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GGPNC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 18, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.
Los Feliz Community Police Center
1965 n. Hillhurst Ave. (2nd floor of Citibank)
Los Angeles, CA 90027



CERTIFIED COUNCIL #35

1. Call to Order and quorum check.

Mims:

- Jessie Kornberg taking notes until officers elected.
- We have a quorum.
In attendance: Mims, Gardner, O'Grady, Van Keuren, Masi, Kornberg, Ostrow, Wilson, Mauceri, Malhi, Khanjian, Nubaravacharyan, Hyams, Arslanian, Napier, DeMonte

Absent: Hooper, DeOcampo, Vukovic
- Clarification re: Agenda
Mims: The meeting will be governed by the agenda posted Saturday morning, May 15, 2010.

Mauceri: Point of Information on bylaw procedure

Mims: Rules not to use April Carry-over items and to proceed with agenda

1. Welcome to newly elected board members.

Mims: Welcome and Congratulations

1. Election of Officers.

- President:

O'Grady nominates Ostrow. Hyams seconds.
Wilson inquires if Mims would accept. Mims declines.

Nominations closed.

Ostrow balloted by consensus.
- Vice President Admin.:

Nubaravacharyan nominates Hyams. O'Grady seconds.
Nominates closed.

Hyams balloted by consensus
- Vice President Outreach:

Hyams nominates Nubaravacharyan, Khanjian seconds.

Wilson inquired if DeMonte would accept nomination. DeMonte declines.
Nominations closed.

Nubaravacharyan balloted by consensus

- Treasurer:

Masi nominates Khanjian, leslie seconds
Nominations closed.

Khanjian by consensus.

- Secretary:

Mims nominates Kornberg. Hyams seconds.
Nominations closed.

Kornberg balloted by consensus.

Motion:

Mims moves for White Ballot for election of officers. Seconded by Nubaravacharyan. Passed by consensus. New Executive Board Elected unanimously.

Ostrow assumes Chair. Issues welcome and thank you. Introduces Roberts Rules of Procedure to be used in the meeting:

Ostrow: Announcing Rules of Conduct:

- When an agenda item calls for a motion, the chair will recognize the member who raised the issue and call for a motion.
- After the motion is made, the chair will repeat the motion and call for a second. Members were asked to raise their hands and wait to be recognized and not to shout out their second.
- If the motion is seconded, the chair will ask the maker to briefly discuss the issue.
- The chair will then ask for public comment.
- The chair will then ask if there are any objections from the board regarding the motion.
- If the chair hears no objections, the chair will declare the motion has passed by consensus.
- If an objection is raised, the chair will open the floor to debate.
- After debate, the chair will again ask if there are objections to the motion.
- Hearing none, the chair will declare consensus.
- Hearing an objection, the chair will ask for a motion to vote on the motion.
- Hearing no motion to vote, the motion will die.
- Hearing a motion to vote, the motion will be voted on by a show of hands.
- The chair instructed the members to address their comments to the chair and not to engage in cross talk. The chair will rule any remarks directed to a member as out of order.
- During committee reports, members will be able to address the person making the report and ask questions. Questions from members will proceed clockwise around the table until all members who wish to speak have been heard.

Motion:

DeMonte moves to limit each speaker to 2 min per turn. And 2 turns per issue. Seconded and Adopted by consensus.

Motion:

Arslanian moves for pledge. Hyams seconds. Motion to pledge passes by consensus. Pledge recited.

1. Public comments on Non-agenda items and public announcements.

Shelly Marks: Neighborhood volunteer for Karen Bass introduces candidate and outlines opportunities to volunteer for the campaign.

1. Reports from public officials and staffs.

Mary Rodriguez, Field Deputy CD4:

- Recognizing Dan Sandman's service on Public Safety. Official City Commendation.

- Bike Rides Schedule (July 14th River Ride)
- Budget information
- New Smart Parking Meters on Hillhurst.

Question from Tom Wilson: Are meters being privatized? No. City made these changes.

- Public Safety issues: councilman's home burgled. Close your shades. Increased LAPD allocations
- Franklin Ave landscaping along retaining walls
- Friends of the Commonwealth Nursery formed. Weeding and maintenance needed desperately.
- Hoover St. being repaved at Prospect (O'Grady leading the effort to weed and keep the landscaping clear).
- New entrance to the park at Riverside repainted.
- June 5th Relay for Life.

Question from Malhi: Traffic light on Hillhurst and Finley? Yes.

