



Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



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

www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org

REGULAR VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES - February 6, 2023

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 Glen 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) 900-9128 and enter 869 9759 6259 and then press # to join or use the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86997596259>. You may join the meeting as early as 6:50 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	Joanne D’Antonio	District 1 Resident	Anthony Bethel
At-Large	September Forsyth	District 1 Resident	Dan Stueve
At-Large	Andrea Jones	District 3 Resident	Drew Vandiver
At-Large	Michael Kennedy	District 4 Resident	Christopher “Cosmo” Moore
At-Large	Scott Kriloff	District 4 Resident	Heidi Moore
At-Large	Daniel Lopez	District 5 Resident	Alicia Bien
At-Large	Andrea Schmitt	District 5 Resident	Mickey Jannol
At-Large	Robin Shafer	District 6 Resident	Bennet C Francois
At-Large	Penny Woods	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: 15 present, 3 absent (Kriloff, Lopez & Bien). Quorum achieved.

Item 3 Chair instructions for Public Comment.

Alicia Bien joined at 7:05 p.m.

Item 4 * Approval of minutes *

Motion 1: * Motion to approve the January 9, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. * **(Bethel, Shafter) Motion Passed. 15 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Bien), 2 absent (Kriloff & Lopez), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

Item 5 Board Nominations There are no nominations.

Note: Vacant seats consist of two (2) District 2 Rep, one (1) District 3 Reps, one (1) District 6 Rep, and three (3) 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. Please alert the Chair if you wish to present. **Please limit each presentation to 2 minutes unless the Chair allows more time.**

Speakers: SLO Kristen Delatorre, Jeff Camp – Council President, Paul Krekorian's office, Maria Flores – LAUSD Board Member Kelly Gonez's office.

Item 7 Representative Reports

Report provided by: Joanne D'Antonio – Sustainability. **(report attached at the end of minutes)**

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

Motion 1 and CIS: * The President moves the following:

COUNCIL FILE(S):

Council File [23-0002-S16](#) (Local Legislative Bodies / Virtual Meetings / Ralph M. Brown Act Amendment)

Council File [23-0002-S17](#) (Local Legislative Bodies / Virtual Meetings / Ralph M. Brown



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Act Amendment)

POSITION: SUPPORT

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared an Emergency in the state of California due to COVID-19. On March 17, the Governor signed Executive Order #N-29-20, which modified the "Brown Act" to permit local bodies to meet virtually. In the City of Los Angeles, this also applied to neighborhood councils.

On April 17, 2020, EmpowerLA released a Virtual Governance Plan for neighborhood councils and authorized them to meet via Zoom beginning May 1.

Since May 12, 2020, the GVGC along with our committees have been meeting virtually. Given that people no longer have to appear in person, we have noticed a great increase in the number of government representatives, public commenters, and general public participation. This has led to more robust meetings and deeper community engagement than previously possible. Additionally, virtual meetings ensure that even those working, at home with children, or otherwise unavailable to come in person to meetings are still able to participate; it has strengthened and made our local democracy more equitable.

Furthermore, virtual neighborhood council meetings reduce the need for people to drive to and from meetings, helping us achieve our climate goals. They also provide a safe option for those concerned about getting out of a board meeting late at night, and don't burden neighborhood councils financially, which often have to pay to rent meeting space.

The current suggested guidelines for in person meetings would also require each NC to confirm vaccination or Covid test status of each person attending a meeting. Many volunteer Board Members simply do not feel comfortable administering such a screening requirement of its attendees.

President Anthony Bethel conducted an online poll of Board members' intentions should in person meetings become mandatory in January 2023. Of the current 18 members, 5 indicated that they would resign the NC entirely, 3 were considering it, 1 simply preferred virtual, and 9 did not respond. Of those that responded, it becomes clear that the GVGC would likely lack a quorum to even continue as an NC should the Brown Act not be amended to allow virtual meetings.

The GVGC supports urgent changes to the Brown Act which would allow neighborhood councils the option to hold remote board and committee meetings, and urge the City of Los Angeles to support efforts at the state level to accomplish this goal. * **(Bethel, Schmitt) Motion Passed. 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent (Kriloff & Lopez), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**



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Motion 2: * The President moves that the GVGC oppose a zoning variance (<https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjUzNTY20>) at 5809 N. Rhodes Ave requesting up to a 10% increase in dwelling square footage by adding a second story to the main building. (Photos available online are attached to this agenda.)

