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Luisa Nubaravacharyan - Outreach

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Christina Khanjian

SECRETARY
Jessica Kornberg

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

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

March 15, 2011 – 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.

7:15pm

Present: Kornberg, Ostrow, Hyams, Khanjian, Gardner, Masi, Mauceri, Arslanian, DeMonte, Campbell, O'Grady

Excused: Mims, Malhi, Nubaravacharyan

Late: DeOcampo, Bae, Vukovic

Absent: Wilson

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Holly McKee-Clark, Kings College: Looking for host families for exchange students. \$200/wk stipend.

Eisenhower Lee, Wilshire Center/Koreatown NC: Hosting open forum on how to detect and fight counterfeiting.

Barbara Ferris, Symphony in the Glen: Noting error in minutes from the previous meeting. On presentation on Forest Lawn: Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group has been meeting for six years not three as written and Shakespeare in the Park and Symphony in the Glen are referred to incorrectly as increased commercial activities in the park, when in fact they are existing free cultural activities.

3. Reports from Government Officials

Rebecca Bernal, Senator Curren-Price's office: Portions of Griffith Park fall within the senator's district. Explaining matters that fall within the Senator's committee work, including licensing oversight and procurement for California High-Speed Rail, which will hold a Town Hall Meeting on this topic on March 18th at 1pm at the California Science Center. Looking for nominations for women from the district for the "SHeroes" recognition – deadline March 19th.

DeOcampo arrives.

Mary Rodriguez, Tom LaBonge's Office: Introducing Renee Weitzer, the district planning director.

Renee Weitzer: Updating information on NBC/Universal DEIR: comment period is closed and final EIR is being drafted. Noting that comments, including the council's, must receive a response in the final EIR.

Gary Khanjian: Asking what came of the Nottingham project after the neighborhood meeting.

Weitzer: Explaining no appeal has been filed since the meeting.

Mary Rodriguez: Delivering Used Car lot update, including timeline. Sharing March 31st at 2pm in the Ranger Station Auditorium meeting of Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group. Griffith Park access is completely closed at Crystal Springs Dr. and will continue to be closed for 6 months. LA Marathon is on March 20th and will include road closures in the neighborhood. Sewer projects continue – noting that street repair happens somewhat later than the sewer completion and that complaints about street repair should be directed to the councilman's office. Sharing that Los Feliz Elementary has been chosen for a Big Sunday project! HBT Rain-barrell program. Prospect Ave. community meeting connected studio and neighbors with LAPD. Shakespeare garden on Monon St was ripped out by sewer project and has now been restored. GPAC has a new patio.

Vukovic arrives.

Ostrow: Asking about Vermont Ave. road closure and if Prospect Ave meeting included James McEwan.

Masi: Asking about street work on Glendower Ave.

Gardner: Asking if there are any new commercial projects planned for Griffith Park.

4. Executive Reports

a. President's Report

i. Announcements

Ostrow: Acknowledging ongoing tragedy in Japan. Noting success of CD4 candidate forum. Greater Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group meeting March 31st at Ranger Station Auditorium at 2pm. Asking that council members be careful not to "reply all" unnecessarily. Sharing update letter on Used Car Sales Lot. Announcing May 17th Appointments – normal meeting time. Encouraging members to spread the word and distribute postcards.

Reiterating procedural rules, including Roberts Rules governing members' addresses to the chair and not one another, breaches of order in the meeting.

Noting ongoing bylaw discussions in Rules & Elections in the coming months.

ii. Code of Civility & Bylaw Violations – Discussion and action as appropriate.

Ostrow: Explaining process in the executive committee. Suggesting this discussion be moved to be addressed later in the meeting.

MOTION:

Mauceri moves to table this item until motions that involve visitors have been addressed and to return to this item. Hyams seconds.

Gardner objects

Vote:

In Favor: Kornberg, Hyams, Khanjian, Gardner, Masi, Mauceri, Arslanian, DeMonte, Campbell, O'Grady, DeOcampo, Vukovic

Opposed: none.

Motion passes by unanimous vote.

Skipping to 5.b. PROS Committee

5. Committee Reports

b. PROS Committee

MOTION:

Gardner moves: Whereas the Forest Lawn project draft environmental impact report (DEIR) is thousands of pages long and involves building walls in Griffith Park as well as losing one hundred ten acres of open space and removing seven hundred oak trees, I move that the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council send a formal request to the Director of Planning and to Council member LaBonge requesting additional time to review the materials.

