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Ron Ostrow

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

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

September 20, 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

PO Box 27003
Los Angeles, CA 90027-
0003

(213) 973-9758

www.ggpnc.org

GGPNC@ggpnc.org

1. Call to Order. Roll Call.
2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items.
3. Reports From Government Officials
4. Executive Committee Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Treasurer
 - i. Motion: Approve Ron Ostrow as second signatory on the P-Card.
 - ii. Approve budget (Supplement 1)
5. Motion: that the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council urge the Los Angeles Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and Los Angeles Department of Transportation to adopt a new "apron"/parkway parking policy that allows appropriate and needed parking in the City of Los Angeles while still respecting and protecting the rights of the disabled and submit the following CIS:

Regarding File #11-1341, GGPNC supports amending LAMC 80.53, implementing a permit process to allow parkway parking. Because CVC states such an ordinance is permitted by local authority, the Council can act without the state legislature. Plaintiffs of the lawsuits shouldn't be included in the review of this ordinance. The Council should seek review from disability rights groups or other experts in evaluating this proposal. GGPNC's view is that for safety reasons, driveways shouldn't be used for accessing sidewalks by mobility devices and the Council shouldn't consider driveways as access point for wheelchairs in the evaluation of this ordinance. (Kornberg on behalf of stakeholder, 15 Minutes) (Supplement 2,3 & 4)
6. Committee Reports:
 - a. Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation
 - i. Motion to send a letter approving application for extending hours of operation of Home Restaurant. (Supplement 5)
 - ii. Motion to send a letter opposing the variance to allow a gate and fence in excess of the permitted height at 1974 DeMille Drive. (Supplement 6)
 - iii. Motion: To send a letter to Councilman Reyes with attached recommendations of the GGPNC in regard to the Proposed Citywide Sign Ordinance and to file a CIS explaining the boards opposition to the adoption of the revised ordinance. (Supplement 7)

- iv. Motion: To file an additional CIS proposing the establishment of a citizens committees wherever sign usage districts are proposed. (Related Stakeholder Motion) (Supplement 7)
- b. Parks, River and Open Spaces (Ostrow to present motions on behalf of the committee chair)
 - i. Motion: Resolved, that the Autry National Center shall adhere to the terms of its long standing commitment to upgrade the Southwest Museum and to operate the Southwest Museum so that the public may have access to that site and be able to admire artifacts and artworks that have historically been maintained at that site.
 - ii. Motion: Whereas there currently exists sufficient cell phone reception throughout Griffith Park and that the use of water reservoirs as bases for cell phone towers represents an unwanted and unnecessary intrusion of the natural environment of Griffith Park, be it resolved that the GGPNC oppose cell phone tower installations within Griffith Park.
 - iii. Motion: Resolved, that the City of Los Angeles, including but not limited to the Department of Water and Power and the Department of Street Maintenance, shall determine the cause(s) of excess surface water in Fern Dell and resultant property damage and shall bring resources to the resolution of that problem.
 - iv. Motion: Resolved, that no member of the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission shall hold any position or post in any organization that conducts any business, directly or indirectly, with the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department, or acts in any advisory capacity with the Department or with other City agencies including but not limited to the Office of the City Attorney. (Ostrow on behalf of stakeholder)
- c. Education
 - i. Motion: The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council will contribute \$4,000 towards the new edible garden project, known as Farm Franklin, located on the north end of the campus of Franklin elementary school, a public school in Los Feliz.
- d. Culture and Events (Ostrow to present motion on behalf of Committee Chair)
 - i. The GGPNC will provide funding for an after school arts program at King Middle School to be provided by Aimee Art Productions in the amount of \$300.00 from the Culture and Events budget line item.
 - ii. Related Motion, not from Culture and Events Committee: Fund Aimee Art Productions in the amount of \$700.00 to come from the Special Projects budget. (O'Grady)
- e. Rules And Election (Demmers)
 - i. MOTION: To adopt Procedures for filling Standing Board Committee positions (Executive, Budget and Finance, Rules and Elections) as previously utilized striking the language limiting the nature of comments. (Supplement 8)
 - ii. MOTION: Recommend Governing Board adoption of Procedure for Board Member appointments previously utilized (with language modifications); discussion and action as appropriate. (Supplement 9)
 - iii. MOTION: To Approve Bylaws as Amended. These changes to the Bylaws seek to clarify and redefine the roles and responsibilities of the VP

for Communication and Outreach, the Secretary, and the Vice President Administration. (Supplement 10)

iv. MOTION: To approve the reformatting of the GGPNC Bylaws to be in compliance with the new DONE Table of Contents requirements. Note: With the exception of text required by City Ordinance and mandated by DONE, there is no change to the existing Bylaws. (Supplement 11)

7. Appointments to fill District A Vacancy (Supplement 12)
8. Shall the GGPNC hire someone to take/transcribe the monthly minutes? Discussion and action as appropriate.
9. Appoint Secretary and VP of outreach.
10. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (Supplement 13)
11. Other Comments and Announcements.
12. Adjourn

AGENDAS & PUBLIC COMMENT: Agendas are posted for public review on the Council's website, the Public Library, Los Feliz Branch at 1874 Hillhurst Avenue, the Community Police Center at 1965 Hillhurst Avenue and possibly other locations. As an entity covered under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Project Coordinator, Melvin Canas, at (213) 485-1360 or e-mailing melvin.canas@lacity.org.

