



PRESIDENT
Ron Ostrow

VICE PRESIDENTS
Tor Hyams - Administration
Luisa Nubaravacharyan - Outreach

TREASURER
Christina Khanjian

SECRETARY
Jessica Kornberg

GREATER GRIFFITH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
"Your Neighborhood. Your Voice. Your Council"
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING



CERTIFIED COUNCIL #36

PO Box 27003
Los Angeles, CA 90027-
0003

(213) 973-9758

www.ggpnc.org

GGPNC@ggpnc.org

AGENDA

April 19, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
Los Feliz Community Police Center
1965 n. Hillhurst Ave. (2nd floor of Citibank)
Los Angeles, CA 90027

1. Call to Order. Roll Call.

7:15 pm

Present: Ostrow, Hyams, Khanjian, Gardner, Masi, DeOcampo, Mims, DeMonte, Arslanian, Kornberg

Excused: Mauceri, O'Grady, Campbell, Malhi, Vukovic

Late: Nubaravacharyan

Ostrow: Explaining quorum issue and moving ahead in the agenda to item 9.a.

MOTION:

Ostrow moves to authorize up to \$1,000 for the business committee. Hyams seconds. No Objection. Motion passed by consensus.

Ostrow: Announcing Tom Wilson's resignation from the Governing Board and the Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee.

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Francisco Covarrubias: Sharing information about California Redistricting Commission is redrawing lines now. Currently Griffith Park is split between two state assembly representatives.

DeOcampo: Expanding on these comments and agreeing that it is important to keep the representation of Griffith Park centralized in one office.

Arslanian: Suggesting this is an issue the council should weigh in on in an official capacity.

Ostrow: Explaining this is a time sensitive issue.

Kornberg: Recusing herself from future discussion.

Rex Link: Sharing information about parking from the Los Angeles Zoo Commission, which has officially decided not to charge for parking.

3. Reports from Government Officials

Francisco Covarrubias, Representative Mike Gatto's Office: Explaining the budget concerns currently before the legislature. Encouraging stakeholders to express budget priorities to the assemblyman. Announcing Women in Business luncheon on June 18th. Encouraging stakeholders to submit nominations for the awards.

Mary Rodriguez, Councilman Tom LaBonge's Office: Los Feliz Blvd used car sales issue hopefully resolved through new signage and parking regulations.

Kornberg: Clarifying Los Feliz Blvd sidewalk is back open.

Ostrow: Asking about street closure on Vermont Ave. for restaurant opening.

Nubaravacharyan arrives.

4. VP Administration's Report

Hyams: Announcing his intention not to seek reappointment. Sharing his experience on the board.

5. Presentation from Bernadette Soter, GGPNC Representative to the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group

Bernadette Soter, GGPNC Representative to the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group: Explaining that the working group had been on hiatus for some time since the submission of the last draft of the plan. Explaining that that draft was returned after a long period, heavily edited and requiring comments to these edits in a two week period. The council and other community groups objected to this timeline and successfully extended the period for comments on the edits. The working group has a number of issues with the new draft, including the change of the name of the document from a Master Plan to a Vision Plan, which carries less weight. The premise for changing the name is a financial concern, because a Master Plan requires an environmental impact report. This new assertion is contradictory to previous assurances that an EIR would not be required and that a negative declaration should be sufficient, similar to the new bicycle plan that was recently adopted or the Zoo parking lot renovation, which is half way complete. The previous estimate for completion was \$26,000.

Categories of additional changes:

1. Reversing recommendations or misconstruing recommendations, for example the definition of urban intrusion.
2. Characterizing the status of the L.A. River as a non-natural space despite the recent designation of the river as a navigable water
3. Elimination of appendices, which contain the factual support
4. Devaluation of the 12,000 comments from working group as "self-selecting" while elevating the importance of the comments in the needs assessment workshops run by the department of parks and recreation
5. Increased support for commercial activity to the detriment of free activity participants

Asking for stakeholder support to keep the process on track. Anticipating two additional meetings. Hoping that at the end of this process the document will go out for public comment as opposed to heading straight to the commission.

Mims: Asking what role the council should play going forward.

Soter: Continuing to insist on an open process and that this result in a master plan as opposed to a vision plan.

Masi: Asking about the scope of the disagreements between the working group and the department.

Soter: Roughly half of the suggested changes were acceptable to the working group. One issue has been that the staff representative to the working group from recreation and parks was not present at the previous meetings.

Bae: Clarifying the difference between a Master Plan and a Vision Plan

Soter: There is no precedent for a vision plan in the city planning process. The sense is that to call this a vision plan devalues the work done by the working group.

