



Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



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

www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org

REGULAR VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES – April 4, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over covid-19, the Greater Valley Glenn Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely with a call-in option or internet-based service option. Every person wishing to attend and/or comment at this meeting can **dial (669) 900-6833 and enter 849 5891 3828 and then press #** to join or use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84958913828>. You may join the meeting as early as 6:45 p.m. Instructions on how to present public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting, 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to this meeting by accessing the Zoom information above. Pursuant to the Agenda, the Public is invited to comment on items as called for in the Agenda.

AB 361 UPDATES

Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council’s control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

Officers

Anthony Bethel	President
Cosmo Moore	Vice President
Andrea Schmitt	Treasurer
Dan Stueve	Secretary

Board Members

At-Large	September Forsyth	District 1 Resident	Anthony Bethel
At-Large	Andrea Jones	District 1 Resident	Dan Stueve
At-Large	Scott Kriloff	District 2 Resident	Michael Hjelmstad
At-Large	Daniel Lopez	District 3 Resident	Drew Vandiver
At-Large	Samuel May	District 4 Resident	Christopher “Cosmo” Moore
At-Large	Rishab Nathan	District 4 Resident	Heidi Moore
At-Large	Andrea Schmitt	District 5 Resident	Alicia Bien
At-Large	Robin Shafer	District 6 Resident	Nadia Marina Thomas
		Youth Representative	Zoe Nguyen



AGENDA

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, 4 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver). Quorum achieved.

Item 3 Chair instructions for Public Comment.

Item 4 * Approval of minutes *

Motion 1: * Motion to approve the March 7, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. * (Bethel, C. Moore) Motion passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.

Item 5 Board Nominations

Nomination 1: * The President moves to nominate Robin Shafer as Chair of the Community Outreach Committee. * (Bethel, C. Moore) Motion passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.

Note: Vacant seats consist of one Youth Rep, one (1) District 2 Rep, one (1) District 3 Reps, one (1) District 6 Rep, and four (4) At-Large Rep 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.

Reports provided by: SLO Delatori, SLO Perez, SLO Duvalley, Jeff Camp- Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office, Brenda Yanez – Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, Sophia Soudani, Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian's office/



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Item 7 Representative Reports

Reports provided by: Joanne D'Antonio, Sustainability (a copy is attached at the end of the minutes)

Item 8 President's Motions & Comments. All motions are marked *

Motion 1 * The President move to amend the GVGC By-Laws, Article V, Section 4 to state in its entirety the following:

"Section 4. Terms and Term Limits - An elected term is two (2) years from date of election certification. No Board Member shall run for reelection to the Board immediately after serving three (3) consecutive full two (2) year terms. The term for the Youth Board seat may be completed past the age of nineteen (19)."

[2/3 Vote required for adoption] * **(Bethel, Thomas) Motion passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Motion 2 * The President moves that the GVGC support the continued use of the Zoom video platform to hold Neighborhood Council meetings indefinitely, regardless of AB 361 or the current Covid-19 state of emergency. Meeting virtually has afforded us safety during the pandemic, but it also allowed many more stakeholders and public representatives to attend our meetings and even join our Board and Committees. This position will be expressed in writing to DONE, BONC, Councilmember Krekorian, Assemblymember Nazarian and Senator Bob Hertzberg. * **(Bethel, C. Moore) Motion passed. 13 yes, 1 no (May, 0 abstain, 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Item 9 Treasurer's Report and Motions. All motions are marked *

Motion 1 * **Approval of February 2022 MER.** A copy is attached and there is also a link here: <https://clkrep.lacity.org/ncfunding/mer/0D6DE5C8-A9CB-824B-C68F-BA92188C22A4L.pdf> * **(Schmitt, Jones) Motion passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Motion 2: * The Treasurer moves to reimburse Alicia Bien \$350.84 for Theodore Payne Foundation Order #220000110991 used for the Valley Glen Park Butterfly Garden. The expenditure was approved by the Board on 12/06/2021, Item 15, Motion 1. *

