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Jessica Kornberg

GREATER GRIFFITH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
"Your Neighborhood. Your Voice. Your Council"

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

August 17, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.
Los Feliz Community Police Center
1965 n. Hillhurst Ave. (2nd floor of Citibank)
Los Angeles, CA 90027



CERTIFIED COUNCIL #36

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1. Call to Order. Quorum Check.

7:15pm

Present: Ostrow, Kornberg, DeMonte, Wilson, O'Grady, VanKeuren Campbell, Mauceri, Arslanian, Napier, Gardner

Excused: Nubaravacharyan, Hyams, Masi, Khanjian, Masi

Absent: Vukovic

Late: Mims, DeOcampo

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Jack Martinez, Los Angeles Arts & Athletics Alliance: Reporting on Silver Lake Jubilee, which was a successful event in part thanks to support from the GGPNC and other local NCs. \$6,000 raised for local non-profits.

Campbell: Reporting on success of environmentally responsible festival efforts. Diverted 4,000 lbs of waste and provided free water station.

O'Grady: Sharing his experience at this fantastic event. Thanking organizers for making the green efforts they did.

Public Comment

John F. John: Commenting that one full agenda available for the public does not fit spirit of the brown act.

Kornberg: Explaining that the Secretary is printing from home, footing full cost of this and other items while finances are cleared up.

3. Reports from Public Officials

Mary Rodriguez from Councilman LaBonge's Office:

- Introducing Carolyn Ramsey, Public Relations
- Reporting on recent arson in the area, at least 12 fires set, suspect in custody 2 weeks ago, released for lack of evidence, rearrested and re-released, monitoring him now. 30 years old, white male, blond matted hair, wearing t-shirt and shorts.

- Recapping community gatherings: Tracy St Residents Association in July, National Night Out at O'Grady home and Amesbury Road residents, Hoover Walk Block Party two weeks ago also a huge success.
- Thanking organizers who got Marshall students to take care of Tracy St trees.
- Reporting utility cuts under discussion – working with city to get repairs made in a timely manner.
- Noting pictures on display at Korean Cultural Center through August 27th

Wilson: Inquiring about budget cuts – how can we understand how it might effect us in this neighborhood?

Rodriguez: Unable to provide specific information at this time.

Ramsey: Trying to press departments to maintain services. LaBonge created beautification staff, as an example, of how we can fill the gaps. Call if you see services slipping.

Rodriguez: Noting that her office did hear medians throughout the city will not get the normal level of care.

Richard Spicer: Marshall School Track still not open. Remembering that LaBonge's office requested neighborhood volunteers. Wondering if perhaps Department of Recreation & Parks might work with LaBonge on this issue.

Rodriguez: Some interest expressed, but school is going through so many changes and cuts, including personnel responsible for the field.

4. Reports from Community Organizations

Robert Menz, Kiwanis: Sharing details of No Charge Dental Clinic for kids (middle school and younger) at Selma through Hollywood/Los Feliz Kwanis.

5. Presentation from Recreation & Parks re: Haunted Hayride

Vicki Israel: Informing of event – LA Haunted Hayride – in Griffith Park at the Old Zoo and Parking Lot 2 by the Merry Go Round through 1031 Productions starting October 8th from 7 -10:30pm weeknights and 7pm –12am weekends. Featuring Halloween attractions, environmentally responsible measures including 0 waste goal. Event was held at Gillette Ranch last year and was very successful.

Joe Celices: Providing additional details: 9 – 11 security guards each night, along with park ranger and LAFD personnel. Park Ranger the central organizer. Family-oriented event. Patrons required to purchase wrist band to enter. Los Feliz Blvd will not be advertised as an entrance. Northern Zoo Drive Entrance and 134 exit at Victory will be emphasized. Exiting traffic will go out through Autry Museum.

Website: www.losangeleshauntedhayride.com

Question Period:

Kornberg: Clarifying that set amount (\$80k) goes to Griffith Park. No estimate for total revenue.

Wilson: Clarifying that revenues will be spent to cover traffic, park ranger. Roughly 1,000 people expected each night (300 cars). Admission is tiered depending on night and individual. First project with this production company.

Arslanian: Clarifying that event includes hay maze and carnival rides. Hay ride will be in the Old Zoo. No pedestrian traffic in Old Zoo. Carnival rides will be on the asphalt by the parking lot. Concerned that the estimated 14,000 people who will come create a considerable cost.

