there would be a meeting of the Regional Parks Coalition, and they requested a representative from GHNNC. Also on March 17<sup>th</sup> is a walkathon at the VAAS (the new high school). The community is invited.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the OGHRC (Old Granada Hills Residents' Group) will have its regular meeting at Granada Hills Charter High School; Councilmember Mitch Englander will be speaking.

- 2) **Approval of January 2012 Board Meeting Minutes:** (Buettner/Kroy.) There was a correction to an address at San Fernando Mission Blvd., from 5800 to 15800. Minutes approved as amended: 18-0-1.
- 3) **Comments from CD 12, any government agencies:** Megan Cottier of CD 12 spoke about changes at City Council. There is a new president (Wesson) and new committee assignments. Councilmember Englander is Chair of the Public Safety committee, and Vice Chair of Budget and Finance, and now also sits on the PLUM committee. At the last meeting between Mr. Englander and neighborhood councils, they met with Captain Kris Pritcher of LAPD. The City Council is moving into the budget season. The Mayor's budget survey will be released in April, and then the City Council will go through it line by line. On LADWP news, Dr. Fred Pickle has been appointed as Rate-Payer Advocate, and the Office of Public Accountability will be opening soon with a staff of four. Mr. Englander voted "no" on increasing LADWP rates.

Every 10 years the borders of the various districts are re-drawn, based on the current Census and community input. The Draft is out now and will next go to City Council for approval. CD12 probably will not have major changes; it is likely to lose parts of Encino and Lake Balboa and pick up West Hills. Some communities, though, have lines drawn through the middle, and those are likely to be contentious.

Award certificates were presented, one from the office of Tamar Galatza to Councilmember Englander for his work on the VAAS high school; the other to the Patriot Oil Trust Fund administered by the North Valley Coalition (Wayde Hunter accepting).

**Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Janine Angeles** introduced her associate, Officer Danny del Valle, and new officer Matt Cartwright, who was previously in the Police Reserves. Officer Angeles said there is good news – crime is down about 15% at Devonshire Division. There has been a CEP (Community Enhancement Project) for the area between Rinaldi and Roscoe, and Balboa east to the 405, where police have paid additional attention to combat an upward blip in crime statistics. That area represents 30% of all the Part I crime in the division, and crime there is now down 14%. The CEP continues until people start feeling safe again. The program moves around to address pockets of crime, and uses extra patrol cars, extra vice officers, volunteer surveillance teams, and all kinds of volunteers. The homeless encampment behind Knollwood Plaza has been cleaned up; there are issues about respecting their personal property rights. In response to a question from the Board, Officer Angeles said that they have

received complaints about a reportedly fake spa/massage business at the shopping center at Woodley and San Fernando Mission; they are working on it. She said people can anonymously report suspected crimes, and the LAPD will investigate without revealing the identity of the complainant. Neighborhood Watch groups are helpful in reporting license plate number or vehicle descriptions. Her phone number, for use primarily of the NC, is 818-325-7749. Another Board member reported a graffiti problem near Van Gogh elementary school. She suggested complainants take a picture and report it. If they find the perpetrator, they will then prosecute for all the traceable instances.

- 4) **Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month (Hopkins):** this on-going program helps attendees collect emergency preparedness items for their household emergency kit. This month's item is an N-95 mask for particulate matter, useful in the event of an earthquake or high winds. Mr. Hopkins also announced the start of a CERT class on March 6<sup>th</sup> in the community room at Fire Station 87 on Balboa south of Devonshire.
- 5) **Public Comment:** There was none.
- 6) **Discussion of Spring Egg Hunt Event:** Evelyn Gregoryana for Sean Rivas, from the Granada Hills Recreational Center (part of the Los Angeles Parks & Recreation Dept), asked for a \$500 contribution to the Spring Egg Hunt event. They have no sponsors at the moment. Sponsors will get a banner on the "sponsor wall" at the event, and their logos will be on flyers publicizing the event. This will take place Saturday, March 31, from 10:45 AM on, at the Petit Park venue. After brief discussion, this was referred to the Outreach committee for consideration.
- 7) **Sunshine Gas Producers (at Sunshine Canyon Landfill) (Lou Wilkerson, of DTE Biomass Energy):** This company is developing "biomass energy recovery" at the landfill, reducing overall air emissions. It is a joint venture between Sunshine Gas producers and DTE. They have been doing these kinds of projects for more than 25 years. At the landfill, the project began in 2007. An EIR (Environmental Impact Report) was submitted in 2008, issued in 2011, and now in the final stages of review, incorporating comments from public hearings. The core finding is that the project will cause "no significant impact" on the community. According to the SCAQMD, the project will have the lowest emissions in the Southern California; the speaker believes they are also the lowest in the country. The conversion of landfill gas to energy is recognized as a beneficial activity. Since the EIR was issued, they have significantly lowered NOx, CO, and organic emissions anticipated from the project. There has been some concern voiced over particulate matter. The particulate matter emissions are to be the lowest of any permitted anywhere, and represents less than 1/1,000<sup>th</sup> of the background volume of particulate matter. The speaker believes there will be a positive impact because it will help the landfill reduce emissions and collect a higher percentage of the gas emitted. It is projected that NOx emissions will remain about the same; CO (carbon monoxide) will be much less; PM (particulate matter) slightly higher but insignificantly so; as measured at the perimeter of the landfill, less than 1/1,000 of background levels, and decreasing with distance.