Motion 3: * The Treasurer moves to reimburse Alicia Bien \$23.65 for Theodore Payne Foundation Order #220000109726 used for the Valley Glen Park Butterfly Garden. The expenditure was approved by the Board on 12/06/2021, Item 15, Motion 1. *

Motion 4: * The Treasurer moves to reimburse Alicia Bien \$4.93 for Theodore Payne Foundation Order #220000110993 used for the Valley Glen Park Butterfly Garden. The expenditure was approved by the Board on 12/06/2021, Item 15, Motion 1. *

Motion 5: * The Treasurer moves to reimburse Alicia Bien \$53.22 for Theodore Payne Foundation Order #220000113292 used for the Valley Glen Park Butterfly Garden. The expenditure was approved by the Board on 12/06/2021, Item 15, Motion 1. *



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Motion 6: * The Treasurer moves to reimburse Alicia Bien \$9.86 for Theodore Payne Foundation Order #220000113855 used for the Valley Glen Park Butterfly Garden. The expenditure was approved by the Board on 12/06/2021, Item 15, Motion 1. *

Motions 2-6 voted in one block: **(Schmitt, Bethel) Motion passed. 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Bien), 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Item 10 Arts & Education Committee. Report and Motions. All motions are marked *

Motion 1: * The Arts and Education Committee moves to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,000 for a letter and banner to the Grant High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team in honor of winning the City Varsity Division 1 Championship for the 2021-2022 season. GVGC logo would be included in banner* **(Shafer, Stueve) Motion passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Item 11 Community Outreach Committee. Report and Motions. There are no motions.

Chair Report: Robin Shafer

Item 12 Community Safety Committee. Report and Motions. All motions are marked*

Motion 1: * The Community Safety Committee moves to approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) of up to \$1,000 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. This motion supersedes any prior motions. * **(Jones, Schmitt) Motion passed. 12 yes, 2 no (Forsyth, Nathan), 0 abstain, 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Motion 2: * The Community Safety Committee move the GVGC approve amending the letter of support, dated March 6, 2022, and sent by the Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council to the Hearing Officer for the City Planning Commission, as approved by this Council on September 13, 2021, to substitute the number of students referenced in the letter from 324 to 360. This motion supersedes this detail of the prior motion, previously approved as President's Motion 3 at the September 13, 2021 Council meeting. * **(Jones, Bethel) Motion failed. 3 yes (Kriloff, Schmitt, Shafer), 6 no (Bien, Forsyth, Jones, C. Moore, Nathan, Stueve, 3 abstain (Bethel, Thomas, May), 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Item 13 Government Relations Committee. Report and Motions. There are no motions.

Chair Report: Scott Kriloff

Item 14 Homelessness Committee. Reports and Motion. There are no motions.

Chair Report: Sam May



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Item 15 Parks, Medians, & Improvements Committee. Reports and Motion. There are no motions.

Chair Report: Alicia Bien

Item 16 Planning and Land Use Committee Report and Motions. All motions are marked *

Motion 1: * The Planning and Land Use Committee moves that the GVGC submit a letter to LA Councilmembers, CFAC, UFD, LADBS, LA Planning, and the Mayor.

