



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**GREATER GRIFFITH PARK  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

*"Your Neighborhood. Your Voice. Your Council"*



**PRESIDENT**  
Philip Gasteier

**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Bruce Carroll – Administration  
Rosemary DeMonte – Outreach

**TREASURER**  
Tomas O'Grady

**SECRETARY (interim)**  
Mark F. Mauceri

**GOVERNING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES (draft)**

Tuesday, August 13, 2009 – 7:00 pm

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

**CERTIFIED COUNCIL #36**

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**01. CALL TO ORDER:**

#:## PM –

Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) President, Philip Gasteier, called the meeting to order.

Board Members present (14):

Gasteier, Philip District D President	Carroll, Bruce District E VP, Administration	DeMonte, Rosemary Business Interests VP, Outreach
O'Grady, Tomas District D Treasurer		Mauceri, Mark District E Secretary (interim)
Arslanian, Nyla Charitable Groups		Hooper, Dan Religious Interests
		Kerr, Jacqueline At-Large
Louyse, Kathryn District C	Napier, Sarah Education	
Owen, Kenneth At-Large	Soter, Bernadette District A	Uebersax, David District B
		Wilson, Thomas At-Large

Absent (03) DeOcampo, Howe, Vigderson  
Excused (01) Hyams, Ostrow  
Late (02) Arslanian, Uebersax

A quorum was declared.

**02. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 2009**

#:## PM –

MAUCERI moved the minutes be deferred due to being quite involved and have just been released recently. seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

**03. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

#:## PM –

SUSAN HURT (Stakeholder) has serious concerns regarding parking in her area. Her immediate neighborhood encompasses Clayton Ave, Commonwealth Ave., Sunset Drive, Talmadge and Sunset Blvd. She and her neighbors are experiencing difficulties finding parking due to their close proximity to the Vista Theater and several other nightlife establishments. There is also excessive noise and trash on the streets throughout the evening as patrons leave these businesses and wander back towards their vehicles.

A letter for preferential parking from the Mayor's office has been signed and received by the community.

GASTEIER suggested HURT exchange contact information with the City official present and request the item be placed on a future agenda.

O'GRADY suggested HURT speak with the Transportation Committee and place the item on their agenda.

RASTAM SARKASIAN from the Armenian National Committee of Hollywood came to invite small business owners free tax seminar in conjunction with the City Controllers office, the Greater African American Chamber of Commerce, and the Spanish Chamber of Commerce. The seminar will cover new laws and acts recently instituted. The seminar will be held on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm at Garbakian Hall. He requested the Board place the item on a community calendar and assist in publicizing the event.

DAN HOOPER from the Hollywood Lutheran Church came to seek the support of the Board for a seminar held at the Hollywood Lutheran Church by Broderick Miller Brian Davis of the Silverlake Children's Theater Group. The personal safety seminar would teach young people how to protect themselves when faced with a dangerous situation. The seminar is currently scheduled to take place on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Hooper asked the item be placed on a future agenda, as they will need support to fly in speakers from out of town.

**04. REPORTS: PUBLIC OFFICIALS & CITY STAFF**

#:## PM –

JOHN HISERICK from MAJORITY LEADER'S PAUL KREKORIAN could not attend the meeting this evening, but he announced that the assembly member

is holding a free forum to address safe streets on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Marvin Brody Constituent Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. The seminar will discuss the proposed Safe Streets Bill designed in giving local municipalities control over setting their own speed limits.

LEANNE KIM with ASSEMBLY MEMBER'S MIKE \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE. The Assembly member's newsletter will be released soon detailing the budget process and the pieces of legislation he is currently working on. There was also a hearing on Mike's AB49 Water Conservation Bill held today. Please contact KIM for more information.

MARY \_\_\_\_\_ from COUNCIL MEMBER TOM LABONGE'S office reported on concerns over noise coming from the Love Festival held at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. The noise traveled from the downtown area to the Franklin Hills area. The reason for this is being investigated. The next concert is scheduled for Halloween. She requested the Board prepare a letter to the Coliseum Committee to inquire about the specifics of the upcoming event and let them know they are aware of the noise complaints in the area.

\_\_\_\_\_ questioned MARY about the hours the concert on Halloween Evening would be taking place. MARY will look into the specifics and report back to the Board.

\_\_\_\_\_ wanted to know if there was any legislative action the Board could assist with. MARY was not sure on the particulars of situation. She suggested contacting the production company Go Ventures about the future events.

MARY \_\_\_\_\_ let the Board know they were contacted to support a PPD with a preferential parking district in Los Feliz. This is same PPD that was requested by DANA CREMIN back in 2007. Petitions have not been received by the PPD Department as confirmed by FELIX VALLE. Once the petition is received a study will be conducted, the results passed on to a hearing officer; thereafter changes can be made.