To address the Board, the public is requested to fill out a 'Speaker Card' on any agenda item prior to the Board taking action on it. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only at the time the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on matters not appearing on this Agenda within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction are heard during the Public Comment period, limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the Board's presiding officer.

PROCESS FOR RECONSIDERATION: The Board may reconsider and amend its action on items listed here if that reconsideration takes place immediately following the original action, or at the next regular meeting. The Board, on either of these two days, shall: 1) Make a Motion for reconsideration and, if approved, 2) hear the matter and take an action. If the motion to reconsider an action is to be scheduled at the next meeting following the original action, then two items shall be placed on the agenda for that meeting: 1) A Motion for Reconsideration on the described matter and 2) a [Proposed] Action should the motion to reconsider be approved. A motion for reconsideration can only be made by a Board member who has previously voted on the prevailing side of the original action taken. If a motion for reconsideration is not made on the date the action was taken, then a Board member on the prevailing side of the action must submit a memorandum to the Secretary identifying the matter to be reconsidered and a brief description of the reason(s) for requesting reconsideration at the next regular meeting. The aforesaid shall all be in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act governing public entities.

DOCUMENT ACCESS: In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Los Angeles Public Library Los Feliz Branch (lobby reference shelf), at our website by clicking on the following link: www.ggpnc.org, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact: secretary@ggpnc.org or call: (323) 908-6054.

SUPPLEMENT 5

September 20, 2011

Hearing Officer
Office of Zoning Administrator
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, 7th floor
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: ZA-2008-3701-CUB-1A-PA1
Home Restaurant
1758-1760 North Hillhurst Ave.
Los Angeles, California 90027
Hearing: September 26, 2011

Dear Hearing Officer:

After consideration at a publicly noticed, regular meeting of its Planning, Zoning and Historical Preservation Committee (PZHPC) on September 7, 2011, and its regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting on September 20, 2011, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) agreed by consensus to recommend approval of the above referenced application presented in its entirety, to wit:

“Approval of Plans as required by condition No. 14 of Case No. ZA 2008-3701 (CUB)-1A in order to review the operation and compliance with the imposed conditions. The applicant also requests to modify Condition No. 8 to change the hours of operation to Thursday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 midnight daily from the approved 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 12 midnight Thursday through Saturday, in conjunction with an existing 3,537 square-foot restaurant dispensing a full line of alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption with seating for 36 patrons indoors and 60 on the outdoor patio.”

The applicant provided the PZHP committee with the following immediate area restaurants operating time schedules as reference:

	<u>Mon-Wed</u>	<u>Thur-Sat</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Alcove	6:00am – 12am	6:00a.m. -1am	7:00am-12am
Little Dom’s	8:00am - 11pm	8:00a.m. – 12 am	8:00am-11pm
Figaro	8:30am -10:30pm	8:30a.m. – 11:00pm	

Only one speaker offered public comment and spoke in support of the applicant and the PZHP Committee approved this application with no objections

Very truly yours



Ron Ostrow, President, GGPNC
By Gary Khanjian, Chair, GGPNC-PZHPC
cc: GGPNC Governing Board
Elizabeth Peterson, Applicant’s Representative

SUPPLEMENT 6

September 12, 2011

Linn K. Wyatt
Chief Zoning Administrator
Los Angeles City Planning Department
200 North Spring Street, 7th Floor
Los Angeles CA 90012

SUBJECT: ZA 2011-1239 ZAA
1974 DE MILLE DR.

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) Planning, Zoning and Historical Preservation Committee (PZHPC) meets monthly to address a variety of planning and zoning issues and encourages all stakeholders to participate in our meetings and hearings. We are active in our community and often submit recommendations to your office on various conditional uses, variances and other land use entitlements.

We have recently been informed of the subject ZA Adjustment application involving a proposed front yard wall varying in height from 7 feet to 8 feet. These types of cases are often controversial and generate a lot of concern from neighbors. In this particular case, although invited to appear before the PZHPC, the applicant has elected not to come forward to present and justify the over in height wall before the community and the neighbors.

We are very concerned that a Zoning Administrator will render a decision on this issue at a future meeting without advice and recommendation from the Neighborhood Council.

As a result we wish to register our opposition to this application and we hope that you relay our position to the appropriate decision maker and include this correspondence as part of the ZA file.

Sincerely,



Ron Ostrow, President, GGPNC
By Gary Khanjian, Chair PZHPC

cc: Jaime Massey, Applicant's representative
GGPNC Governing Board

SUPPLEMENT 7

September 20, 2011

Councilman Ed P. Reyes
Chairman, Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM)
City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Council File 08-2020; 08-3386-S1, Proposed Ordinance Revising the Citywide Sign Regulations (8/22/2011) Heard Before PLUM 8/9/11 & Scheduled Again for the October 18, 2011 PLUM Meeting

Dear Councilman Reyes:

Attached are the recommendations, with background, of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) Board and its Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation Committee (PZHP) on the proposed ordinance revising the Citywide Sign Regulations. These recommendations, including a Community Impact Statement, **supplement** ones made in the spring of 2009 to the City Planning Commission, PLUM, and the City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Ostrow', written in a cursive style.

