



Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")

13654 Victory Blvd., #136, Valley Glen, CA 91401

www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org

SPECIAL VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 27th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Greater Valley Glen Council meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically. Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must dial **(669) 900 - 9128** and enter **818 9856 4723** and then press # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

Officers

Mickey Jannol	President
Vacant	Vice President
Anthony Sipp	Treasurer
Alex Silva	Secretary

Board Members

Joseph Barmettler	At-Large Rep	Cosmo Moore	District 4 Rep
Joanne D'Antonio	At-Large Rep	Sloan Myrick	District 5 Rep
Walter Hall	Community Organizations Rep	Andrea Schmitt	District 6 Rep
Mickey Jannol	At-Large Rep	Robin Shafer	Community Organizations Rep
Artur Manasyan	Youth Rep	Alex Silva	District 1 Rep
Jah Milton	Education Institutions Rep	Anthony Sipp	District 6 Rep

Meeting Agenda appears on the following page. Please note the following:

- 1) A copy of this Agenda is posted on the GVGC website and GVGC Facebook page. It is physically posted in five (5) locations: Uncle Tony's Pizzeria, Erwin Street Elementary School, Monlux Elementary School, Kittridge Street Elementary School, and the baseball backstop at Valley Glen Community Park.
- 2) The public is invited to this meeting by accessing the Zoom link above. Pursuant to the Agenda, the Public is invited to comment on items as called for in the Agenda.
- 3) Please consider service on the GVGC Board. We have 13 open seats as described on item #5 of the Agenda. If interested, email Board President Mickey Jannol at mjannol@greatervalleyglencouncil.org



AGENDA

1. Call to Order by EmpowerLA Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate ("NEA") Jasmine Elbarbary. NEA Elbarbary will Chair this Special Meeting and provide introductory remarks on meeting purpose and procedure.

2. Roll Call of the existing Board. The following twelve (12) board members were present: Mickey Jannol, Anthony Sipp, Alex Silva, Joseph Barmettler, Joanne D'Antonio, Walter Hall, Artur Manasyan, Jah Milton, Cosmo Moore, Sloan Myrick, Andrea Schmitt, Robin Shafer.

3. General Public Comment on non-agenda items. Please see Disclosures, page 2. None

4. Nominations to fill 1 of 13 vacant seats. Vacant seats consist of:

- Three (3) At-Large Reps**
- Two (2) Business Reps**
- Two (2) District 2 Reps**
- Two (2) District 3 Reps**
- One (1) District 4 Rep**
- One (1) District 5 Rep**
- One (1) Religious Institution Rep**
- One (1) Commercial Property Owner Rep**

Each Nominee may self-nominate. Process may include but not be limited to:

- Nominee comments, including their interest in serving on GVGC.**
- Public Comment**
- Board Comment**
- The existing Board may ask the Nominee questions, and then determine to seat the Nominee on the GVGC Board. The NEA will swear in the new Board member.**

Alex Silva made motion to nominate Anthony Bethel for an open District 1 seat. Motion seconded by Andrea Schmitt. The above vacant seat list was not correct in terms of the number of available vacant At-Large and District 1 Rep seats. The nominee introduced himself, provided background information and shared his interest in serving on GVGC. There were no public or Board comments. Motion passes with 11 ayes, 1 Abstention. Anthony Bethel was sworn in as a new Board member.

5. Remarks from EmpowerLA Representative Jasmine Elbarbary, including a determination as to whether a Quorum has been achieved. Quorum was achieved.

6. Adjournment.



Disclosures:

***PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS-** In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Uncle Tony's Pizzeria, 13007 Victory Blvd Valley Glen, CA 91606, at www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org or at a scheduled meeting. If you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Mickey Jannol, Board President, at mjannol@greatervalleyglencouncil.org or at (818-613-6311).

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – The public is requested to dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT - As a covered entity 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 its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, and 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 (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by email: NCSupport@lacity.org or phone: (213) 978-1551.

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Alejandro Silva de la Mesa Directiva, al gvcalexsilva@gmail.com o por correo electrónico avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

Notice to Paid Representatives - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

Inquiries may be directed to Mickey Jannol, Board President, at mjannol@greatervalleyglencouncil.org or at (818-613-6311).

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Board Members

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Joanne D'Antonio	At-Large Rep	Sloan Myrick	District 5 Rep
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Mickey Jannol	At-Large Rep	Robin Shafer	Community Organizations Rep
Artur Manasyan	Youth Rep	Alex Silva	District 1 Rep
Jah Milton	Education Institutions Rep	Anthony Sipp	District 6 Rep

1. Call to Order. 7:40 p.m.
2. Roll Call. The following thirteen (13) board members were present: Mickey Jannol, Anthony Sipp, Alex Silva, Joseph Barmettler, Joanne D'Antonio, Walter Hall, Artur Manasyan, Jah Milton, Cosmo Moore, Sloan Myrick, Andrea Schmitt, Robin Shafer, and Anthony Bethel.
3. Remarks from EmpowerLA Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate ("NEA") Jasmine Elbarbary.
4. Remarks from President Mickey Jannol.
5. General Public Comment on non-agenda items. Please see Disclosures, page 2. None
6. Nominations and elections for vacant board seats.

