



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 (revised)**

Tuesday, June 16, 2009 – 7:00 pm

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

CERTIFIED COUNCIL #36

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01. CALL TO ORDER:

7:04 PM –

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

Board Members present (18):

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	De Ocampo, Alex District C	Hooper, Dan Religious Interests
Howe, Laura District A	Hyams, Tor At-Large	Kerr, Jacqueline At-Large
Louyse, Kathryn District C		Ostrow, Ron District B
Owen, Kenneth At-Large	Soter, Bernadette District A	Uebersax, David District B
Vigderson, Tal Recreational Interests		Wilson, Thomas At-Large

Excused (00):

Absent (01): Napier, Education.

A quorum was declared.

Late: (01): Alex DeOcampo, District C, 7:40 PM.

02. APPROVAL OF REVISED MINUTES FROM APRIL 2009; SEE ITEM 11C (MAY 2009 HELD OVER FOR JULY MEETING)

7:03 PM –

Approval of revised Minutes from April 2009; see Item 11c (May 2009 held over).

03. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

7:04 PM –

Stakeholder, ELENA NEGRETES spoke about the CLEAN car wash campaign and improving working conditions of employees at the local car wash located at Prospect & Vermont. She is asking car washes to support the “CLEAN Agreement.”

Wilson asked where the greatest resistance to the CLEAN campaign was coming from? The response was “the employers themselves,” the community has been very supportive.

Stakeholder, SEAN CHANDRA, spoke in support of the CLEAN campaign and the chance to work on improving on things here in OUR neighborhood. As a small business owner, he feels when competing with businesses exploiting workers, it hurts other businesses.

It was clarified the car wash in question is located in District C and is part of the Los Feliz BID.

FAVIOLA MIRANDA from Kaiser Permanente announced the Barnsdall Farmers Market starting on June 24th from Noon to 6:00 PM on Wednesdays, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente and the Barnsdall Park Association.

[Duration: 07 Mins.]

04. REPORTS: PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CITY STAFF

7:11 PM –

BETTY WONG-OYAMA, DONE, reported mayoral approval has been granted for NC funding for the next fiscal year; the GGPNC’s amended Bylaws were approved on May 28th. She stressed outstanding reports and upcoming fiscal budgets need to be submitted ASAP.

Beginning July 10th, mandatory furloughs begin with no city services on every other Friday until June 2010. City employee layoffs will cost DONE 10 staffers, she requested patience in processing requests, and she’ll not be able to attend GGPNC meetings as often.

For 2010 Council Elections, the City Clerk will not be providing any outreach as discussed in the Executive committee meeting.

Ethics Training AB 1234 needs to be completed by board members who have not yet complied. Any board member not in compliance runs the risk of being prohibited from participating in council activities. Training completion is one year from time elected and renewable certificate every two years. Names will be submitted to the City Council and Mayor's office of those in non-compliance.

Wong-Oyama confirmed DONE require approved Council meeting minutes to process funding requests.

Betty acknowledged the recent tension amongst GGPNC board members and suggested mediation from the City's Human Resources Commission. This process would be an official public meeting. She advised the City Attorney's office advises current board members cannot file a grievance or Brown Act violation claim against other board members or the Council itself as there is no official grievance policy in place. Gasteier stated although there is no official policy in place, there still is a process as described in the bylaws.

MARY RODRIGUEZ, CD4, announced she is the new Los Feliz field deputy as of July 1st. Kerr asked for an update on the traffic light status at Hillhurst and Finley; approved and planned for installation.

UEBERSAX spoke on behalf of Greg Bartz of the DWP. Packet was distributed. He will be reading the information and presenting a recitation at the next Board Meeting.

[Duration: 23 Mins.]

05. REPORT: NORTHEAST DIVISION SENIOR LEAD OFFICER

7:35 PM - None.

06. TREASURER'S REPORT:

7:36 PM -

Update on current budget and finance status (report distribution). Updated budget approved in February. The sheet handout was an updated budget for everything as of presently known.

O'GRADY stated all Committee Chairs will be given information shortly on when committee budgets are needed and are advised to prepare budget allocation requests for the upcoming year.

Howe spoke about the monies spent this fiscal year and a concern for monies being reduced by the city, but nothing has been “set in stone” yet.

It was opined Committee Members need to encourage matching fund initiatives between neighborhood councils for projects that need greater funding beyond an annual allocation.