Ron Ostrow, President, GGPNC Board

Gary Khanjian, Chairman, PZHP Committee

Cc: Council Members: Jose Huizar and Paul Krekorian (PLUM) Tom LaBonge, Eric Garcetti, and Paul Koretz (GGPNC Area)

Planning Department: Alan Bell and Daisy Mo

**CITYWIDE SIGN ORDINANCE, REVISED DRAFT, DATED JULY 22, 2011,
PRESENTED AUGUST 9, 2011, TUESDAY, TO PLANNING & LAND USE
MANAGEMENT (PLUM) COMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

[The proposed sign ordinance, related documents, and the Planning Department Presentation are available on the (1) GGPNC web site--see on first page of the Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation Committee and/or (2) Planning Department web site under "What's New?" on the left side of the page. Copies of these documents will be at the PZHP Committee and Board meetings.]

*****PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GREATER GRIFFITH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL'S (GRPNC) PLANNING, ZONING, & HISTORIC PRESERVATION (PZHP) COMMITTEE--SEPT. 7, 2011, WED., 7 PM--AND BOARD--SEPT. 20, TUES., 2011. 7 PM. These recommendations address issues in the proposed citywide sign ordinance *****

[See these PZHP recommendations below at C and D--as separate attachment, as well as E--Community Impact Statement that highlights some recommendations, and cover letter to Councilman Reyes, Chair of PLUM.

A separate sign ordinance recommendation is from Jacqueline and another from Joe.]

A. Schedule and Background

On ***October 18, 2011, Tuesday at 2/2:30 pm***, the revised draft Citywide Sign Ordinance will again be on the agenda of **PLUM--*for action!*** Then on to the City Council. Therefore, the GGPNC committees and board ***must act in September.***

The current citywide sign ordinance is a revision of the one that was developed by the Planning Department and was being considered by appointed and public officials during the spring of 2009, during which time the city had a **ban on off-site signs--billboard, digital, super graphics, wall, roof, etc.**

Definitions. Off-site signs are those are signs that advertise products and services that are NOT sold in the properties on which the signs are located. On-site signs are those that advertise products and services sold in the building on which the signs are placed.

These proposed recommendations **supplement** the recommendations developed and passed unanimously by the PZHP Committee and GGPNC Board during the spring of 2009. The recommendations were presented in writing and orally to the Los Angeles City Planning Commission (CPC), PLUM, and the City Council.

The ten to twelve points in the recommendations were made in (a) letters and (b) community impact statements. These documents are on the GGPNC web site, www.ggpnc.org.

To find them, go to the first page, and then scroll all the way to the end through many interesting topics. At that point click on the link to the previous GGPNC web site. There scroll a short distance to the image of a billboard in yellow and click on the links to a letter and two community impact statements.

[Printed version of the letter (April 21, 2009) and community impact statement (April 17, 2009) will be available at the PZHP Committee meeting, September 7, 2011 and GGPNC Board meeting, September 20, 2011.]

B. Building & Safety Department (BSD) Response 9/6/11 To GGPNC Request of Status of Department's Citywide Survey of Billboards, Legal & Not Legal

The Planning Department is working on ways to provide the survey data through its on line Zoning Information and Map Access System (ZIMAS). But the information will NOT including determinations on legality, due to ongoing litigation. The GGPNC/PZHP Committee provided Frank Masi's 2007 survey of all billboards in this NC's area (images, locations, identifying information) to the BSD to assist the department in doing its survey, required under court decision. GGPNC has asked for the BDS survey results every year or more frequently. The results are still not available.

On the BSD web site, under "Reports" are tables from four of the largest sign companies; those table list billboards by address. The BSD's paragraph says that it has NOT confirmed the accuracy of the information provided by the four companies.

CPC, PLUM, and the City Council have been informed of the GGPNC survey during their meetings in 2008, 2009, and 2010 on citywide and Hollywood Sign District proposed sign ordinances, as well as lack of completion and public availability of the BSD citywide survey of billboards, legal and illegal.

C. Proposed Supplemental Recommendations to PZHP Committee and GGPNC Board

1. Effective Management, Communication, Enforcement, Staffing, and Funding City Departments: Planning, Building & Safety, Community Redevelopment Agency, Housing, Transportation, Fire, Police, and City Attorney.

General

a. Support effective management, communication enforcement, staffing and funding in each of these departments (1) individually and (2) create effective mechanisms for these departments, with written and public records, to communicate, coordinate, and share sign and sign district information, ideas, intelligence, strategies, tactics, and best practices on a regular basis, such as every one, two, or three months with regard to proposed signs and sign districts during the time they are proposed, developed, and implemented, as well as monitoring during the sign and district lifetimes.

- b. **Possible mechanisms to implement “a” above are Task Force and Working Groups** that engage top and middle management priority commitment, sign technical expertise, computer and web site expertise, as well as experience working effectively and independently with government staff and elected official, consultants, non-profit organizations, and business representatives. Develop and maintain written records.
- c. **Each department create clear and user friendly web site locations that (1) provide the status and content of proposed off-site sign districts and signs and schedules of public hearings;** (2) include names of litigants, topics of the litigation, as well as administrative and court schedules; (3) indicate summary results of court and administrative decisions and where more detail can be found.
- d. **This information in “c, (1)” above is to be made part of the notice of proposals** to the affected neighborhood councils, resident associations, business organizations, such as local chambers of commerce, other interested stakeholders, and elected and appointed officials
- e. Establish clear areas of responsibility for each department and make that information readily available to the public, neighborhood councils, and resident associations.
- f. Designate a **lead agency**, given the provisions and experience in developing this second draft of the citywide sign ordinance--**the City Planning Department**.

