

GHSNC Board Meeting – 05/10/2007 – Minutes

I. Attendance:

A. Board Members Present:

1. John Seletos
2. Robert Norris
3. Glen Chester
4. Jim Summers (Presiding Officer – 1st)
5. Eric Mansker
6. Bonnie Bursk
7. David Beauvais
8. Lottie Van Emden
9. Brad Smith
10. Mark Barrionuevo
11. Troy Seletos
12. Christopher Silvers (Presiding Officer – 2nd)
13. Alexia Cirino
14. Julie Carson
15. Norbert Soski
16. Sean Rivas
17. Randall Neudeck
18. Pamela Finn
19. Shamica Doty
20. Jim Yoder
21. Karessa Silvers
22. Amelia Herrera-Robles (D.O.N.E. representative)
23. Mike Kabo (Parliamentarian)

B. Board Members Absent:

1. Sylvia Witteman
2. Debi Orrico

II. Jim introduced himself and called the meeting to order.

III. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

IV. Board Members roll call was taken.

V. Glen Chester moved and Dave Beauvais seconded a motion to approve the minutes from April with one amendment. Unanimous approval by Board Members. Glen Chester moved and Eric Mansker seconded that the minutes from the April Community Informational Meeting be approved with one amendment.

VI. Jim Summers passed out a pamphlet b/c he is having trouble with delegation. Included in the pamphlet is a survey to help him in terms of running the council. He is quite proud of the excellent attendance of council members. The Sign Up sheets that we have should have a disclaimer so that they remain the property of the council. When other parties have sign up sheets at GHSNC events, GHSNC should make attendees aware of the differing sign up sheets in the future. Jim Summers mentioned that John Seletos suggested yard signs to advertise about the council. The vote approving the yard signs will be taken next month. Northridge East asked for \$1000 for a fireworks show on June 2nd. Our \$1000 will add five minutes to the fireworks show. Aliso Canyon Park is having a meeting on an unknown date. One idea is to have an off leash dog park. Jim Summers is doing a survey of historical homes in his neighborhood. There are tax breaks for a historical home. The GH History book should be coming up in July/August 2007. Jim Summers would like to have a rotating chair to find out

which council members might do a better job leading the council meetings. Jim Summers turned over the meeting to Christopher Silvers as the presiding officer.

VII. Alexia Cirino moved and Mark Barrionuevo second that we move up the Outreach Committee report earlier in the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Brad Smith the outreach chair - Brad Smith introduced a news reporter from valleynews.com who gave a short introduction about ValleyNews.Com. Brad Smith talked about doing a one time mass mailing to everyone in the council district which would cost around \$3,120. A big positive of the mailing is to get additional penetration. Brad Smith moved with a second by the Committee that we mail to everyone in the council district. Dave Beauvais suggested that the council district get a bulk mailing permit prior to sending out a mailing. Norbert Soski asked what the concept of the mass mailing would be. The Board Unanimously approved the mass mailing after a bulk permit is secured for up to \$3,120. (Jim Summers removed himself from the following discussion) Brad Smith talked about the various vendors who were interested in working with our website. Ken Summers and MBR are the two vendors interested in doing the website. A third bidder was late in presenting his proposal. Moore Business Results bid \$6250 for a website and six months of service. Brad Smith moved and the Outreach committee seconded approving \$6250 for website services from Moore Business Results. Julie Carson reported that the committee vote was not unanimous. Julie Carson expressed concern about the dollars being spent. Robert Norris reported that he thought the GHNNC website is quite good. Dave Beauvais agreed with Robert Norris. Dave Beauvais would prefer to include the third bidder. Brad Smith expressed the opinion that the amount of money being spent is not a large amount. Brad Smith pointed out that the website is a great resource for our stakeholders. Brad Smith expressed frustration at receiving the last minute bid from the third bidder at 2 a.m. yesterday. Norbert Soski asked what services we were receiving. Randall Neudeck informed the council that he had looked at the various North Valley websites and thought the Porter Ranch site was quite good which is also created by Moore Business Results. Mark Barrionuevo expressed the opinion that waiting an additional 30 days to save money is a positive thing. Mike Kabo asked questions about ADA compliance and ownership issues. Bonnie Bursk thought that the cost was too high for the services being rendered. John Seletos expressed concern about being audited for spending money on something that is not the lower bidder. The source code and code ownership should belong to the council should be in the contract by an audience member. Ernie from North Hills West gave suggestions on how to structure your request for bids. Brad Smith reiterated that he thought the current bid was a fairly low bid. 7 in favor 9 opposed 2 abstained and the motion is lost. (Jim Summers returned to the auditorium) Brad Smith detailed the various publications that GHSNC was mentioned. Dave Beauvais complimented the Outreach Committee for an excellent job done.