- Nominations: Matthew Brashear, Krista Sipp, Kristen Robinson, and Leslie Aguirre self-nominated themselves for seats on the board.
- Nominee Comments: All nominees introduced themselves, provided background information, and reasons for wanting to join the GVGC.
- Public Comment: There was public comment from two (2) SA District 1 residents that opposed the nomination of Matthew Brashear based on their personal experience with him and those of other neighbors.

- Board Comment: Sloan Myrick, Christopher Moore, and Alex Silva had comments and questions directed to Matthew Brashear regarding his wanting to join the board and his farm stand.
- Roll Call Election by Board. Nominee receiving majority of votes becomes Board Member.
- Mickey Jannol made the motion to nominate Matthew Brashear for an open At-Large seat; motion seconded by Jah Milton. Motion failed with 3 Nays, 10 Abstentions.
- Mickey Jannol made the motion to nominate Kristen Robinson for an open At-Large seat; motion seconded by Andrea Schmitt. Motion passes with unanimous vote.
- Mickey Jannol made the motion to nominate Krista Sipp for an open Business seat; motion seconded by Christopher Moore. Motion passes with unanimous vote.
- Mickey Jannol made the motion to nominate Leslie Aguirre for an open At-Large seat; motion seconded by Sloan Myrick. Motion passes with unanimous vote.

7. Nominations and election for Vice President. This item was postponed until further review of GVGNC Bylaws were conducted in order to clarify seating of new Vice President.

8. Nominations and election for Secretary.

- Nominations: Robin Shafer and Joanne D'Antonio were nominated for this position.
- Nominee Comments: Robin Shafer declined her nomination for this position. Joanne D'Antonio accepted her nomination.
- Public Comment: None
- Board Comment: None
- Roll Call Election by Board. Nominee receiving majority of votes becomes Secretary. Alex Silva made motion to nominate Joanne D'Antonio as the new Secretary of GVGNC. Motion seconded by Andrea Schmitt. Joanne D'Antonio received a unanimous vote and is now the new GVGNC Board Secretary.

10) Treasurer's Report and Motions – A. Sipp, Treasurer

- a) Motion for approval of MERS for the months of October 2019 through March 2020 with BACs
 - a. **October 2019** Motion Passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)
 - b. **November 2019** Motion Passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)
 - c. **December 2019** Motion Passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)
 - d. **January 2020** Motion Passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)
 - e. **February 2020** Motion Passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)
 - f. **March 2020** Motion Passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)
- b) Motion for approval of Affidavit for the incurred expenditure of \$129.47 at Uncle Tony's Pizzeria ("UTP") on 9/9/2019 and \$79.55 at UTP on 11/26/2019. Both expenses were for food for general meeting and committee meeting. Motion Passed (12 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 1 abstain (Myrick), 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp).
- c) Motion for the payment of previously approved ad in the VGNA newsletter, Valley Glen Voice. Payment to be no more than \$400.00. Motion Passed (10 yes, 1 no (Hall), 0 absent, 2 abstain (Jannol, Milton), 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp).
- d) Motion for reimbursement to Board member M. Jannol for expenditure of \$45.00 for food at PLUM Committee meeting. Motion Passed (12 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 1 abstain (Jannol), 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp).
- e) Motion for reimbursement to Board member J. D'Antonio for expenditure of \$22.10 for food at Parks,

Medians, and Improvements Committee meeting. Motion Passed (12 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 1 abstain (D'Antonio), 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp).

f) Motion to pay \$43.79 expenditure at UTP for committee meetings on 10/8/2019. Motion Passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp).

g) Motion to pay \$45.00 to Constant Contact, submitted 4/10/2020 expenditure at UTP for committee meetings on 10/8/2019. Motion Passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)

h) Motion to pay the following past due invoices: one from BMC Landscape for \$325 in October 2019, and \$650 from Victory Plaza Shopping Center "Personal Storage" to cover January through May 2020. Motion Passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)

i) Motion to approve \$2,500 to Valley Glen based Jewish Family Services to provide meals primarily to seniors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion Passed (11 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 2 abstain (Barmettler, Hall), 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)

j) Motion to approve \$2,500 to North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry to provide inventory to feed needy families in response to the COVID-19 pandemic Motion Passed (12 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 1 abstain (Hall), 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp).