To The Honorable Tom LaBonge and

To Michael LoGrande, Director of Planning

Dear Sirs;

The Forest Lawn project draft environmental impact report consists of thousands of pages and involves numerous buildings, as well as constructing walls inside Griffith Park.

The current time schedule does not allow for adequate review by community members considering the scope of the project. The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council hereby respectfully requests that the public comment period be extended by at least three months.

Thank you,

Ron Ostrow, President

Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council

Public Comment:

David Uebersax: Explaining his background on this issue.

Hyams: Asking if minutes were approved at the PROS meeting

Ostrow: Ruling question out of order

Hyams: Objecting to the ruling.

Ostrow: Opining that the previous month's meeting minutes are not relevant to the merits of a motion that came out of this month's meeting

Vote on Appeal of the Ruling:

Abstain: DeOcampo

In Favor: Hyams, Mauceri, O'Grady

Opposed: Gardner, Vukovic, Masi, Arslanian, DeMonte, Kornberg, Khanjian, Campbell

Ruling of the Chair stands by majority vote.

Masi: Suggesting that letter include case number and that extension of time be delineated in days, not months.

Hyams: Noting that the board ruled that a committee shall not meet until it has posted minutes.

Kornberg: Confirming the committee is in compliance with this rule, that she posted the committee's minutes and agenda to the website.

No Objection. Motion passed by consensus.

c. Planning, Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee

i. 3160 Riverside Dr. Request for Support. Discussion and Action as Appropriate

Masi: Sharing committee activity on 3160 Riverside Dr.

MOTION:

Masi moves to approve the following letter to the Fore Property Company:

Dear Mr. Cornelius:

The Governing Board of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council concurs with the conclusions and comments expressed by the members of our Planning, Zoning and Historical Preservation Committee in following portion of the minutes from their publicly noticed, regular meeting Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

Very truly yours,

Etc.

Hyams seconds.

Public Comment:

Uebersax: Expressing support for this project.

Weitzer: Sharing history of collaboration with CD4.

Gary Khanjian: Explaining the reason for sending the minutes as opposed to a letter of support, to avoid establishing a difficult precedent.

Question Period:

Campbell: Expressing her confusion with the format of the letter and the attachments that follow.

Hyams: Clarifying that the committee approved the motion by consensus

Gardner: Asking about design and whether this is a LEED project.

Discussion Period:

Gardner: Suggesting that the letter ask for further review in the future.

DeMonte: Disagreeing with this suggestion, because it is a by-right project and there is no obligation for them to return to the committee.

Hyams: Supporting the motion.

Masi: Speaking against adding conditions to the letter.

Ostrow: Explaining he is not inclined to add these suggested conditions. Asking for a clarification about the GGPNC role in approving funding.

Point of Order:

Hyams: Moves to end this line of questioning.

Ostrow: Ruling from the Chair that the questioning may continue

Hyams: Appealing the Ruling. Explaining the question was out of order because the GGPNC is an advisory body and cannot impede funding and so the answer to the question is irrelevant.

Ostrow: Arguing that the relevancy of the question isn't the issue, but the appropriateness of the point of order.

Vote on the Appeal of the Ruling from the Chair:

Abstain: Mauceri, Khanjian, Kornberg, O'Grady, DeOcampo

In Favor: Hyams

Opposed: Ostrow, Gardner, Masi, DeMonte

Ruling of the Chair Stands. Discussion Continues. No Objection to the Main Motion. Motion passed by consensus.

ii. Report on Planning Department DEIR briefing.

Masi: Proposing event on March 30th for public forum on Hollywood Community Plan

Richard Spicer: Explaining more about the event planning: 6:30 pm, Wednesday, March 30th at Our Mother of Good Counsel. Sharing proposed notice for outreach efforts. Encouraging board members to attend so that they are prepared to act on these issues at the April meeting.

Masi: Adding detail about volunteering for outreach and other volunteer roles.

Public Comment:

Rex Link: Noting issues that arise from DOT role in Griffith Park and wondering about the impact this will have.

David Uebersax: Sharing his role in the committee discussion and the Neighborhood Improvement Committee's work on the urban design chapter.

Question Period:

Gardner: Asking about the proposal for a parking structure on Vermont in place of the Post Office.

Masi: Clarifying that the Post Master has said that the property is not for sale.

Gary Khanjian: Explaining the whole point of the event is to get these questions answered.