IX. Chris Silvers talked about assisting committees to do their work. Chris Silvers addressed the beautification committee in asking for their assistance in starting some capital improvements ideas.

X. Robert Norris passed out two pages to everyone. Robert Norris presented a spreadsheet outlining our current expenses and account balance. Norbert Soski recommended adding an approved column to the budget. Robert Norris presented a proposed budget for 07-08. Robert Norris suggested calling 311 for graffiti cleanup.

XI. Glen Chester gave a brief report on email outreach.

XII. (John Seletos stepped out of the room.) Jim Summers made a motion and Eric Mansker seconded the following motion:

Whereas, the current laws, ordinances and objectives of the L.A. Municipal Code, the General Plan, the Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan and Granada Hills Specific Plan, are all

essential and necessary to maintain both our commercial and the nearby residential neighborhood character and preserve the quality of our lives; and

Whereas, the proposed project in regards to the number and scope of entitlements requested, and their current and future consequences, as well as, the numerous potentially significant negative environmental impacts, warrant a more complete environmental evaluation for a project of this magnitude; and

Whereas, other sites in the City of Los Angeles are more suitable for the proposed project, other more compatible businesses have expressed interest in leasing the current site, and the applicant has not proposed any modifications of the proposed project to the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council in order to be more compatible with our existing neighborhood; and

Whereas, our stakeholders have demonstrated an overwhelming opposition to the proposed project on numerous occasions due to the negative impacts of the project including: inadequate parking, increased noise, increased crime, traffic patterns and congestion, environmental factors, public safety, incompatible size of the structure, extended hours of operation, aesthetics, the relative decrease of property values, and other factors resulting in the negative impacts to the quality of our lives; and

Whereas, it is the priority of the City of Los Angeles to preserve the distinct character of its neighborhoods ensuring that the scale of stable communities are maintained, over maximizing potential financial profits for a property owner through "commercial McMansionization", that is, the out-of-scale building of structures on commercially zoned land;

Be it resolved that:

- The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council opposes the proposed project of the Kohl's Store, Case Number APCNV-2006-5084-SPE-ZV-CU-ZAD-SPR-SSP.
- The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council's Planning and Land Use Committee submit a Community Impact Statement to the City Clerk of Los Angeles for inclusion on the appropriate agendas of the City Council, its committees and City commissions.
- That the GHSNC to present these resolutions to the decision makers of this proposed project, including but not limited to, the Los Angeles Department of Planning, the North Valley Area Planning Commission, City of Los Angeles Council members and urge them to take prompt action in the matter.

Glen Chester moved and Bonnie Bursk seconded an amendment to strike out the words increased crime from the motion. Jim Summers stated that there was reported that increased crime can take place. Jim Summers stated that the police reported that increased time would result from the Kohl's store. Eric Mansker expressed that he thought increased crime would result from having longer hours. Dave Beauvais thought that increased graffiti would result from the Kohl's building. Bonnie Bursk stated that increased occupancy has resulted in a decrease of vandalism. Brad Smith cited a City of Los Angeles report stating that increased crime could result from the Kohl's project with the Kohl's organization checking off a box stating that the store had a potentially significant impact on crime rates. Mark Barrionuevo queried about the security officers that Ralph's had at the store. The question was called with 5 in favor, 15 against. Bonnie Bursk was concerned about the words overwhelming opposition in the motion. Bonnie Bursk expressed her concern that commercial property owners did not come to speak at our meetings. Bonnie Bursk expressed concern about stating opposition to the size of the Kohl's store. Bonnie Bursk expressed concern about dictating the tenants to the property owners. Jim Summers responded to Bonnie Bursk's concerns. Jim Summers relayed that there were 150 stakeholders where only three negative voices were heard. At a second