\_\_\_\_\_ inquired about the other parking districts in East Hollywood, specifically CD 13. MARY \_\_\_\_\_ informed her that there are no changes to report at this time.

BETTY \_\_\_\_\_ from EmpowerLA introduced the new logo to the Board and encouraged everyone to visit the new website. A Neighborhood Council survey is being conducted and available on the website. The purpose of the survey is to help EmpowerLA better allocate funds and address the needs of the various Neighborhood Councils. EmpowerLA has also recently experienced budget and staff cuts, which are having an impact on operations. The Neighborhood Council Outreach Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2009, at McHale Academy on 6<sup>th</sup>

and Shatto hosted by the Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council in conjunction with EmpowerLA. The meeting will assist Neighborhood Councils on election planning and outreach. Budget Day will be on October 10<sup>th</sup> two Budget reps must be selected from every Neighborhood Council. Ethics training is being held online and the site is up and fully functional. Also, all Board members are now able to update their information online at the EmpowerLA website.

**05. REPORT: NORTHEAST DIVISION SENIOR LEAD OFFICER**

#:## PM –

Skipped due to the Senior Lead Officer not being present.

**06. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

#:## PM –

Item deferred to be covered along with item 11 later in the agenda.

**07.**

**7. SUNSET PACIFIC MOTEL (4301 SUNSET AT BATES) – PROPOSED DEMOLITION:**

#:## PM –

BILL LARSON from the City Attorney's office is a part of the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, which handles nuisance properties. He has been dealing with the issue for almost a decade. The motel had a history of attracting drug dealers and other criminals and at one point was the site with the highest criminal activity in the City. The City Department of Building and Safety was unable to issue an abatement order on the property due to the presence of a resident manager. In order to issue a nuisance abatement order the site would have to be complete vacant. Eventually, the nuisance order was placed on the property and it was barricaded. Since then transients have scaled the barricades and taken up residence. The Jewish school next to the site has filed several complaints. A hearing is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> to have the building declared a nuisance and have it demolished. All parties involved in running the place live out of state, which has made dealing with them very difficult.

LARSON requested the Board or individuals members write letters in support of the City Department of Building and Safety.

GASTEIER spoke with some of the owners and the local representatives from the site and invited them to attend this evening's meeting; unfortunately, they were not able to attend. He was able to speak to DAVID GERBER who currently is managing the site on behalf of The Silverman Company, based in Michigan, and is aware of the problems

facing the site. GERBER visits the site three times a week, claims it is being maintained properly, transient access has been blocked and no one is inhabiting the building. The management staff is monitoring the graffiti and the police now have access to the property. GERBER is unsure of any future development plans.

GASTEIER circulated a motion urging the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety to proceed with the hearing on possible demolition of the Sunset Pacific Motel as scheduled on September 15<sup>th</sup>. This project has been a continued nuisance to the community. It is important that the relevant facts be presented and considered and that the community have an opportunity to be heard. The President is authorized to communicate this position to the City and related agencies as he deems appropriate.

CARROLL motioned to approve. SOTER seconded.

OWEN supported the motion and wanted to relate about a telephone call he received from SCOTT CRAWFORD who was a former member of the GGPNC and now a member of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. CRAWFORD inquired about the possibility of the building be designated as a Historical and Cultural Monument because of its architectural integrity. CRAWFORD will do research the building and its architect.

\_\_\_\_\_ received a similar phone calls from people who believe the site will likely receive this distinction due to its tie to the Historic Route 66 and California Car Culture.

CARROLL pointed out that Route 66 is Santa Monica Blvd. not Sunset Blvd. He has toured the building and believes there is nothing of value worth preserving and believes it should be demolished.

HOOPER questioned why the site is being held the owner as a non-profitting location.

\_\_\_\_\_ informed the Board that the CP's on the site have expired and that the current owner is holding onto the site for future use as the market is not very healthy at the moment.

DEMONTE asked if they have specific plans to turn it into something prosperous.

MAUCERI inquired as to who would be responsible for the demolition of the building.

LARSON informed the Board that the City of Los Angeles will be responsible for that and once the building is demolished they will place a lean on the property at 40% as an administrator.

KERR wanted to know if the students were being affected by the presence of the transients and how often the LAPD was called to the site.

LARSON has received calls from parents who reported transients harassing their children for money. The LAPD has set up a foot squad and has been able to make arrests at the site. A great of resources have been poured into the area to keep it safe. The LAPD and the Senior Lead Officer for the area are all willing to write letters in support of the demolition.

