

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council

Name: Philip A. Gasteier

Phone Number: 310-277-7400

Email: pgasteier@RDWLAWCORP.COM

Date of NC Board Action: 03/17/2009

Type of NC Board Action: General Comments

Impact Information

Date: 04/16/2009

Update to a Previous Input: Yes

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 08-2020

Agenda Date: 04/21/2009

Item Number:

Brief Summary: Supports: (1) effective codes; (2) CPC proposal, generally; (3) retaining on/off site distinction; (4) funded ordinance enforcement; (5) private right of action; (6) significant fines; (7) no new sign districts; (8) prohibition of supergraphics, digital signs and new roof signs; (9) identification of current and future illegal signs; (10) special task force; (11) nonconforming signs amortization; and (12) appeals by neighborhood councils.

Additional Information: Items 3 and 10 fully addressed in proposed ordinance, items 2,4,5,6,7,8,9, and 12 partially addressed, item 11 not addressed.

GGPNC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Philip Gasteier
VICE-PRESIDENTS
Bruce Carroll - Administration
Rosemary DeMonte - Outreach
TREASURER
Tomas O'Grady
SECRETARY
Mark Mauceri



**Greater Griffith Park
Neighborhood Council**
*Your Neighborhood. Your Voice.
Your Council.*



PO Box 27003
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323-908-6054
www.GGPNC.org
GGPNC@GGPNC.org
Certified Council #35

Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Rm 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

April 16, 2009

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

- Council File Number 08-2020

The GGPNC Board supports: (1) **continuing the process** to get effective and valid codes; (2) the **generally excellent solutions (some exceptions)** of the CPC proposal; (3) retaining **“on site”/“off site”** distinction; (4) effective, well funded **ordinance enforcement**; (5) **private right of action** for all persons impacted if city fails to act promptly; (6) **significant fines** for violations by sign companies, property owners, and advertisers; (7) **no new sign districts**; (8) **prohibition of supergraphics, digital signs and new roof signs**; (9) **identification** of current and future **illegal signs**; (10) **special task force**; (11) **nonconforming signs** provisions including **amortization**; and (12) **appeals of orders to comply by** neighborhood councils.

This statement is based on a two page letter to the City Planning Commission with a copy to each City Council person that was given consensus approval by a quorum of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council Board on March 17, 2009. The letter was given to each Commissioner at their meeting on March 18 and delivered that day to a person in each City Council office. The letter was previously approved unanimously by the members of the Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation Committee (PZHP) on March 9, 2009.

This CIS supplements the one dated December 17, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Gasteier', written over a faint dotted line.

Philip Gasteier, President, GGPNC Board

cc: Council Members Tom LaBonge, CD 4 and Eric Garcetti, CD 13

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March 17, 2009

City Planning Commission
City of Los Angeles
City Hall
Room 525
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

CPC-2009-0008-CA
Proposed Amendments to Sign Regulations
Hearing Set for March 18, 2009

Dear Commissioners:

Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council considered the proposed sign regulations contained in the Recommendation Report of the Department of City Planning dated February 19, 2009, at its meeting earlier this evening. This review followed a meeting of GGPNC's Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee on March 9, 2009, at which Mr. Alan Bell of the Department presented the proposal and responded to questions. Both the GGPNC meeting and the meeting of its committee were duly noticed and available for public comment, which was received at both meetings.

We advise you as follows:

1. We believe that the recommended regulation of signage as proposed by the Department under your direction is generally an excellent solution to the current problems of proliferation of illegal and offensive signs. We congratulate both you and the Department in your leadership in this regard and **urge you to continue the political process of substantial revision of the zoning and other codes regarding this problem.**

2. We believe the distinction between "**on site**" and "**off site**" signs should be retained; however, a definition of "on site" sign should be adopted to truly reflect the common-sense distinction, such as providing that a sign which advertises a product or service sold on site must be for a product or service that provides no less than a certain percentage (e.g., 25%) of that business's monthly income during the period the product or service is advertised.

3. We believe the City must commit to providing a substantially larger number of employees to **enforce the ordinance**, which should be funded by effective collection of fines owed by violators. Thus, the fines should go first to fund enforcement and then to the extent the fines exceed the cost of enforcement they should go to general funds. Alternatively, inspection fees should be set at an amount to adequately fund the cost of enforcement.

4. We believe a **private right of action** should be available to all not just those living or owning property within a specific boundary. The ordinance should provide for the payment out of the administrative or court proceedings for legal and "bounty" fees for successful prosecution. This will encourage enforcement. The private right would arise only if the City fails to take prompt action first after notice of violation.