meeting, 50 stakeholders were present and only three negative votes by council members. At the public hearing held by the LA City Planning office, 50 stakeholders attended and all 50 individuals spoke against Kohl's at the public hearing. Alexia Cirino moved and Mark Barrionuevo seconded an amendment to strike "other..., and" in the third paragraph. Eric Mansker spoke to the hope that passing the resolution as a symbol to our current stakeholders. Eric Mansker spoke to the quality of preparation for tonight's debate. The question was called. 5 in favor 11 against and two abstained on the amendment. The motion was called. 14 in favor 3 opposed and 1 abstained. The motion passed. (John Seletos returned to the auditorium)

XIII Dave Beauvais thanked the Bylaws Committee for their efforts and went over the list of changes. Dave Beauvais introduced the first bylaw amendment with a second from the Bylaws Committee.

A. Article VII. Directors, Section G9, Student Director; the committee recommends the definition be expanded to include students who reside in the Council area, as well as attend school (new language in bold print):

"This Director shall be a student, ages 16 through 25, attending a school or residing within the boundaries of the Neighborhood Council."

Norbert Soski preferred keeping only students within our boundaries. 16 in favor 2 opposed 1 abstained.

B. Dave Beauvais moved and the Bylaw Committee seconded,

Article VII. Directors, Section G6, Homeowner Director; the committee recommends the definition be expanded to include homeowners who own a home within the Neighborhood Council boundaries, but do not reside in the home (language to be stricken in italics);

"This Director shall own *and live in* a residential dwelling, condominium, townhouse or apartment within the boundaries of the Neighborhood Council."

Eric Mansker expressed the concern that a residing homeowner is far more tuned into the community than a non-resident homeowner. Norbert Soski expressed the opinion that a residing owner is far more vested in the community. Shamica Doty thought that absentee owners are excellent stewards. Bonnie Bursk expressed the concern that absentee owners are not represented by a special seat on the council. Brad Smith queried Dave Beauvais on the rationale of having this amendment to the bylaws. Jim Summers thought that absentee owners treat their homes differently than resident owners. Eric Mansker thought that the large number of At-Large seats that he thought the absentee owners should get one of the At-Large seats. 5 in favor 13 against, one abstention the bylaw amendment fails.

C. Dave Beauvais moved and the Bylaw Committee seconded,

Article VII. Directors, Section J, Grounds for Removal; the committee determined that there was no inherent inconsistency in the language in section J; however, we are recommending the following minor clarification (new language in bold print):

"Any Director who: (1) fails to attend six (6) **board** meetings in any two year period; or (2) has three (3) unexcused absences in any one-year period may be removed by a majority vote of the board. The Board of Directors will consult with its legal counsel; the Office of the City Attorney throughout the removal process.

The Board voted 18 in favor with one abstention.

D. Dave Beauvais moved and the Bylaw Committee seconded,

In addition the committee is recommending the adoption of standing rules that will define excused and unexcused absences as follows:

"The President, or in his absence, the Vice President, may excuse a Directors absence, provided the request is made in advance of the board meeting and is for good cause."

"The Board of Directors may excuse a Directors absence from a Board meeting at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The request must be made by the Director who was absent, and approved by a majority of Directors present."

Jim Summers expressed the concern about the length required to act on Board excusing absences. 13 in favor 5 opposed and 1 abstained.

E. Dave Beauvais moved and the Bylaw Committee seconded,

Article XVII. Interim Provisions; the committee recommends striking this entire section, as it deals exclusively with interim provisions that are now moot. The new Article XVII would be titled NON-COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS. The language from old Article X would remain intact, except no section A is necessary.

The council voted 17 in favor and 1 abstention

F. Dave Beauvais moved and the Bylaw Committee seconded,

"Article X, Committees

Section A. Standing Committees

1. Each Standing Committee shall have no more than five (5) Board of Directors, and may have any number of Stakeholders deemed appropriate.
2. Quorums. A Quorum shall be defined as 51% or more of the committee present. Once a quorum is established, the Committee will take official action by a majority vote of those members present. The actions, recommendations and policies of all Committees shall be subject to approval by official action of the Board of Directors.