9) Presidents Motions

Motion 3: Approval to send the attached letter which comments on the Sidewalk Repair Program's Draft Environmental Impact Report (SRP DEIR). The proposed letter is attached to this agenda as pages 7-9. The comments will be sent before the May 31, 2020 comment deadline to the Sidewalk Repair Program Environmental Supervisor with copies to other officials appearing on page 9. Motion Passed. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

9. Motion to amend Bylaws. M. Jannol, President

The Board currently has 25 seats: 12 Residential Reps, 4 At-Large Reps, 2 Business Liaison Reps, 2 Commercial Property Owner Liaison Reps, 2 Community Organization Liaison Reps, 1 Religious Institutions Liaison Rep, 1 Education Institutions Liaison Rep, and 1 Youth Rep (appointed by the President). Motion is to amend Board composition to read as follows: 12 Residential Reps, 12 At-Large Reps, and 1 Youth Rep (appointed by the President). Current Business Liaison Reps, Commercial Property Owner Liaison Reps, Community Organization Liaison Reps, Religious Institutions Liaison Rep, and 1 Education Institutions Liaison Rep automatically become At-Large Reps, in addition to the existing At-Large Reps. Roll Call Vote. 2/3 of the seated Board required to pass.

Motion passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 1 abstain (Hall) , 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

11) Parks, Improvements & Medians Committee- M. Jannol, Chair

Motion 1: GVGC approves up to \$10,000 as its contribution towards construction of a shade structure to provide shade to the Playground at Laurel Grove Park. For information purposes, GVGC's contribution could be in the form of a joint project with CD2, DWP, and Recreation and Parks Department to install a photovoltaic structure, or a joint project with Quimby funds and/or other conventional funding sources to install a shade cloth structure. Motion passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)).

Motion 2: Board approval of the expenditure of up to \$11,000 to clean up, remove ant moguls, grade and mulch the Victory Blvd. and Whitsett Ave. Medians (mulch delivery, water, and watering included). GVGC authorizes entering into a contract with Stay Green for \$11,000 to clean up and mulch the Medians (not including dead tree removal if any). Said contract to be subject to City approval. Motion passed (13 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)).

Motion 3: Approval of the expenditure of up to \$1,750 per month for the maintenance of the Medians, on an as requested basis. This includes regular watering to preserve the mulch work with the understanding that we will get quarterly approvals from the Board for actual payment of the work. This motion funds 7 months of work. To cover the full year, CD 2 will contribute \$8,400, roughly 5 months of work. Motion passed (12 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 1 abstain (Barmettler), 3 ineligible (Mansyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)).

10. Government Relations Committee – W. Hall, Chair Motions deferred to June 1, 2020 Board meeting

7. Planning and Land Use Committee

a. **Motion 1:** Approval to support a zoning variance requested by Chan Thai Spa, at 12838 Victory Blvd., to operate a spa business in a C-1 (commercial/retail, not including spa businesses) zone. Motion passed (14 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)).

b. **Motion 2:** Public comments from applicant Shulamith Zaidman and architect Gary Harcourt.

Refer 6254 N. Ranchito CUP request to PLUC Committee. Motion Failed (5 yes, 6 no (Bethel, D'Antonio, Milton, Myrick, Silva, Robinson) 0 absent, 3 abstain (Barmettler, Manasyan, Moore) 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp))

GVGC opposes grant of Conditional Use Permit to permit an 18-bed congregate living health facility (sanitarium) in the R Zone, and additionally, the issuance of an Exemption from the CEQA guidelines Address for this project is 6254 N. Ranchito Avenue. Motion passed. (9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 5 abstain, 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)).

Motion 3: Opposition to possible grant of variance for the subdivision at 5731 Colbath/Ranchito subdivision of the property into three single family homes. GVGC additionally recommends that the secondary access from the existing driveway from Ranchito Avenue be converted to only pedestrian access. The recommendation, if adopted, will be sent in writing to the LA City Planning Hearing Officer if the deadline is not past. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp))

c. **Motion 4:** Opposition to possible grant of variance to allow construction of three single-family dwellings in a

single-family dwelling lot. Project address is 6304 Allot Avenue. Motion withdrawn.