Discussion:

Ostrow: Explaining that PZHPC has been previously approved to spend money on copying and up to \$500 on materials for this. But the board will need to approve other expenditures on items like venue, refreshments, etc.

Arslanian: Noting that the DEIR comments included cultural resources and therefore will combine her meeting with this event.

Returning to item **4. Executive Committee Reports** in order to approve the budget prior to spending motions.

b. Treasurer's Report

Khanjian: Reviewing budget documents attached to the agenda.

MOTION:

Mauceri moves to approve the GGPNC 2010-2011 Budget. Hyams seconds.

Question Period:

Gardner: Clarifying that there is approximately \$30k unspent this year that could be lost in rollover.

O'Grady: Clarifying that ECO-tour includes more than water bottles.

Bae arrives.

Discussion:

Gardner: PROS newsletter heading should be adjusted. Noting funds for fire project were allocated away from PROS in a previous board action.

MOTION to AMEND:

Gardner moves to reallocate previously cancelled PROS Fire Recovery Sign project back to PROS. DeMonte seconds.

Question Period:

DeMonte: Clarifying why the \$10,800 would have to come out of other committee budgets.

O'Grady: This is appropriate for Budget & Finance Committee not the Board.

Campbell: Agreeing with O'Grady that this is an inappropriate time to consider this decision.

Hyams: Committees are required to report to the Budget & Finance Committee – that's how this process works.

Ostrow: Explaining that those committees that reported to the committee after the meeting will have to be accounted for next month. And committees are not prohibited from bringing budget items out of this process, though it's not preferred.

Khanjian: Multiple emails went out asking committee chairs to send her this information.

Mauceri moves to end debate. Hyams seconds.

Vote on Amendment:

Opposed: Kornberg, Hyams, Khanjian, Gardner, Masi, Bae, DeOcampo, Mauceri, Campbell, O'Grady, DeMonte, Arslanian, Vukovic

2nd MOTION to AMEND

Kornberg: Moves to amend to cancel and reallocate the previously authorized allocations for the Artwalk Banners for \$108.25 and the Lilly Burke Safety Seminar of \$500.00. Hyams seconds.

No Objection. Main Motion is Amended by Consensus

No Objection to the Motion as Amended. Amended Motion passed by consensus.

Returning to item **5. Committee Reports**

d. Culture & Events Committee

i. Independent Shakespeare Company

MOTION:

Arslanian moves to support funding Independent Shakespeare Company's Summer 2011 season in the amount of \$5,500. Hyams seconds.

Ostrow recuses himself and leaves. Hyams assumes the chair.

David Melville: Reviewing success of last season and noting GGPNC support. Introducing this season's program. Explaining grant from James Irvine Foundation for Sunday workshops. Noting how the council is acknowledged in the program and the performances.

Question Period:

Mauceri: Asking about the budgeting for these items

O'Grady: Asking if ISC could come to King Middle School

Discussion:

Kornberg: Clarifying that current Culture & Events Budget doesn't cover both this item and the committee's next item.

Mauceri: Expressing support for this project.

O'Grady: Expressing support.

No Objection. Motion approved by consensus.

Ostrow returns to the Chair.

ii. Silver Lake Jubilee

MOTION:

DeMonte moves to support funding the Silver Lake Jubilee in the amount of \$2,500. Hyams seconds.

Arslanian and Campbell recuse themselves and leave.

Jack Martinez, Silver Lake Jubilee: Explaining the event, the GGPNC's past relationship, and the ways the sponsorship will help the GGPNC including help with outreach, social networking, and on site presence. Website received 175,000 hits and festival had more than 20,000 participants.

Public Comment:

Uebersax: Supporting the event.

Questions:

Mauceri: Clarifying location is on Myra from Hoover to Sunset Bridge.

Hyams: Asking about total budget and other NC support.

Bae: Asking about booking and spending.

Kornberg: Asking about waste management.

Discussion:

MOTION TO AMEND

Hyams moves to support Silver Lake Jubilee with \$2,000 from NI, \$750 from Culture & Events, and \$5,000 from additional sources. No second. The amendment fails.

O'Grady: Supporting event.

Ostrow: Explaining that Culture & Events Committee only has \$750 remaining in the allocated budget. At the Budget & Finance Committee it was discussed that the remaining \$1,750 come from the \$2,000 allocated to Neighborhood Improvement.

Kornberg moves to amend. O'Grady seconds.

Discussion:

Gardner: Clarifying that the money would be reallocated to Culture & Events.