DeMonte: Clarifying that the admission price covers everything but food concessions.

Campbell: Clarifying that a BioDiesel truck pulls hayride. City transportation in negotiations with production company to extent MTA services.

O'Grady: Applauding 0 waste goal.

Mims: Clarifying city expenses covered and \$80k, no less, no more will go to the park.

Israel: Building on earlier comments from Mary Rodriguez concerning budget cuts. Budget cuts will be felt in the park. Lights were out in Vermont canyon and Fern Dell. They are now back on because the bulbs in question are no longer made. Recreation and Parks paid to get them fixed. Bureau of Street Lighting responsible for their continued maintenance, working to get them changed to low voltage lights that can be more easily maintained in the future.

Ostrow: Inquiring about fire in the park

Israel: 2 acres burned. Same suspect as other fires in the neighborhood.

6. MOTION: The GGPNC endorses the Sierra Club's LA Beyond Coal Campaign and encourages the LA City Council to support a plan to eliminate coal from the electricity supply of Los Angeles.

MOTION: Campbell so moves. Same letter as that read into the record in the July meeting.

O'Grady seconds.

Question period:

Mims: Expressing support for the concept of curbing fossil fuel use, including coal. Concerned about existing contracts and capital costs associated with a switch from coal to renewable energy sources.

Requesting additional economic analysis.

Campbell: Explaining that LADWP will be on top of this process of contract adjustment. Sierra Club seeking grass roots support - important to motivate this progress. Cost of coal is rising. Real cost of coal was always high.

Chrissy Scarborough, Sierra Club: Utility looks at leases as an asset – they can sell them and put money towards renewable energy. Significant costs associated with coal including risk that EPA will shut these plants down – there's a precedent for this in LADWP's current contracts. Once EPA puts regulations on these plants the asset is devalued. AB 32 will produce 10 billion dollars in fines, for example. May be prudent to divest now rather than once these plants are shut down. Additional upside in local job creation. Economic analysis is break even by 2020.

Mims: Clarifying that this motion basically represents taking a philosophical position.

Discussion:

Mauceri: Remembering that at the last GGPNC board meeting the DWP presentation from Greg Bartz included a similar proposal.

DeMonte: Expressing skepticism that the EPA will come down hard on these coal plants because this is an important industry in many states.

Gardner: Noting that the letter focuses on problems with coal and then calls for doubling speed on renewable energy increases, but doesn't say much about wind and solar and so possibly ends up encouraging nuclear power. Suggesting it may be more effective to encourage more rooftop solar in the city. Voting in favor, but concerned about unintended consequences.

Wilson: Hard to make a criticism, because we're not against pollution. Letter is well written, but it's philosophical not tangible. And we may not be effective in this arena. Supporting it, but concerned this is not the best use of our time.

Arslanian: Agreeing with Wilson. Comes from good intentions, but who's interests are being represented?

Mims: This has some value for the council as an educational experience. Adopting a position and sending a letter may have a marginal impact.

O'Grady: Multiple NCs involved. Telephone books a topic of Green Committee activity. Spent \$26k at home to do solar power himself.

Gardner: Letter writers consider advocating decreasing charges to solar panel owners who produce more energy than they use.

Campbell: President of City Council has said that he is in favor of this kind of proposal if it comes with community organizations to voice support.

Ostrow: There's been consensus expressed – if we're worried about wasting the time of the council, we should stop defending our motivations unnecessarily. Stick to the merits of the matter at hand.

Question Period Ends. Wilson Objects.

Wilson: Corporate powers looking to take advantage of the greening too – we need to keep track of that as well.

Vote on Motion to Endorse Letter of Support for Beyond Coal Campaign

Abstain: Wilson, Arslanian

In Favor: Kornberg, DeOcampo, Mims, Gardner, Mauceri, O'Grady, Campbell, Napier, DeMonte

Motion Carries by Majority Vote

7. Executive Committee Reports

a. Outreach

i. MOTION: Letter Opposing Proposed BONC Notification Rules

MOTION: to send the following objections to BONC's proposed Notification Rules:

Kornberg moves that: The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council opposes Resolution numbers 2 and 4 set forth by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

Policy Number 2 states that “If a Neighborhood Council has a website and/or stakeholder email database, the Neighborhood Council shall also post all notices of meetings/agenda required under the Brown Act, including Board and standing committee agendas, on the Neighborhood Council’s website as well as distribute these agendas to their stakeholders through their email database pursuant to the time line requirements under the Brown Act.”

