



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
Mark F. Mauceri (interim)

GOVERNING BOARD 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 #36

PO Box 27003
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0003
(323) 908-6054

www.ggpnc.org

GGPNC@ggpnc.org

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 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
Matt Summers	(00) Votes
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	(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)

Submitted and approved by Board consensus on 04/21/2009.

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Mark F. Mauceri
Secretary (interim), Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council