Question (Gold): How much gas is going to be produced? Is there an economical advantage to the city? Answer: DTE does not collect the gas, the landfill does; projected at 12,000 CFM (cubic feet per minute). DTE pays royalties to the landfill. They produce electricity, which is sold for 12 cents per kilowatt-hour (kwh). The project will cost almost \$70 million to build, and will generate about \$1 million/year of revenue. The information is not yet on the website, but they will provide it. Comment (Hopkins): He is concerned that any increase in PM 2.5 (particulate matter of 2.5 microns in size, so small that lungs cannot clear it). Ms. Thompson asked Ms. Costa, from SCL, to comment – she said the landfill is doing lots of contributing work on gas systems, and that this will help with the odor problem. Comment (Ziliak): The project is in general a great idea; but our position has been that whatever is done should not make emissions worse in any fashion. This project increases PM2.5 volumes, and those are the worst for health. At the request of CD12, members of the PLUM committee met with DTE, but nothing has changed. GHNNC does not want them to purchase offsetting pollution credits elsewhere to enable them to make matters worse locally. Comment (Hunter): The original letter said that, while the project would otherwise be very worthwhile, the level of PM2.5 makes the project unacceptable. Analysis on the impacts considers each step separately and not cumulatively; the total impact on the community is approximately 20 additional tons of pollutants per year. **Motion:** *That GHNNC re-submit a letter in*

opposition (letter of 6/20/2011), and submit a new letter in response to SCAQMD. (Ziliak/Hopkins). The deadline for comment is March 1<sup>st</sup>. **Carried** 18-0-0 with one recusal (Costa).

**8) Committee Reports:**

**a) PLUM (Planning and Land Use) (Ziliak):**

ENV-2010-2866-EAF: APCNV-2011-2895-ZC: 17760 Mayerling/11756 Lerdo.

**Motion:** *That GHNNC deny as proposed and submit comment to the City Planning Department stating that this property is within the footnote 12 area of the Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan, which states that each parcel in this area is to be one-acre minimum.* Discussion: This is a 5-acre property within a K zone (horse keeping). The current Community Plan, within footnote 12, calls for 1-acre minimum lots. The applicant wants to keep about 3 acres for his own home, plus put four homes in the remaining 2 acres. Because of the highly vertical slope in part of the property, there would be limited areas for the required potential horse pad. In the new version of the Plan, this would be an RE-40 zone, requiring 40,000 sq ft, (1 acre = about 43,000 sq ft). Friendly amendment (Lillenberg) to add to the Motion "without any averaging of lot size," was accepted. **Carried** unanimously as amended.

Regarding the increase in graffiti problems in northern Granada Hills: the advice is to take pictures and call the West Valley Alliance (818 885-8885), which will remove it within 72 hours. Two AGF proposals (Above Ground Facilities, meaning cell tower equipment) were pulled by the applicants, so are dormant: one at Sesnon near Jollette, the other at Woodley near Pineridge.

**b) Treasurer's Report (Kazi):** The written report was distributed. **Motion (Kazi/DeVandry):** *To approve the Treasurer's Report for February.* **Carried** unanimously.

**c) Financial Officer's Report (Pollok):** The fiscal year end is rapidly approaching, and DONE will have an early cut-off again this year, past which funds cannot be spent. Committee Chairs and others are asked to submit their budget requirements for the period through June 30; this needs to be approved by the Board at the next meeting. The deadline for spending will be middle of May for demand warrants, and probably middle of June for the purchase card.

**d) Executive Committee:** The next meeting will be Thursday, March 22, at 5 pm at the office.

**e) Public Safety (Pollok):** Three members attended the meeting with Councilmember Englander which had been billed as a meeting on public safety, but was instead on broader topics. A main speaker was Captain Pritcher of the LAPD. Ms. Subar remarked that he seems to be a good and active captain, and seemed to be well aware of the issues in the area. Mr. Pollok and Ms. Subar remarked that other NCs reported an impressively wide range of community activities. On the issue of traffic control at Frost Middle School, after the GHNNC meeting with the principal, a parents' group took responsibility of the issue, had some lanes repainted, and created in places a one-way traffic flow. The committee considers this issue resolved. The parents should be applauded for their efforts.