Gasteier stated it’s important to eventually identify monies needed for Operations, Outreach and Neighborhood & Community Improvements and “needs” will have to be decided by the Board as they are brought before it.

[Duration: 12 Mins.]

07. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT TEAM:

7:48 PM –

Presentation as part of the Mental Service Health Act (MHSA), “Stress: Facing Challenges of Challenging Times.”

WENDY DELEON, L.A. County Dept. of Mental Health’s Outreach Engagement Team presented a guide to how stress can become an increasingly factor during difficult economic times. She advised the MHSA was passed in 2004 to fund the program over five plan areas within L.A.

[Duration: 15 Mins.]

08. PARKS, RIVERS & OPEN SPACE:

8:03 PM –

a) Griffith Park Greek Theatre Sound Mitigation update.

Soter furnished an informational handout. The Greek has purchased “Grozier” sound Monitoring System (bound by ship from from Asia). It has been purchased to monitor event sounds at the Greek Theater. It will be installed soon, and should significantly help in mitigating sound disturbances in the area.

b) Griffith Park L.A. Conservancy and LFIA Historic Preservation

Awards were a big hit with numerous members of the PROS committee being recognized for their hard work on the Griffith Park Historical Cultural status project

c) LADWP Griffith Park Travel Town Tank / River Supply Conduit

Project updates; Soter presenter before and after photos.

The Park river supply conduit runs end to end, and anything to be demolished has been will be requested to be restored to its previous status; the PROS Committee will do future monitoring.

D) City Budget Crisis Impacts on Recreation & Parks Department.

Figures for 2009/2010 has been reduced significantly and additionally, the Parks Department will be asked to pay for their own utilities and fleet maintenance costs. This means reduced Park operating hours, layoffs, hiring freeze and maintenance deferrals. DWP pays no leases for their storage items in the park.

City Council motion 09-1280 means there will be an increase in kids needing a summer activities for kids out of school. Soter moved for the GGPNC to write a letter supporting the LaBonge-Hann motion 09-1280, Napier seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Owens asked Soter why add additional funding on the Park Department for summer kids activities?

Hyams requested clarification of the LaBonge-Hann motion, and noted it does support programs for 225k kids out of school for the summer.

Uebersax clarified what the Parks Department is having to pay for now that it hasn't had to in the past; therein lies the shortfall.

Kerr clarified when the motion will be up for vote and the motion still needs to be introduced according to Mary Rodriguez, Field Deputy, CD4.

Mauceri recommends supporting the motion as the financial impact is practically accounted for and really won't affect the budget much.

VOTE: MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

Gasteier and Soter to facilitate.

E) L.A. River Clean-Up Report

Soter announced this was the fifth year running and it was a big success with over 2 tons removed by this FOLAR event. Soter wants to write a thank you note on the GGPNC letterhead to the sponsors.

Also discussed the numerous awards given to the Park for its efforts in historical preservation.

[DURATION: 25 Mins.]

09. EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

8:28 PM -

Report on Big Sunday event at Thomas Starr King Middle School.

Napier spoke about the event and how appreciated the board members in attendance were. The kids have been taking care of the work on their school since. Also discussed was where the Lions Roar Award presented to the GGPNC last month would be placed will be placed at the school.

[DURATION: 03 Mins.]

10. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF NINE APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS IN SEPTEMBER 2009

8:35 PM -

Motion to adopt procedures discussed in joint meeting of Rules & Elections / Outreach Committees including Form of Notice; approval of timeline; written ballot use, and "At-Large" candidates taken singularly.

DeMonte announced new timeline for application submission will be August 31st with final posting to Board members and website, soon thereafter.

Gasteier requested changes be made to the postings; clarifying the positions being open, etc.

Carroll thinks the "appointed seat descriptions" can be tightened up and the Board now has the opportunity to weigh the chance for others being considered for seats to be also be considered at large. He moved during the selection process anyone running for one of the five designated seats can also be considered for an at-large seat as well, Soter seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Vigderson thought it might be unfair for those competing against the other members. He offered a friendly amendment that the candidates know they can be considered for both designated seat position AND/OR the At-Large position.

Ostrow expressed concerned good people wanting to serve on the Board will not fall by the wayside, regardless.

Carroll thinks a simple statement anyone being considered for the five designated position will also be considered for an at Large position as well.

Committee member, BARBARA FERRIS thinks the wording should be kept clean and simple. Until a person works with the Board, we cannot know if they are "good or bad" and whether one or the other was let go because they weren't elected.

