



Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



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

www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org

REGULAR VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

Minutes

March 1, 2021

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 attend and/or comment at this meeting must **dial (669) 900-6833** and **enter 838 9380 9091** and **then press #** to join the meeting. You may join the meeting as early as 6:45 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

Anthony Bethel	President
Cosmo Moore	Vice President
Andrea Schmitt	Treasurer
Joanne D'Antonio	Secretary

Board Members

Joseph Barmettler	District 4 Rep	Cosmo Moore	District 4 Rep
Anthony Bethel	District 1 Rep	Sloan Myrick	District 5 Rep
Joanne D'Antonio	At-Large Rep	Kristin Robinson	At-Large Rep
September Forsyth	At-Large Rep	Andrea Schmitt	District 6 Rep
Jonathan George	District 5 Rep	Robin Shafer	At-Large Rep
Walter Hall	At-Large Rep	Alex Silva	District 1 Rep
Heidi Harrison	District 2 Rep	Anthony Sipp	District 6 Rep
Michael Hjelmstad	District 2 Rep	Krista Sipp	At-Large Rep
Mickey Jannol	At-Large Rep	Dan Stueve	At-Large Rep
Andrea Jones	At-Large Rep		
Artur Manasyan	Youth Rep		
Jah Milton	At-Large Rep		



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Items with a heading followed by an asterisk () indicate there are possible motions for all listed Motions that follow. Motions are followed by a second, Public comment, Board comment/discussion, and other actions including a Call for the question, and Roll Call vote.*

Item 1 Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2 Call to Order 7:02 p.m. and Roll Call. 20 present, 1 absent (Hjelmstad)

Item 3 Chair instructions for Public Comment.

Item 4 * Approval of minutes *

Motion 1: * Approval of January 4, 2021 *SPECIAL* Board Meeting Minutes * **(Bethel, Schmitt)**
Motion passed. 20 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Hjelmstad), 0 ineligible, 0 recused

Motion 2: * Approval of February 2, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes* **(Bethel, D'Antonio)**
Motion passed. 20 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Hjelmstad), 0 ineligible, 0 recused

Item 5 Left intentionally blank on agenda.

Note: Vacant seats consist of two District 3 Reps and 2 At-Large Seats at the time of this Agenda. Per the Bylaws Article V, Section 6, any Board member may nominate a stakeholder to the President and the President will submit the nomination for the next Board meeting's agenda. Stakeholders shall meet the same eligibility requirements that apply to the position they would fill, as are required of elected Board Members.

Item 6 * Community Safety Committee. Report and Motions. All motions are marked. *

Motion 1: * The Community Safety Committee moves that the Greater Valley Glen Council purchase one mobile Radar Feedback Device at a cost of up to \$7,000, which will allow for flexible placement of such devices, provide real time data to LAPD Valley Traffic Division, and thus enable LAPD to deploy enforcement resources when they see increased speeds in those areas. This purchase would allow the GVGC to respond to constituent complaints of speeding in their neighborhoods, and provide an opportunity to respond to anecdotal evidence with data for perceived problem areas. * **Note: The following presentations will be made after there is a second for this motion and prior to Public and Board Comments and a Board vote. (Schmitt, Bethel)**

Presentation 1: Owen Lauerman, All Traffic Solutions

Presentation 2: Captain Neiman, LAPD Valley Traffic Division

Motion passed. 16 yes, 3 no (Milton, A. Sipp, K. Sipp), 0 abstain, 1 absent (Hjelmstad), 1 ineligible (Manasyan), 0 recused



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Item 7 Government Representative and LAPD Reports.

Scheduled Presentation 1: Stephen Duprey, Superintendent, UFD report of Urban Forestry / LA Street Tree Inventory website now completed for Greater Valley Glen and posted on StreetsLA website. Duprey reminded everyone of their responsibility to water their street trees when needed.

Nikki Ezhari, CD 2 Rep: Tree planting in Valley Glen Park completed. Street sweeping now every two weeks. 2,000 Covid vaccinations to be administered in CD 2 – no location chosen.

Adriana Cabrera – new NEA to GVGC (was in South LA previously): May 11 our NC election day. March 12 – May 4 Ballot request period.

Item 8 * Treasurer's Report and Motions. All motions marked *

Motion 1 * Approval of January 2021 MER. A link here:

<https://clkrep.lacity.org/ncfunding/mer/416359E1-84DD-44CE-A0CA-7BE5403D4AE7L.pdf>

(Schmitt, Bethel) Motion passed. 19 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Hjelmstad), 1 ineligible (Manasyan), 0 recused

Motion 2: * Motion to approve revised Administrative Packet and Budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. * **(Schmitt, Hall) Motion passed. 18 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent (Hjelmstad, Myrick), 1 ineligible (Manasyan), 0 recused**

Item 9 * President's Motions & Comments. All motions marked *

Motion 1: * The President moves to nominate Jonathan George as the new Chair of the Parks and Community Improvement Committee, effective on 03/02/2021. *

Motion withdrawn. Myrick remains chair of Parks Committee

Item 10 Arts & Education Committee. All motions marked *

Motion 1: * The Arts & Education Committee moves that the GVGC Board approve the expenditure of up to \$100 to purchase a banner or other printed media to honor US Grant High School's 1st Place performance at Los Angeles Unified School District's 40th annual Citywide Academic Decathlon, held virtually during February 2021. Grant High moves on to State competition during March. Honoring a Greater Valley Glen high school's excellence in academic achievement promotes GVGC's outreach to schools and paves a way to find areas where GVGC can further empower students. * **(Milton, Schmitt) Motion Passed. 18 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Barmettler), 1 absent (Hjelmstad), 1 ineligible (Manasyan), 0 recused**

Item 11 Outreach Committee. Chair Shafer reported upcoming virtual Trivia Night March 20. There were no motions.