5. We believe **fines** should be imposed against the person or entity determining the message on the sign (i.e., advertiser) as well as the land owner and owner of the sign. Enforcement might include revocation of the offender's business license if there are any unpaid fines.

6. We believe there should be **no new sign districts** allowed. Moreover, we believe there should be no "grandfathering" of sign districts for which applications were filed after July 29, 2008. As to any sign district benefiting from grandfathering or if new sign districts are allowed such sign districts should be regulated so that (a) new signs in such a district will be offset by the removal of an equal number of square feet of signs in the area abutting the sign district, (b) provision shall be made that areas outside of the district will be protected from the effects of signs within the district and (c) notice of a proposed sign district be broadly provided to areas adjacent to the proposed district with full opportunity for those outside the district but potentially affected by it to be heard.

7. We support continued **prohibition of super graphics, digital signs and new roof signs**.

8. We believe the Department of Building and Safety should promptly perform its obligation of **determining which of the signs in the City are now "illegal"**, not having been constructed in accordance with a permit, and enforce the applicable current ordinances.

9. We believe there should be a **special task force** of representatives of the Department of Building and Safety, the Planning Department, the City Attorney, the Fire Department, the Department of Water and Power, the Community Redevelopment Agency and representatives of the public such as neighborhood councils to review and report to the City Planning Commission on a regular basis the effectiveness of the current ordinance and any new

ordinance, with recommendation for modification. The cost of such a task force should be assessed as part of the business tax on billboard operators.

10. We believe proposed Section 14.4.20, relating to continuation of **nonconforming signs**, should be modified to incorporate an amortization schedule. Following the amortization period the nonconforming sign shall be removed, and signage shall conform to the sign ordinance then in effect.

11. With respect to **appeals of an order to comply** - we believe that notice should be given to abutting property owners and the neighborhood council for the area of the date, place and time of the hearing. Abutting owners as well as neighborhood councils have an interest in such matters and should have the opportunity to comment.

12. We believe the **City should apply the principles adopted for signage on private property to their own property** to the extent the signs and properties are comparable.

Very truly yours,

Philip Gasteier, President

By Kenneth E. Owen
Chair, Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee

Cc:
Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Members of the City Council
Alan Bell, Department of City Planning



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**GREATER GRIFFITH PARK
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TREASURER
Tomas O'Grady

SECRETARY
Mark F. Mauceri (interim)

**GOVERNING BOARD
UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 – 6:45 pm

Los Feliz Community Police Center
1965 North Hillhurst Avenue, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90027

CERTIFIED COUNCIL #35
PO Box 27003
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0003
(323) 908-6054

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01. CALL TO ORDER:

6:50 PM – By Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC)
President PHILIP GASTEIER.

Boardmembers present (16*): ARSLANIAN (partial), CARROLL, DEMONTE, DE
OCAMPO (partial), GASTEIER, HOOPER (partial), HOWE, LOUYSE, MAUCERI,
O'GRADY, OSTROW, OWEN, SOTER, WILSON, VIGDERSON.

Absent (03): KERR, NAPIER, and UEBERSAX.

A quorum was declared.

*HYAMS (7:20 PM) joined after selection procedures (agenda item 6).

02. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

7:00 PM – GASTEIER requested a motion to approve the January 2009
meeting minutes (as revised) and February 2009 Board Meeting minutes
(as revised). District E Representative, BRUCE CARROLL moved to
accept, seconded by Appointed Boardmember: At Large, TOM WILSON;
approved by consensus.

03. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

7:03 PM – None.

04. REPORTS: PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CITY STAFF:

7:05 PM –

- a) JULIAN HARRIS-CALVIN, representing Councilmember Tom LaBonge,
spoke about the Griffith Park Historical Monument dedication
service, recent tree planting events and Friday's Spring Equinox
Hike.
- b) BETTY WONG-OYAMA, DONE Neighborhood Council Project Coordinator,
spoke about an upcoming ethics seminar on April 29th, pointing out
neighborhood council members were required to renew their ethics

training every two years. New Boardmember orientation will be held March 31st, and a DONE Roundtable on April 30th. The DONE Website will be updated with all pertaining information and an email blast will be sent out Thursday, March 19th to all members detailing new policies, etc.

- c) JOHN HISSERICH, Representative for CA Assembly Member Paul Krekorian, spoke on the success of the recent film festival, stated he will be presenting a full list of legislative bills pending at the next Board meeting, and will be emailing information on an upcoming open house.