The GGPNC has as many as 15 meetings each month and requiring an email each time runs contrary to effective Outreach practices. Sending out 15 emails every month will most definitely cause disinterest and annoyance among our stakeholders. Our purpose is to get people involved and serve their community. This policy will only cause negative effects and an email each time is tantamount to harassment.

Policy number 4 states that “Neighborhood Councils shall notify the Department of (a) the physical posting sites for their Board and committee meeting, (b) their website address, if and (c) confirm with the Department whether they use a stakeholder database to distribute their agendas. Neighborhood Councils shall be required to provide this notification on a form approved by the Department. A Neighborhood Council’s posting site must be approved in writing by the Department, and a Neighborhood Council may request any changes by submitting an additional form.”

Most of the Governing Board and Committee members are volunteers who hold full time jobs and work long hours. Creating this extra burden will not only put members at a disadvantage, but it will also create unnecessary extra work. Just like the public, we want our members to be encouraged and motivated to help their community, and by enforcing this policy, we are going to discourage members who don’t have the extra time to receive approvals. One of the purposes of the Neighborhood Council is to step forward and better the community, and not worry about canceling a meeting because proper approval wasn’t received. It is our due diligence to serve the community and this policy will definitely delay that goal.

Campbell seconds.

Question Period:

Wilson: Questioning the assertion that we have 15 meetings a month.

Mauceri: Reviewing content of proposed letter.

Gardner: Questioning whether the GGPNC is even bound by BONC’s recommendations.

Public Comment:

Richard Spicer: Agreeing that this is objectionable. Suggesting that we include what we already do (communications, website, etc.) in the letter to demonstrate the objections is not out of laziness.

Discussion:

Gardner: Noting that BONC has been in control of NCs and DONE had authority over NCs. Sharing experience as co-chair of Atwater Village NC when posting took a lot of time. Commending current Executive Committee for trying to comply with rules.

Ostrow: Clarifying that NCs relationship to BONC is unclear and that BONC has yet to demonstrate its authority on this point.

Wilson: Suggesting that emailing the database isn’t that onerous.

Mims: Concerned about BONC trying to dictate where postings takes place and DONE approving them, because one of our primary responsibilities is outreach – the methods of doing that are best left to the NCs.

Mauceri: Agreeing with Mims. Concerned these requirements inundate stakeholders and dilute effectiveness.

Arslanian: Objecting to the suggestion for 9 posting places. Noting that the GGPNC has approved 3 because 5 reliable secure places were unavailable.

DeMonte: Explaining that at the BONC meeting where they passed this they only discussed 7 posting places and expressing the view that though it was passed unanimously it will not be enforced.

Mims: Opining that physical posting is archaic and that emailing is the norm and for good reason, but when Bruce Carroll was responsible for this he was very careful to email only frequently enough so that it would be read.

Discussion ends. Gardner Objects.

Vote on Motion to Oppose BONC Posting Recommendations

In Favor: Kornberg, DeOcampo, Mauceri, Mims, O'Grady, Campbell, Arslanian, Napier, Wilson, DeMonte

Opposed: Gardener

Motion Carrier by Majority Vote.

b. President

Ostrow: Announcing timelines for filling vacancies.

Timeline for PROS Chair: application deadline extended to 9/24. Special Meeting on 10/5 at 7:30pm at Ranger house. 10/19 Executive Committee decision.

Timeline for Religious Representative: 9/24 application deadline, presentations and vote at Governing Board Meeting on 10/19.

c. Secretary

Kornberg:

- Reminding board member that all communication must flow through @ggpnc.org accounts and that she will provide all possible assistance to those still in the transition from personal email to official email.
- Sharing good news that custody of the key to the Citibank Meeting Room has been transferred to her so that the GGPNC may have free use of the space whenever possible.

8. Committee Reports

a. Transportation

John John: Reporting on completion of traffic light at Finley and stop sign at Rodney & Kingswell. With the close of those two initiatives, the Transportation Committee is now pursuing a new campaign to upgrade traffic light at Franklin. First step is the traffic study.

MOTION: that the GGPNC board authorize sending the following letter LADOT and CD4 office and the CD11 (City Transportation Committee Chairman):

Due to ongoing and increasing congestion of eastbound traffic on Franklin Avenue, which causes backups past Mariposa and encourages drivers to shortcut north through residential streets between Kenmore and New Hampshire, the GGPNC requests that the LADOT conduct a traffic study at the intersection of Vermont and Franklin with the intention of possibly upgrading the traffic signal to provide left and right turn arrows for eastbound traffic on Franklin.