8. Community Outreach Committee – R. Shafer, Chair

- a. **Motion 1:** Approve encumbrance of no more than \$3,000 for 3 “Movies in the Park” for the months of July, August, September 2020. This motion supersedes any previous motion made and approved August 2019. Motion withdrawn.
- b. **Motion 2:** Approve \$750 for a full-page ad in the next Valley Glen Voice newsletter to be published in August 2020. Motion passed. 6 yes, 3 no (Hall, Milton, Silva) 0 absent, 4 abstain (Jannol, Moore, Shafer, Robinson) 3 ineligible (Manasyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)

9. President’s Motions - continued

- a. **Motion 1:** Approval of no more than \$2,000 to support outreach efforts by Valley Glen Neighborhood Association to update and manage its website and Facebook page for a 6-month period. Motion failed. 3 yes, 5 no (D’Antonio, Hall, Milton, Moore, Myrick) 0 absent, 5 abstain (Bethel, Jannol, Shafer, Silva, A. Sipp), 3 ineligible (Manasyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Motion 2: Approval of no more than \$2,000 for LAPD Van Nuys Division to install activated light displays to the rear of two of its Reserve Officer vehicles for the purpose of deterring criminal activity. Motion Passed. 9 yes, 3 no (Milton, Myrick, A. Sipp), 0 absent, 1 abstain (D’Antonio), 3 ineligible (Manasyan, Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Motion 4: Approval to support the mixed use commercial and multifamily development at 13716 Victory Blvd. Motion approved at October Regular meeting but no minutes to that effect. Motion passed. 8 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 6 abstain (Barmettler, Hall, Manasyan, Moore, Silva, Robinson) 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

10. President’s Comments regarding encumbering funds for next fiscal year.

11. Board Comments on items not covered in this Agenda. Please see Disclosures, page 6.

12. Second call for Public comments for items not covered in this Agenda.

13. Possible motions regarding scheduling subsequent Board meetings in June.

- Motion Second
- Public Comment
- Board Comment
- Possible Motions/Amendments handled in accordance with Rosenberg
- Call the Question
- Voice Vote or Roll Call Vote if a money motion. Majority of Ayes and Nos required to pass

14. Motion to Adjourn - Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Attachment to Agenda item #9, Motion 3

(If GVGC Board members or stakeholders have any questions regarding the content in this letter, I can clarify – email jdantonio@greatervalleyglencouncil.org or call Joanne D’Antonio, Sustainability Representative, 818 387-8631)

Sample Letter on GVGC Letterhead

Shilpa Gupta
Environmental Supervisor I
City of Los Angeles Public Works
Bureau of Engineering Environmental Management Group
1149 South Broadway, Suite 600, Mail Stop 939
Los Angeles, CA 90015

RE: Sidewalk Repair Program Draft Environmental Impact Report Comments

Dear Shilpa Gupta:

Greater Valley Glen Council (“GVGC”) submits this letter to state our position that the draft environmental impact report (“DEIR”) for the sidewalk repair program (“Project”) falls short of an adequate environmental review. An EIR is an environmental ‘alarm bell’ whose purpose it is to alert the public and its responsible officials to environmental changes before they have reached ecological points of no return. As explained below, this DEIR will not be adequate unless and until the Project’s impacts are fully described and the analysis of its various impacts completely revised. The City’s blinkered approach to environmental review must be abandoned and replaced with a thorough analysis of the full scope of Project and its impacts.

The DEIR fails to consider impacts by the loss of tree canopy and other environmental benefits. The City is proposing to adopt a project that projects the loss of 12,860 street trees. The DEIR says the City would get back to the amount of tree canopy cover it had in 2017 after 30 years by incorporating replacement trees into the Project and therefore there are no significant adverse impacts. This view makes no sense considering the fact tree canopy cover is significantly reduced as soon as mature trees are cut down and replaced with smaller trees. Even if one were to accept that the 2:1 and 3:1 replacements of each of these trees will offset the lost tree canopy cover at the end of the 30 years, assuming they survive and grow for the next 30 years, there will be a period of harm due to the reduced benefits. If multiple trees are cut down on a block, entire neighborhoods will be burdened by the loss of tree canopy cover. Also, the DEIR would allow removals of 12,860 without consideration for environmental (stormwater capture, wildlife habitat, noise and air pollution reduction).

The DEIR’s analysis is inadequate given that it is based on a tree replacement approach that is speculative. The proposal relies on a tree replacement approach, it characterizes as “Project Design Features,” to mitigate lost canopy cover that is not certain to occur. For instance, the DEIR uses an 8% mortality rate for a street tree in the first three years of planting in our semi-arid environment. But peer-reviewed, published data from similar climates clearly show that an 8% mortality rate for newly planted street trees is too low. A major planting in Berkeley and Oakland had a 34% mortality rate after only two years (Nowak et al. 1990). A previous study in Oakland found 60 -70% survival after 6 years (Sklar and Ames 1985). A more recent study of newly planted trees in Oakland found a 25% mortality rate over 3 years (Roman et al. 2014). In the study about Los Angeles’ million tree program (E. Gregory McPherson, et al., 2008), a low mortality scenario projected that 17% of newly planted trees would be dead after 35 years, and a high mortality scenario projected 56% mortality. An excellent survival rate for newly planted trees would be 80% (Matthew Wells, City of Santa Monica Landscape Manager, 2019 Los Angeles Tree Summit). The DEIR states, “young street trees must be able to withstand slight

to moderate drought or other stress.” However, arboriculture dictates young trees are not drought tolerant. The document fails to state what further mitigation will be required if replacement trees end up failing at a rate higher than the 8% mortality rate used by the DEIR. The DEIR also fails to state whether it will replace failed trees after the Project’s commitment to replace young trees that do not survive in the first three years.