- c) GREG BARTZ, L.A. Department of Water & Power (DWP) Liaison, distributed a letter and handouts, speaking to infrastructure upgrades, two DWP programs in place - Power Reliability Program (PRP) and Water, Infrastructure, Power and Reliability Program (WIPRP). He also confirmed the hiring of two (2) additional DWP liaisons, offered his assistance in any city service matters and provided the new address of the District Office:

Greg Bartz
300 East Magnolia Boulevard, Suite 504
Burbank, CA 91502-1145
(818) 558-3043 (t)
(818) 558-3042 (f)

05. NORTHEAST DIVISION SENIOR LEAD OFFICER REPORT:

7:19 PM - None.

06. SELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER TO FILL VACANT SEAT:

7:20 PM - Boardmembers discussed the qualifications of candidates to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Kurt Rademaekers.

Candidates:

WILL EDMUNDSON, TOM HILLARD, TOR HYAMS, ASHLEY MADDOX (in absentia), and MATT SUMMERS. Each Candidate spoke about themselves, and their interest in joining the GGPNC Board.

7:33 PM - Gasteier opened the floor for Public Comment; none.

7:35 PM - Gasteier opened the floor for candidate questions & answers from the Board.

8:15 PM - Gastier opened the floor for further Board discussion and then called the vote.

ELECTION RESULTS:

Will Edmondson	(01) Votes
Tom Hilard	(03) Votes
TOR HYAMS (SELECTED)	(11) VOTES
Ashley Maddox	(00) Votes
<u>Matt Summers</u>	<u>(00) Votes</u>
	(14) Votes Cast*

TOR HYAMS was welcomed and seated on The Board. The other candidates were thanked for their participation and marked preparedness.

*DE OCAMPO not included in voting.

08. TREASURER'S REPORT:

8:22 PM – District D Representative, TOMAS O'GRADY presented the recommendations of the Budget and Finance Committee and moved to "Adopt the 2008/2009 fiscal year budget as presented with the following stipulation: further Board approval required for items denoted 'Special' as Treasurer must submit to DONE for final approval."

O'Grady discussed budget line items, the amounts already spent, and the earmarked amounts denoted: 'Special,' as those being ones still requiring Board approval.

RICHARD SPICER, PZHP Committee member, commented there were outstanding amounts (particularly PZHP Committee photocopying charges) not reflected, as they haven't been submitted for payment.

Gasteier commented in general about the Finance Committee's history and responsibilities, how fiscal Budgets were remiss in the past, how the pace has been picked up under O'GRADY and the present Budget Committee, and how with these new tools, various Committees could work towards economizing expenditures.

District E Representative, MARK MAUCERI, moved the Board to approve the Items marked on the first two pages as 'please approve' and for the Board to approve page 3 as the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget to be submitted to DONE by the Treasurer; District B Representative, RON OSTROW, seconded.

With no opposition, Gasteier declared consensus; motion passed.

08. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

9:05 PM –

a) DONE Agenda Language

Mark Mauceri discussed new DONE public access language requirements required for incorporation into posted meeting agendas. This language would be put into a new meeting agenda template he would distribute to Committee Chairs.

b) Distribution of Meeting Minutes

Mauceri explained electronically distributed meeting minutes couldn't be discussed or amended through email as that action violated the 'serial meeting' provisions of The Brown Act; he would be getting further clarification from DONE on what was is an acceptable method of gathering errors and omissions feedback prior to the next meeting.

c) Committee Information

Missing committee roster information and gaps in published meeting minutes need to be rectified. Committee Chairs would be contacted to submit forms to bring the rolls up to date

d) CIS Submission System Being Upgraded

At the bi-monthly Board of Neighborhood Commissioners' (BONC) meeting, the City Clerk's staff demonstrated the new Internet based 'CIMS' system for submitting Community Impact Statements going into effect in the near future.

09. CULTURE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE:

9:15 PM – Chair, NYLA ARSLANIAN, introduced SARO SHIRINIAN from the LITTLE ARMENIA – ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL who spoke about the event being held on May 24, 2009. He presented a funding request for \$4000 earmarked to cover the cost of the sound system; included would be booth space for the GGPNC and prominent outreach signage rights both at the event and in conjunction with other advertising.

DISCUSSION:

Appointed At Large Boardmember, TOR HYAMS, had questions on the sound system specifics, as his concert coordinating experience could be beneficial to help vet the proposal. Appointed Religious Community Boardmember, DAN HOOPER, asked if the sound could be better contained on Sunday(s) so to not effect various church services? District A Representative, BERNADETTE SOTER, stressed previous grants for similar events should guide the decision (particularly the Los Feliz Street Fair; around \$500). Mauceri asked for compelling arguments on why funding any one particular ethnic group wouldn't create a precedent requiring funding of others?