Wilson moves to adopt letter. DeMonte seconds.

John: Explaining the letter will be sent to DOT, CD4.

Question Period:

Campbell: Supporting the idea of alleviating traffic through promoting other transportation. Wondering what efforts have been made to expand Hollywood DASH on Sundays.

John: Answering that no effort to expand DASH service has been made in conjunction with this issue, but more generally efforts have been made in the past.

Discussion:

Wilson: Supporting the tactic here to keep it very specific. City Councilman has said we “live in a pass through area.” This will be a long process and this is the beginning.

No Objection. Motion Passed by Consensus.

b. Public Safety: MOTION to Allocate \$600 to Tracy Street [Neighborhood Watch Signage](#)

MOTION: To Allocate Up To \$600 towards cost of Signs and Sign Installation for the Tracy Street Neighborhood Watch

Kornberg: moves. Napier seconds.

Andrea Iaderosa, Public Safety Chair: Introducing the motion and David Farmer.

David Farmer, Tracy Street Neighbors Association: This is an example of neighbors taking care of each other – the least expensive form of crime fighting is crime prevention.

Question Period:

Mims: Where will they be placed?

Farmer: Along Tracy St from Hyperion to Talmadge, possibly neighboring streets as well. All in compliance with city posting rules – all on public property.

Ostrow: Clarifying that \$600 is the total cost, so the GGPNC would be paying for the entire project. To date the neighborhood association has not collected dues or raised funds.

Farmer: \$513 to get 10 signs. Remainder of funds will be used towards installation. Farmer will personally cover the remainder.

Ostrow: Questioning if they can only document \$513, can we allocate \$600?

O’Grady: Explaining that the council can pass a motion for “up to” \$600 and then invoices would be submitted.

Mims: Noting that LADOT will provide installation vendors.

Public Comment:

Richard Spicer: Concerned that the sign says to call the police dept but doesn't give a number.

Farmer: Explaining that these signs are pre-made and generic. Members can be given the right numbers to call.

Discussion:

O'Grady: Recommending Farmer and the neighborhood organization as reliable and diligent

Farmer: Sharing that local LAPD officer gave this sign to use as an example and endorses this effort

Arslanian: Pleased people coming forth out of the community with these projects.

Kornberg: Sharing that Dan Sandman supported this type of project.

Mims: Check with DOT about installation costs

Wilson: Thanking Farmer and laderosa for putting the program together.

Gardner: Suggesting money will need to be put towards graffiti removal because the signs are close to the high school.

No Objection. Motion Passed by Consensus.

c. Planning, Zoning & Historic Preservation (5 Minutes Each, Sponsored by Masi, Drafted by Spicer, see Supplement 4)

i. MOTION: Allocate up to \$500 for Printing DHCP Documents

MOTION:

DeMonte moves to allocate up to \$500 for printing. Wilson seconds.

Richard Spicer: Referring members to background information in Agenda. Revised plan is here. EIR coming. Land Use planned. We have 6 copies of this new version. PZHP and GGPNC's previous comments were incorporated.

No Objection. Motion Passed by Consensus.

ii. MOTION: Recommending 180 day review period for HCP Documents

MOTION:

DeMonte moves. Mims seconds.

Richard Spicer: Providing background information – GGPNC's previous recommendations took 6 months. Other NCs need this time as well.

No Objections. Passed by consensus.

iii. MOTION: CIS regarding Signs & Billboards

MOTION:

DeMonte moves. Wilson seconds.

Richard Spicer: Providing background on previously adopted CIS. This is an easy way to get the point across, especially if we can't be there to represent the board in person.

Ostrow: Clarifying that this is a motion for previously written and submitted documents to be resubmitted.

No Objections. Motion Passed by Consensus.

d. Arts & Culture: Discussion and Action as Appropriate regarding Funding Proposal for Independent Shakespeare Company

MOTION: To Support Independent Shakespeare Company's Griffith Park productions with a grant of \$5,000 as previously agendized and discussed.

Arslanian so moves. Wilson seconds.

Question Period:

DeMonte: Clarifying with David Melville that there are still outstanding bills to pay in order to satisfy our accounting and documentation requirements.