Ostrow: Explaining history of negotiations with LaBonge's office and Department of Recreation and Parks about meeting schedule and apologizing for failure to provide documentation when the agreement that was reached about the scheduled was ignored by the representative from Recreation & Parks. Expressing concern about what will happen with the document when it's completed. Distributing this to the public will be essential to overcome the perception in the department that the members of the working group represent a small minority of stakeholders.

Soter: There are core concepts in the edits that must be resolved before the document is disseminated.

Mims: Noting that this is a political process and political leverage will need to be exerted in order to achieve the working group and council goals. The public dissemination process helps create stakeholder awareness and support. The council can continue to exert this kind of information outreach and political pressure.

Soter: Next meeting will be on April 27th at 2pm in the Ranger Station, Community Room, in the Park Center.

Ostrow: Planning to continue pressure to keep this meeting as scheduled for four hours.

Public Comment:

Rex Link: Noting that the Griffith Estate is represented on the working group and the park has been designated an Historical Cultural Monument.

6. Presentation from LA Live Steamers

Charles Westfall, Public Liaison for LA Live Steamers: Sharing history of the museum and current programs. Explaining that the museum is building a new ticket facility and restrooms. Showing new building materials and plans.

Mims: Clarifying location of ticket building

Bae: Clarifying no public funds used

Hyams: Sharing his positive experience at the facility

Ostrow: Clarifying that the presenters don't seek official support and previously presented to the PROS Committee as well.

DeOcampo leaves.

7. Presentation from Found Animals Foundation

Jennifer Brent, Found Animals Foundation: Explaining private foundation seeks to reduce animal euthanasia at animal shelters. 64% of shelter animals are euthanized, most are cats. \$250 million spent in California, \$30 million in Los Angeles. Foundation focuses on supporting spay/neuter facilities and solutions, micro-chipping, and adoptions. Encouraging adoption, licensing, and sterilization.

Ostrow: Moving posted agenda item 10. up in the agenda.

8. MOTION to authorize expenditure to support Relay for Life – discussion and action as appropriate (Previously Agenda Item 10).

MOTION:

Ostrow moves to authorize \$600 to support Relay for Life. Hyams seconds.

Sue Pietrzak, Relay for Life Representative: Explaining event planning for June 11th & 12th walking event at Mulholland Fountain and that money will provide sound system for local musical acts to entertain participants during the day. Participants walk for 24 hours representing the slogan "cancer never sleeps."

Ostrow: Clarifying this can be paid by credit card directly to the vendor.

Masi: Clarifying other activities besides walking, including on-site fundraising and vendors.

DeOcampo returns.

Mims: Noting that there is also public education and community support for cancer survivors and family members in addition to fundraising.

Ostrow: Clarifying that GGPNC will be recognized in the program and on the back of the t-shirts, which are distributed to donors and participants who raise more than \$100.

No objection. Motion passed by consensus.

9. Executive Committee Reports

a. President's Report

- i. Appointment Meeting schedule and organization – discussion and action as appropriate.

Ostrow: Explaining progress so far on recruiting candidates and plan to require each candidate to declare a single position of interest. Confirming board member attendance at the May 17th meeting.

Hyams leaves.

- b. Treasurer's Report (Budget Documents Attached to Agenda) – Discussion and Action as appropriate.

Ostrow: Noting successful budget meeting last week and successful submissions to DONE, including all current demand warrants and quarterly reconciliations.

MOTION:

Mims moves to approve budget. Khanjian seconds. No Objection. Budget approved by consensus.

- i. MOTION to cancel emergency supply storage bin purchase authorization per DONE directive.

Ostrow: Explaining why the city won't fund these projects yet.

MOTION:

Mims moves. Arslanian seconds. No Objection. Motion passed by consensus.

Ostrow moving ahead to posted agenda item 12.

10. MOTION to authorize up to \$750 for office supplies, including a locked file cabinet (Previously Agenda Item 12).

MOTION:

Khanjian moves to purchase storage equipment with up to \$750. Arslanian seconds. No Objection. Motion passed by consensus.

11. Committee Reports

- a. Neighborhood Improvement Committee Report

David Uebersax, Neighborhood Improvement Committee Chair: Delivering update on committee membership and recent issues, including Hollywood Streetscape, CRA's Sunset Blvd plan, Draft Hollywood Community Plan, and a "Neighborliness" pamphlet for new homeowners and residents.