Hae Yung Kim, on behalf of Assembly Member Mike Feuer's:

- Feuer appointed to position of Majority Policy Leader.
- Health care legislation capping number of rate raises moving through the legislative process.
- Long-gun registration papers will be preserved under new regulations.
- Iran Contracting Act 2010, progressing through legislative process.
- Mayor Villaragosa's 30/10 plan: Governor moving forward on 12 projects with legislative support.

2. Report from outgoing Treasurer.

A. Current fiscal year expenditures and status of rollover allocations.

Ubersax:

- Still working on transition. DONE working on this, but providing inconsistent information. Rollover funds: \$46,000 was being withheld. Submitted evidence of committed projects and ongoing expenses approved prior to January 29th. Still unsure what the final decision will be. But GGPNC approved for \$33,000. More than was requested because DONE made a miscalculation on the PROS newsletter. However Marshall M budget was omitted. There are \$10,000 of expenses from last year's budget that were paid after July 1st and so for now being taken out of this year's budget. This is another point of possible reconsideration. This will eventually require action by the City Council.
- Valid amount of \$28,824.09 of rollover can be spent on things already allocated. We have a fresh \$45,000 coming for fiscal year 2010-2011. We are in the top tier of NCs with respect to reporting and recording.
- Rules at DONE continue to change. Petty cash has been suspended. The only way we can make expenditures right now is through the charge card. New Treasurer needs card reissued to her. In the meantime the board can direct additional charges to be paid with David's card under \$2500. The balance on the card is over \$5k.

Discussion and Questions:

Ostrow:

- Confirming that there's still a possibility they won't release funds and that the money for Marshall will not come out of rollover unless this list is revised. Discussion reveals that voicemail and website also double listed. Email from Taneda Larios with 4 items: \$10k for boys & girls, etc. was sent to the GGPNC email in error and can be disregarded.
- Confirming that if the city figures out that they gave us an extra \$5k they're not going to give it to us. \$8k figure includes the duplicative \$5k.

Hyams:

Acknowledged demand warrants – is anyone getting left out that we made financial promises to? Yes we did not have budgets in time for this so there are people left out. Trying to get additional documentation on these items. If it's not on this list we're not paying it out of rollover. DONE No Documents item – storage through July 4th.

O'Grady:

- Questioning exclusion of the Franklin Elementary Smart Board Demand Warrant from the rollover accounting. That warrant has already been submitted and acknowledged, but it has not been paid. And it is unclear where it appears in this accounting. Freedom scientific demand warrant was submitted 5/11/2009. Why is that on this list but Franklin's not? Determination made that indeed Franklin item should have been on the list.

- Explaining the regular refilling of funds on the “charge card.” This may be from the current \$45,000 allotment. This is not from the \$45,000 for 2010-2011.

Napier:

- There’s a problem with turnover at DONE, because of furloughs and layoffs.

Khanjian:

- Some items say 2008 some items say 2009. Some items, like Franklin demand aren’t anywhere in this accounting. She needs to see everything that’s been approved, demanded, documented, and paid in order to determine the accuracy of this report.
- This questioning reveals that items like the grants to Remember Hollywood and the Los Feliz Library are unpaid, undocumented, and now possibly unpayable.

Mims:

- Clarifying how the charge card works, who has authority to use it, and what the money on the card can be used to pay.

Motion:

Mims: Moves to Receive and File the Treasurer’s Report. Seconded by Masi. Objection.

Discussion:

Mims: The former and current Treasurers should get together offline and go through all this.

Substitute Motion:

O’Grady: Move to delay filing of report until outgoing and incoming treasurer can revise report. Nubaravacharyan Seconds. Adopted by consensus.

Motion:

Mims: Moves to authorize Ubersax solely at direction of new Treasurer to make expenditures already authorized by the board pending issuance of new charge card in new Treasurer’s name. Hyams Seconds.

Discussion:

Mims: We need this to pay business expenses.

Motion passed by consensus.

B. Finding quarterly reports to DONE from Treasurers prior to FY 2008 be no longer considered open and pending due to the fact that records required to confirm or complete these reports are not available (per DONE protocol.)

Ubersax:

These count against us. And we have no proof of these filings.

Motion:

Mims moves 6B for 4th 2004, 2nd 2005, 1st 2005, 4th 2008. Seconded by Napier. Objection.

Discussion:

Mauceri:

- We need to make a better effort to find these records. The three present Treasurers should get together on this as well.

DeMonte:

- Clarifies that the city won’t pay us unless we do this.

Van Keuren:

- Confirms that there may be a deadline proposed by DONE for this but that Ubersax does not know when it is.

Mims:

- You have a certain number of quarters you can’t have open – it’s 3. This motion doesn’t preclude us from performing a forensic accounting.