The DEIR fails to disclose or analyze the impact of the downsizing (replacing large stature trees with smaller stature trees) of our Urban Forest that would be created by the Project. The 12,860 street trees projected to be removed during the Project is based on 244 unspecified trees it cut down for sidewalk repairs during the first year (2017 to 2018) of the Willits Settlement implementation. However, removals and replacement trees listed on the City’s tree removal notifications and NavigateLA show the majority of trees removed are large trees that have been replaced with smaller trees as part of the sidewalk repair program already in implementation. As illustrated in the 2019 First Step Los Angeles Urban Forest Management Plan by Dudek, large trees contribute exponentially higher urban forest benefits. Likewise, the Center for Urban Forest Research has studied large, medium, and small trees in a number of locations throughout the West and found that small trees like crape myrtle, commonly planted in the City’s sidewalk repair projects, deliver up to eight times fewer benefits than large trees. Hence, getting back to the amount of tree canopy cover what the City had in 2017 is unlikely to be achieved by planting two, three, or even four (as some people suggest) smaller tree species for every large tree cut down. In fact, the Project’s tree replacement approach may ironically create a smaller and less effective urban forest.

The DEIR’s analysis is also inadequate given that it is based on mitigation measures that are largely undefined. It is impossible for the DEIR to provide an accurate description of the impacts (visual/aesthetic, environmental) of the Project given that the design of most of the streetscape at the landscape-level is not yet developed or certain. For instance, the DEIR claims to include a tree species selection list in Appendix D, but there is no such list in the appendix, nor is there a description anywhere else in the document. Instead, the Project would allow replacement of existing tree species at the discretion of the City. Although the DEIR states street tree species selection at a given location is generally determined by the existing predominant street tree species on a block, the City’s tree removal notifications and NavigateLA show a trend of selecting replacement tree species that are not the same as the predominant species on a block. Because concrete details of the tree removal and replacements of the Project appear to be unplanned and therefore unknown, its environmental impacts cannot be accurately analyzed, nor can effective mitigation be identified. With so little detail a reader is left with no idea of what the streetscape of the City will look like at the end of the Project. The fog of uncertainty surrounding this aspect of the Project and its impacts leads inevitably to vague or deferred analysis and mitigation.

The DEIR analyzes an inadequate range of alternatives and fails to analyze alternatives that reduce impacts. The DEIR states, “retain existing street trees that are the cause of sidewalk barriers to the extent feasible” as the City’s first additional project objective. For most projects, multiple solutions are required to retaining trees. But the DEIR offers only 4 solutions for retaining trees, each with limitations that would either disqualify or minimize implementation. For instance, the DEIR states the root pruning alternative to cutting down a tree may be hazardous to a street tree’s structural stability and health, or would destabilize the tree. In other words, root pruning is a remedial alternative effort to cutting down a tree. The DEIR further admits that following International Society of Arboriculture’s Best Management Practices would preclude root pruning as a street tree retention method for nearly all of the City’s large trees (Project Description 2.4.4.3). While ramping over tree roots is an alternative to removing a tree, the DEIR states that “utilization of ramping may void the sidewalk warranty.” The DEIR rejects consideration of meandering on the grounds that acquiring additional property as part of the requirement to implement meandering is “incompatible with the Project objective to complete all required sidewalk repair segments without acquiring additional City ROWs.” If retaining existing street trees “to the extent feasible” is an objective of the Project, then the DEIR must analyze a robustly

defined set of alternatives that focus on retaining existing mature trees and prevention of sidewalk tree conflicts that could eliminate or greatly reduce the environmental costs of tree removals, such as lowered sites, curving or offset sidewalk, asphalt, expansion joints, pavers, pervious concrete, reinforced or thicker slab, beveling, Rockery/Wall, shims, mudjacking, increasing parkway planting space, tree curb pop-outs or bulb-outs, suspended paving systems (aka soil cells).

Conclusion. Given the foregoing deficiencies and uncertainties, the DEIR must be revised and recirculated. The present DEIR cannot properly form the basis of a final EIR.