12. MOTION to Amend the Bylaws to create an Executive Committee position of Corresponding Secretary; discussion and action as appropriate.

Withdrawn.

13. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding Code of Civility Violation at April 12th Special Meeting.

Ostrow: Introducing topic. Explaining code of civility. Explaining background of comments at previous meeting.

Arslanian: Regretting that she had not objected in the meeting. Unfortunately the council sees this type of bad behavior too often. Upon reflection she realized the allegation of

fraud in the public meeting had potentially serious implications for David Bell, the subject of the comments, as well as the Hollywood Arts Council, ArtsCycle, the council and herself.

Mims: Asking for clarification as to the exact series of events.

Kornberg: Sharing her reflection of the meeting including the presentation by David Bell of the ArtsCycle project, the questions from O'Grady regarding the incorrect contact information on the demand warrant, his use of the word fraud to describe this discrepancy, and the opportunity to retract that characterization.

Bae: Clarifying there is no punishment contemplated in the Code of Civility. Asking what Arslanian hopes to see come of this discussion.

Arslanian: Explaining that her primary goal was to have this issue recognized by the board and then suggesting perhaps a censure or official finding of a violation.

DeOcampo: Clarifying that the trigger for this discussion is the use of the word fraud which could be considered slanderous.

Khanjian: Noting that David Bell departed after the incident but that his wife returned and spoke to O'Grady in private at that time and there appeared to be some kind of resolution at that time. Also noting that action without an opportunity for O'Grady to participate in the discussion is inappropriate.

Bae: Confirming this account.

Gardner: O'Grady isn't present. There is a recording available. There is no supermajority present to take punitive action. The council should move on to other agenda items.

DeMonte: Concerned that this will be swept under the rug and allow bad manners to prevail. Noting that incivility among board members is bad enough, but incivility to stakeholders who serve the community is unacceptable.

Masi: Clarifying that Executive Committee made no decision about the content of the statement, only that the process move forward to the board. Noting that previous accusations of libelous statements made by other board members were treated differently.

Ostrow: The Executive Committee recognized this was a topic for board discussion and therefore did not "push this under the carpet" as suggested by DeMonte. Recognizing the comments from Masi, and agreeing that it is not possible to determine what people meant when they spoke. Agreeing that it is unfortunate that O'Grady could not attend to take part in the discussion.

Arslanian: Given that there are no guidelines for violations of the code of civility there may not be a recourse against this behavior tonight. The board needs to come together to move forward in a cohesive way. Noting that she and others are leaving the council because of this exact kind of behavior.

Mims: Noting he was not at the meeting last week, but that it is clear that O'Grady used the word fraud in relation to a stakeholder bringing an application for funds. His intent in making that statement is immaterial. He represents the community when he speaks in these meetings.

MOTION:

Mims moves to find that Tomás O'Grady violated the GGNC Code of Civility during at the meeting on April 12th characterizing materials attached to a stakeholder application for funds as fraudulent does not comport with our code of civility. Gardner seconds.

Nubaravacharyan objects.

Nubaravacharyan: Noting that there was significant confusion during the discussion about where the funds were going to.

Bae: Clarifying that there wasn't a personal accusation made, but that the use of the word fraud was made generally. The council cannot continue to bring these code of civility violations. This is a personal conflict. There is lingering resentment. The council should not engage in this process.

Mims: This shouldn't be personal. The reason for the code of civility is to set a limit to the conduct board members will tolerate.

DeOcampo moves to end debate.

Abstaining: Mims, Arslanian

In Favor: Khanjian, Gardner, Nubaravacharyan, Masi, DeOcampo, Kornberg

Opposed: Ostrow, DeMonte, Mims

VOTE:

Abstaining: Ostrow, Masi, DeOcampo

In Favor: Arslanian, Gardner, Mims, Gardner

Opposed: Khanjian, Nubaravacharyan, Bae, Kornberg

Point of Order:

Mims: No Public Comment, cure this error by canceling the vote, here the comment and revote.

Ostrow: Cancelling vote and hearing public comment

Public Comment:

Uebersax: Noting benefit of Neighborhood Purposes Grant and the ease of confusion in filling out those forms and understanding the information relayed in those forms.

John F. John: Noting that this is behavior typical of Mr. O'Grady. This violates the code of civility and the bylaws, which require board members to create a welcoming atmosphere for stakeholders. The Executive Committee drops the ball by sending this issue to the Governing Board rather than unseating O'Grady as chair or taking alternative action.

Return to Discussion:

Mims: If O'Grady didn't get satisfactory answers in the discussion he should have said that and refrained from accusing anyone of fraud.