Planning

- a. Support the type of **special sign unit, four to six people**, proposed by the Planning Department and **effective funding of the unit, with public and private funding, including donations, with the condition that the Planning Department staff has clear authority and independence to (1) carry out the provisions of the ordinance and in the interests of communities and the city**. This authority subject to the review of the City Planning Commission, PLUM, and City Council. (2) Clarify and communicate to the public the options for private and public funding. (3) The special unit responsibilities must include doing the further scrutiny and studies of the topics identified in the cover letter to the ordinance from Alan Bell, Deputy Directors of Planning. Those subjects are: Re-permitting, Sign Reduction and Relocation, Revenue Generation, Further Regulation of Digital Displays, Freeway Exposure, Signs Affected by Settlement Agreements, and Combined Signs Among Adjacent Properties.
- b. Support the use of the Planning Department’s **on line Zoning, Information and Map Access System (ZIMAS)** as the **mechanism to provide information on proposed off site sign districts and off site signs, schedules, and implementation**. The information should include a detailed description of the sign(s) taken down and confirmed prior to the issuance of permit to put up a new sign in current sign districts and proposed sign districts. **Neighborhood councils and resident associations impacted by proposed sign districts and sign must be notified of the information** on ZIMAS and in other sources in the Planning Department.

D. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND

The City Planning Commission (CPC) approved this ordinance on March 26, 2009, after three public hearings that included extensive testimony from representatives of neighborhood councils, community groups, business and development interests, and the sign industry. Unfortunately, proposed changes to the ordinance first made public on July 22, 2011 by the City Planning Department seriously weaken the ability of the city to protect its citizens from the negative impacts of outdoor advertising.

SIGN DISTRICTS: The CPC retained the sign district provision allowing off-site and other prohibited sign types in sign districts, but greatly limited the potential for negative impact on communities by allowing districts only in high-intensity commercial areas zoned regional commercial or regional center. The CPC also approved a provision that allowed property owners to erect these kinds of signs only after acquiring and removing existing billboards in the surrounding community at a more than one-to-one square footage ratio. The CPC voted to "grandfather" only two pending applications for sign districts under the current city sign ordinance.

The revised ordinance now before the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) committee seriously undermines the CPC's intent by proposing to grandfather a dozen pending sign district applications and proposals for special signage in specific plan areas. This could result in hundreds of thousands of square feet of new off-site signage in the city without a single billboard being taken down. The CPC rightly decided that removal of billboards that blight commercial streets in many neighborhoods provides a tangible, quantifiable community benefit as well as ensures that there won't be a net proliferation of new billboards and off-site signage in the city.

COMPREHENSIVE SIGN PROGRAMS: The CPC included this provision to allow special signage rules for large properties like shopping centers and college campuses, but the provision didn't allow any off-site or electronic signage generally prohibited by the ordinance. The revised ordinance would allow those generally prohibited sign types if they aren't visible from the public-right-of-way and don't exceed 10 per cent of the total signage on the property. These comprehensive sign programs would be allowed on any commercial property, either public or private, which opens the door to commercial advertising in city parks and recreational facilities.

ELECTRONIC SIGNAGE: The CPC prohibited electronic signage outside sign districts, but the revised ordinance would allow them as on-site, or business signs anywhere in the city. The only regulations proposed are a minimum eight-second message duration and a daylight and night-time brightness limit. These regulations fail to address serious issues of energy use, traffic safety, light trespass on residential properties, change in community character, and potential for privacy invasion. At a minimum, a moratorium should be placed on the installation of any new electronic signs and conversion of existing signs until regulations are in place that protect residents, motorists, communities and others from adverse effects.

OTHER

Donor Signs: Signs recognizing donors would be allowed by-right, without restrictions on size, location, text. This would allow signs carrying corporate logos anywhere, including city parks and other public property. These should not be allowed without strict regulations on size, text, and placement.

Right of Private Action: The provision allowing property owners within 500 ft. of an illegal sign to file suit if the city failed to enforce citations was removed from the CPC-approved ordinance, but should be reinstated.

Signs in the Public Right of Way: The ordinance exempts signage in the public right-of-way

from any regulations. This signage should be made subject to all the regulations of the ordinance.

Sign Adjustment: The ordinance would allow a zoning administrator to approve a 20% deviation from sign area and height, location, projection and clearance, and time limits on temporary signs, and would allow variances for adjustments beyond 20%. These are far from "minor" adjustments and should not be allowed without a public hearing and appeal process.

Signs Covering Windows: The CPC-approved ordinance prohibited any signs covering windows, but the revised ordinance would allow them if the fire department certified that they didn't present a safety hazard. This fails to account for the fact that signage adhered to windows can degrade the view to the outside, and seriously affect the quality of life of tenants of offices and apartments.

Temporary Signs: The revised ordinance doubles the allowable size of temporary signs, opening the door for building-size supergraphic-style signs that can be on a building for as much as 90 days in a given year.

DOT hazard Review: The revised ordinance removes the provision requiring any signs within 500 ft. of a freeway to undergo a DOT hazard review. This should be restored.

E. COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT – From Committee

Community Impact Statement Text on Proposed Ordinance Revising Citywide Sign Regulations (8/22/11)

The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council **opposes adoption** of the revised citywide sign ordinance now pending before the City Council Planning and Land Use Management committee because it would now allow (1) **grandfathering of Sign Districts** that have never had public review and **no reduction or exchange of existing signs**; (2) **signs** on large parcels of Public and Private land, opening an opportunity to include **city parks and recreational facilities**; (3) **electronic signage without environmental and safety reviews** for the community; and (4) removal of the **right of citizens to complain and sue**.

F. COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT (not from committee – Kerr)

Sign Usage Districts – Proposed Community Impact Statement

“It is proposed that a citizen’s committee be formed by that district’s City Councilmember(s) where a proposed Sign Usage District is located to advise, caution and direct the City Council in the appropriate and agreed-upon signage that is intended for their immediate vicinity.”

To the GGPNC:

With the refusal of the City Attorney’s office to handle further individual litigation against offending signage, the influence/control of a

stakeholder has over their environment is greatly diminished. This is particularly true if a Sign Usage District (SUD) is given the 5,000 feet of street frontage specified in the new (2011) SUD proposal. It will be difficult for the City Council to fully gauge the response of a community to a proposed SUD or receive useful information on an in-depth basis with the current format of the 2-minute stakeholder presentation currently used by the Council and their committees. While the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) generously allows continual appearances by the same constituents, the speaker is still given only two minutes.

Because this would be a separate action on the part of the City Council and formally require a separate motion number, I request that the GGPNC submit this to the City Council as a separate Community Impact Statement.

Thank you.

Jacqueline Kerr

Member, GGPNC's Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation
Committee

SUPPLEMENT 12

Rafik Ghazarian

I'm a longtime local resident of Los Feliz since the age of three. Attended local public schools and have a degree in Communications from Cal State University, Northridge. I began my career at the Auto Club of Southern California and found a natural progression into the Hospitality industry that spans over 25 years' experience in Sales and Marketing and working for Fortune 500 Travel management companies as well as major hotel chains. I have been an active member on the Marketing Committee at the Downtown Los Angeles Business Improvement District. My success is attributed to my tenacity, drive, leadership skills and the ability to assemble and empower high functioning successful teams. I decided to make a career change of sorts and move my skillset into the real estate industry. I joined Keller Williams Los Feliz in 2010.

Over the years I have gained much knowledge by working in different industries and areas in Los Angeles. My background in the hospitality industry enables me to guide my clients down the correct path to successful property purchasing. My main drive has always been to do as much as I can to satisfy my clients. With that in mind, I work long hours in hope that when I part ways with my clients they have exactly what they were looking for.

Among always assisting my external as well as my internal clients to fruition, I enjoy providing the personal service that is invaluable in today's marketplace. I have successfully been able to change hats and transfer my knowledge and skill set from one form of selling into the real estate market. My motto has always been to walk my clients through the entire transaction from start to close, and to be right by their side through this rewarding journey. Now I find it more rewarding than my previous hospitality position as I now find clients a longer stay than a weekend or week and rather a "home"...this journey that I call Real Estate is what I practice my continuous winning game plan.

Recently, I decided to widen my horizon by getting involved and giving back to my community. I decided to get more involved with my local neighborhood council and my goal is to bring as much happiness as possible. I bring to the GGPNC and our community my belief that Los Feliz is and will always be one of the greatest communities to live in. I would like to see more resident involvement with local area projects to beautify our two major business streets; Vermont and Hillhurst, as well as make improvements for less congested access to our community. Along the way I want to ensure that these community activities are fun and the results create a better Los Feliz to live in.



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GREATER GRIFFITH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

August 16, 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

PO Box 27003
Los Angeles, CA 90027-
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1. Call to Order. Roll Call.

Present: Mauceri, McCarthy, Benz, Ostrow, Masi, Ferris, Bae, Robbins, Desai, Iaderosa

Excused: Mendoza-Price, Mahli, O'Grady, Demmers, Kornberg

Non-excused absences: Khanjian (late), De Ocampo (late), VanKeueren Campbell

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

No public comments

3. Reports From Government Officials

Mary Rodriguez from Tom LaBonge's Office

Thanks Ron Ostrow for speaking at City Council this morning

Partnership with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) – do outreach in the Los Feliz area. North Hillhurst and Vermont Triangle are main areas of concern. Meetings coming up – will email President Ostrow. Metro and hospital brings people to area. Pat Smith (landscape designer or Vermont Triangle) will do clean up of Vermont Triangle soon. Estimate 40 people are homeless on Vermont from Sunset to Franklin.

Fatality – motorcyclist killed at Rowena and Los Feliz. Could make it right turn only and/or no left turn more than just 3 – 7.

DWP River supply project still in our area until 2014. There was a sinkhole issue – problem caught and fixed- but they are keeping an eye on it.

July 19th – Research meeting - Traveltown event – 5 PM to 8:30 PM – issues: signage for Griffith Park. Meeting on this issue in 3 weeks time. President Ostrow says a member of our PROSE committee may have attended (Young) and Councilmember Mauceri attended beginning of meeting.

Marshall High track is open for community use. 6 – 8 AM, 6 – 8 PM open to public in July and August except when filming occurs there.

President Ostrow brought up that 1031 Productions was invited to speak at meetings, but not responded yet.