Hyams moves to end debate:

VOTE to END DEBATE:

In Favor: Kornberg, Khanjian, Hyams, Vukovic, DeMonte, Mauceri, Masi, DeOcampo, Bae, O'Grady, Gardner

None.

VOTE on MAIN MOTION

Gardner objects.

Vote:

In Favor: Kornberg, Khanjian, Hyams, Vukovic, DeMonte, Mauceri, Masi, DeOcampo, Bae, O'Grady

Opposed: Gardner

Motion passes by majority vote.

6. Super Mixer

MOTION:

Kornberg: moves to co-sponsor, with the LFIA, a "Connect Los Feliz" Super Mixer event in the first week in April and to authorize up to \$300 expenditure from the Outreach budget allocation to help cover expenses. Khanjian seconds.

No Objection. Passed by consensus.

Returning to item **4. Executive Reports**

a. President's Report

- ii. Code of Civility and Bylaw Violations. Discussion and Action as appropriate.

MOTION:

Ostrow moves to limit discussion to the narrow issue of whether or not the code of civility was violated by the events detailed in the previous emails to the board. Kornberg seconds.

No public comment.

POINT OF ORDER

Mauceri: Objecting to this procedure.

Ostrow: Overruling the objection.

Mauceri: Appealing the ruling and Moving that the discussion be opened to a broader range of topics. Arguing that to understand the situation more context is necessary.

Ostrow: Explaining his reasons for ruling, including the executive committee's process.

VOTE on APPEAL of the RULING:

In Favor: Hyams, Khanjian, Vukovic, Masi, DeOcampo, Campbell, Mauceri, O'Grady

Opposed: Kornberg, Gardner, Bae, DeMonte, Arslanian, Ostrow

The chair is overruled by a majority vote. Motion to limit discussion fails by majority vote.

Discussion Period:

Gardner: Gardner: Reading a statement condemning the blog posting by MF

Mauceri containing derogatory comments and personal attacks against another Board member, a committee chair, and other stakeholders.

Tonight there is only one subject on the agenda item: Is this sort of speech allowable by Board members, and what shall the Board do when a member intentionally violates the code?.

MOTION TO END DISCUSSION:

Campbell moves to end discussion on this item. Khanjian seconds.

Public Comment:

John F. John: Agreeing this should be dealt with in Executive Committee.

VOTE on MOTION to END DISCUSSION:

Abstain: Khanjian

In Favor: Kornberg, Ostrow, Gardner, Arslanian, DeMonte

Opposed: Bae, Vukovic, Masi, DeOcampo, Mauceri, Campbell, O'Grady, Hyams

Motion to end discussion fails by majority vote.

MOTION

Mauceri moves to enter discussion of charges made by Gardner against Mauceri regarding blog post and email response. Hyams seconds.

Public Comment:

Barbara Ferris: This is an attack on Los Feliz Forward. To participate in this discussion is to validate that bullying attack.

John John: Disagreeing with Barbara. Arguing that there is bullying from the other side. Bad behavior is not an excuse for retaliatory bad behavior. The name calling in this example is uncivil.

Discussion:

Hyams: Supporting motion and asking to hear from Masi about previous allegations against Gardner

Gardner: This issue was raised in response to a solitary incident. There is nothing to support his being included in this discussion.

Mauceri: Arguing that anonymous blog attacks precipitated this series of events. Refusing to take responsibility for anonymous blogging and other attacks is problematic for the council. Quoting from the Griffith Park Wayist examples of uncivil posts and comments, including material that suggested Mauceri was a pedophile and a pornographer, material that criticized Arslanian, and other members.

Reading materials from another neighborhood council aloud suggesting disagreement. Accusing Bernadette Soter, Chuck Soter, Christian Sabo, Jeff Gardner, John F John of being a hateful group involved in anonymous attacks. Suggesting that the agenda item was requested by a member who is a jerk and needs professional attention. Introducing materials from another council demonstrating Gardner's past uncivil behavior. Introducing resignation letter of Atwater NC member over the harassing communications from Gardner and memo from Atwater NC member regarding Gardner's unauthorized actions on that council.

Admitting the material cited by Gardner in the original complaint to the Executive Committee was material he posted. Accusing other members of the PROS Committee leadership and NC members of defamatory anonymous blogging.

DeMonte: Arguing this is a bad procedure to be engaged in. This issue won't go anywhere. And these new allegations are just as problematic.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

DeMonte moves to end discussion as this is an unresolvable issue. Arslanian seconds.

