

GGPNC Candidate Application

Robert J. Menz
The Elite Financial Network
Business Representative

I'm running for the Board of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council's Business Representative to continue the job I'm already performing in the community. While I currently serve the GGPNC as the Chair of the Business Committee, I am not the officially appointed Business Representative Board member; I think it's important to unite these two positions.

As a sign of my dedication to the GGPNC and the business community in general, I first ran for this position in September of 2009. Though I didn't win appointment during that process, I asked the blunt question of why there was no Business Committee in the GGPNC. Rather than yield to the discouragement of not being appointed to the board, I stayed involved with the business representative, and through steadfast focus and determination I petitioned the Board, along with Rosemary De Monte, and created the first ever GGPNC Business Committee. I was officially appointed the Business Chair a few months ago, and have since spent a great deal of my time improving communication and relations between the GGPNC and the business community.

A few examples of my efforts include:

- writing the first Business Committee Mission Statement
- maintaining the newly establish Business Committee page on the GGPNC website
- creating and advertising the GGPNC "Business of the Week"
- organizing the first ever Business Committee "Open Forum" to hear the concerns and issues from local businesses
- walking into every single business within the boundaries of the GGPNC to announce the formation of the committee and ask for their input
- acting as a liaison between the GGPNC and the Los Feliz BID. For example, the GGPNC asked me to invite the BID to the Los Feliz Connect mixer, and the BID asked me to invite the GGPNC to their Spring Mixer; I'm the unofficial go-between these two organizations
- serving on the Parking and Beautification Committee of the Los Feliz BID
- acquiring a budget for the Business Committee and receiving approval to host our own mixer as a means of Outreach to the business community

In addition to these efforts to support the local business community, I also run my own small business in Los Feliz. As such, I understand the needs, concerns and issues that are important to the small business community. No one has their finger on the pulse of the GGPNC business community more than I do. We've made great strides in the past two years to improve business communication and relations with the GGPNC, and I'd like to continue down that great path.