Item 12 Planning and Land Use Committee. Chair D'Antonio reported that committee did not meet because only demolition notices have come in the mail – these were called to encourage tree retention. These were for “by right” ADUs structures, and do not appear to be increasing housing as they tend to be for home expansion, not rentals. She also reported that Patrick Condon, urban planning author speaking at Livable California, reported that in Vancouver B.C. increased densification did not increase affordable housing, only market rate. No motions.



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Item 13 * Government Relations Committee. Report and Motions. All motions marked *

Where Los Angeles City Council Files (CF) are referenced, their intent, status and history can be found at the LACityClerk Connect website: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/>

Where California State Legislation is referenced (SB or AB), their intent, status and history can be found at: <https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

Motion 1 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen Council supports efforts to identify sites within the City that are suitable for possible construction of temporary or permanent housing for our City's homeless as enumerated in CF 21-0063, but take exception to the possible use of neighborhood parks for such purposes. Our City lacks parks that are easily accessible to many of its citizens. The Department of Recreation and Parks needs to concentrate on its mission to enrich the lives of the residents of Los Angeles by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreation facilities and affordable, diverse recreation and human services activities for people of all ages to play, learn, contemplate, build community and be good stewards of our environment. Neighborhood parks should remain neighborhood parks and parcels under its control should remain developable as neighborhood or pocket parks. [CIS: Against unless Amended] * **(Hall, D'Antonio) Motion Passed. 13 yes, 5 no (Jannol, Shafer, Silva, A. Sipp, K. Sipp), 2 abstain (Bethel, Milton), 1 absent (Hjelmstad) 0 ineligible, 0 recused**

Motion 2 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen Council supports the effort forwarded in CF 21-0113 to explore the possibility of renewing and expanding Project Roomkey with a possible interim sheltering of many tens of thousands of the of the City's unhoused. [CIS: For]* **(Hall, Barmettler) Motion Passed. 17 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain (Harrison, Jones, Milton), 1 absent (Hjelmstad) 0 ineligible, 0 recused**

Motion 3 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen Council recognizes that our City lacks affordable housing for a great number of our citizens and that present building efforts will not supply affordable housing in sufficient numbers. As such, we support the efforts forwarded in CF 21-0183 to explore implementation of an immediate rent freeze on residential units with expired or soon to expire affordability covenants, based on health and safety findings, and until comparable affordable housing units are available. [CIS: For]* **(Hall, Schmitt) Motion Passed. Motion Passed. 20 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Hjelmstad) 0 ineligible, 0 recused**

Motion 4 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen recognizes that the present Covid-19 pandemic has posed unique problems for the County's Department of Public Health and that its allocation of resources has at times been open to discussion. However, with the City finding itself strapped financially and with County Health's acceptable track record, we oppose the effort put forth in CF 21-0153 to devote resources to explore the possible creation of a City Department of Health. Rather, explore how to otherwise better coordinate the City's needs with the County. [CIS: Against] * **(Hall, Jannol) Motion Passed. 19 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (K.Sipp), 1 absent (Hjelmstad) 0 ineligible, 0 recused**

Item 14 Parks, Medians, & Improvements Committee. There were no motions. D'Antonio reported that native species were requested for Valley Glen Park, and the RAP planting plan was changed to put in 6 coast live oak trees as part of the 28 trees planted.

Representative Reports

DWP Report: Hall reported that achieving 100% renewable by 2045 could cost between \$53-85 billion. Ratepayer advocate to calculate what this would cost users.



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Sustainability Report: D'Antonio reported:

1. Continued problems with trees being considered too late in the planning process to avoid removals and this leads to frustrations at BPW hearings.
2. Great number of complaints on Nextdoor over huge eucalyptus trees removed at Sunkist building.
3. City Forest Officer announced that native species trees would not be planted as street trees, which is counter to the LASAN biodiversity report.
4. At NCSA monthly meeting it was reported that 2020 was LA's worst smog ever, even with less driving.
5. At meeting of Association of Professional Landscape Designers Ann Fenkner of Davey Tree, the company conducting our city tree inventory, said that street tree condition, currently being withheld by City Attorney, should absolutely be public knowledge. D'Antonio plans to make public records request for this information, which provides an outside opinion on the inspection and could be helpful in fighting street tree removals.
6. At CFAC it was noted that brush clearance has been resulting in the removal of protected trees.
7. Saplings planted last year on Victory Blvd. under the "in lieu" fee tree replacement policy are not doing well due to lack of watering and planting in turf. Proposed planting for this year on Victory/Greenbush/Sunnyslope was monoculture, and the species too small for some of the sites. Nursery stock was extremely limited, and UFD only deals with one nursery -- D'Antonio was able to get UFD to order watergum trees in addition to the planned Australian willow, tulip trees, and she also got southern magnolia trees to be planted where there are no power lines.

Item 15 Public Comment on non-Agenda Items.

Budget Advocate Brandon Peters requested to be agendized at next GVGC board meeting.

Item 16 Board Comments on non-Agenda Items

Jones reported that LAPD is at 100% deployment.

Jannol announced upcoming VGNA Neighborhood Watch meeting – link on VGNA Facebook page

Item 17 * Motion to Adjourn * (Bethel, Schmitt) Motion passed unanimously at 9:08.

Next Regular Board Meeting is on April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Inquiries may be directed to Joanne D'Antonio, Board Secretary, at jdantonio@greatervalleyglencouncil.org or at (323-459-4429).