Campbell: Asking Melville about cost increases and budget cuts this year in the move to Griffith Park

David Melville: Griffith Park is more expensive than Barnsdall was. So the company is performing two weeks fewer and Recs & Parks have reduced costs. Marketing budget also cut. Fortunately big audiences showing up anyway.

Discussion:

O'Grady: Arts & Drama being cut at LAUSD. This number is too high when we need to allocate funds towards school programs. Suggesting \$1,200.

Kornberg: Expressing support for this project and concern over limited funds. Suggesting that a vote for this project is warranted but will necessitate pulling support from any future Arts & Culture initiatives.

Arslanian: Arguing that this is free to kids – this is educational. This is more important than ever as arts are being cut at LAUSD. Non-Profits filling the gap and rising to the occasion.

Wilson: Agreeing that because arts are being cut, we need this.

Campbell: Important to support this event. We should contribute more than Silver Lake because it brings people to our community. Suggesting \$2,500.

Mauceri: Disagreeing with O'Grady. We took a 10% hit. Moves to reduce \$5,000 by 10%.

Motion to Amend:

Mauceri moves to reduce by 10% to \$4,500. Wilson seconds.

Gardner: Asking for clarification as to what line item in the budget this would come out of

Ostrow: Clarifying that this would come from Outreach Events, which was allocated \$16,000 in our placeholder budget.

No Objection. Amendment Adopted by Consensus.

Continued Discussion of Motion for \$4,500.

O'Grady: Looking for a greater reduction. This is a huge chunk to take at the beginning of the year. They put their logo in the program to obligate us. There was no authorization for the use of our logo.

Ostrow: Clarifying there is no coercion, and that if we wish to have corrective action taken for the unauthorized use of our logo we can have a separate discussion.

Mauceri: Explaining history of previous discussions on this point.

Ostrow: Clarifying that at a previous meeting the board was told that that if the GGPNC didn't get in the program it would be in a curtain speech. This was their choice to put this in their program. It is not relevant to the decision to fund this event that they used the logo and we can discuss our authority to vigorously pursue any attempt to defraud in a separate discussion.

DeMonte: Expressing her view that the use of the logo was not malicious.

Ostrow: Ruling ay further discussion of the use of the logo Out of Order.

O'Grady objects.

Vote on Amended Motion to Fund \$4,500 to Independent Shakespeare Company

Abstention: Campbell

In Favor: Kornberg, DeOcampo, Mauceri, Gardner, Mims, Arslanian, Napier, Wilson, DeMonte

Opposed: O'Grady

Amended Motion Passes by Majority Vote.

9. MOTION: To Amend Bylaws to Include a Table of Contents and Index

MOTION: To Amend Bylaw to Add Table of Contents and Index

DeOcampo Moves. Mauceri seconds.

Discussion:

Mims: These are not Bylaws. These are not a Bylaw Amendment. Motion out of order.

Mauceri: This issue was discussed in committee. The thought was that this was the most prudent path in the absence of clear definition of what constitutes a bylaw from the city attorney.

Mims: Supporting this as a tool, but it's not a Bylaw Amendment

Wilson: Agreeing that this motion is not changing the Bylaws. It's changing the Table of Contents to the Bylaws.

Ostrow: Clarifying other NCs have this.

Mauceri: This makes it easier for the committee to operate.

DeMonte: BONC recommending all NCs have Table of Contents for their Bylaws.

Motion to Amend:

Mims: The Bylaws are a document. The items in question are a tool to read that document. Amended Motion to approve items for the Bylaws and that any reproduction include those items. Wilson seconds. of Contents Away from the Bylaws they still exist.

Objections from Mauceri.

Kornberg: Experience in DONE approval process suggests that approval as a Bylaw Amendment is the path of least resistance.

Vote on Amendment:

Abstention: DeMonte

In Favor: Mims, Gardner, Arslanian, Napier, Wilson

Opposed: Kornberg, DeOcampo, O'Grady, Campbell, Mauceri, Ostrow

Vote on Original Motion (Requires Super-Majority)

Mims Objects.

Motion Fails to Pass for Lack of Super-Majority

10. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

MOTION: to adopt July Meeting Minutes

DeMonte moves. Kornberg seconds. No Objection. Motion Passed by Consensus.

11. Other Comments and Announcements

Napier: Big Blue M progress: Tiling ceremony on August 26th and October 21st unveiling, 10 am at Marshall on the corner.

Arslanian: Sharing Culture & Events Committee activity, including Barnsdall Sign ground breaking.

12. Adjourn

10:03 pm.