3. Permanent Standing Committees

a. Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee shall be responsible for coordinating information exchange between the Neighborhood Council Stakeholders, the Board Directors, and all outside community groups. The Community Outreach Committee shall also seek out prospective Stakeholders and/or Board Directors from groups who may be lightly represented in the Neighborhood Council. The Community Outreach Committee Chair shall report to the Board on a monthly basis and shall inform the Board of the Committee's outreach efforts for the month; the Committee's efforts toward sustaining, improving and obtaining diversity among the Neighborhood Council's Stakeholders; the Committee's suggestions for further improving communication and outreach for

the Neighborhood Council; update the Board on the Committee's ongoing communication and outreach project; and establish measurable goals with deadlines that may track progress toward the overall objectives for improving communication and outreach. The Community Outreach Committee will distribute periodic announcements to all Stakeholders within the boundaries of the Neighborhood Council. The Community Outreach Committee shall be responsible for establishing written procedures for communicating with all Stakeholders on a regular basis in a manner ensuring that information is disseminated evenly and in a timely manner in accordance with the DONE plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils. The Neighborhood Council will endeavor to use modern technology to its advantage to deliver information to the Stakeholders.

b. Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining all membership records of the Neighborhood Council. This shall include names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of all members. These records will remain private, and only be used by the Neighborhood Council for official purposes. Stakeholders' personal information will remain private to the extent allowed by law.

c. Other Committees. Other Standing Committees as identified in the Standing Rules, appointed by the President and Approved by the Board of Directors.

Section B. Ad Hoc Committees

It is anticipated the President and Board of Directors may wish to create Ad Hoc committees and appoint Directors as head of those committees. This action should be done with the approval of a majority of Board members during a regular meeting."

Article XII. Elections; the committee recommends striking the language in Section B1, which refers to initial elections. The committee further recommends striking the reference to section 2, making the remaining language the body of the section, and striking the words Election Committee (after initial elections)". The remaining language would read as follows:

"B. Ad Hoc Election Committee

The Election committee shall work with the Independent Election Administrator to conduct bi-annual elections. The Election Committee shall draft Election Procedures in accordance with the Elections Policy that shall be voted on by the Board of Directors and submitted to DONE for approval."

Article IX, Officers, Section B. 2: the committee recommends striking all but the first sentence, and modifying that sentence. Modified language regarding committee makeup will be moved to Article X. The Section would now read:

"2. Appoint all Standing Committee Chairs and Standing Committee members from the Board of Directors and Stakeholders with the approval of the Board of Directors."

The Board voted 18 in favor with 1 abstention.

G. Mark Barrionuevo moved and Jim Yoder seconded a motion to adopt the rest of the Bylaws Committee amendments as a group. The council voted 14 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions.

Article IX Officers, Section B. 3: the committee recommends the same changes in section 3. The Section would now read:

"3. Appoint all Ad Hoc Committee Chairs and Ad Hoc Committee members from Stakeholders (including the Board of Directors) with the approval of the Board of Directors."

Article IX, Officers, Section G, and Standing Committee Chairs: the committee recommends striking all of section G except number 3, Parliamentarian. The committee believes that, since the Committee Chairs are not officers, those sections referring to Committee Chairs should be moved to a separate Article.

Article IX, Officers, Section H, Election Administrator: The committee believes this language is superfluous, and the section should be stricken. The duties of an Independent Election Administrator are defined by the Citywide Election Procedures, not by any particular Neighborhood Council's bylaws. Moreover, the Independent Election Administrators role is referenced in Article XII, Elections.

Article X, Non Compensation of Officers and Directors: The committee recommends renumbering this Article to Article XVII, which we are recommending be stricken later in the report.

New Article X, Committees: The committee recommends simplifying the definition of committees, and removing the requirement that all committees be composed of five (5) members. The following language is recommended:

XIII. John Seletos moved and Eric Mansker seconded a motion that we adopt a Sober Living Ordinance similar to Riverside Ordinance No. 6733. Robert Norris wants to adopt a stricter ordinance. (www.riversideca.gov/planning/pdf-folder/web/o-6733.pdf) Dave Beauvais moved the question. Unanimous vote in favor.