Hyams talked about clarifying what designated seat a person can run for and have them select which position they are applying for. Uebersax concurred with Hyams about checking one of the five seats or an At-Large position.

Mauceri, referred to the candidates of the 2008 election being asked if they were not elected would they still get involved? "Who walks the walk and who doesn't?" Three who did: Ostrow, Hyams, and Uebersax were now all board members.

Arslanian commented on the At-Large and how they were appointed' and supports someone checking having to actually check the box, rather than an automatic "drop down."

DeMonte thinks people are smart enough to figure out what is on the form and what the instructions mean.

Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of the "drop down" candidacy approach.

Gasteier said people who may be a specialists in one way might be great in another area as well, and would he would like to consider those not appointed to designated seats also be considered for the At-Large positions.

Vigderson withdrew his friendly amendment and Carroll restated the motion: "That everyone who checked one of the five could then, at their option, could be considered for At-Large without having to check "At-Large."

Gasteier called for consensus; consensus not reached.

VOTE: 11 For, 6 Against, 2 Abstentions (DeMonte, Uebersax)

Gasteier requested DeMonte provide the revised wording to him before the applications are processed. Arslanian opined the discussion was really the more the Committee's responsibility. Gasteier explained

due to time constraints, the application wording needed to be finalized at this meeting.

The application language was clarified with minor modifications.

Rosemary moved, Howe seconded that the modifications to proposed language changes in the documents be approved; approved by consensus.

Carroll moved "in the final document determining how the selections are made that written ballots be used by the Board for voting and each At-Large position be considered one at a time." Mauceri seconded.

Ostrow suggested that the two ideas be separated for approval, but after discussion withdrew the suggestion.

VOTE: Motion approved by consensus.

Gasteier requested the Rules & Elections committee bring back in July a comprehensive Election Procedures package incorporating the two resolved decisions.

[DURATION: 25 Mins.]

11. RULES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

9:00 PM -

a) Motion to reconsider previous Board resolution to destroy 2008 election materials. After Executive Session debate, the R&E Committee recommends approval the following procedure: "That the City Clerk facilitate a CPRA request, then return the original materials so the board can then decide how to use them for outreach or other purposes and create an archive."

Carroll stated due to a California Public Records request made by Joe Cisneros, the City Clerk's office have agreed to obtain the information from the GGPNC on a very limited basis, redacting any personal information such as names, email addresses etc. Originals and redacted versions would be returned to the Board for archiving and handling as deemed necessary.

Carroll moved to rescind the prior resolution requiring the destruction of ballots, NAPIER seconded; approved by consensus.

Gasteier moved for the Chair of the Rules & Elections Committee to get a second opinion with a letter sent to the City Attorney's Office asking advice on the correct procedure for facilitating this process; Mauceri seconded; approved by consensus.

b) To control meeting length, the R&E passed the following Motion: "that in consideration of time constraints, meeting chairs exercise their authority under existing rules to limit debate and entertain motions from committee/board members to allow a vote on limiting debate." Mauceri seconded. Adopted in lieu of proposed limit of 45 minutes per meeting on "procedural issues."

DISCUSSION:

Ostrow explained the R&E committee concluded the mechanisms to limit debate were already in place and the sentiment was a motion was unnecessary. Mauceri withdrew his second.

Gasteier stated motions will be made to cut off debate on future Council items, and with the second removed, the motion fails.

c) Discussion whether minutes placed on website are considered "published" under Roberts Rules? Adopt guidelines for GGPNC meeting minutes including a special rule of order if necessary. Two of four R&E Committee members present at the June 10th committee meeting wishes to inform the board the resolution to reduce official meeting minutes length was "improper" as cited by the Parliamentary Authority and by virtue of being properly noticed under The Brown Act.

DISCUSSION:

Carroll wants to limit minutes to three pages as per the discussion in a previous Rules & Elections Committee Meeting. He distributed a handout to the board members from a Parliamentarian and read Roberts Rules for clarification on minutes. He disputes placing the minutes on the website constitutes "publishing."

Carroll cited two main points of contention:

Limiting the minutes was an improper motion as cited by the Parliamentary Authority and posting minutes on the GGPNC's website constitutes publishing.

Carroll moved: "that the GGPNC adopt the theory that its minutes published on the website, printed on the website, filed on the website whatever you want to call it, are not as cited in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised what is considered published minutes." Uebersax later seconded.