Ostrow:

- If this is procedural and there is no deadline then this should go to next month's meeting's report from the Treasurers.

O'Grady:

- Clarifies that these "undocumented" quarters may well have been fully submitted by us originally and then confusion occurred within the city's process.

Amendment:

Hyams: Moves to amend by striking quarter in 2008 from the motion. Seconded by Mims. Amendment accepted by consensus.

Motion finding quarterly reports to DONE from Treasurers prior to FY 2008 be no longer considered open and pending due to the fact that records required to confirm or complete these reports are not available (per DONE protocol) for the 4th quarter 2004, 1st quarter 2005 and the 2nd quarter 2005. passed by consensus.

3. Approval of the minutes of the March 2010 meeting.

Materials not included. Pushed to next meeting.

4. Parks, River & Open Space Committee Report:

A. 2010-2011 City budget for the Department of Recreation & Parks and status of Griffith Park.

Soter:

- Advocating in budget process in public hearings.
- Four issues/goals: (1) park ranger situation in balance with office of public safety. Previous concern that OPSO will become LAPD now a reality, leaving security bare. So advocating successfully to ensure park uniformed officers remain in place. (2) proposal to charge parking fees at the Zoo Lot. A regressive solution to revenue needs. Zoo lot is not exclusive to zoo patrons. Fee discussed by Rosendahl at last city council meeting. Debate about amount and where money would go. Conflating park land with parking structures. Troubling precedent. GGPNC, LFIA, and Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations all working against this. (3) maintenance – broken windows issue – Jason Alias and maintenance supervisor have said they don't have adequate staff. (4) New fees on Rec & Parks for DWP charges. DWP has infrastructure in the parks that DWP doesn't pay rent for. Our position is: that if Rec & Parks has to pay utilities then it should also be able to charge rent.

Mims: Comment on paid parking regarding Griffith's deed requiring free access. Parking fees appear to be the grounds for a possible law suit.

B. Cahuenga Peak purchase.

Soter:

- The money to preserve the peak was raised and the peak saved. So what's next? Griffith Park gets the land because of the landmark status. No word on ceremony at this time. New Yorker article alluded to possible new development. TPL has refuted this supposition – their response read.

C. Griffith Park to Elysian Park Community Trail and Wildlife Corridor. Resolution of support for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's appeal for an easement to permit the conversion of the "Corralitas Car Barn Property" which is an existing natural open space into a trail linking the two parks, hereafter called the Griffith Park to Elysian Park Community Trail and Wildlife Corridor. This has been part of the Community Plan since the early 1980's.

Motion:

Mims: Moves to file CIS in support of SMMC for Red Car Trail. Seconded by Napier. Objection to allow for discussion.

Discussion:

Soter:

- Land by Fletcher and Riverside used to be a streetcar line. Key link in proposed trail in Griffith Park Master Plan to link Griffith and Elysian Parks. Owner wants to put 120 condo unit.

Mims:

- Conservancy is not objecting to development just asking for easement.

Kornberg:

- Clarification of action at PLUM denying Conservancy's appeal. Clarifying procedural posture at City Council.

Masi:

- Letter on the back is the proposed CIS.

Arslanian:

- Concerned that the motion conflates two separate issues: one about density and one about connection. Requesting clarification on how the proposed easement actually serves as a linkage and a corridor. Mims responds: There is a physical connection. Soter responds: you have to start somewhere to create these links.

Motion passed by consensus.

Hyams: Point of Information re: Abstention. Ostrow clarifies: Irrelevant when by consensus. Declared before vote.

5. Planning, Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee Report:

- A. Alcove Restaurant, 1929 Hillhurst Avenue. Application by the owner to increase the authorized seating from 144 to 228 and to change their license from a Type 41 Beer and Wine only to a Type 47 full line of alcoholic beverages and to extend the hours of alcoholic beverages being served from the current ending time of 11:00 pm to a new time of 6:00 am to 1:00 am on Thursday through Saturday and to a new time of 7:00 am through 12:00 am Sunday through Wednesday, with off-site alcohol sales from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm daily; and the establishment of a banquet room facility for pre-arranged events that will be located in a separate building at the rear of the property; and also to have "Happy Hour" service.