Thank you

Joanne D'Antonio
GVGC Sustainability Representative

Mickey Jannol
GVGC President

With copies to:

Robert.Vega@lacity.org
Julie.Sauter@lacity.org
amber.elton@lacity.org
gary.lee.moore@lacity.org
Fernando.campos@lacity.org
Kevin.james@lacity.org
aura.garcia@lacity.org
mike.davis@lacity.org
teresa.villegas@lacity.org
jessica.caloz@lacity.org
adel.hagekhalil@lacity.org
martin.schlageter@lacity.org
Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org
councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org
councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org
david.ryu@lacity.org
Paul.koretz@lacity.org
councilmember.Martinez@lacity.org
councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org
councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org
councilmember.price@lacity.org
councilmember.Wesson@lacity.org
councilmember.bonin@lacity.org
Councilmember.Lee@lacity.org
councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org
councilmember.huizar@lacity.org
councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org
mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

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Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")

13654 Victory Blvd., #136, Valley Glen, CA 91401

www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org

REGULAR VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING Minutes

June 1, 2020 - Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Greater Valley Glen Council meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically. Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must dial (669) 900 - 6833 and enter 951 2179 9133 and then press # to join the meeting. You may join the meeting as early as 6:30 p.m. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Officers

Mickey Jannol	Acting President
Vacant	Vice President
Anthony Sipp	Treasurer
Joanne D'Antonio	Secretary

Board Members

Leslie Aguirre	At-Large Rep	Cosmo Moore	District 4 Rep
Joseph Barmettler	District 4 Rep	Sloan Myrick	District 5 Rep
Anthony Bethel	District 1 Rep	Kristen Robinson	At-Large Rep
Joanne D'Antonio	At-Large Rep	Andrea Schmitt	District 6 Rep
Walter Hall	Community Organizations Rep	Robin Shafer	Community Organizations Rep
Mickey Jannol	Commercial Property Rep	Alex Silva	District 1 Rep
Artur Manasyan	Youth Rep	Anthony Sipp	District 6 Rep
Jah Milton	Education Institutions Rep	Krista Sipp	At-Large Rep

1. Call to Order 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call. The following 15 members were present Leslie Aguirre, Joseph Barmettler, Anthony Bethel, Joanne D'Antonio, Walter Hall, Mickey Jannol, Artur Manasyan, Cosmo Moore, Sloan Myrick, Kristen Robinson, Robin Shafer, Alex Silva, Anthony Sipp, Krista Sipp. Quorum achieved.

3. Nominations for and election of President, conducted by Jasmine Elbarbary, EmpowerLA Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate ("NEA"). Joanne D'Antonio nominated Mickey Jannol and Anthony Bethel seconded. No other nominations and no public or Board comments. Mickey Jannol elected GVGC President. 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Jannol), 1 absent (Milton), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

4. Nominations for and election of Vice President, conducted by NEA Jasmine Elbarbary. J. D'Antonio nominated Anthony Bethel and A. Silva seconded. No other nominations and no public or Board comments. Anthony Bethel elected GVGC President. 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Bethel), 1 absent (Milton), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Rest of meeting conducted by Board President

5. Nominations for and election of Treasurer to start July 1 and complete training prior to that (advised by Jasmine Albarbary). J. D'Antonio nominated Andrea Schmitt and A. Bethel seconded. No other nominations and no public or Board comments. Andrea Schmitt elected GVGC Treasurer. 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Schmitt), 1 absent (Milton), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

6. Nominations and elections for vacant board seats. New bylaws voted at last meeting have to be approved by BONC and go into effect at next regular neighborhood council election. Bylaws Change window is about to close so we cannot make more changes. M. Jannol corrected record: Joseph Barmettler was elected Dist. 4 Representative at last election and no longer serves At Large (mistake on a previous agenda. Anthony Bethel was elected to District 1 Rep at first May 27 Board meeting. Mickey Jannol moved from At Large to Commercial Property Rep at last Board meeting to open an at large seat, which was filled at that meeting. **Vacant seats consist of:**

Two (2) District 2 Reps, Two (2) District 3 Reps, One (1) District 5 Rep, Two (2) Business Reps, One (1) Religious Institution Rep, and One (1) Commercial Property Rep.

Matthew Brashear self nominated for Business Rep. Seconded by Andrea Schmitt. Public comments against were made by: Wendy Elgin Silva, Bart Cannistre, Dortha Sargent, September Forsythe. Public comments in favor were made by: Lindsey Hopkins, Catherine Inglese. Board members voiced concerns, including use of City Seal for a purportedly unauthorized event and suggested he serve on a Committee as a stakeholder first. Election failed. 1 yes (Hall), 11 no, 1 abstain (Manasyan), 1 absent (Milton), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Government Rep Reports (not on agenda)

Caroline Menjivar, East Valley Rep for Mayor's Office gave update on free coronavirus testing sites, LAFD fire response in place. Report on protests, looting, curfew, arrests, in this area. Census is below 10 years ago. caroline.menjivar@lacity.org