**f) Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee (Hopkins):** The first meeting was held at the office, and there were 19 people in attendance. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the office, with representatives of the Red Cross talking about handling the aftermath of disasters.

**g) Policy and Rules (Marzillier):** The committee is asking for approval of the changes made to Standing Rules. In many places in the Bylaws as submitted to DONE, there is a reference to Standing Rules, so those must be current. Parts changed or added include the use of Rules of Order; a Censure and a Removal paragraph, as advised by DONE. Comment from Ms. Ziliak, that she does not understand the need for specific Rules of Order for committees: she has been chairing one since 2004, and can recall only two instances where there was a need to settle issues. Ms. Lewis said that the Rules really don't come into play until there is a need to settle a disagreement that cannot otherwise be solved. Ms. Thompson said she favored the use of "may...use" rules, as opposed to "shall." Mr. Marzillier commented that all organizations need *some* set of rules, otherwise there is chaos. There was a lengthy conversation about "talking things out" versus closing debate; it was pointed out that a 2/3 vote is needed to close debate. Mr. Marzillier then asked for votes on specific parts of the Standing Rules.

**Motion:** *To change the word "shall" to "may" in the portions regarding Board meetings.* **Failed** 6-8-4, and "shall" stays. **Motion:** *To change the word "shall" to "may" in the portions regarding*

committee meetings. **Carried** 10-6-2. **Motion:** *To accept the Standing Rules as amended.* **Carried** 14-2-2.

h) **Citywide Issues (Gold):** Mr. Gold introduced Eric Petrosian, who has been attending Citywide meetings.

**Motion:** *That GHNNC support the development of an MOU between NCs and the DWP Office of Public Accountability and the Independent Rate Payer Advocate.* There was discussion that the NCs should be informed of the contents of the MOU with sufficient time to comment. **Carried** unanimously.

**Motion:** *That GHNNC support LA City NCs that are attempting to establish local NC elections or selections for the year 2012.* Discussion ensued about the Board straw vote the previous month indicating that GHNNC would rather not hold elections this year. Ms. Thompson remarked that each NC may hold elections if they want to, so it is not necessary to have this motion. Mr. Gold said that the issue is one of budget - who pays. It is unclear whether it can be done at all. He wants to write a letter to DONE and the City Clerk on the matter. Mr. Manatt commented that the proposal is well intentioned, but would serve to deepen the division between the haves and the have-nots. Motion **failed** 2-15-1.

**Motion:** *That GHNNC support efforts to establish an Orange Line bus stop at the corner of Saticoy and Canoga.* Discussion revealed that the budget has been there; it just means adding a bus stop; the cost is approximately \$10,000; the area was just re-districted, and the former Councilmember was against it but the new one is for it; lots of people had spoken in favor of this. **Carried** 14-2-2.

**Motion:** *That GHNNC support the original draft of the redistricting commission that established 5.5 majority council districts in the San Fernando Valley and oppose the draft revision that would have diminished the number of SFV majority Council districts.* Under the revised redistricting proposal, District 4 went "over the hill" to the Westside; and 2 seats would effectively be taken away from the Valley. Strange districts are proposed – for example, Koreatown would be divided among **four** districts; Westchester would lose control of the airport. **Carried** unanimously.

i) **Outreach Committee (DeVandry):** Another Summer Social is planned for early July; a Luau theme is under discussion. The newsletter subcommittee met. Committee Chairs are asked to submit articles by March 26<sup>th</sup>; the absolute deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. There is also discussion of a social activity to promote fellowship among Board members – perhaps a bowling outing. Costs to be investigated. Ms. DeVandry and Ms. Subar were joined by Ms. Thompson at the opening of Fresh & Easy to hand out information about GHNNC.

9) **Board Member Comments:** Ms. Lewis said that Mr. BongHwan Kim and Ms. Amelia Herrera-Robles of DONE had commended the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Goals and Priorities and asked about using it as an example for Best Practices for neighborhood councils. Mr. Steinberg spoke about the LAUSD budget meetings, where the total cancellation of the adult education program was under discussion. The Board of Education instructed LAUSD to come up with an alternate budget proposal that would *not* eliminate this important educational segment. Our model letter and vote were used by many other neighborhood councils.

10) **Adjournment (Manatt/Steinberg):** at 9:01 PM.