



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



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

[www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org](http://www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org)

## REGULAR VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

June 7, 2021 - 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 attend and/or comment at this meeting must **dial (669) 900-6833** and **enter 811 0745 2895** 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

<b>Anthony Bethel</b>	President
<b>Cosmo Moore</b>	Vice President
<b>Andrea Schmitt</b>	Treasurer
<b>Joanne D'Antonio</b>	Secretary

#### Board Members

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



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



*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 President Bethel called meeting to order 7:03 p.m.**

**Roll Call 13 present, 6 absent (Barmettler, Forsyth, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva, Stueve)  
Quorum achieved.**

**Introduction of 4 incoming Board members in attendance.**

**Item 3 Chair instructions for Public Comment.**

**Item 4 \* Approval of minutes \***

**Motion \*** Single motion to approve the following 3 meeting minutes: The May 3, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, the May 27, 2021 SPECIAL Board Meeting #1 (7:00PM), and the May 27, 2021 SPECIAL Board Meeting #2 (7:15PM) \*

**(Bethel, Schmitt) Motion passed. 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 6 absent (Barmettler, Forsyth, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva, Stueve), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

**Item 5 Left intentionally blank.**

**Note:** Vacant seats consist of two District 3 Reps, 1 District 5 Rep, and 3 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.** Please alert the Chair if you wish to present. Please limit each presentation to 2 minutes unless the Chair allows more time.

**Scheduled Presentation 1:** Senator Robert Hertzberg (CA SD-18) Reported the State has a \$100 billion surplus and gave breakdown figures for spending, including clean up of litter and homeless encampments on freeways. In Q&A the senator defended his yes vote on SB9 and his no on SB10.

**Scheduled Presentation 2:** Ayda Safaei (LA Metro, Director, Construction Relations and Mitigation Programs, Community Relations) gave an update regarding the "170 Sound Wall" project, and questions were raised regarding the number of lanes at NoHo West. The graffiti hotline is 213 922-6913.

Senior Lead Officer Michael Perez reported assaults at homeless encampments. There will be a Dog Walk With a Cop on June 12 at Sherman Oaks Park. Interim SLO Swo reported catalytic convertor thefts.

Brenda Yanez of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, announced discretionary funds available for non-profits – any non-profit can apply. Food distribution set for June 30.



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



Sophia Soudani of Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian indicated that 10 of his bills will be moving to the State Senate.

Adriana Cabrera, DONE NEA, announced she is back: (213) 473-7469 cell. [Adriana.cabrera@lacity.org](mailto:Adriana.cabrera@lacity.org) Re-districting needs to be approved by City Council by Dec. 31, and meetings are going on to engage neighborhood councils, which may be affected by the changes. Public comments can be made online.

Caroline Menjavar of the Mayor’s office announced that the budget was signed last week and included an unprecedented \$791 million expansion of services for the homeless, including \$213 million for Project Roomkey. This year the LGBTQ celebration of Pride Month is a car parade starting at Van Nuys City Hall.

### Item 7 President’s Comments.

President Bethel thanked the departing Board members.

September Forsyth and Dan Stueve joined the meeting.

### Item 8 \* Tiny Homes Village Ad-Hoc Committee. Reports and Motions. All motions marked \*

**Statement and Presentation:** This Ad Hoc Committee was commissioned in October of 2020 and is composed of local stakeholders who are knowledgeable about and hold diverse opinions on positive solutions to homelessness in the area and in relation to the Tiny Homes Village project at Alexandria Park. The committee's objective, with input from local stakeholders including residents, businesses, Neighborhood Council members and community organizations, was to make recommendations regarding ongoing benefits to the community via a Community Benefit Agreement between our committee and The Office of City Councilmember Paul Krekorian regarding homelessness in the area, including management of the Tiny Homes Village project. These recommendations were presented at the meeting.

**Motion 1:** \* The Tiny Homes Village Committee recommends that the GVGC submit the Community Benefit Agreement (attached to agenda) as a Board to Councilmember Paul Krekorian. \*

**(Schmitt, Jannol) Motion passed. 14 yes, 1 no (D’Antonio) 0 abstain, 4 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

### Item 9 \* Treasurer’s Report and Motions. All motions marked \*

**Motion 1** \* The Treasurer moved that the GVGC approve the attached Administrative Packet containing the GVGC Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, authorized signers, and other Financial information.

**(Schmitt, Bethel) Motion passed. 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 5 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Myrick, Silva), 1 ineligible (Manasyan), 0 recused.**

**Item 10 Arts & Education Committee.** Report from Shafer that Monlux and Erwin grants went through.



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



**Item 11 \* Community Safety Committee. Report and Motions.** All motions marked \*

**Motion 1 \*** The Greater Valley Glen Council urges the Los Angeles Department of Transportation via letter to provide more regular and timed enforcement of current parking restrictions, in particular around parks, within the Greater Valley Glen area. There has not been enough consistent enforcement of night time parking restrictions, causing distress to Greater Valley Glen constituents who live near problem areas.\*

**(Schmitt, Hall) Motion passed. (15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 4 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Schmitt brought up issue of faded signs.

**Item 12 Outreach Committee.** Shafer announced virtual trivia night for Friday, brought up framework for Neighborhood Purpose Grants, indicated the possibility of a movie night, and also that there are a few GVGC face masks left over.

**Item 13 Planning and Land Use Committee.** D'Antonio reported No projects have come in from the City. There has been an effort to save the substantial trees at Weddington Golf and Tennis.