XIV. Jim Summers explained that Neighborhood Councils do not have the right to appeal planning and zoning issues. Jim Summers moved and John Seletos seconded a motion to add Neighborhood Councils the right to appeal a Planning and Zoning decision. Bonnie Bursk expressed the concern that Neighborhood Councils may not have standing to act in this manner and would be illegal. Dave Beauvais expressed the thought that this motion expresses one of the core issues of how neighborhood councils work and what power they should have. No further discussion, 18 in favor with one abstention.

XV. Jim Yoder presented a three page report. The Safety Committee wants to divide the GHSNC into eight districts. Jim Yoder moved that GHSNC support Councilman Smith in securing funds to support the CERT program. (Community Emergency Response Team). Jim Summers suggested outreach to the whole community. Norbert Soski informed the council that the committee divided the community into eight segments so as to not overwhelm the fire department who puts on the CERT program. Sean Rivas pointed out that the CERT course is a seven week course. All eight districts will take place over two years. Dave Beauvais pointed out that we should have fewer districts and fewer mailings and that a minimum of 20 people is needed to start a class. Jim Summers thought the response would be small for a CERT class. Randall Neudeck pointed out that CERT training was quite helpful in the recent fire in Griffith Park. Dave Beauvais moved an amendment to change it from eight districts to one council district mailing. Jim Yoder withdrew his motion.

XVI. Brad Smith moved and Alexia Cirino seconded a motion to pay \$1,200 to Ken Summers for website services which was incurred especially during the Kohl's outreach effort. 16 in favor, 2 abstained on approving the Ken Summers' payment.

XVII. Richard Fisk was willing to print articles from GHSNC in the Old Granada Hills Resident Group bulletin. Articles should be around 400 words or less.

XVIII. Dave Beauvais noted that we had 130 people volunteer for Citrus Sunday. It was a very successful project with good publicity.

XIX. Dave Beauvais asked for help on the office search. Dave Beauvais asked for someone to take over the committee. Dave Beauvais noted that Tamar Galazatain's campaign

office is going to be vacant next week. Shamica Doty, Jim Summers and John Seletos agreed to assist Dave Beauvais.

XX. Jim Summers gave an update on the School Board debate on 05/08/2007. One candidate was not present.

XXI. Maria Fisk and Dave Beauvais talked to Councilman's Smith office to see if there are any alternatives to the Interim Control Ordinance. Dave Beauvais stated that Councilman Smith agreed to change the zoning to Old Granada Hills from R-1 to R-9. Maria Fisk reported that the Planning Department was presenting a down zoning plan for Old Granada Hills.

XXII. Bonnie Bursk gave a report on Big Sunday.

XXIII. Jim Summers reported about the Anti-McMansionization Ordinance. Jim Summers noted that Maria Fisk and Dave Beauvais spoke in favor of the ordinance.

XXIV. Sean Rivas stated that GHSNC could have a booth at the Traffic Safety Fair on June 2, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

XXV. Eric Mansker opined that the lost motion vote was a crucial mistake in failing to outreach to the stakeholders who spoke at the Special Information Meeting. Eric Mansker thought that if we did not support the homeowners the council would never have successful outreach.

XXVI. Dave Beauvais was contacted for a survey about neighborhood council members.

XXVII. Brad Smith asked for volunteers to man tables at outreach events. Brad Smith asked if the Board wanted to hear from the vendors regarding the website.

XXVIII. Mark Barrionuevo asked if we were emailing to Old Granada Hills Resident group. Mark Barrionuevo wanted board members should respect the views of other board members.

XXIX. Norbert Soski noted that his opposition to the Kohl's motion was that the motion was too overwhelming. Norbert Soski liked the idea of a spreadsheet when there are different proposals specifically with regards to the website proposals.

XXX. Bonnie Bursk talked about how board members represent a larger group than each special seat holder. All board members should represent all different viewpoints in their decision making process.

XXXI. Adjournment - The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn with the next Board Meeting to take place at the GH Library on June 14, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Tulsa Elementary School Auditorium.