Menz asks question that Los Feliz BID is looking at other landscapers for the Vermont Triangle to clean it up.

Bae asks question about what to do with Homeless – Rodriguez says goal is to house them. They don't always want housing, though, and the first outreach almost never works.

McCarthy asks if there is a number PATH would want from GGPNC (money-wise) and Rodriguez says there is nothing yet.

Ferris asks two questions: 1) Can you please schedule LaBonge events NOT during GGPNC meetings. 2) Is the LADWP behind schedule on River Supply Project?

Rodriguez: Yes.

Rodriguez responds to Robbins question and says trees at Vermont Triangle may be diseased. Also, we may be looking at \$3,000 for maintenance.

-Greg Hernandez – Communications Director and Field Rep – Assemblyman's Mike Gatto's office.

Introducing himself. Leaving brochures from office. Plan on coming to October meeting of GGPNC.

De Ocampo arrives.

4. Presentation about Night Out – Michael Russell

Koreatown NC (Wilshire Center BID) – promoting a get-together at a different location each month. Only item on agenda is for neighbors to talk. Last event they had was 200 people. No cost or low cost. Credits this event for getting funding for 2 separate parks and for power against developers. Also, credits event for allowing open communications to Police and lowers crime. [youtube.com/wcbid](https://www.youtube.com/wcbid).

mike@wilshirecenter.com

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting did not fill out a speaker card or make an oral request to provide public comment on this agenda item.

Khanjian arrives.

5. Executive Committee Reports

a. President

Secretary position has been vacated. No one volunteers. President Ostrow comments we may have to hire someone. Masi declares he is for hiring a Secretary. Mauceri says minutes won't get done well for several months with outside people. Bae asks what they do and Mauceri answers they do a lot. Robbins comments it takes people out of what we are talking about- again, promoting outside help. Masi says he records his committee meeting and takes minutes later, possibly 10 – 20 hours writing appropriate minutes.

Executive Committee report from last meeting – President Ostrow apologizes for wrong year on a previous agenda. Also, please put correct phone number on all agendas: 213.973.9758. And other correct info and double-check all dates.

Shakespeare Event – Sunday, August 21st for GGPNC. Someone has to make a speech.

Meeting at Vermont Triangle – Los Feliz BID did not file paperwork in time, but city still will not release any money to them.

City Council meeting – President Ostrow attended

Mauceri makes a motion to move up 6 e). Bae seconds. No objections.

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting did not fill out a speaker card or make an oral request to provide public comment on this agenda item.

6. Committee Reports

e. Sports And Recreation

ii. Issuance of official position letter requesting Council District 4 and the L.A. Department of Recreation & Parks to re-evaluate and revoke new tennis court usage fees at Vermont Tennis Facility in Griffith Park.

Mauceri makes a motion to make a letter to send to Councilmember LaBonge, CC Vicki Israel, et. al to re-evaluate and revoke tennis court usage fees at Vermont Tennis Facility in Griffith Park. Says Park made decision with no public comment to increase fees during peak hours.

Tal Vigderson – charge fees 8 – 12 and 3 – 5. \$5 an hour per court. No public input. Courts never packed.

John Griffith – agree with Tal. Community has been split apart. Go to different courts- not as good courts. Says he's been fee'd to death in this world.

Dan Blackburn – been playing at Vermont Tennis Courts since 1972. Some people can't afford the fees. It tears apart an amazing community and drives people away. He doesn't think this is what Colonel Griffith had in mind

Richard Oxford – not just about the money, it's also about meeting people. As a businessman, he knows the city needs money, but there is no money there.

Isabelle Oxford – surviving Cancer patient – doctor said she needed exercise and now she cannot go.

Robbins asks Mauceri who was the rat who started this business- Mauceri says no response yet. Mauceri says Tom LaBonge could make a phone call to someone at Parks and Rec to change it.

Ferris comments this is standard fee. Mauceri says not uniform that all tennis facilities raised fees.

Desai – watch for typos.

No objection, letter will be sent.

De Ocampo leaves.

Return to previous agenda order

5. Executive Committee

b. Treasurer – Approval of 2011-12 Budget

Bae motions to pass budget. Christina seconds.

\$56,250 was requested and then the committee made cuts to \$40,500.

Ferris – has committee thought about a time deadline to get your funds? Bae – no, but an efficiency plan has been discussed. Ferris adds more, but Ostrow says Ferris should bring it up at next Budget meeting. Ferris clears up what budget is to make clear for everyone.

Nyla Arslanian – Public Comment - Chair of Culture & Events Committee. Their budget is different than they submitted. It is based on specific amounts, not a made up number. Please look at everything that comes forth, not just what is in budget.

Menz questions the \$13 in postage.

Desai questions the low number in outreach. Bae answers that other committees will take on much of those costs.

Khanjian comments this budget needs to be approved every time. Also, initial approved budget of 2010 looked very different than final expenditures. This is just an allocation. Also, unless you have all your paperwork, nothing will be approved.

Robbins – is there money for Secretary?

McCarthy – where is paperwork to fill out? President Ostrow says it is in the binder he gave everyone.

Ostrow – is this from every committee chair? Bae: Yes, but no City Services

DISCUSSION:

Mauceri – budget is fluid.

Ostrow – while budget is fluid, nobody should be looking at this and think these numbers do not matter.