CHARLIE \_\_\_\_\_ a stakeholder reminded the Council that previous Boards had attempted to have the owners attend hearing in the past. He wanted to know the time and location of the meeting.

The hearing is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

VOTE: 05 In Favor, 0 Against. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

08.

~~7~~-**HOLLYWOOD & WESTERN PROPERTIES:**

7:56 PM –

LARSON reported on complaints coming from residents regarding the large number of transients taking up camp at an abandoned hotel on Hollywood and Western. The City Nuisance Abatement Program has not been successful at taking care of the matter. His department is a bit more aggressive and will be taking over guarding the site. The building is up for demolition, but is still in limbo as to whether or not this will be occurring.

CINDY \_\_\_\_\_ stakeholder read a statement from her Block Club, "Dear Board members, as you're all aware I am the Block Captain for \_\_\_\_\_ Watch and as such I have approached some of you in the past. I find myself in the middle of a conflict with CIM Group who owns the properties located on 1717 and 1727 \_\_\_\_\_ Avenue, which is right across from your boundaries. In the past, GGPNC as well as other neighborhood councils have been involved in the Hollywood/Western Project, which was operated by CIM who are trying to clean up the area by constructing a multimillion-dollar mixed-use development on the north side area of Hollywood Blvd. Several years have gone by and nothing has happened. The Gershwin Hotel is empty all the tenants have been paid off the minimum. We're talking about low-income working class people. Most of the properties along Hollywood Blvd and Golf view are empty, these are people who put in their hard earned money to improve the appearance of Hollywood. It' great!

It's beginning to feel like Franklin. It's been a month of pursuing CIM. They asked all the tenants to leave. They have only two tenants there now a Martial Arts Group and an advertising group. They are both paying month by month. All the properties along Western, as you mentioned, are vacant, there is a board and care facility, there is a house next to the board and care facility and it got burned down by a resident of the board and care facility. That burnt house just sat on the property, maybe six months to a year before they did anything. A massage place—I don't know when that closed down, but that has a sign inside the building that says, 'You are not permitted in here, unless I am here.' I thought, ok, well, I'll take a picture of the sign and show LAPD. The house is absolutely—it could blow it over pretty soon. Like you said, 9:00 am there were seven hookers leaving the property and then while I was there this afternoon drug dealers, and I have a picture of them that was in the paper last week, kinda showed back up on the property today dressed a little bit better. Turned out the LAPD was there—it was a nice little catch, but anyway. Getting back to my \_\_\_\_\_. What I'm asking for actually, I'm asking for your support because what we have is Hollywood and Western in the four corners—what I'm asking for is a letter of support. I am asking for the Neighborhood Council to put the pressure on CIM. Because what we're talking about—we have lives at stake. I have virtually picked up a knife, a bloody knife, and I turned it over to the LAPD. We have neighbors living on the second floor paying deeply more rent than they need to, overlook the property and don't really have to wait for a court action. We have drug dealing going on all the time, standing, fighting, yelling—it's pretty bad. I'm very proud of my neighborhood. I realize I'm not in your district, but as I said before we are a crossroads with your Neighborhood Council and I'm asking that we all come together in support the four corners, metro—which is a very business area with the hotels. We have a lot of tourists coming in here. I think that what we want is to show Hollywood at its best. And there's nothing worse than talking to a tourist, giving them directions, while there is a drug addict walking behind you, on private property, while CIM says our properties are secured. We do not allow people on our property. So, to make a long story short, we were told that the demo was going to be today and that it would be cleared up by Thursday. I thought I heard rumbling so I fell out of bed, looked over the wall and I saw seven druggies leaving the property. Got my camera went out and it turned out the President of CIM was there and he was giving me a lot of words about how long it took to get the demo permit. They had the demo permit and they never picked it up, but I don't really know the technicalities. He said, she said. We had a plan. And the plan was with the support of another Neighborhood Council, we contacted the neighborhood prosecutors, the City Attorneys, the LAPD and there were a bunch of \_\_\_\_\_ out there at one o'clock, one of the Board members saw it and said it looked good. There was a bunch of us \_\_\_\_\_ out there talking about the process of demolition. CIM is on

notice about how they have to get everything taken care of right away. CIM is telling us now that they will have the property demolished in September of mid-September, but it didn't happen today. We've been given three demo dates and after declaring that the Neighborhood Council would support the cause, as well as the Neighborhood Council declaring the gateway for tourists, to put pressure on CIM to hurry up and get rid of this property and tear it down. And do as you do not as you say. I really care and I really appreciate that fact that you are involved, but I really think it affects you—it affects all of us. What I've done, I have copies of pictures of the conditions of the property. There is a picture of a drug dealer, which happened to be there—he left. It's pretty bad. It's really bad."