Ostrow: Agreeing with previous comments that this was a confusing conversation and that O'Grady was correct to question. There is no question he could have expressed himself differently. Explaining why he will not abstain at this time, specifically that it is not in response to public comment.

VOTE:

In Favor: Arslanian, Gardner, Mims, Gardner, Ostrow

Opposed: Khanjian, Nubaravacharyan, Bae, Kornberg, Masi, DeOcampo

Motion fails by majority vote.

14. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

Kornberg moves to adopt March 15, 2011 meeting minutes. Arslanian seconds.
Gardner objects.

Gardner: Offering corrections, including additional language in his comments in the code of civility discussion and public comment from Barbara Ferris on the same topic.

Ostrow: Objecting to this correction.

VOTE on Correction:

Abstaining: Nubaravacharyan, Mims

In Favor: Gardner, DeMonte

Opposed: Kornberg, Khanjian, Ostrow, Arslanian, DeOcampo, Masi, Bae

Correction not adopted by majority vote.

Gardner: Offering additional correction to change comments from Mauceri on the same topic with alternative language.

Kornberg objects.

Gardner: Reading his transcript from the meeting.

Masi leaves.

DeOcampo moves to Vote. Bae seconds. No objection.

VOTE on Correction:

Abstaining: Mims, Nubaravacharyan

In Favor: Gardner, DeMonte, Arslanian

Opposed: Kornberg, Khanjian, Ostrow, DeOcampo, Bae

Correction not adopted by majority vote.

Gardner: Offering additional correction to change comments from Mauceri on the same topic with alternative summary language.

Arslanian objects.

VOTE on Correction:

Abstaining: Nubaravacharyan

In Favor: Gardner, DeMonte, Kornberg, Bae, Mims

Opposed: Khanjian, Ostrow, DeOcampo, Arslanian

Correction accepted by majority vote.

Gardner: Offering additional correction to change motion language from Masi on same topic.

DeOcampo objects:

VOTE on Correction:

Abstaining: Nubaravacharyan, Arslanian, Khanjian

In Favor: Gardner, DeMonte, Kornberg, Bae, Mims, Ostrow,

Opposed: DeOcampo

Correction accepted by majority vote.

Gardner: Offering substitute language to his own comments on the same topic.

DeOcampo objects.

VOTE on Correction:

Abstaining: Nubaravacharyan

In Favor: Gardner, DeMonte, Mims,

Opposed: DeOcampo, Khanjian, Ostrow, Bae, Arlsanian, Kornberg

Correction fails by majority vote.

Gardner: Offering substitute language to Campbell's comments on the same topic.

Ostrow objects.

VOTE on Correction:

Abstaining: Mims, Arslanian, Nubaravacharyan

In Favor: Gardner, DeMonte, Bae

Opposed: DeOcampo, Khanjian, Ostrow, Kornberg

Correction not adopted by majority vote.

Gardner: Offering substitute language to O'Grady comments on the same topic.

DeOcampo objects.

VOTE on Correction:

Abstaining: Mims, Arslanian, Nubaravacharyan, Ostrow, Khanjian

In Favor: Gardner, DeMonte,

Opposed: DeOcampo, Bae, Kornberg

Correction not adopted by majority vote.

Gardner: Offering additional language to his final comments on the same topic.

DeOcampo objects.

VOTE on Correction:

Abstaining: Arslanian, Nubaravacharyan, Ostrow, Khanjian, Kornberg

In Favor: Gardner, DeMonte, Mims

Opposed: DeOcampo, Bae

Correction accepted by majority vote.

Kornberg: Correcting public comment by Barbara Ferris. Correcting timing of departure of Leslie VanKeuren Campbell. No objection.

Kornberg moves to vote on minutes. Khanjian seconds. No Objection.

No Objection. Minutes approved by consensus.

MOTION:

Kornberg moves to adopt April 12, 2011 meeting minutes. Khanjian seconds. No objection. Approved by consensus.

15. Other Comments and Announcements

Gardner: Submitting letter of resignation referred to in the March minutes as part of the council record.

MOTION:

Mims moves to enter this into the record. DeMonte seconds. No objection. Consensus.

Mims: Sharing his experience on the council. Announcing his decision not to seek reappointment.

DeMonte: Announcing her decision not to seek reappointment. Encouraging board members to appreciate all volunteers.

Arslanian: Announcing her decision not to seek reappointment.

16. Adjourn

Kornberg moves to adjourn. Mims seconds. Meeting adjourned 10:50 pm.