7. Government Relations Committee – W. Hall, Chair

Motion 1: GVGC favors the proposed report from the Department of Water and Power relative to the feasibility and costs to underground electric distribution facilities in high fire zones, but to additionally report on the feasibility and costs to use insulated conductors as an alternative solution to undergrounding, and on additional practices that would minimize possible utility-caused fire-starting points. (CF 19-1361) [For if Amended] Motion passed. 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Milton), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Motion 2: Blocking sidewalks by businesses and street vendors is a problem within the footprint of our neighborhood council and in surrounding areas. The Greater Valley Glen Council supports the City Council motion (19-1334) that requests development of an ordinance that would facilitate the citing of non-permit holders from creating violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. [For] Withdrawn by Committee Chair -- City Attorney is working on an ordinance.

Motion 3: For residents of Greater Valley Glen, the proposed joint development project at the Metro North Hollywood Station appears less than user-friendly. Without adequate and easily accessible parking, riding the Red Line in lieu of freeway use by our constituency is problematic. As proposed, parking for public transit users is to be scattered about various project structures, with a smart phone app listing of site-specific parking availability. With no guarantee that a spot will remain available, especially as traffic within and about the project will cause delays, finding parking becomes difficult

and uncertain and ultimately sours Red Line ridership by those not within walking distance of it. The Greater Valley Glen Council approves sending a letter to project management asking for a redesign of parking facilities and the building of more parking near the station. Additionally, this letter will communicate our objection to the project's proposed felling of many mature trees and ask for a redesign to save as many, if not all, of those trees. Motion passed. 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent (Milton, Moore), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Motion 4: The GVGC approves transmittal to the Bureau of Street Service its opposition to a Tree Blitz Program in place of one of two annual Pothole Blitz efforts as we find that City streets continue to demand attention and repair. We find the Tree Blitz proposal to be piecemeal in nature and lacking thoughtful planning with no analysis of possible benefits versus the time and dollars that would be expended on it. Accordingly, the GVGC recommendation is that, before any such Tree Blitz effort be undertaken, the Street Tree Inventory be conducted first and an overall Urban Forestry Master Plan with ecological consultation from the scientific community be subsequently created and adopted so that future tree planting is done in a systematic and responsible way. Motion passed. 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Milton), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Motion 5: The Greater Valley Glen Council supports preparation of an ordinance that would restrict parked vehicle idling and preparation of a marketing campaign to publicize the health consequences of needless idling. The ordinance, when prepared, should include emphasis on strict enforcement and carry significant financial penalties for non-compliance. (CF 19-0604) [For if Amended] Motion passed. 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (A. Sipp), 1 absent (Milton), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Motion 6: The GVGC approves sponsorship of this year's ONEgeneration Senior Symposium at a cost of \$300. Motion passed. 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Milton), 3 ineligible (Aguirre, Manasyan, K. Sipp)

Motion 7: The GVGC supports the proposal at City Council to allow Park Rangers to, after necessary training, carry firearms, CF 20- 0190. [For] Motion failed. 4 yes, 6 no (Hall, Jannol, Myrick, Robinson, Schmitt, A. Sipp), 3 abstain (Manasyan, Shafer, Silva,) 1 absent (Milton), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Motion 8: The Greater Valley Glen Council recommends passing CF 15-0499-S1 with the simple addition that the division of biologists and horticulturalists proposed in the motion extend their consultation to the management of the City's street trees as well as to the private tree population as indicated in the motion. It is crucial that all trees in the City benefit from this added expertise. [For if Amended] Motion passed 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Milton), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

Information Items: Government Rep reports: Sustainability, VANC, and LA DWP.

8. President's Motions

Motion 1: Approval of up to \$1,750 to purchase a one-year subscription from Zoom (Zoom Pro) to provide a license for each Committee Chair and hosting capability for Committee meetings. The Zoom Pro account offers "bandwidth" to accommodate up to 100 attendees for each Committee meeting. This is in addition to the City-provided Board license which supports up to 500 attendees. Motion passed 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Milton), 3 ineligible (Aguirre, Manasyan, K. Sipp)

Motion 2: Approval to pay the attached Moore Business Results invoice for webmaster services for May 2020. Motion passed 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Milton), 3 ineligible (Aguirre, Manasyan, K. Sipp)

Motion 3: Approval of the attached FY 2020 - 2021 Administrative Packet for submission to EmpowerLA and the City Clerk. Motion withdrawn by President. Administrative Packet to be revised and considered at special board meeting in June,

Motion 4: Approval to write letter to support the May 7, 2020 attached letter from Steering Board Members of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance to Mayor Garcetti regarding Council Files 20-0482 (climate as essential services) and 20-0600 (proposed budget). Motion passed. 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain (Hall, Manasyan), 2 ineligible (Aguirre, K. Sipp)

9. President's Comments

Committee Chairs needed. Joanne D'Antonio volunteered to chair PLUC.