GASTEIER reiterated the area involved is part of Hollywood United, across Western Ave. from GGPNC jurisdiction. The item was placed on the Hollywood United agenda last night and was discussed by their Board. GASTEIER contacted CIM letting them know the issue would be on the GGPNC agenda.

UEBERSAX proposed the motion as amended include a letter stating the following, "Dear Mr. Friedel, It has come to our attention that the properties on Hollywood and Western known as 1727 Western Avenue, have become a nuisance and danger to the general public, to the surrounding communities, as well as the tourists that come to Hollywood to see us at our best. Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council is requesting that the properties be abated and secured with eight foot fences and lighting along Western Ave. and Garfield as soon as possible."

UEBERSAX's area stretches towards Western Ave. So, this issue is of particular importance to him and his immediate community.

The Board questioned UEBERSAX and CINDY \_\_\_\_\_ whether they were seeking to demo the property or simply make it look better and more secure.

UEBERSAX restated the motion, The Griffith Park Neighborhood Council urges the City of Los Angeles take prompt action to complete demolition and properly secure, the building slated for demolition, on the northwest corners of Hollywood Blvd. and Western Ave. The President is authorized to communicate this position to the City and relating agencies, as he deems appropriate, as well as communicating this position to the owners of the property, and their agents regarding our resolution in terms of the recommendation in the motion as well concerns as mentioned about securing the entire property so it does not continue to have negative impact on the neighborhood properties. CAROLL seconded.

UEBERSAX also noted some developers allow property to become blighted in order to qualify for CAR money.

ARSLANIAN asked to have the correspondence also addressed to Councilman GIL GARCETTI whose office is directly in front the property.

OWEN motioned to amend that demolition should be accomplished immediately and pending demolition, the property be secured by the presence, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, of a least one armed guard. MAUCERI seconded.

GASTEIER read the new proposed motion, The Griffith Park Neighborhood Council urges the City of Los Angeles take prompt action to complete demolition and properly secure, the building slated for demolition, on the northwest corners of Hollywood Blvd. and Western Ave. The President is authorized to communicate this position to the City and relating agencies, as he deems appropriate, as well as communicating this position to the owners of the property, and urging that the property be properly secured prior to and after demolition. Among the items requested from the owner is that pending demolition the property be secured 24 per day, seven days per week by at least one-armed guard.

VOTE: PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

## **8-09. LA DWP ISSUES**

8:23 PM –

GEORGE CHEN, Manager DWP, spoke about the rising cost of energy for running the City of Los Angeles and the how the City is attempting to stabilize the prices for DWP customers. Increases are expected on a gradual basis to customers, beginning with Tier 1 customers.

MAUCERI noted the complexity of the figures CHEN presented and asked whether he was showing numbers for one segment of DWP business and if when all expenses for all DWP sectors were combined, are they operating at a loss, break even, or a slight profit?

CHEN noted that they are still doing well as they are operating, but a gradual increase is going to be necessary to keep up with the rate of inflation of other power sources such as gas. When compared to Edison, DWP is operating at a better margin of 20%. Yet, there is an 8% transfer that has to be made to the City's general fund that needs to be considered.

UEBERSAX asked for clarification on the status of previous fees for water that had been transferred based to the City's water fund.

CHEN explained due to a law suit, DWP stopped paying the City for the water portion of the fees, about \$25 million that are now put back to maintaining and stabilizing the current water rate. These profits also help Fire Department, Police Department, and other City agencies, whereas, Edison's profits go strictly to their shareholders.

UEBERSAX expressed some concerns from the DWP Member of Understanding Committee, an organization that looks out for the customers. The Committee felt the recent increases were brought forth without any notice. The Committee feels strongly that the Green Power issues as well as how often increased are made. It has been suggested that increases be made on an annual basis and all communication should be transparent.

UEBERSAX motioned whereas the reason cited by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to change the ECAF to allow a quarterly change by a factor of 20 to maintain it's AA Bond Rating is not directly related to energy costs with no indication of the projects, no analysis of the projected power expenditures, etc. Whereas the LADWP providing only two week days as advanced notice of the ECAF modification was not observing the Neighborhood Council LADWP Memorandum of Understanding, as intended, but also bypassing the City Council by not going before the Energy and Environment Committee to allow for community discussion, input, and response. Whereas, GGPNC feels LADWP should extract renewable solar powered windmills from this ECAF proposal. Whereas, the proposed changes along with other changes being proposed, would provide LADWP with the ability to raise funds, which would convert to double rate increasing in October with quarterly increases without limits. Therefore, be it resolved that the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council recommends that the ECAF is not changed but is maintained at the current allowable quarterly increase of .001 per kilowatt-hour. HOOPER seconded.