Motion:

DeMonte: Motion that the board recommend approval of the application of the owner of the Alcove restaurant to increase the authorized seating from 144 to 228 and to change their license from a Type 41 Beer and Wine only to a Type 47 full line of alcoholic beverages and to extend the hours of alcoholic beverages being served from the current ending time of 11:00 PM to a new time of 7:00 AM to 1:00 AM on Thursday through Saturday and to a new time of 7:00 AM through 12:00 AM Sunday through Wednesday, with off-site alcohol sales from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM daily; and the establishment of a banquet room facility for pre-arranged events that will be located in a separate building at the rear of the property; and also to have "Happy Hour" service

With the following conditions:

- 1) Banquet room hours to completely end by 10:30 PM.
- 2) Hours to be 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM Sunday through Wednesday and 7:00 AM through 12:00 AM Thursday through Saturday.
- 3) Parking sites must have signage and have current valid leases for the 4 sites with 98 spaces for the duration of the CUB.
- 4) Employees will park at Alcove parking lot after 4:00 PM.
- 5) In the interest of Public safety and noise reduction the Board recommends that the City approve Valet Parking drop off in front of the Alcove but not to exceed eliminating two metered spaces.
- 6) CUB to extend no more than 5 years.
- 7) There will be no Happy Hour.
- 8) Approve of change from Type 41 to Type 47 License and Type 20 offsite sale of beer and wine only from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM daily.
- 9) The board confirms the seating plan due to the track record of the operator in performing a good business model.
- 10) The board requests that the Bar be for full service, not for alcohol only service.

Masi seconds. DeMonte reviews committee action, letters of support and history of business. Applicants explain seating, liquor license and parking.

Public Comment:

- Francois Delodiroges: Complaining about noise pollution. Exterior cleaning with steam cleaning and generator at 1 am. That has abated. During the day the restaurant is noisy. Odors as well. Light pollution – spotlights for security all night. Traffic and congestion. Impossible to park during the day. Limit Alcove to current operation.

- Michele Farr: her mother looks over the banquet hall. Last few nights there have been parties. Awoken in the morning by cooking bacon and frying fish. She is a voice teacher but her students cannot find parking.
- Mother, Naomi Farr, in opposition as well.
- Charlene Gawa, also in opposition, but absent.
- Mark Gunsky: Applicant's partner. This isn't about food it's about liquor. So the smells and noise are irrelevant. It's a hard business. Ad this is important employment. And this business deserves support.
- Elizabeth Flaherty (GM Alcove): Explaining that during the process went around neighborhood and got support from landlords and neighboring business. The steam cleaning issue was brought to our attention and resolved. Lights resolved. Happy hour is comparable.
- Mr. Harris: We live in a city where things like subway wrappers, blocked driveways, and other things going wrong are an inevitability. Alcove is a thing going well. It's something to look forward to.
- Maria Villett: Explains that her bedroom faces back entrance. Never been awakened. Their front tables have umbrellas and trees so there's no noise. They are very good neighbors.
- Linda Demmers: Strong support. Renaissance in Los Feliz started at Alcove.

Objections & Discussion:

Masi:

- Clarifying the status of this application. Zoning admin has take case under advisement. Needs letter by June 3rd. Clarifying the reduced hours embodied by the letter. All of us are trying to deal with getting a more consistent set here. Some of the other businesses are open later. But this is consistent with Home and more than Little Dom's. And questioning the fairness of denying a happy hour.

DeMonte:

- Zoning admin said we should make the decision about the banquet room.

Van Keuren:

- Banquet closing time should by 11pm.
- It was forthcoming of this business to acknowledge CUP violation. The reality is that many businesses just cover this up.

Hyams:

- Questions about impact liquor has on the neighborhood.
- Concerned about non-compliance.

Gardner:

- Concern about the impact the Alcove lease on the Citibank lot will have on Board members.

Arslanian:

- Happy Hour seems unfair.
- Seating increase essentially only in banquet hall.

Nubaravacharyan:

- Confirming that all parking agreements are continuous.
- Pointing out that this business operated in violation of their CUP and failed to mitigate when that violation came to light.
- Concerned that these hours represent an advantage over other businesses.
- Confirming 46 spots for 228 patrons during daytime hours is more than the CUP ratio of other businesses.

Malhi:

- Expressing agreement with Masi on Happy Hour.

Mims:

- Concerned with failure to comply with CUP.
- Also concerned with parking at Citibank. Seeking assurances that our parking will be accommodated.

Wilson:

- Applicant knew the rules when you went in. It's not our job to make sure business owners are profitable. There's a bigger issue about the collective impact of everyone wanting to expand. We can't always be making exceptions.

Mauceri:

- Other restaurants have been punished for failure to comply. We're trying to apply rules consistently.

O'Grady:

- Happy hour prohibition seems unfair. Need to apply consistent standards.
- Need to do the odor reduction.

Ostrow:

- Consistency is the goal.