District C Representative, ALEX DE OCAMPO, stressed the Armenian segment was estimated at nearly 30% of the GGPNC's district residency. Arlansian reminded The Board that outreach to the Armenian community was previously identified as a Board priority, and

this event was a prime opportunity from both cultural and outreach standpoints.

After lengthy debate, Appointed At-Large Boardmember, TOM WILSON, moved to appropriate monies for the cost of two event booths at \$375.00 plus an additional \$500.00 to be used for service payments for a total of \$875.

HOWE seconded; approved by consensus.

10. PLANNING ZONING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION (PZHP) COMMITTEE:

10:05 PM -

a) 2856 Glendower Avenue

Request for a permit to add a second story on the existing garage for use as a recording studio. Committee recommends opposition. Committee Chair, KEN OWEN, moved to oppose this request due to parking issues, visual aspect from the street, and the utilization of the property being inappropriate. CARROLL seconded; approved by consensus.

10:20 PM -

b) Home Restaurant, 1758-1760 Hillhurst.

Increased seating and extended business hours request. Owen moved to oppose this request for extending the business hours from 11:00 PM until Midnight and the increased seating from the current sixty to ninety six persons due to complaints from neighbors about the noise and Home Restaurant would have to use the outside patio for the extended seating capacity. Carroll seconded; approved by consensus.

10:30 PM -

c) Proposed Comprehensive Sign Ordinance being considered by the City Planning Commission on 03/18/09 and later by City Council. Proposal for (a) position letter of specific comment and support and (b) filing a Community Impact Statement (CIS) with the City Clerk consistent with position letter.

Owen moved to submit the proposed letter (as per the attachment in the March 17th GGPNC Board Meeting Agenda) to the City Planning Commission in support of a Comprehensive Sign Ordinance. CARROLL seconded; approved by consensus.

11. EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

10:45 PM - MAUCERI moved to table this item until the next meeting.
HOWE seconded, GASTEIER declared the item tabled.

12. PARKS, RIVER & OPEN SPACE (PROS) COMMITTEE:

10:46 PM -

a) Griffith Park Natural History Survey: Herptile Monitoring

Chair, BARBARA SOTER, presented a request from PROS Committee Member, George Grace, for additional funding in the amount of \$2000 to continue the valuable study that the GGPNC previously granted \$2940 to initiate, bringing the GGPNC project grant total to: \$4940.

Agenda motion: "Resolved the GGPNC fund 25% of the Herptile Monitoring Project of the Griffith Park Natural History Survey being conducted by the GPNHS in partnership with the L.A. Dept of Recreation and Parks and the U.S. Geological Survey, (\$2000); discussion and action as appropriate."

DISCUSSION:

Mauceri stated given the poor condition of the economy, and the anticipated NC budget cuts, it was not prudent to appropriate additional monies to study "lizards in Griffith Park," noting the Council had just trimmed a Stakeholder's group request by over 75% (Armenian street fair event). O'Grady posited if it was reasonable to request an additional \$2000 to study Herptile populations when these monies--now approaching \$5K--could be appropriated for Educational funding and/or Community Improvement projects with higher value to the stakeholder?

Debate followed over various committee budget allocations with Soter stressing the PROS budget was not the largest (as Mauceri suggested), it was actually far smaller than the Finance committee paperwork indicated because certain allocated projects were "not happening." Mauceri stood corrected.

O'Grady clarified while the PROS committee budget was not the largest in total dollars, the formal Budget and Finance Committee presentation did show PROS had the largest amount remaining unspent at just over \$25K, but now had anticipated reduction. He would submit a revised budget each month to the Board as figures were revised.

SOTER moved to amend the motion to now only state "\$2000" and remove the "25%" figure. Motion seconded by HOWE, MAUCERI was in opposition and no consensus was reached.

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Appointed Recreational Interests Boardmember, Tal Vigderson, opined that troubled financial times shouldn't preclude the Council from acting on important projects, noting Griffith Park is a large part of the GGPNC's jurisdiction.

Appointed Business Interests Boardmember, ROSEMARY DEMONTE, reminded the group that the name of The Council was indeed the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council.

CARROLL moved the GGPNC Board to vote on the motion, TAL VIGDERSON seconded; and was voted 12-1* in favor with one abstention; motion passed.

“Resolved that the GGPNC fund (\$2000.00) the Herptile Monitoring Project of the Griffith Park Natural History Survey being conducted by the GPNHS in partnership with the L.A. Dept. of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Geological Survey.”