GASTEIER asked CHEN why there was an accounting problem and why there was such short notice of the change.

CHEN claimed DWP disclosed the information back in May at a two-hour meeting. The increases are due to overall hikes in the production and insuring of coal and other sources of power.

HOOPER expressed his support for UEBERSAX and claimed that he and other ratepayers are not satisfied with the reports being produced by the DWP. The increases seemed to be unfounded and sudden and it's difficult for ratepayers to make any changes since DWP calls all the shots.

MAUCERI addressed the 8% surplus that is going to the City instead of back to the ratepayers. It appears to be going into a nebulous area

and the affect of it is not substantial enough to be discernable. He is in support of the resolution because we are all experiencing higher costs all around and are learning to deal with less, and DWP should too.

CARROLL questioned CHEN on the various maintenance issues that seemed to go neglected for quite some time. He also wanted to know if the funds that go towards maintenance would be derived from the proposed increases.

CHEN assured that Board the maintenance issues had been addressed and reported on the DWP website. With regards to the proposed increases the funds go into a separate fund unrelated to maintenance. The proposed plan will stabilize the DWP budget by increasing by the rate at half a cent per kilowatt-hour over the span of four years. This will prevent the need for larger increases down the line.

O'GRADY asked for clarification on the cost of green energy vs. coal. Noting that while the State mandated DWP derive 20% of its power from green sources, which are more expensive, yet not charge more for this energy.

CHEN explained the goal is to reach 20% within a certain amount of time to eventually increase to 40%. Finding low cost ways to do that has been the challenge.

SOTER supports the motion due to the lack of time the public was allowed to respond to the proposed changes. She also mentioned the reforms the GGPNC has attempted to make to DWP Light Festival in Griffith Park. Citing the Manager let them know that he will inform them when he is ready to inform them of any reforms.

CHARLIE MINTZ, stakeholder, stated that he was not clear as to what the proposal by the DWP was attempting to do and the report was too long and unclear. He also asked what the impact would be if the bond rating was downgraded to AA minus or A. What would that cost the ratepayers in the City versus the additional cost of the ECAF?

CHEN responded it would be \$100 million for the borrowed amount and 2 cents over four years.

MARIA DUENAS, stakeholder, who is a low income user, claimed that many in her financial bracket do not know that these increases are forth coming and the it will be people in that bracket that will be the most adversely affected.

VOTE: 12 for, 2 against; Motion is carried.

UEBERSAX motioned The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council finds that the extension of tiering to a year round basis is not likely to result in significant energy savings, but instead would cause an additional financial burden on the low income, the poor, the pension seniors and especially on the struggling middle class which funds the programs and urges that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power not extend tiering to winter months. Some of the justifications about spare refrigerators and swimming pools are maybe a factor in the summer, but not year round. SOTER seconded.

OWEN inquired if tiering wasn't already occurring and what the motion is opposing.

UEBERSAX confirmed tiering is already part of the pricing system, but ECAF would exacerbate the pricing guidelines and push people into higher tiers. The motion is directly opposed to this.

MAUCERI asked UEBERSAX about his full confidence and understanding of the issues and his stance and recommendations to the Board based on his attendance to DWP meetings and his independent research and findings.

UEBERSAX advised the Board he was well versed on the issues and was presenting to the Board issues that would impact the GGPNC constituency.

GASTEIER asked UEBERSAX, if allowed more time, could he more clearly present a motion that would allow Board members a better understanding on what they were voting on.

UEBERSAX welcomed the extension, but did warn that these measures were pushed through the City Council by the DWP and it is his hope that the GGPNC could provide feedback, along with other neighborhood councils, to the Executive Board for the DWP MOU Committee as well as the DWP Committee. So, they can speak on our behalf. Having the neighborhood councils backing them up really helps their cause.

O'GRADY stated that the DWP is helping the public with rebates that allow them to turn their homes into more energy efficient units, but did concur that a bit more time to research the issue would be of great benefit.

SOTER asked about the timelines regarding these issues.

UEBERSAX stressed that the issues are ongoing, particularly the tiering issue, but acting soon is necessary.

VOTE: 11 for, 2 against; 1 abstention (GASTEIER). Motion passed.

