

Council

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Granada Hills North Neighborhood

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Impact Information

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Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

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Agenda Date: 06/01/2011

Item Number: 12

Brief Summary: Motion: That the GHNNC recommend approval of the proposed Ordinance that will add definitions of Community Care Facility, Residential Care Facility for the Elderly, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Recovery or Treatment Facility to the Municipal Code; with the addition of four conditions as stated in the attached approved board minutes from September 27, 2010

Motion passed: 18-01-1.

Additional Information

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
Monday, September 27, 2010 6:30 pm
Rinaldi Adult School**

- 1) **Call to Order** at 6:46 pm by Kim Thompson, GHNNC President. **Roll Call: Present:** Carl Buettner, Mary Ellen Crosby, Sue DeVandry, Rafael Garcia, Sid Gold, Edward Headington, Bill Hopkins, Wayde Hunter, Josh Jordahl, Rahim Kazi, Ralph Kroy, Agnes Lewis, William Lillenberg, Scott Manatt, Leon Marzillier, Ray Pollok, Steven Steinberg, Jan Subar, Kim Thompson. **Absent:** Neysa Frechette, Gary Holmen. **Late:** Anne Ziliak. Quorum established with 18 at first, then 19. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited. **Chair Comments:** Kim Thompson welcomed stakeholders.
- 2) **Approval of August 30, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes:** unanimous.
- 3) **Comments from Government entities: Megan Cottier**, of the office of CD12 (Greig Smith), reported on recent developments. The City Council approved a change to the watering plan, from 2 days a week to 3: those with even house numbers on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday; odd house numbers on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Other rules remain unchanged. A list of FAQs was made available at the back of the auditorium and can be obtained at the LADWP website and the CD12 newsletter. Councilman Smith introduced a motion on Sept. 22 that would require Neighborhood Council review before any new LADOT traffic feature is installed. Comment from a Board member about the proposal for an LADWP rate-payer advocate. **Senior Lead Officers** Janine Angeles and Danny Del Valle talked about crime in this area: burglaries are up, as are burglaries from motor vehicles. If any valuables are in plain sight in a locked car (purses, computers, iPods, etc), burglars will break the windows to get at them. Often the cost of repair is more than the cost of the item. Thursday, October 15th, at 7 pm is the “basic car meeting” with the SLOs. Saturday, October 28th 10 am – 3:30 pm will be the Devonshire Division Open House. Sat/Sun Oct 29/30 6-10 pm will be the Devonshire Halloween Haunted House at the Devonshire station; one side will be scary, the other will be aimed at little kids with magicians and other gentler entertainment. They asked for volunteers, especially carpenters. Question from the audience about response time on a 911 call; it’s running around 7 minutes. This depends on the station and on the other events in the area at the time. With the closure of the Devonshire station jail, officers spend more time ferrying arrestees to Van Nuys. **Donna Smith, LAUSD** talked about the new Valley Region High School #4 nearing completion on Balboa Blvd. near Devonshire St. There will be a series of meetings with the public to determine who will run the school. Charter schools and LAUSD can both apply. The first meeting was September 15th; next one October 26th at 6 pm at Patrick Henry Middle School. The Superintendent of Schools and his committee will review the applications and the Board of Education will make the decision. There was a Board comment that this seems to represent a conflict of interest, since the LAUSD will both apply to run the school and also decide who wins the application. Ms. Smith remarked that the community will have a chance to vote on the matter.
- 4) **Public Comment: Diana Shaw**, Candidate for the 38th Assembly District (State), spoke of her candidacy. She said she is for the regulation of mobile billboards while her opponent is not. **Ricardo Benitez** of the Sylmar NC again invited Board members to their NC Board meetings. Also reminded the audience of the Farmers’ Market every Saturday 9 am – 1 pm at Mission College in Sylmar. **Indra Cicarelli** of Granada Hills Charter High School spoke about the charter school. A virtual high school is available online, which allows for a very flexible schedule. This includes also a required classroom component. On November 5th there will be a celebration of their 50th anniversary. She also asked that everyone go online and fill out a survey regarding Valley Region High School #4. **Wesley Grose** of the LA Sheriff Crime Lab, (323) 260-8511,

offered a free tour of the crime labs for interested persons. It's located in east L, near Hwy 10 and 710, at Cal State LA. For more information on the tour, call 323-260-8500.