While the GVGC recognizes the need for affordable housing in the City, we are concerned that ever increasing population density puts an untenable strain on neighbors, utilities, public services, parking, community safety, and the environment. We ask that City Planning at least adhere to the current zoning laws and limits.* **(Bethel, Jannol) Motion Passed. 12 yes, 2 no (Shafer & Vandiver), 2 abstain (Jones & Woods), 2 absent (Kriloff & Lopez), 0 ineligible, 0 recused.**

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

Motion 1: * **Approval of December 2022 MER.** A copy is attached and there is also a link here: <https://clkrep.lacity.org/ncfunding/mer/A16FD022-DA6D-E611-17DE-8B74C7356F4DL.pdf>* **(Schmitt, Bethel) Motion Passed. 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 absent (Kriloff, Lopez & Vandiver), 1 ineligible (Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Motion 2: * Motion to approve the attached Administrative Packet containing the revised GVGC Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, authorized signers, and other Financial information. * **(Schmitt, Bethel) Motion Passed. 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain (Forsyth & Jannol), 5 absent (Bien, Jones, Kriloff, Lopez & Vandiver), 1 ineligible (Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Item 10 Arts & Education Committee. Reports and Motions. There are no motions. Report by Chair: Robin Shafer.

Item 11 Community Outreach Committee. Reports and Motions. All motions are marked * Report by Chair: Robin Shafer.

Motion 1: * The Outreach Committee moves that the Board approve an expenditure of up to \$10,000 to hold an Outreach Event at Valley Glen Park that would include Food Trucks, Bounce Houses, and a Band at a date to be determined. * **MOTION PULLED.**

Motion 2: * The Outreach Committee moves that the Board approve an expenditure of up to \$1,000 for a second paper shredding event to possibly be held in conjunction with the Event from Motion 1 at Valley Glen park. * **(Shafer, Schmitt) Motion Passed. 11 yes, 1 no (Forsyth), 0 abstain, 5 absent (Bien, Jones, Kriloff, Lopez & Vandiver), 1 ineligible (Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Motion 3: * The Outreach Committee moves that the Board approve an expenditure to run a full-page ad in the VGNA Valley Glen Voice for \$750 to promote the upcoming board elections in May, and if voted for the Valley Glen Park event. Plus any other Board news we may want to provide. * **(Shafer, Schmitt) Motion Passed. 8 yes, 2 no (Forsyth & Stueve), 2 abstain (Bethel & Kennedy), 5 absent (Bien, Jones, Kriloff, Lopez & Vandiver), 1 ineligible (Nguyen), 0 recused.**



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Item 12 Community Safety Committee. Report and Motions. There is no chair and no motions.

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

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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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.

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Item 14 Parks, Medians, & Improvements Committee. Reports and Motions. All motions are marked *

Motion 1: * The Parks Committee and Community Improvement Committee moves that the GVGC approve an expenditure of up to \$500 for the purchase doggy bags to restock the doggy bag dispensers in our three parks and greenway. (the last doggy bag purchase was in May 2022 for \$750). * **(Bethel, Jannol) Motion Passed. 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 5 absent (Bien, Jones, Kriloff, Lopez & Vandiver), 1 ineligible (Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Motion 2: * The Parks and Community Improvement Committee moves that the GVGC approve funding of up to \$500 for signage, plants, and supplies to plant an extension to the current butterfly garden in Valley Glen Community Park. The goal is to provide vegetation to promote the health of local butterfly species. * **(Bethel, D'Antonio) Motion Passed. 9 yes, 2 no (Forsyth & Stueve), 1 abstain (Bethel), 5 absent (Bien, Jones, Kriloff, Lopez & Vandiver), 1 ineligible (Nguyen), 0 recused.**

Item 15 Planning and Land Use Committee. Report and Motions. There are no motions, no report.

Item 16 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 17 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 18 * Motion to Adjourn * (Bethel, Schmitt) 9:36 p.m.



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Sustainability Report for 2-6-'23 Board Meeting Prepared by Joanne D'Antonio

VANC 12-8-'22 Zoom

VANC voted to send a letter to Gov. Newsom to ask for extension for neighborhood councils to meeting virtually. I voted "yes" as the only member of our Board there. 17 YES 1 NO

Plancheck NC 1-14-'23 Zoom

There are many new bills on the City and State level that could affect us. More info on these on the PlancheckNC website <https://plancheckncla.com/>

We have not had any any appropriate committee meetings scheduled to weigh in on any of these City Council motions or State bills, but individuals can weigh in on any of these.

NCSA Advocacy 1-15-'23 Zoom

The Wildlife Ordinance needs CIS support to pass City Council. Individuals can weigh in on CF 14-0518. NCSA advocating that it should be stronger.

The Education Director for Abundant Housing was the guest speaker, but he realized that environmental issues brought up at the meeting went beyond his position to consider. A policy person for Abundant Housing to be invited to a future meeting.

NCSA Trees Committee 1-28-'23 Zoom

Guests were the petitioners from Angelenos for Trees and United Neighborhoods 4 LA, who won the case against the Sidewalk Repair Program (SRP)'s Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The ruling was primarily for not adequately considering the effects of thousands of tree removals on the city's bird population. Joanne D'Antonio worked on the key draft EIR comment in the case, which was submitted by the Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) and cited by the judge in his ruling. She gave a presentation on how easy it is to do effective EIR comments with substantiation. The recording and slide deck is available by emailing a request to trees@ncsa.la