



Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



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

www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org

REGULAR VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

April 5, 2021 MINUTES

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 814 4570 6341** 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 at 7:02 p.m. and Roll Call: 14 present, 7 absent (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan, Silva) quorum achieved.

Item 3 Chair instructions for Public Comment.

Item 4 * Approval of minutes *

Motion 1: * Approval of March 1, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes * **(Bethel, Hall) Motion Passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 7 absent (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Item 5 Left intentionally blank.

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 Government Representative and LAPD Reports.

Scheduled Presentation 1: Brandon Pender, Region 4 NC Budget Advocate asked neighborhood councils to get with budget reps.

Scheduled Presentation 2: LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson's Rep Tammy Ramirez indicated that Covid vaccines are available at Kennedy, Panorama and Monroe High Schools. Announced upcoming workshops for parents of students returning to school. Summer program is planned for K-12 for enrichment and remediation.

Scheduled Presentation 3: Sophia Soudani (Field Representative from Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian's Office) introduced herself. (818) 376-4246. She announced 3 Zoom workshops: Tenant's Rights, Self-defense for the Soul, and Sexual Assault Awareness.

Brenda Yanez, Field Deputy for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl introduced herself, gave a re-opening update, and reported a food drive. (818) 901-3831

Jeff Camp, Field Rep for Councilmember Krekorian introduced himself. (818) 274-1064.

Shafer announced 3rd GVGC Food Drive for May 16.

D'Antonio requested support for saving the eucalyptus trees listed in their MND to be removed by the DWP Stormwater Capture project in North Hollywood Park.

Adriana Cabrera, DONE Rep introduced herself. (213) 473-7469



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Item 7 President's Comments regarding upcoming neighborhood council election.

Board Member Silva arrived.

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

Motion 1 * Approval of February 2021 MERs. (Schmitt-Hall) A copy is attached and there is also a link here:

<https://clkrep.lacity.org/ncfunding/mer/87273DD1-190F-460D-9838-57ED78BD2CFCL.pdf>

Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 6 absent (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.

Motion 2: * Motion to approve the further revised Administrative Packet and Budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Note: This motion supersedes the motion and Budget passed during the March 1, 2021 Board meeting. * **(Schmitt, Moore) Motion Passed. 13 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain (A. Sipp, K. Sipp), 6 absent (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Item 9 Arts & Education Committee. Report and Motions. All motions marked *

Motion 1: * The GVGC moves to hold an event called "Story Time in Valley Glen Park" for the children of Greater Valley Glen on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of May at 3PM at a cost of up to \$200 for supplies and a donation to Group Rep Theater of North Hollywood (a 501c3). * Motion withdrawn.

Motion 2: * The GVGC moves to approve up to \$300 to create a Butterfly and Hummingbird Habitat in the southwest area of Valley Glen Park. The Arts and Education Committee shall coordinate with the neighbors of the park on purchasing and placement. * Motion withdrawn.

Item 10 Community Safety Committee Report.

Item 11 Outreach Committee Report.

Item 12 Planning and Land Use Committee Report – no motions as projects appear to all be "by right".

Item 13 * Government Relations Committee. All motions **(Hall, Bethel)**

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.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>