5) **Mayor's Budget Day:** This event, similar to last year's, will allow NCs to have input into the Mayor's decisions on his budget to be submitted to the City Council. Two people were named: Steven Steinberg and Rahim Kazi. **Motion** to approve the appointments **carried** unanimously. The event is on Saturday, October 16th at City Hall.

6) **Committee Reports:**

a) **Policy and Rules** (Marzillier): Presentation by Stuart Simen (Valley Village NC) and David Levin (volunteer) of the **Bylaw Participating Committee**, which is a task force of various NC volunteers working to devise a framework, default set of bylaws to help NCs cover all the topics bylaws should cover. If approved, these bylaws will not be made mandatory, though the Table of Contents and the organization will be standard across NCs. This is to make it easier for the City to read them and find information about standard topics. DONE had originally asked volunteers to bring order to a wide set of bylaws by coming up with a "wireframe template" and TOC. The group is advisory and has no authority to enforce anything; neither does DONE. All policy is set by BONC (Board of Neighborhood Commissioners). The report and recommendations are available at **www.NCbylaws.blogspot.com**. Simen and Levin pointed out that policy comments and questions should be directed to BONC, while implementation questions should be directed to DONE. Question from Board member: what if we don't want to follow the standard bylaws? Answer: Probably will have to follow the TOC (Table of Contents) and organize bylaws accordingly, though the content may be individual by NC. DONE wants to insert standard language if a topic is entirely missing and an NC is silent on an issue – for example, boundaries must be defined; what constitutes a quorum must be defined. The task force is not trying to mandate anything, and they think neither is BONC, beyond the requirement that all Board members must take ethics training. Board comments (Manatt): the NC concept is such a beautiful one, is concerned that standardization may ruin it. Stuart agreed, but said some NCs have no experience writing bylaws and need help. Question from Board member: if this really was this simple, why didn't DONE just provide a TOC? A: there has never been an effort to compel standardization. The task force just makes recommendations; including on how BONC and DONE should handle grievances. Board comment (Gold): heard from DONE rep that adoption was going to be completely voluntary (even TOC). Board comment (Ziliak): there is a fear that this will eventually result in mandatory adoption. A: Board should express concerns to BONC, which meets twice a month and will begin listening to comments on this issue on October 5th. **Motion** (from P&RC): *that the GHNNC continue its work amending as necessary our current bylaws*. The intent of the motion was to reject any move to standardization of bylaws. There were several member comments that this Motion does not adequately express our concerns over standardization - it just says we'll keep working. Lewis offered **amendment** seconded by Ziliak, to reword the language to reject any standardization. That failed, and a new amendment was offered by Lewis, seconded by Steinberg, *That the GHNNC accept the recommendation for a standard Table of Contents but continue to include its own content for the bylaws*. **Carried 13-3-1. Motion carried 14-2-1.**

Motion: *That the GHNNC pursue removing all references to Districts within Granada Hills North from our bylaws and instead, specifying one special interest seat each for Sunshine Canyon landfill and MWD/LADWP*. This led to a lively discussion of the concept of Districts. Thompson pointed out that any bylaw changes must be approved by a special meeting of stakeholders. Marzillier countered that the PR&C committee is seeking guidance on whether to pursue this line of thought in preparation for such a meeting which in any case will eventually be necessary to approve other more minor changes that have been approved by

the Board but not yet approved by the stakeholders. Ziliak remarked that prior history on this topic showed that changes addressing all concerns are nearly impossible. Pollok argued that, just because it couldn't be done 10 years ago does not mean it could not be done now. Many Board members opposed re-opening the topic in any case. Manatt proposed that both options be looked at. Hunter opposed, saying that the topic had been adequately addressed before and that re-opening it would lead to disagreements far in excess of any benefit – would open a Pandora's box. **Motion failed 4-11-2** (Garcia not in the room.)