UEBERSAX motioned The Department of Water and Power solar plan update: a) resolution to define solar plan implementation, whereas; the State of California directive for attaining 20% green energy is more realistic than the 40% goal proclaimed by the Mayor of Los Angeles, without approval of the community, whereas; the GGPNC agrees the DWP must reduce its reliance on carbon based power production, whereas; the GGPNC encourages all interested parties to engage in the manufacture and installation of renewal energy systems as soon as possible, therefore, be it resolved that the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council ask the LADWP update the solar plan with full transparency and with the participation of NC's and interested stakeholders. b) The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council moves that any City of Los Angeles solar plan should include a significant private sector buildings component with appropriate incentives for private construction. The GGPNC calls for that portion of the plan to begin at the same time as the plan for public buildings. The GGPNC calls for 50% of the work in public and private buildings to be put out for open competitive bidding, and that the work force be a minimum of 30% from the local community. c) The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council moves that the LADWP and the local IBEW Unions maintain their own solar training programs for their own employees. So, that the LAUSD and LACC programs such as the ELA vocational training photo voltaic classes are not overwhelmed by perspective workforce personnel imported from other areas, thereby; displacing local students. HOOPER seconded.

MAUCERI asked if someone previously spoke to the Board about solar power and Measure B.

UEBERSAX answered the resolution is an effort to have the DWP stick to the Measure B and open up jobs for local employees instead of out of state workers.

CARROLL asked what the objection is to having a higher goal than the State.

UEBERSAX claimed the goal was derived without consulting the community and its impact on ECAF.

CHARLIE MINTZ, stakeholder, noted that the IBW should be referred to IBW members and confirmed that they are all local workers and not flown in from out of state. He also expressed concerned over the training programs that are offered by the LAUSD and LACC since they are in place to train local workers.

VOTE: PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

**9-10. OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

9:35 PM –

DEMONTE reported that Hollywood Blvd is being ignored in terms of distributing outreach materials. She has also contacted religious groups and non-profit groups through mailings and e-mail blasts.

MAUCERI asked if the application would be included with the e-mail. He stressed that when connecting, taking out any extra steps would increase the take rate of participants. Pasting the information from the poster directly into the e-mail would help decrease the file size and deliver the information much more concisely.

CARROLL confirmed that a link to the application was included in the body of the e-mail, but sending an extra attachment with the e-mail would increase the size of the e-mail significantly and potentially increase the number of bounced back e-mails.

MAUCERI motioned to include an application in the next issue of the Los Feliz Ledger the cost is \$60.00 per thousand and do it as an insert with a front page and a back page and extend the application by 7 days. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded.

CARROLL commented the Ledger doesn't go to all the areas, particularly to areas that are unrepresented.

OWEN proposed having a grace period, extending the deadline to be received until Friday September 4<sup>th</sup>.

VOTE: 9 for, 3 against; 2 abstentions (DEMONTE & LOUYSE). Motion passed.

DEMONTE motioned, Education Committee approved the expenditure of money, \$2500.00, for Los Feliz Elementary. The books have been bought, but they need a stamp to prove they were purchased by the GGPNC. The Committee is asking for up \$100.00 to get a stamp that would bear the GGPNC name and logo that could be used on any items purchased by the GGPNC. ARSLANIAN seconded.

MAUCERI commented he uses the Library often and noted the stamps are highly noticeable and a great idea.

VOTE: PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

**11. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

9:52 PM –

O'GRADY reviewed the final fiscal report for the year in place of the monthly report. The report is divided into two sections, the first part, up to page 11, is money spent per committee. The second part, from page 12 and onward is by category. By category is the way the Department of Neighborhood of Empowerment likes it, by committee is the way the Board prefers. O'GRADY requested all Board members review the Budget and come back the following month with any changes or comments.

The report includes pie charts, transaction reports, reimbursement reports, credit & petty cash reports, and demand warrants. The report only covers items that have been funded. All pending items will be included once they are fully approved.

HOOPER asked if these records could be audited.

O'GRADY confirmed the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment can ask to see the books whenever they would like and any records are subject to audit.

SOTER requested the Neighborhood Council Conference expenditure trip be re-titled from Neighborhood Council Junket.

GASTEIER asked to have the trip mentioned under the Executive Committee to be reviewed and properly allocated to the correct account, as it was a Board sponsored trip and not solely an Executive Committee function.

O'GRADY discussed item 6b. The GGPNC agreed to spend \$17,000.00 on King Gardens. In the rush to get the job done, \$895.63 was over spent.

O'GRADY requested the Board approve an additional \$895.63 to cover the overage.

NAPIER expressed discontent with the overage and the lack of Committee knowledge regarding the specifics of the project, such as a payment to an artist for \$325.00. The money was approved for landscaping and not for artist work. This makes the Committee appear dishonest in front of the Board.