AMENDMENT: move \$3,500 from Special Projects to: \$1,500 to Operations Emergency Fund, \$1,000 to Outreach, \$1,000 to Culture & Events.

Masi – AMENDMENT to AMENDMENT: Move \$1,000 from Culture & Events and leave in Separate projects. Bae Seconds.

Bae says we should just approve original budget.

Desai – we should approve AMENDMENT to AMENDMENT

Khanjian – don't worry, committees don't always spend all their money

Ferris – No action can happen until next meeting on spending the Operations
Emergency fund?

Menz – backs Masi's AMENDMENT to AMENDMENT

Ostrow – agrees with Desai. Outreach needs more money. Last year Culture & Events
spent \$16,000. We should give them an extra \$1,000. Opposes Masi's amendment to
amendment. While there is flexibility, this should be what we are doing.

Nelson – To Desai's point, Outreach is highest expenditure in budget this year.

Khanjian - the city may do part of the election this year. Bae is relying on past
Treasurer's experience.

Mauceri – was ready to accept budget as is. Everything we do is Outreach. "Past
history is a guide post, not a hitching post" – Gene Autry.

Khanjian – 3 past Treasurer's at budget & finance committee meeting. Agrees with
Masi's Amendment to Amendment.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment – Bae objects.

FAVOR: Mauceri, Masi, Robbins, Desai, Khanjian, Iaderosa, Menz, McCarthy

OPPOSED: Ferris, Bae

ABSTAIN: Ostrow

Vote on Budget with Amendment – Bae objects

FAVOR: Mauceri, Masi, Robbins, Desai, Khanjian, Iaderosa, Menz, McCarthy, Ferris,
Ostrow

OPPOSED: Bae

Budget approved with amendment to change Special Projects to \$1,000, adding line for
Operations Emergency Fund: \$1,500, adding \$1,000 to Outreach

6. Committee Reports:

a. Culture And Events Committee Report

i. Motion: Approve funding in the amount of \$2,500.00 to the East Hollywood ArtCycle
(Fiscal Receiver: Hollywood Arts Council)

Nyla – this area has highest percentage of art consumers. Silent Theater people
looking for new home. Amy Hopkins requested a King after school program –
committee passed off to Executive committee. Continually have monthly meetings.

Jen Moran – PUBLIC COMMENT – Co-Producer of ArtCycle. Volunteer. Labor of
Love. They go to galleries in Los Feliz often and will use Los Feliz Art Supply store.

David Bell – Husband of Jen – pulling together of Arts community and Cycling
community. Open up street to neighborhood for one day. People go on bike rides to
galleries. Opportunity for outreach. This money would be used for the Children's

program- buying materials at Blue Rooster. Maybe money could come from different areas in budget.

Nyla – money goes to Hollywood Arts Council because East Hollywood ArtCycle is not a 501(c) 3

Ferris – what is expected attendance? David: last year was 7,000 people, hoping for more.

Menz – outside vendor doing this? No, all volunteers- some money in this budget may not actually happen.

McCarthy – what is the signage options? Whatever signs we have and whatever participation is needed. McCarthy – what does the money go for? Children's programming is performances and art supplies for kids and other is for general art supplies.

Bae – what are you doing for Outreach? Press releases. LA Times and LA Weekly are hopefully doing articles. Plenty of other outreach.

Ostrow – please know that the money may not be disbursed for 3 months.

DISCUSSION:

Ferris – do not discuss how these people should do their job.

Robbins – thought this was a Los Feliz event anyways. Support it.

Menz – in favor of it. Should trust the committee.

Mauceri – we should delineate between Culture & Events and Outreach. Silver Lake Jubilee was not good Outreach. Like this idea as a Culture & Events.

McCarthy – please go there to support and outreach if this passes

Desai – all for it. Should be Culture & Events

Masi – supports it, but will be out of town

laderosa - great event. She can do outreach

Ostrow – please know that we need to do this as Outreach and go there OR just cut the check and step away. Thinks this will pass, but has qualms about how much money this is for Culture & Events.

Ferris – AMENDMENT – cut funding by \$750 dollars. Menz seconds.

Robbins – thinks they should just give them the money they asked for. Thinks Culture & Events may get money at end of year. Objects to Amendment.

OBJECTION to Amendment:

Abstaining: Khanjian, Mauceri, Menz, Ostrow
FAVOR to Amend: Ferris
OPPOSED: Masi, Desai, Robbins, Iaderosa, McCarthy, Bae

Mauceri – moves to AMEND to reduce by \$500 to \$2,000. Desai seconds. Mauceri thinks it is a good number- we need money for Shakespeare.

OBJECTION to Amendment

Abstaining:

FAVOR: Mauceri, Desai, Ferris, Khanjian, Iaderosa, Ostrow

OPPOSED: Masi, Robbins, Menz, Bae, McCarthy

AMENDMENT PASSED

OBJECTION to AMENDED

FAVOR: Mauceri, Desai, Ferris, Khanjian, Iaderosa, Ostrow, McCarthy, Robbins, Masi, Bae, Menz

PASSED - \$2,000

b. Outreach Committee Report (McCarthy)

i. MOTION to seat a District A Candidate at October Meeting and schedule the conduct of outreach. Second by Masi.

Mauceri – AMEND to seat someone in September. Masi seconds.