- b) **Finance Officer's Report** (Pollok): The Board should approve a change in the Fiscal 2011 budget, for an extra \$1592, which represents the FY 2010 remaining budget, rolled over to FY2011. This should be put into the "General Operations – Miscellaneous" category, in order to provide maximum flexibility. (Copies were passed out). Once approved by the Board, this revised budget will be submitted to DONE. Manatt so moved, Lewis seconded. **Carried** unanimously.
- c) **Treasurer's Report** (DeVandry): The 2010 Q4 [Fourth Quarter] report was passed out, showing the correction to match DONE's figures. Lewis moved to accept (Hopkins seconded). **Approved** unanimously.
- d) **PLUM [Planning and Land Use Management]** (Ziliak): Discussion of the proposed ordinance to define Community Care facilities. **Bill Larson**, from the City Attorney's office, explained. This is an issue because there are many group homes in Granada Hills, housing a wide variety of people – from recovering alcoholics to people in halfway houses to disabled people. Granada Hills seems to have more of these than any other part of the Valley. The current ordinance regulating these is not clear, having been written in the 50's, when some of these uses were not anticipated. The State licenses homes for up to 6 unrelated people, but there is inconsistent regulation of homes with more residents. There are 3 of these homes that have become a particular problem. One housed 95 people in a normal residential house. The owners get payments from the government for each resident, so there is much more profit to be made by crowding more people in. Board member Lillenberg suggested that we support the City's proposed ordinance to define these homes, with the addition of 4 conditions. Ziliak pointed out that if the GHNNC wishes to make its voice heard, it must submit comment at a public hearing scheduled for October 14th.

Motion: *That the GHNNC recommend approval of the proposed Ordinance that will add definitions of Community Care Facility, Residential Care Facility for the Elderly, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Recovery or Treatment Facility to the Municipal Code; with the addition of four conditions: 1) that the property owner be notified of any approval or license [of a facility] by the State Department of Social Services; 2) that all changes to the dwelling or structure and other improvements to the property shall be by an LA City building permit; that a public review hearing be held after a two-year period for all "public benefit" conversions of 7 or more occupants to review compliance with the standards and appropriate requirements of the LAMC; and 4) that the owner shall record with the LA County Recorder the type of state license issued, after review by the State Department of Social Services and the City Planning Department.* **Motion carried** 18-01-1.

Motion: *That PLUM allocate up to \$150 to send one PLUM committee member to the LABC Annual Mayoral Summit on Sustainable Housing and Transportation Summit on November 17th, 2010.* **Amendment** (Hunter/Steinberg) proposed to send two reps. **Amendment carried** unanimously. **Motion carried** unanimously.

- e) **Citywide Issues** (Gold): **Motion:** *That the GHNNC support the plan to move the Battleship Iowa for permanent relocation at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro.* The City Council has already approved this, but the Port Commissioners need to approve it. **Carried** 15-0-2.
Motion: *That the GHNNC consider the request of VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils] for NC support of funding of the VANC Forum scheduled for October 14th, 2010.*

This group consists of about 300 people from the various NCs. They will meet on the second Thursday in November at CBS studios for a City Planning Forum. Motion **amended to:** *That GHNNC contribute \$200 to support the VANC organized planning Forum to take place at CBS studios, November 11, 2010. Carried unanimously.*

- f) **RWAG [Recycled Water Advisory Group]** (Hopkins): There is discussion in City Council to mandate separate water meters for apartments and condominiums. Landlords in rent-controlled areas are asking for a \$25 addition per month for 10 years to the rent to cover the cost of conversion, so the fate of this motion is uncertain. The LADWP was able to avoid purchasing water at the second-tier cost from the MWD [Metropolitan Water District], due to conservation. The recycled water project is funded by water fees, \$0.41 per HCF [hundred cubic feet]. After the next scheduled rate increase to \$0.465/HCF, the rate will stay steady for “a while.” The LADWP received \$60M for power and \$35M for water from federal stimulus funds.
- 7) **Emergency Preparedness Item of the Month:** (Hopkins) An N95 particulate mask articulates was made available free to all attendees. Hopkins also spoke of the North Valley Preparedness Fair at Fire Station 87 [Balboa south of Devonshire] on October 2, 1100m to 3 pm. Volunteers were solicited to staff the GHNNC booth. This is in conjunction with 6 other neighborhood councils and CD12
- 8) **Board Member Comments:** Hopkins/Hunter asked for volunteers to inspect sidewalks for the sidewalk grinding project. Subar said the nominating committee will resume meetings in October. Pollok spoke of the project of many organizations, including the Rotary and the AYSO on October 2, 9 am – 4 pm, at the soccer fields near the MWD; this includes a blood drive. Headington asked for volunteers for the Holiday Parade on December 5th – need people to decorate the truck and some to ride in it.
- 9) Adjourned at 9:18 pm.