**Item 14 \* Government Relations Committee.** Report and Motions. All motions **(Hall, D'Antonio)** 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.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

**Motion 1 and CIS: \*** The Greater Valley Glen Council opposes efforts to standardize the bylaws of the City's neighborhood councils or otherwise impinge on the autonomy of the neighborhood councils to conduct their business as they see fit, consistent within existing mandated constraints. The borders of each neighborhood council enclose a unique set of circumstances, both demographic and physical, that need to be recognized and which have been a determining factors in creating each council's bylaws. As such we oppose the effort put forward in CF 21-0407 to study how neighborhood council elections can be standardized. At the same time we view as informative a disinterested inquiry by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to determine how Neighborhood Council bylaws affect council elections. [CIS: Against unless Amended] \* **Motion Passed. 13 yes, 1 no (Stueve), 1 abstain (Moore), 4 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

**Motion 2 and CIS: \*** The Greater Valley Glen Council opposes the proposed changes in the Los Angeles Municipal Code that among other provisions seen as benefitting developers would reduce the total number of electric vehicle charging stations in new multifamily and commercial buildings. As cited in the Council File 17-0309-S1 as an example, one 150kW charger could replace 15 Level 2 chargers. The availability of fewer charging stations is a disincentive for someone considering purchasing an EV and works against the City and State goal to reduce carbon emissions. [CIS: Against] \* **Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 4 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

The following Motions support or oppose certain State legislation now under consideration. If adopted, that support or opposition will be forwarded to Senator Hertzberg and Assemblyman Nazarian as well as posted on the California Legislature Position Letter Portal.



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



**Motion 3:** \* The Greater Valley Glen Council opposes State legislature proposal AB 1401 that would end parking mandates for construction near public transit facilities, up to one-half mile distant. Such relief to developers would offload vehicle parking onto surrounding neighborhoods and impose hardships on those who are mobility impaired. \* **Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 4 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

**Motion 4:** \* The Greater Valley Glen Council supports the proposed California Constitution amendment proposed SCA-2 that would repeal voter requirements necessary for state public bodies to develop low-cost housing projects. \* **Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 4 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

**Motion 5:** \* The Greater Valley Glen Council opposes State legislature proposal AB 1322 that would allow local bodies to override voter-approved housing measures when in possible conflict with State law. Such decisions are correctly determined in the courts. \* **Motion Passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Bethel), 4 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

**Motion 6:** \* The Greater Valley Glen Council opposes State legislature proposal SB 8 that would extend and expand to January 1, 2030 existing law that facilitates the demolition of existing housing, alter provisions protecting residents of existing housing, and ease the way for development of new luxury housing. \* **Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 4 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

**Motion 7:** \* The Greater Valley Glen Council supports State legislature proposal SB 15 that would provide for State grants to local government for development of affordable housing in vacated big box and shopping centers. \* **Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 4 absent (Barmettler, Harrison, Hjelmstad, Silva), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

**Item 15 Parks, Medians, & Improvements Committee.** Myrick indicated that median signs have not been put up, and welcome signs have not been ordered. The Victory South median has some dead trees. D'Antonio will investigate with Stay Green. She also indicated that City Plants can provide new oak saplings but paperwork that assures a watering commitment is needed. Jeff Camp of CD 2 to work with Bethel off-line to get this done.

## Item 16 Representative Reports

**DWP report:** Hall reported that DWP is assessing cost to get to 100% renewables quicker.

**Sustainability report:** D'Antonio gave the following report –

**City Tree summit May 21** - Key speaker, an environmental scientist, said all trees will need water going forward as we are now permanently in heat drought. With no water there is no carbon sequestration.

### CFAC May meeting

Encourage native plantings at LAUSD schools. Had native American biologist talking about the value of natives.

Streets LA upping protected tree removal fees, but still not charging value of tree.

RAP on park tree inventory: 27.5 % good; 65% of trees fair to good; 45.3% fair; 9% poor; 4.5% dead. Hit hard by water restrictions.

NBC Universal has an old EIR to remove 500 native trees. BPW approved removals near where the pre-school was on Barham.



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



## **NCSA May meeting**

NCSA has changed how they take positions. No longer will have committee bring items for Board approval and then they take the position if the Board approves. Now, at monthly meetings, the reps vote on any position items brought by a committee. A rep can vote on behalf of their NC as long as NC has not said they have to wait for a board vote (they have to abstain unless the board had time to agendaize and vote). At May meeting had presentation and voted to support the Eagle Rock BRT. (unanimous support – no trees getting removed).

## **CFAC Policy meeting**

New City budget raises funding for Urban Forestry.

Chair discovered BOE has curb extension standard plans that could possibly be used to enlarge tree wells into underused parking spaces.

BPW is recommending protections for trees during construction. Enforcement will need to be worked out.

Concerns that LASAN Biodiversity Report is not being integrated into actions.

Concerns that the City is not caring about sensitive natural environments when allowing development.

Concerns that Tree Guarantee Fees are being waived instead of collected for development projects downtown.

Controversy over UFD not using Gator watering bags per manufacturer instructions. Bags are put over stake instead of over root ball.

**Item 17 Public Comment on non-Agenda Items.** Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the Chair including but not limited to cases where there are multiple speakers on a similar non-agenda item.

Nadia Marina indicated that our letter on the variance for Yeshiva has not been considered at the Planning Dept. -- D'Antonio indicated that there has been no email acknowledging receipt of our revised Board position letter, even though our first letter was acknowledged and the intent to retract the letter was acknowledged.

Rishab Nathan advised we need a greater social media presence.

**Item 18 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.

Shafer indicated need for outreach to recruit new board members.

## **Item 19 \* Motion to Adjourn \***

**Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.**

**Next Regular Board Meeting is on July 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Inquiries may be directed to Anthony Bethel, Board President, at [abethel@greatervalleyglencouncil.org](mailto:abethel@greatervalleyglencouncil.org) or at (323-243-8191).



# Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")