Ostrow objects to Amendment

Discussion to move to September. Robbins, Mauceri, Masi, Menz in favor. Ostrow thinks it is not proper to move this quickly.

AMENDMENT PASSES:

Motion to Seat District A person in September.

AMENDMENT by Ostrow – Mauceri seconds.

Motion to Seat District A person in September and Outreach will set a date that the applications must be returned by and will do whatever is necessary to make sure sufficient outreach is done for the appointment.

MOTION PASSES.

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting did not fill out a speaker card or make an oral request to provide public comment on this agenda item.

c. Public Safety Committee Report (Iadorosa)

Graduated a Cert class. About 30 people per class.

Saturday October 22nd – Earthquake drill –

Coordinating a radio communications session on Sunday September 18th – emergency preparedness.

East Hollywood Public Safety and LAPD to do a seminar on gang issues

Coordinating with LA Survival group – Animal Cert class. Must have Cert 1 certification to participate.

Mauceri asks about signs for Citibank. Iaderosa says Police still use that. Ostrow says no. Mauceri adds Police signs add confusion to public

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Burke – Vermont Ave. issues – Vermont Rockwell – got off to bad start- but they have changed their ways. They are putting in soundproof roof in back patio. Approved by Building and Safety. Changed parking requirements. - - There was a recent incident where a bus pulled up and went to The Dresden. Stopped on Kingswell. A local resident got agitated and there was an occurrence that happened- nothing to do with Vermont Rockwell.

David Bell – President of East Hollywood NC – one issue is illegal marijuana clinics. Gang owned. City Council, LAPD, DEA, FBI won't do anything about it. A Zoning Administrator could be the way to go about getting rid of it. Go to the landlord and say tenant is a 'nuisance'.

d. PZHP Committee Report (Masi)
Overview of web site

Background information of Committee members on web site

Committee receiving an unusually large number of complaints which Masi believes results from sale of spirits at certain restaurants and party buses moving through our neighborhood. Not uncommon for 4 party buses to be in Los Feliz on any Saturday.

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting did not fill out a speaker card or make an oral request to provide public comment on this agenda item.

e. Sports And Recreation Committee (Mauceri)
i. Update on current project status.

Had to twist DONE's arm to get a check out for previous expenditures – for King Middle School gym

Committee met and did a budget and other issues

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting did not fill out a speaker card or make an oral request to provide public comment on this agenda item.

iii. Issuance of official position letter requesting Council District 4 and the L.A. Department of Recreation & Parks ensure the batting cage facility at Pote Field in Griffith Park remain fully available to the public at large after renovations are completed.

MOTION by Mauceri to send letter. Ferris seconds.

Discussion on who to CC/who made this decision
CONSENSUS. Letter to be sent.

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting did not fill out a speaker card or make an oral request to provide public comment on this agenda item.

f. Budget and Finance Committee

i. Motion: purchase \$2500 of equipment for Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church to come out of Special Projects
Withdrawn

7. Board Retreat/Training

Ostrow presents – we may need to do a training session. This is a question of whether we want to do it now or not. We are being strongly urged to have one.

Masi – do we have what we are going to get trained in? Ostrow – Brown Act, procedures, etc. Masi – having everyone not know the Brown Act causes problems in meetings.

Menz – are there other options other than hiring someone? Ostrow – DONE or City Attorney's office could do it.

Khanjian – DONE has seminars already, are they going to have one of these? Are we doing this out of fear?

Masi – I believe it is a good idea. I think we should hire someone or see if someone volunteers to tell us how to interpret the Brown Act. We should be self-sufficient

Mauceri – this sounds like bad management training that was brought about by grievances and they have no merit whatsoever and we shouldn't react to them. We should just wait for the City and if they want to foot the bill, they can.

Ferris – when the City wants to do it, fine- let them make it a rule and we will follow it at that point.

Robbins – the Brown Act is not the only thing we are subject to. The Los Angeles City Act is also something we are beholden to. Even though that is stricter, I do not want to pay for any sort of training.

Ostrow – hiring someone was just an option. We have a lawyer- it is the City Attorney. Others volunteering to help us would be great. Ostrow will tell City Attorney we are not interested in paying to hire someone.

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting did not fill out a speaker card or make an oral request to provide public comment on this agenda item.

8. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

May 17th Minutes – MOTION to approve – Bae. Benz seconds.

CORRECTIONS – supplement about public comment – passed out by Ostrow.

Barbara – CORRECTION – She is – managing Director of Symphony in the Glen and determines where they go for money and will not come to GGPNC -section 6, District C

CORRECTION - #2 – Marian
CORRECTIONS PASSED, Robbins abstains

June 21st Minutes – MOTION to approve – Bae, seconds Benz.
CORRECTIONS – supplement provided by Ostrow about public comment

Ferris – CORRECTION - President’s report – item E – Ferris’ comment – we should be addressing our remarks to the City Council
CORRECTIONS PASSED, Desai abstains

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting did not fill out a speaker card or make an oral request to provide public comment on this agenda item.

9. Other Comments and Announcements.

Ferris – EEK! At The Greek – event on Sunday October 30th – mighty fine music.

Mauceri – Sunday August 21st – Shakespeare in the Park event at Griffith Park. There will be bottle service.

Bae – asks Ferris about sponsorship of EEK! At The Greek. Says she cannot answer.

-
10. Adjourn

Bae motions to adjourn. Desai seconds.