Ostrow explained why he felt the previous meeting's motions were improper and not adequately agendized. Gasteier countered the previous motion to limit the meeting minutes to three pages was a one-time-only motion not intended as a going-forward. Other board members thought it was a permanent condition. Mauceri stated Carroll's three-page motion was vague.

Ostrow stated he and Gasteier have two different opinions, and the original motion from May needs to be clarified, if its intention was one time only.

Mauceri raised a point of order The Parliamentary Authority was defined, and interpretations of it by various folks culled from the Internet were not. Gastier asked if Mauceri had any authority that stated placing the minutes on the website constituted publishing in what's called a "term of art?"

Howe opined this should be brought up at the next meeting.

After more clarification and debate, Ostrow read from Roberts Rules of Order. More debate followed.

Gasteier asked again where was there was authority defining what publishing meant Mauceri replied: "The Dictionary" and read from it.

More debate followed. Gasteier commented he felt the minutes didn't adequately reflect what happened at the meeting. O'Grady replied the minutes can be corrected at any time.

Mauceri said he felt the root cause behind this whole discussion was there were things in the April minutes that "people weren't proud of" and that's what the issue was really about. Gasteier asked for Mauceri to give examples. Mauceri complied and stated this whole debate amounted to censorship.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

10:04 -

Jeff Gardner, Stakeholder, spoke about recording all minutes and having them available as an audio file for review by those who want more context in which something was stated and GGPNC post concise minutes about Board actions.

DeMonte made a friendly amendment to take this to a higher authority for interpretation. Mauceri reiterated if people wanted corrections to the minutes, to bring them to him for a revision draft.

Hyams stated he thought the motion he voted on last month was to go forward ad infinitum on the minutes, and not just for the April minutes. He moved to table 11C 11B and the approval of the April minutes until the Roberts Rules can be interpreted [and brought forth at the next meeting without prejudice to items previously approved for funding]; seconded by HOWE.

DISCUSSION:

O'Grady voiced concerns about the April minutes not being submitted to DONE and it might hold up funds previously approved

Mauceri moved to approve the April Minutes and he would strike any information Boardmembers would like to be needs to have certain approved funding to submit to DONE; Gasteier did not agree with this and would not allow this item motion to be made.

VOTE: 15 For, 2 Against 1 Abstention (Ostrow)*

*Dan Hooper had left the meeting before the vote.

Ostrow maintained without knowing whether Carroll's "3-Page" motion was a one-time-only or going forward, the issue of whether it was an improper motion or not.

Uebersax moved to reconsider the previously approved motion and take it off the table due to it might be voted on improperly; Mauceri seconded; approved by consensus.

Mauceri moved the April '09 minutes be reduced to only "Actions Taken" with the proviso the entire audio recording be placed online at a future date; Arslanian seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Soter raised concerns the audio would still be subject to misinterpretation when posted on the web.

Mauceri clarified anything being removed would only be the items not pertaining to the actions taken and everything else would stay as it is already written, pending Board approval tonight.

Gasteier reviewed the minutes to tabulate the number of actions taken.

Soter expressed concern about approving minutes that have not been seen, however, Mauceri stated she has seen the minutes three times.

He clarified any approved minutes can be revised to remove disputed items at any time by any one.

Motion approved by consensus.

[DURATION: 1 Hr, 33 Mins.]

12. PLANNING, ZONING, & HISTORICAL PRESERVATION:

10:34 PM -

Status report regarding GGPNC issues represented to governmental agencies, in specific the matter of Home Restaurant and various board members who contested the Board's decision to oppose the restaurant's request for expanded seating.

Stakeholder, JOE CISNEROS, commented committees would give a recommendation and in the past the Board approves or not. He wants a copy of a letter submitted to the Zoning Administrator refuting the decision of the Board.

Owen stated his committee is presenting a report to the Board and it's up to the Board to do something; it needs to decide what to do.

Hyams commented allegations being made against him in the report were untrue. He simply sent a letter directly to HOME Restaurant owners and/or its Representative outlining their parking requirements.

Ostrow pointed out the GGPNC is somewhat lacking in clearly defined sets of rules and guidelines. Gasteier agreed and concurs the rules need to be codified.

DeOcampo asked for clarification regarding the specifics of the issues regarding the restaurant.

O'Grady stated he didn't think discussing this issue without the stakeholders of 'Home' present was proper.

Soter said the issue was really about misconduct and lack of acknowledging organizational ethics stating that GGPNC letterhead was created improperly and misused.