The Greater Valley Glen Council, which receives demolition notices for properties in our area from Building and Safety, has observed in all demolitions that not only are the structures removed on the property, but all the property trees are clear cut as well. We have had complaints from neighbors that perimeter trees could be preserved, but there is no ordinance to require this be done if feasible. To add further blight to our neighborhoods, lots remain vacant for years. This deprives the neighbors of privacy provided by the trees as well as loss of the shade and other ecosystem services provided by trees that are removed prematurely. A spatial scientist has detected a one third canopy loss in the past 10 years at a portion of our neighborhood council area. The lots are flat in this part of the Valley, and we have been told that grading is not an issue. We have learned that the Planning Department and Building and Safety started a pilot program requiring tree reports of all the trees on the property before plans are approved. We are asking for a motion that sends a copy of that report to the neighborhood council with an opportunity to weigh in on tree retention. We also ask for an ordinance that requires all trees to remain on the property with watering provided in hot weather until 30 days before commencement of construction. If trees are removed prior to that time, the building permit shall be revoked and a tree guarantee fee for the cost of the value of the mature trees imposed for the removed trees. * **(Stueve, Forsyth) Motion passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 absent (Hjelmstad, Lopez & Vandiver) 2 ineligible (H.Moore, Zoe Nguyen), 0 recused.**

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-agendized item.

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.

Item 19 * Motion to Adjourn * (Bethel/ Stueve) 9:32 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting is on May 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Inquiries may be directed to Dan Stueve, Board Secretary, at dstueve@greatervalleyglencouncil.org or at (310-595-5875).



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Sustainability Report for 4-4-'22 Board Meeting

NCSA Advocacy Committee 4-4-'22

Planning Department staff rewriting the Landscape Ordinance for non-single family properties presented their work in progress, and there was great objection to their vision: too much hardscape, site amenities like bike racks where trees would go, no preservation of significant trees, large trees are replaced with smaller species, green roofs are too high maintenance, tree wells on sidewalks instead of continuous parkways, almost no tree canopy, underground garages at the property lines allowing no space for tree roots so no way to plant trees to shade the sidewalk – the old ordinance required a tree every 400 feet on multi-family buildings, and the point system could create loopholes that trade beneficial landscape like trees for other items.

Livable California 4-2-'22

Four cities are suing the state over SB9 for not addressing affordable housing.

Two attorneys reported on how the California Environmental Quality Act is bypassed in 95% of projects through categorical exemptions that do not take into account the cumulative environmental damage being done.

Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) Building Around Trees Committee 3-31-'22

Retired City Planner Marianne King reported on how the area that is designated for landscaping and trees on new building sites is not happening due to LADWP and LAFD pipes. The presentation feature the Valley Glen building at 13724 Victory that now looks very different than the rendering that came before our neighborhood council.

Yale Forest Forum 3-31-'22

Report on how New York City is using nature-based solutions to address climate change. This is not being done in Los Angeles.

NCSA Trees Committee 3-19-'22

Save Weddington (the golf course on Whitsett with historic trees) reported that Harvard-Westlake has submitted a new draft EIR and the comment period ends May 10. Money is being raised to hire experts to oppose – this NC took Save Weddington's position. CPK in Studio City donating 20% of your check if you use code Back20% or show flyer in person on Tuesday April 5. Email me if you want the flyer emailed to you.

Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) 3-13-'22

LA for Democracy presented the idea of \$25 vouchers that would allow voters to direct money from a special city fund to support candidates. This has been done in Seattle. Estimated cost \$15 million. It is currently illegal to do this on the state or county level, but legal for the city.

Two votes taken – both passed. Support CF 21-1463 (already pass) to use statewide incentives to retrofit existing to not use natural gas. (I voted against). Support 22-0151 to not install natural gas lines in new buildings. (I voted for)

Plancheck NC 3-12-'22

The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance presented their draft guidelines for developers that neighborhood councils can use for guidance when meeting with developers. It is an interactive document that is open to suggestions: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ksVoYfsE0GJ0_3VqaD9F19Vmev-rUDARlaCMMnrWzA/edit#heading=h.40m2ldw5nw9g

Ron Bitzer reported that PacificUrbanism.org lists 30,000 more housing units to be build in CD 2 by 2029: pacificurbanism.org

Barbara Broide reported that the LA Housing Element was rejected by the state, which means the city needs to re-zone by October to meet RHNA building numbers – no time for dialog with the communities.

Los Angeles ranked in a survey as being among the 25 US cities with the happiest parks.