Motion to Amend:

Mims: Moved to amend to strike the #7 condition that there be no Happy Hour and to include the following items in the letter to the zoning administrator:

1. Star Training for employees serving Alcohol.
2. Alcohol sales not to exceed 50% of the Gross sales.
3. Soundproof as much as possible Banquet Room and adjust lighting in back parking lot.
4. There shall be no live or loud music.
5. All parking will be valet.

Seconded by Masi. Approved by consensus.

Substitute Motion:

Kornberg: Moves to recommend approval of the application in full. Seconded by Arslanian. Objections & Discussion. Failure to move to a vote.

Vote on Amended Motion:

In Favor: Napier, Gardner, O'Grady, DeMonte, Masi, Mims, Mauceri, Khanjian, Malhi, Arslanian.

Opposed: Kornberg, VanKeuren, Hyams

Abstained: Nubaravacharyan

Amended Motion passed by majority vote.

- B. 1801-1817 New Hampshire: Proposed demolition of garden apartments and construction of one four story building (43 feet high) on three lots containing 32 residential units with 75 parking spaces o a 27,803 square foot lot in the R3 Zone. This project was modified by the developers from their original proposal.

Motion:

Wilson: Moves to oppose variance request. Seconded. Opposed to allow discussion.

Masi:

- Opposes the motion. Existing building has the benefit of conjunction anyway. If they are limited to what they can do by right they will build three large square buildings with less open space.

DeMonte:

- This is bigger than what's there. Favors motion.

Mauceri:

- Voting for pragmatism. This garden complex is coming down. We have a say in what goes up if they work through the variance process.
- Confirming that PZHP representatives do not know the hearing date for this application.

Khanjian:

- There is more parking allocated under their proposal then would be required by right.

Mims:

- Why should the non-compliant use of the current building be a factor? They bought these properties on notice that the joined lots weren't compliant.
- Confirming parking space allotment.

Napier:

- Expressing concern about the character of the development proposed.

Wilson & Ostrow expressing concern that party in interest was not present. Ostrow clarifying that applicant had appeared at two previous meetings.

Vote:

In Favor: Kornberg, Wilson, Mims, Gardener, DeMonte, Arslanian

Opposed: Masi, O'Grady, VanKeuren, Mauceri, Nubaravacharyan, Khanjian

Abstaining: Hyams, Napier

Motion dies.

- C. Hollywood Community Plan: Adoption of this committee's recommendations and those of the Transportation Committee regarding changes to the Hollywood Community Plan.

Motion:

Wilson moves to adopt Richard Spicer's recommendations and changes compiled with Education, PZHP, and Transportation Committees. Seconded. Passed by Consensus.

- D. Adoption of policies for the Planning, Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee.

Motion:

Wilson: Moves to adopt.

Substitute Motion:

Ostrow: Moves to table issue for next meeting. Seconded. Passed by consensus.

6. Transportation Committee Report:

Announcement of a special meeting of this committee for all interested stakeholders to hear a presentation from the Department of Transportation on the City's policies and procedures on Preferential Parking Districts followed by questions and answers from staff. This meeting is informational only and no other business will be conducted at it.

7. Cultural Committee Report:

Motion:

Arslanian: Moves for GGPNC participation in the Silver Lake Jubilee (SLJ) at the \$750.00 sponsorship level, which includes: Mention of the GGPNC and link to our website from the SLJ website; designation as an Official Sponsor including an SLJ emblem on our website with a link to the SLJ website; licensing of the SLJ emblem on promotional materials upon request and subject to SLJ approval; business card size logo on festival map; and announcements of our participation on Twitter and Facebook social networks.

Seconded. Objection.

Discussion:

Wilson:

- Raising concern about consistency that budget uncertainties are not being raised as an objection in this discussion as they have been for funding proposals in the past.

Kornberg:

- Addressing Wilson's concern. Explaining her view that with \$5k on the charge card and as little as 45 days to spend those funds, she feels comfortable with this expenditure.

Ostrow:

- Concerned about insecurity of funds.

Khanjian:

- Concerned about insecurity of funds.

Motion passed by consensus.

8. Education Committee Report:

None.

9. Other comments and announcements by board members.

Wilson: The PZHO Committee needs a new chair.

Arslanian: Visit www.artsforla.org to learn more about the city proposal to raise non-profits rents on city land.

Ostrow: Announcing that the Governing Board of the GGPNC shall meet on June 1, 2010 at 7 PM in order to make up for the lost April 20, 2010 meeting. In addition, the Executive Committee shall meet one hour prior to the meeting.

10. Adjourn.