Mauceri asked Owen how the presented PZHP report was created and when? Owen responded it was discussed at the PZHP Committee meeting on June 4th. Mauceri pointed out that meeting agenda did not mention 'Home Restaurant' or himself or others named in the report and was most likely, in his opinion, a violation of the Brown Act.

Mauceri pointed out he had used the so-called "fake letterhead" many times previously for different purposes. He produced an example "cc'd" to VP, Administration, Bruce Carroll. Mauceri said no mention was ever made its format was fake or in any way improper before now.

Mauceri read from a letter written by stakeholder, Craig Kuromi, owner of ISE (pronounced E-Say) Automotive. The letter was addressed to the Zoning Administrator with Mr. Kuromi stating his understanding that a letter written by Mauceri was read at a zoning hearing and quoted his (Mauceri's) letter verbatim. Mauceri pointed out the letter in question was not read at the Zoning hearing, but placed in the case file. He also pointed out the only people who had direct access to the letter were GGPNC board members. Mauceri asked if anyone present knew how Mr. Kuromi came to know the information contained in it? He also asked if any board member could explain how the morning after he circulated the letter to the GGPNC Board, it became a discussion topic at a meeting of the Los Feliz Business Improvement District (BID)?

Mauceri stated he believes the PZHP Committee needs to clearly establish its operating parameters.

LOUISA NUBARAVACHARYAN, Stakeholder, who lives on Kingswell Avenue clarified she was not a representative for Home Restaurant, but attended the zoning administrator's hearing because of her proximity to the restaurant. She clarified the owner of home stated "some members," not all members, of the GGPNC are Anti-Armenian.

Uebersax believes there's misinformation out there and some people have been misled, and they should have investigated the facts before acting irresponsibly.

Soter asked if there were punitive remedies available for instances of breaches or organizational ethics such as such censure. She urged the Zoning Committee to continue to address this issue and keep doing its good work.

O'Grady, stated this issue should have an agendaized meeting to openly discuss all aspects of the issue.

[DURATION: 56 Mins.]

13. OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

11:29 PM –

a) GGPNC Newsletter

Recommendation to combine any newsletter into one for the purpose of cost cutting.

b) Use of Los Feliz Ledger To Save Newsletter Costs

Tomas O'Grady. Motion: "In the interest of cost savings, the GGPNC alternatively publish its annual newsletter as an 8-page special section in the Los Feliz Ledger." Mauceri seconds.

DISCUSSION:

Presentation made by O'Grady on the newsletter printed by the Outreach Committee and the budget amounts approved and combining the newsletters into one and saving monies as well.

Soter commented about the "casualty" of her newsletter by doing it this way and the reduction of content for all newsletters involved and the loss of distribution efforts.

Uebersax spoke about the GGPNC newsletters and the importance of the neighborhood councils having a newsletter to mail to its stakeholders. Reinforce logo and brand awareness with mailings several times a year. Thinks it would be a mistake to place it all in one mailer.

Hyams understands Soter's point but thinks the motion should be amended to combine the but have the PROS portion s its own separate section or pull-out.

Kerr addressed the value received versus the monies spent.

Mauceri said we have something few other Neighborhood Councils have in a local paper and we don't use it effectively. He feels two separate newsletters doesn't leverage printing or shipping costs well, stating PROS is a part of the GGPNC and by consolidating it with the main GGPNC newsletter a lot of money could be saved.

Soter commented on the cost savings and the purpose of the newsletters and the PROS newsletter regarding HUNC, Sierra Club, etc.

O'Grady opined cost savings was the best way to impress the community. If the cost of the PROS newsletter is indeed dramatically reduced from the \$9000+ budgeted number, he would support two separate publications.

CALL: There was no consensus on the motion.

VOTE: 2 in favor, 14 opposed; motion fails.

[DURATION: 41 Mins.]

14. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / BOARD MEMBER INFORMATION REQUESTS:

a) Recommendations regarding policy guidelines for council archival information availability and member requests.

Mauceri moved to table to next meeting.

15. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bruce Carroll reported on the progress of switch to new website at the end of June 2009. He stated Board members should familiarize themselves with the operational instructions.

16. OTHER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

17. ADJOURN

12:30 -

KERR moved to adjourn, Mauceri seconded; meeting adjourned.

MEETING SUMMARY:

Duration:	5 ½ Hours
Motions/Votes:	10
Resolutions/Statements:	00
Official Correspondence:	01
Funds Allocated:	\$0.00