*ARSLANSIAN, DE OCAMPO, and HOOPER had left the meeting and did not participate in this vote.

11:00 PM –

b) Griffith Park Fire Recovery Update.

Committee Chair, BERNADETTE SOTER, presented report on the project status.

11:05 PM –

c) Griffith Park Master Planning Group Update.

SOTER presented report and discussed that future funding for the Master Plan is an issue, indicating the need for the GGPNC Board to meet at a future date for eventuality, had concerns about the future expansion of Oakwood Apartments, and spoke about the CHC Review which clarified that the entire park [Griffith Park] is protected and subject to review within its full designated borders.

Appointed At-Large Boardmember, KENNETH OWEN, spoke about the placement of the Historical Designation plaque.

13. RULES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

11:15 PM –

a) Recommendation for timetable and process for Appointed Boardmember selection in August 2009.

DISCUSSION:

Gasteier, stated it had been resolved in the Executive Committee Meeting on March 17th 2009 to recommend a timetable and outline of procedure, and to place the issue of the current Bylaws structure providing for Appointed Members on the agenda for the April 2009 Board Meeting, and this discussion would be placed at the front of the GGPNC Agenda to encourage full participation.

CARROLL moved for approval of a timetable and process for selection of Appointed Board Members in August 2009 in accord with the current Bylaws: (1) a special meeting to be held on August 11, 2009 for selecting new Appointed Board Members; (2) outreach to begin immediately; and (3) the applications period to begin June 1, 2009 and extend through July 31, 2009. O'Grady seconded; approved by consensus.

11:20 PM –

b) Recommendation to amend bylaws to eliminate unfilled Vice president for Government Affairs position.

DISCUSSION:

Committee Chair, Bruce Carroll, moved to amend bylaws, Demonte seconded, Gasteier suggested that a draft of this and any other potential bylaws revisions—including pending DONE election language--be completed before being submitted as a package for final approval.

Carroll clarified that Bylaws section [Section 8B IV] would need revision and confirmed any amendments would have to be submitted to DONE for final vetting and approval.

Mauceri proposed a friendly amendment to approve what could be numerous bylaw amendment changes in the order they're debated and ratified, and then complete a final draft revision package for DONE submission; approved by consensus.

11:40 PM –

c) Recommendation for 3rd party destruction of June '08 Election ballots and related materials.

Carroll moved to assent. District B Representative, KATHRYN LOUYSE, seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Debate/Clarification on whether it's within the GGPNC's purview to destroy election materials or not? Answer: Yes. And if the GGPNC retains these ballots and materials, will public records access rules then apply, and will it be incumbent on the Board to facilitate any CPRA requests? Answer: Yes.

District B Representative, RON OSTROW, moved for the City Clerk election materials to be destroyed by a third party within sixty days. Hyams seconded.

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

After lengthy discussion on the relative merits of election material retention vs. destruction, Ostrow amended his motion to read: "without review by any member of the board," HYAMS seconded; approved by consensus.

Vigderson moved the GGPNC Board vote, Louyse seconded; motion voted 12-1* in favor, with one abstention (Carroll), motion passes.

*ARSLANSIAN, DE OCAMPO, and HOOPER had departed the meeting and did not participate in the vote.

12:00 AM -

d) Creation of an ad hoc committee to codify non-bylaw rules and procedures into a cohesive document.

DISCUSSION:

CARROLL presented the Rules & Elections committee recommendation for the need for the GGPNC Board to review all previous non-bylaw rules and procedures and codify them into a succinct document as an adjunct to the bylaws-- with a table of contents to be included.

Ostrow moved to form an ad hoc committee to cull all non bylaw rules and procedures into a single cohesive document, MAUCERI seconded; approved by consensus.

Gasteier reiterated all bylaw revisions items must to be vetted for approval before they become official.

Ad Hoc Committee Members: Chair, Ron Ostrow and Bruce Carroll.

14. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

12:10 AM - None.

15. OTHER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

12:14 AM -

Bernadette Soter made a general comment that if a meeting is being recorded, then she would like to be made aware of that fact before the meeting commences.

16. ADJOURN:

12:15 AM -

Gastier asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made, HOWE seconded; approved by consensus.

MEETING SUMMARY:

Duration:	5 hours, 25 minutes
Motions:	Fifteen (15)
Resolutions/Statements:	Zero (0)
Official Correspondence:	one (1) – P.Z.H.P. Signage
Funds Allocated:	\$2000 – P.R.O.S. (Herptile Study)
	\$ 875 – Cultural Affairs (Festival)