10. Public Comment on non-Agenda Items. Please see Disclosures on page 7.

Brandon Pender, Budget Advocate asked that we appoint Budget Reps -- default is President and Treasurer. Offered to send Budget White Paper,

11. Board Comments on Items not covered in this Agenda.

Robin Shafer to chair Outreach Committee.

Joanne D'Antonio sending Board Roster info requests to Board members. Will send roster to Board and to DONE and arrange email forwarding.

12. Scheduling of next Board Meeting to handle motions and Important Deadlines below:

June 8, 2020 - Deadline to receive refund checks to ensure reimbursed funds are credited back to the NC's account this Fiscal year

June 15, 2020 - Final date to submit a check payment request, including NPG applications (normally June 1st every year)

June 20, 2020 - Final date to make purchases with the NC bank card

June 30, 2020 - Deadline to submit Encumbrance Requests to clerk.NCFunding@lacity.org

13. Motion to Adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Agenda Item #8, Motion 2 Attachment



Invoice #GVG 2020 0601
Number

Date June 1, 2020

Mr. Mickey Jannol
President
Greater Valley Glen NC
13659 Victory Blvd, #136
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Please remit to:

Wendy L. Moore
Moore Business Results
19300 Rinaldi, #7524
Northridge, CA 91327

818 252-9399
<http://www.moorebusinessresults.com/>
City of LA Tax #549794-29

Communications services	508.13
Constant Contact for 1 month	45.00
Total Amount Due:	\$553.13

Thank you for your business. We appreciate working with you.

Please pay within 21 days of invoice date. Payments not received by that date may incur a late fee of \$25. We may also assess a 1.5% interest charge per month on late payments. Interest accrues retroactively from the invoice date. If the invoice is not paid within 90 days, additional collections fees may apply. Returned checks are \$25.

Date	Details	Hours
5/1/2020	Agenda. Facebook.	0.17
5/5/2020	Add renderings stormwater	0.17
5/7/2020	Special meeting agendas. Facebook. Eblast.	0.75
5/12/2020	Updated fact sheet stormwater	0.17
5/16/2020	Constant Contact settings update. Community plan on news. Blood drive on calendar. Eblast. Facebook	1.00
5/18/2020	Agenda	0.17
5/22/2020	Art competition on calendar. Agenda. COVID news. Eblast. Facebook.	1.00
5/26/2020	Safety Minutes	0.17
5/28/2020	Calendar. Stormwater capture meeting info, grab & go, Nazarian meeting. Update board page. Facebook.	0.67
	Communications Total	4.27

Agenda Item #8, Motion 4 Attachment



Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 7, 2020

Re: Council Files 20-0482 (climate as essential services) and 20-0600 (proposed budget)

Dear Mayor Garcetti and the City Council:

If there is any lesson many of us in the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance have learned over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, it is that we have to be forward-thinking and prepare for what we know will come; we ignore predicted crises at our peril. In that vein, we object to the proposed budget as described in Council File 20-0600, and we support Council File 20-0482, to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions.

Unfortunately, the climate crisis will not wait on hold while we address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, and although we expect to see some cuts to climate mitigation programs in order to close the budget gap caused by the projected drop in revenue and unexpected costs due to the pandemic, those programs should not be eliminated; we do not want you to repeat the mistake made by the Trump administration in disbanding the Office of Global Health Security and Biodefense prior to the pandemic.

Specifically, our concerns include:

- the elimination of the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, the Climate Emergency Commission, and Community Assemblies (all of which were just about to launch, and which would have engaged low-income communities, who are particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis as well as this pandemic, in a just transition to a sustainable economy)
- the elimination of the Wildlife Pilot Study, which protects habitat connectivity
- reductions in funding for protection and maintenance of existing mature trees throughout the city—now more than ever, we need to protect the lungs of Los Angeles

We have known about and felt the effects of the escalating climate crisis for many years—each year breaking new records with more extreme weather and wildfires. Although the speed at which we are experiencing the impacts of these two crises is different, make no mistake that the climate crisis is causing increasing numbers of human deaths. To continue to react to short-term threats while postponing, or outright ignoring, whole-system issues is near-sighted and dangerous. Far better would be to treat the immediate crisis as a part of our overall strategy for dealing with the larger one that we know will be a multi-generational, global endeavor.

This is a painful time, but we do not want to return to the way things were; we want to do better. And this budget is, at the end of the day, a statement of our values.

Sincerely,

Steering Board Members of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

Shelley Billik

Don Dwiggins

Lisa Hart

Ernesto Hidalgo

Loraine Lundquist

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