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Motion 1 and CIS: * As indicated in CF 20-1174 the Greater Valley Glen Council agrees that incomplete projects create eyesores, but makes the additional observation these include not only empty buildings, but also vacant lots, which can be awaiting start of construction for years, and where shade trees have been removed along with the structures. We support a report investigating whether a completion bond would be a solution to these eyesores. This report should consider recommending the citing of long-term, vacant buildings that are not maintained, and also require any structure demolitions retain all property trees unless plans are fully approved, financing is locked in, and construction is about to start. [CIS: For if amended] * **Motion Passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 7 absent, (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan, Moore), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Motion 2 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen Council takes exception to the proposed revised fees for providing planning and land use services, as recommended in the report from the CAO, that would increase the current non-applicant appeal fee of \$89 to an astounding \$16,097. The options for the everyday citizen to participate in the planning process are already limited, even when the affected Neighborhood Council intervenes in a proposed development. Such a fee increase would all but officially close the door to participation by those most affected by development: Los Angeles' everyday residents. We otherwise favor keeping the non-applicant appeal fee at the present \$89 and do not favor changing it to \$161 as alternately recommended by the planning department. While it is a much reduced burden than \$16,097, nearly doubling the dollar barrier for such appeals will further dampen resident participation in planning decisions that affect their neighborhoods and even the whole City. (CF 09-0969-S3) [CIS: Against unless amended.]* **Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 6 absent, (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Motion 3 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen Council supports the proposal put forth in CF 20-0491 that requests the Mayor, using powers granted under the COVID-19 State of Emergency, to establish a social housing program using federal funds to purchase or lease privately-owned properties, including hotels, motels, vacant and/or distressed properties. [CIS: For] * **Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 6 absent, (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Motion 4 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen favors revising the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Affordable Housing Incentive Program and the TOC Program Guidelines as proposed in CF 20-1314. Los Angeles is a large city with many diverse neighborhoods. A one-size-fits all approach in these matters is inappropriate. Among other matters, TOC programs and guidelines need to consider local housing market needs, public infrastructure, scale, density and the varying characteristics of specific neighborhoods. [CIS: For]* **Motion passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (K. Sipp), 6 absent (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Motion 5 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen Council supports the effort proposed in CF 20-1225 for LA Sanitation to lead an effort to develop a healthy soil strategy for the City that would address carbon sequestration, increased water capture, and determining opportunities for unpaving underutilized spaces to help create healthy soil. [CIS: For] * **Motion Passed. 13 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain (Milton, K. Sipp), 6 absent (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Motion 6 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen Council supports creation of a ballot measure that would eliminate the ability of the City Council to overwrite the actions of the Planning Commission and align the City Council's oversight of the planning commission decisions with the authority and processes in place for all other City commissions, and to amend procedures, processes and code sections to reduce the discretionary land use powers currently exercised by the City Council. (CF 20-061) This Council File's reference to the November 2020 ballot should be revised to recommend an appropriate future election date. [CIS: For if amended] * **Motion Passed. 12 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain (D'Antonio, A. Sipp, K. Sipp), 6 absent (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**



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Motion 7: * The Greater Valley Glen Council supports forwarding to Councilmember Krekorian, the planning department and the planning commission, our request that the installation of signage at the NoHo West development be in accordance with the NoHo West Sign District Ordinance (18-0634-S1). While having previously unsuccessfully objecting to the installation of the digital signs facing the 170 freeway as threats to public safety, the elevation of these signs now in operation discernably exceeds the restriction imposed on them by the ordinance. * **Motion Passed. 13 yes, 1 no (Myrick), 1 abstain (Forsyth), 6 absent (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Motion 8 and CIS: * The Greater Valley Glen Council supports the effort proposed in CF 18-0610 to develop recommendations for a City "right to counsel" ordinance and/or program to ensure that tenants have access to the information and representation needed when faced with possible landlord harassment, rental and lease issues, and eviction. [CIS: For] * **Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 6 absent (George, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Jannol, Jones, Manasyan), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Item 14 Parks, Medians, & Improvements Committee. Rhodes Park is getting fixed up by Rec and Parks. New trees in Valley Glen Park are being watered.

Representative Reports

DWP report (Hall) 4/3 meeting: DWP \$7 billion budget – less spent due to Covid. Considering cost of 100% renewable energy by 2035.

Sustainability report (D'Antonio)

Livable CA – SB 9 would eliminate single family home zoning because duplex zoning in effect allows 6 units on the property because each unit can have 2 ADUS

US Forest Service urban forestry webinar presented studies on the difference trees make to health – higher level of greenness leads to fewer chronic conditions.

NCSA Trees Committee met – land use and environmental attorney Jamie Hall explained how City is not applying CEQA correcting in giving categorical exemptions for protected tree removals at single family building projects. There is a right to appeal, but must be done by email to the City Clerk in 10 days of recording of exemption.

City acknowledged that planting practices for Tree Guarantee Fee needs to improve next year – one nursery cannot supply whole city. Our Victory trees getting planted tomorrow

NCSA meeting March 14 - Panelists: Much recycling not happening – lack of facilities. No black plastic recycles. Lifestyle changes are necessary.

Planning Commission meeting – commissioner said trees not their purview. Means that tree removals are considered at the end by UFD and BPW, when it is too late.

Item 15 Public Comment on non-Agenda Items. No comments.



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Item 16 Board Comments on non-Agenda Items, including but not limited to brief announcements by Standing Committee Chairs (designees) wherein the Committee has no motions but wishes to update Board and Public on significant matters. No comments

Item 17 * Adjournment at 9:14 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting is on May 3, 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).