The Budget and Finance Committee met and resolved the budget that will be submitted for 2009-2010. The Budget is broken into three categories, not including committee budgets, as they are internal information. Items not paid last year will carry over to the new budget.

GASTEIER noted the budget must be submitted by tomorrow and can be fixed before the final submission is due.

HOOPER moved to approve the Budget as presented. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded.

\_\_\_\_\_ requested the Griffith Park Lizard Count be referred to as the Griffith Park Natural History Survey Project in the budget and all GGPNC correspondence. Also, the PROS Newsletter should be allotted \$9500.00 for the all expenses incurred as previously approved by the Board.

\_\_\_\_\_ motioned to change the \$5500.00 to \$9500.00 in the summer of 2009 Community PROS Newsletter. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded.

SOTER requested the full amount be included for that expense despite MAUCERI attempting to point out that this would be 20% of the allocated funds. SOTER claimed that in the past there were steep discounts given to the GGPNC, but that may not be the case this year.

CHARLIE MINTZ, stakeholder, pointed out the GGPNC is not responsible for installing streetlights, paving roads or conducting natural history surveys. Rather, they are they to convince those who have the authority to perform such acts to do so, keeping in mind the best interest of the stakeholders, which they represent. He went on to say, newsletters are tools to reach out the stakeholders and get their feedback, therefore; should be a major use of funds. He commented the Natural History Survey is a vital study to understand if the wildlife is Griffith Park is native or introduced and is doing a community service at large.

VOTE: 12 for, 2 against; Motion carries.

KERR leaves at 10:50 pm.

A vote is taken to approve the budget as amended.

VOTE: 10 for, 1 against; 3 abstentions (MAUCERI O'GRADY OWEN). Motion passed.

O'GRADY will submit the budget reflected the discussed changes.

## **12. TREASURER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:**

10:53 PM –

Bernadette Soter, Laura Howe, Kathryn Louyse and Ken Owen jointly moved:

WHEREAS, the current Treasurer of the GGPNC has misconstrued his function; whereas, it is appropriate for the Board to remind him of the duties and scope of his office; and whereas, the current Treasurer has executed his office in a manner that violates the Code of Civility under which we operate, the Board of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council resolves the following:

In accord with Article V.B.5 of the Bylaws, the job of the Treasurer is to serve as the council's accountant, which means faithfully executing the Board's instructions, facilitating prompt payment of expenditures authorized by the Board, soliciting Committee Chair and Board input for the GGPNC's annual budget, compiling the budget based on that input, distributing the annual budget to the Board, filing the Board-approved budget with EmpowerLA, distributing monthly budget updates to the Board on the status of the council's bank balance and payables, processing and reimbursing Board approved expenditures, and liaising with payees and Empower LA to facilitate same;

In his or her capacity as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee or otherwise, the duties of the Treasurer do not authorize the Treasurer to set, change or control the Board's funding priorities, set, change or control its budget line items, misstate, misrepresent or selectively represent the Board's bank balance and budget requests, nor withhold or delay payment of Board-approved expenditures;

Be it resolved, that the current Treasurer of the GGPNC be required to acknowledge and agree unequivocally to strictly comply with the foregoing at the meeting at which this resolution is adopted and, if not, the Board hereby expresses its lack of confidence in his ability to execute his office and requests his immediate resignation as Treasurer. Seconded by Owen.

DISCUSSION: DEMONTE claims O'GRADY has withheld payment on a request placed by DEMONTE and the recipient is still waiting on payment. O'GRADY recommended DEMONTE go through the Board to get the payment approved prior to his release of the funds.

MAUCERI asked DEMONTE if she spoke to O'GRADY before purchasing the T-shirts. DEMONTE claimed she had permission to spend money from the Board. Mauceri asked where in the article V.B.5 of the bylaws, it specifically states the Treasurer is to serve as "the accountant" for the Council. Adding, the bylaws say nothing of the sort and asked Soter what version of the bylaws she was citing?

SOTER claimed that the statement is being interpreted to read as such.

MAUCERI asked who's interpretation? Laws are generally taken at face value. He noted that there is a big discrepancy between what the Treasurer is as opposed to what an accountant is. The performances of past Treasurers do not dictate how the present Treasurer should act. The Treasurer in this case is financially responsible for everything within the budget and expenses. The issue raised when 66% of an approved expense was spent on items not specifically approved by the Board is a major item that should be questioned by the Treasurer. It's sets a precedent for all the Board that they can then spend funds regardless of Board approval.