Discussion:

Mauceri: The source of these attacks need to be addressed.

2nd SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Masi: Reading from a written statement, moves to formally condemn the practice of the Griffith Park Waysit blog of publishing anonymous and defamatory attacks. Hyams seconds.

Question:

DeMonte: Asking why naming one blog solves the problem.

Discussion:

Mauceri: Supporting the motion, because it states there is no connection with this site and those like it.

Arslanian: Arguing that a simple apology would have sufficed here. Disputing that the people at this table are responsible for these blogs. Incredulous that the council has gone down this path and are discussing these measures. This is a waste of the council's time.

Arslanian leaves.

Hyams: Suggesting that by talking so much about this blog the council only inflates its importance.

Gardner: Explaining communications about previous elections and previous board activity. Noting that anonymous attacks were circulated by Mauceri in previous episodes.

Campbell: Agreeing with previous comments about giving a blog undue weight. Arguing that disassociating ourselves from anonymous commenting is important as well.

Ostrow: Noting that the same board member who repeatedly admonished him for paying attention to the Wayist is now asking us to condemn them. Arguing the council cannot win by engaging with anonymous bloggers.

Kornberg: Explaining her personal history with anonymous blogging and her opposition to this motion.

DeMonte: Encouraging the council to be a model of neutrality and a representative of all stakeholders.

Khanjian: Sharing her experience of also being the victim of these attacks. Arguing that this discussion is a waste of time.

Khanjian leaves.

O'Grady: Explaining he's doing the best he can to serve the community, but that these attacks are impeding his ability to do that work.

DeOcampo: Urging the council to move on. Political blogs are not going to go away. We need to tone down our own rhetoric. We are public figures and we accept this with the territory.

DeOcampo leaves.

Mauceri: This may seem like a small thing, but this is hate and it shouldn't be condoned. Noting that after he called out the names of the anonymous bloggers, commenting on the site was shut off and the posts he referred to were taken down.

Masi: The intent isn't to try and stop activity, but to see if the board can have some unanimity censuring these types of blogs.

Gardner: Clarifying that he does not write for the Wayist and was not the author of this or any other referenced materials. There was a clear violation of the code of civility and instead we spent the whole discussion on an unrelated blog. By not taking any action or even discussing the demeaning blog posting, the GGPNC Board endorsed uncivil discourse as a normal part of the GGPNC. Unsubstantiated allegations are perfectly acceptable.

Ostrow: Disputing Mauceri's analogy to the KKK or other hate groups. The purview of the GGPNC is not to weigh in unsolicited on these kinds of issues. This is not a matter of concern to the city. This is not a pending issue in our community. This is a discussion that only creates more attention for this blog.

VOTE on the 2nd SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Abstain: Kornberg, Campbell

In Favor: Masi, Mauceri, O'Grady

Opposed: Hyams, Gardner, DeMonte, Vukovic, Ostrow, Bae

2nd Substitute Motion fails by majority vote.

VOTE on DeMONTE's 1st SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Abstain: Mauceri

In Favor: Kornberg, Gardner, Vukovic, Masi, Bae, DeMonte, O'Grady, Campbell

Opposed: Hyams,

DeMonte's 1st Substitute Motion to End Discussion passes by majority vote.

7. MOTION: to authorize expenditures from the outreach budget to patron a local business and provide food for general public and board members at April (and future) GGPNC governing board meetings.

MOTION:

Bae so moves. Hyams seconds.

Discussion:

Bae: Arguing this will help businesses suffering in the recession and attract folks to council meetings.

Campbell: Supports the idea. Urging the effort be mindful of recycling and waste.

Gardner: Urging this be modified to include a price limit.

Ostrow: Not supporting this issue. Not a prudent allocation. The budget is still in flux.

Hyams: Supporting this motion.

Masi: The outreach potential is worth it. Anything we can do to make it more fun to come to these meetings.

No objection. The motion passes by consensus.

8. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

Hyams moves to adopt the February 2011 minutes. Bae seconds.

Ostrow objects.

VOTE:

In Favor: Kornberg, Gardner, Vukovic, Masi, Bae, DeMonte, O'Grady, Campbell, Mauceri, Hyams

Opposed: none.

Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

9. Other Comments and Announcements

None.

10. Adjourn

Kornberg moves to adjourn. Hyams seconds. Meeting adjourned at 11:58pm.