

GGPNC Education Committee
Minutes
June 14, 2010

1. Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Sarah Napier, Debbie Simons, Jan Burke, Richard Spicer, Marian Dodge, Tomas O'Grady, Dorothy Lee, John John, Bernadette Soter, Ron Ostrow, Mark Mauceri, Kathryn Louyse, Dora Herrera.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes from February 23, 2010, meeting were approved as written. The minutes of the April 27, 2010, meeting were approved with one correction.

3. Hollywood Community Plan - Richard Spicer

Richard Spicer, Sarah Napier, John John (Transportation Comm.) and Frank Masi (Planning, Zoning Comm.) met with the City Planning Department on Friday, June 11. The Education Committee's recommended changes to the Hollywood Community Plan (approved by the GGPNC Board on May 18 and sent to the city in a May 25 letter) were discussed with City Planners Mary Richardson and Kevin Keller. They found GGPNC's comments thoughtful and useful; most will likely be incorporated into the plan. These were the first comments Planning received on the Education section. The Draft EIR should be released mid-July. The GGPNC reps requested and received a 60-day comment period. There will be a public hearing at the end. Planning will meet with all 10 Neighborhood Councils. There will be 3 hearings - area, city-wide, PLUM.

4. 2010-2011 Budget

Last year's Education Committee budget has not been spent due to a temporary moratorium on spending. Treasurer Christina Khanjian is trying to get things figured out; some paperwork has been lost. The GGPNC is hoping to receive \$40,000 from the city for 2010-2011. John John has been attending LANC meetings; he is 90% certain they will get \$45,000.

In previous years the Education Comm. budget was \$10,000; \$2,500 for each of the four schools. The Treasurer recommended a budget of \$3,000/committee for 2010-2011. Sarah wants \$4,000 – \$1,000 for each school. Tomas asked why she is not asking for more because many of the committees don't spent much money, and he thinks that the board will support a larger budget for the Education Committee. Sarah is concerned about old bills that have not been paid. King got \$17,000 last year for landscaping.

Sarah has seen money taken back by city; she doesn't want that to happen again. Richard Spicer commented that in the past GGPNC had lots of money from carryover; that won't happen now. Committees need to budget some money for expenses such as copying. In the past, PROS has budgeted for mostly one-time expenditures such as sign money for Griffith Park, newsletters, donation to the Natural History Survey, a donation to Poker Ride to benefit fire recovery & Griffith Park Historic-Cultural Monument. The Outreach Committee and Beautification also need money.

Ron Ostrow said that the GGPNC will know more tomorrow night after the Treasurer has finished working with DONE. He thinks they are behind so there won't be any roll over. He suggested that the Committee ask for what it needs. Committees need to have justifications for each item and should prioritize projects because you probably won't get everything you ask for. Tomas O'Grady requested that the Committee consider budgeting \$4,000 for

improvements to King's grounds and irrigation system. He also thinks the Education Committee should ask for \$10,000.

Ron Ostrow indicated that there are several issues related to the Committee's 2009-10 funding, related to the transition from the old treasurer to the new treasurer. Some paperwork wasn't provided. Freedom Scientific and the Big Blue M are in the pipeline. Treasurer Christina doesn't have the invoices she needs to get them paid. She needs a specific invoice for the Big Blue M. Freedom Scientific's paperwork is in process. Ron asked if work has started yet on the Big Blue M project - if it has, the GGPNC is obligated to pay. According to Sarah, DONE has already contacted the artist Yuriko regarding her invoice. Sarah is to get a copy to the Treasurer. Tomas has all the paperwork for Freedom Scientific. There is a lot of confusion. He'll help with the missing paperwork.

Richard Spicer made a motion to request \$4,500 for the 2010-2011 Education Committee budget. Mark Mauceri moved that the Committee ask for \$2,500/school; however, that amount might be cut by 10% as part of budget reductions. Mauceri - amended the motion to ask for \$9,000. Sarah gets plenty of requests from schools; the committee prioritizes those requests. The motion to ask for a \$9,000 budget for 2010-2011 passed as amended. Voting yes: Debbie Simons, Richard Spicer, Tomas O'Grady, Dorothy Lee, Mark Mauceri .

5. Reports & Discussion

Marshall

(1) Big Blue "M" Project: Dorothy Lee

1.

Marshall Principal Harrison strongly supports this project, as does Board Member Yolie Flores. Ron Ostrow is checking the status of the project; no work has actually begun. LAUSD is paying for water proofing of the wall. GGPNC is paying the artist. Sarah explained that GGPNC committed \$5,000 to the artist. GGPNC needs a demand for payment, an actual bill. O'Grady - also a lot of other paperwork. Mauceri - NC DONE's audit found paperwork not up to snuff. O'Grady - a lot was dropped in transition. Spicer - bring all documents to board meeting.

(2) Equipment for Visually Handicapped - Freedom Scientific

Los Feliz Elementary - K. Pilkinton

Discussion of purchase of library chairs (last year's request). They have invoice.

King Middle School

Tomas O'Grady and Principal Dr. Kristen Murphy sent letter requesting \$4,000 in additional landscaping materials to supplement the 2009 project. LAUSD gave them permission to grow a vegetable garden with an outdoor kitchen with sink, 18 picnic tables. Science classes will work in the garden on Tuesdays. O'Grady is also President of Friends of King. They want to complete the project over the summer with lots of volunteers. The Welcome Wall has not been graffitied.

Sarah - The committee usually receives \$2,500/school/yr. She is concerned about being fair to other schools. King has gotten a lot.

Jan Burke - King has an Annenberg grant from the Music Center. The program begins in the 6th grade and will continue to the 7th and 8th grades. The campus is very attractive. Local architect, Barbara Bestor will do a color design for the exterior; remove peachy color. It is a separate project.

Debbie Simons - give each school equal amount of funding. Motion - That the Education Committee's budgeted funding be divided equally among 4 schools, John Marshall High School, King, Franklin, and Los Feliz Elem. That way King can do as much as they can towards their project. O'Grady stated that King is the most needy; Franklin is least needy. Spicer requested an itemized list of prices for the King project. He thought the drip system was covered in last year's project. O'Grady - there was no special drip system in last year's project. Ostrow - specify that ¼ of the money allocated to Education Comm. will go to a specific King project. Will change \$ amount of King project to reflect. Motion passed.

Franklin Elementary

Principal Sasso wants to get the white boards as soon as possible. Friends of Franklin purchased the other part of project. The invoices are already in. GGPNC will make good on any commitment already started or ordered.

Los Angeles Public Library Hours

Discussion of and request for possible action regarding writing a Letter of Concern about the reduction of LAPL hours and services (requested by B. Soter). Proposed letter to city regarding reduction of library hours to 5 days/wk. Ask city to reconsider cuts. The city is proposing that Atwater and Los Feliz libraries alternate closed days. That will mean long lines for computers. Soter quoted an LA Times article. Libraries are the city's support for education. Jan Burke - sharing libraries is a problem for kids who can't drive. Mauceri - Motion - That the Education Comm. write letter to city per Bernadette's request. Napier and Soter will draft a letter. Ostrow - We need city libraries because LAUSD is cutting librarians. The letter should be sent to the mayor, the Budget Comm., the Library Guild and to Superintendent Cortines as well. Motion approved by consensus.

Other Business

Sarah may have a speaker on proposed LAUSD Special Education cuts at a future meeting. She hasn't heard any more.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Marian Dodge, Secretary