KERR explained that there was no recollection of the Board not approving the purchase of T-shirts. These are items that are normally bought for this annual event and never been questioned. SOTER responded to the assertion by O'GRADY and MAUCERI that the Board forbade the LA River Clean Up Committee from purchasing the t-shirts. Her claim is t-shirts were proposed, but so were tank tops, baseball caps and visors. She stressed that the Board gives permission on how funds are used not the Treasurer.

HOOPER asked if the Treasurer is not the interpreter, who controls or sets priorities, then who does? He suggested the Board does, or most likely the Executive Board would. He also noted that committees should decide how the funds are allocated per project and when they run into shortfalls it is up to the committee members to resolve the issues.

O'GRADY stated he had audio recording of the discussion regarding the purchasing of bottle water and t-shirts. He read an excerpt from the audio which when asked specifically if t-shirts would be purchased, SOTER answered "no" they would buy some other item. He reiterated that it is his duty as Treasurer to question the specifics of expenses and report them to the Board if they do not concur with what was discussed during the meetings.

LOUYSE claimed she was insulted by the assertion by O'GRADY that the Committee lied.

OWEN showed concerned about the civility among the Board members.

MAUCERI noted that tank tops were not mentioned at the meetings and insisted the motion be recalled as it could potentially damage the role of every Treasurer down the line. He said we should call this the "put up or shut up motion" and play the audio tape, if there's any mention of tank-tops as an alternative to T-Shirts, he would compel O'Grady to resign, and resign himself, but if not, Soter should withdraw the motion as it is clearly maliciously motivated and steeped in half truths and bogus bylaw citations. He said, the issue could have been easily resolved had a phone call been made to the

Treasurer letting him know the funds would be spent on an alternative item instead of doing an end-around. By questioning the Committee's use of the funds, O'GRADY, as Treasurer, was simply doing his job.

GASTEIER handed the gavel to CARROLL and stated he would dispose of the motion since this doesn't appear to be about that particular issue. He went on to say, the Treasurer does not interpret Board resolutions. It is not up to the Treasurer to make a decision of that sort. If the motion needs to be changed then it needs to be addressed with the Board and not the Treasurer. The issue seems to be misinterpretation and overreaching by members in which civility has been ignored. The harsh language and accusations are projecting a negative image on the GGPNC. He will not support the motion due to the language that can only lead to further mistrust.

KERR motioned to have O'GRADY kindly pay the vendor in question. MAUCERI seconded.

OWEN supported GASTEIER'S statements and asked that the Treasurer behave as a gentleman when dealing with other members of the Board, despite his personal feelings on any of the matters.

DEMONTE motioned to order O'GRADY to pay the vendor in question.

A vote was taken on the original motion.

VOTE: 5 for, 5 against; 4 abstentions. Motion does not pass.

MAUCERI apologized for any perceived uncivil behavior. He claimed everyone comes with passion, ethics, and diverging points of view and they may be met with incivility. He would like to request the civility issue be placed on the next agenda to really vet what it is and what it means.

### **13. CITY SERVICES COMMITTEE:**

#:## PM –

### **13-14. RULES & ELECTIONS MATTERS:**

11:40 PM –

CARROLL motioned Bylaws article X (E) "Parliamentary Authority: shall be amended to delete the words "Roberts Rules of order Newly Revised." Those words shall be replaced by the words "Rosenberg's Rules of Order." So that the entire section shall read: "Parliamentary Authority. Rosenberg's Rules of Order shall be the Parliamentary Authority for the GGPNC."

The item will be deferred.

**14-15. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

11:41 PM –

The Executive Committee discussed the recommendations regarding the DANA CREMIN grievance. CREMIN sent a letter to Councilman LaBonge and the letter ended up getting posted on the GGPNC website with her personal mailing address attached. The Executive Committee heard from CREMIN.

The resolution is as follows:

The Committee recommends that the GGPNC advise Ms. Cremin that it sincerely regrets any discomfort which this caused her and further that the GGPNC adopt a policy that caution the use in posting correspondence of stakeholders including, but not limited to, correspondence to government officials and that at a minimum of information shall be redacted before such posting or other distribution unless the person requests otherwise. This would reverse the current default rule that correspondence not be modified unless specifically requested and require redaction unless specifically requested.

The item will be deferred.

**16. SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

11:45 PM –

GASTEIER motioned to return the extra, unused laptop to the City. DEMONTE seconded.

VOTE: PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

MAUCERI motioned The GGPNC send letters of support and request rapid action to Gary Harris, LA Street Maintenance, Devon Faron, LADOT, and Robert Camu, LADOT, James Quigley, LA Street Lighting, Parking and Street improvements around Hoover Steps and Mural Site.

VOTE: PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

**16-17. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

~~#:#~~ PM –

The item will be deferred.

