

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF GROVELAND COMMUNITY OF SERVICES DISTRICT
TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES TO FILL BOARD VACANCY
Groveland Evangelical Free Church
Groveland, California
December 18, 2008
6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of Groveland Community Services District met in special session on the above mentioned date with Directors Richard Lennen, President, Gus Allegri, Wesley Johnson, and Steve Perreira being present. Also present were General Manager Jim Goodrich, District Counsel Dave McMurchie, Board Secretary Vicki West and Administrative Staff Member Lena Spilman.

Candidates present were Otis Fender, Rebecca Novak, John Graham, Louette Quesnoy, Kenneth Lawrence, Frank Oyung, and Joseph Riley.

President Lennen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Approval

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Johnson, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the agenda as written.

Public Comment

None

Public Interview

Director Lennen opened the floor to questions from the public. There were none.

Director Lennen allowed each candidate to present opening remarks, limited to two minutes per candidate.

Director Lennen opened the floor to questions from the Board. Director Lennen specified that all responses from Candidates would be limited to one minute. He also stated that while every candidate would have an opportunity to answer each question, candidates would take turns responding first.

Director Johnson asked each candidate to confirm their eligibility to assume the vacant Board seat by verifying that they are currently registered to vote within the District's boundaries. Each candidate confirmed this status.

Director Allegri asked whether the candidates, if not chosen for this seat, would run in the next GCSD Board election.

Director Lennen stated that he was very impressed with the Letters of Interest received by the candidates for this position, and encouraged all candidates to run in the next election.

Director Lennen asked the candidates to define the term “smart growth,” and what it means to the District.

Director Perreira asked the candidates to identify one area in which GCSD could improve.

Director Johnson asked candidate Otis Fender whether his position with the Groveland Fire Department was as a volunteer with pay or without pay. Mr. Fender replied that his involvement with the Fire Department is strictly on an unpaid volunteer basis, posing no conflict of interest.

Director Johnson asked each candidate to define the term “special district,” and explain the difference between a “special district” and a “general purpose governmental entity.”

Director Allegri asked the candidates to explain their understanding of the relationship between the Board of Directors and GCSD staff.

Director Perreira asked the candidates to share their opinion on how public employee benefits could be better managed.

Director Perreira asked the candidates whether they believe that it is appropriate for Directors to question the recommendations of GCSD Staff on matters in which Staff has more expertise.

Director Perreira asked the candidates to briefly describe the nature of their affiliation with any member/s of the GCSD management and Board.

Having no more questions from the Board, Director Lennen asked if there were any more questions from members of the Public.

A member of the Public asked the candidates what they believed to be the Board’s right of refusal or interference in a situation where a developer has met all regulations and specifications and is able to completely fund their proposed project.

The same member of the public asked the candidates how they would balance the trade-off between preserving the community and allowing growth to fund desired community services. He asked whether the candidates would rather maintain the character of the community by limiting development, consequently requiring the current residents to absorb the natural inflation in services over time, or whether they would support such development as a way to mitigate both the inflation in prices for current services and the cost of bringing new services to the area.

Another member of the public asked the Board to respond to rumors that John Graham was asked by the Board to run for the position, and that favoritism was suspected towards Mr. Graham. President Lennen commented that he was not aware of any favoritism displayed by the Board, and believed there to be many qualified candidates. Furthermore, Director Lennen noted that the difficulty in finding willing candidates prompted him to ask many people to submit Letters of Interest for the vacant Board seat, of which Mr. Graham was only one.

A member of the public asked if the candidates would vote to accept the annexation of the Pine Mountain Lake subdivision, if it were to come to the Board for approval at the present time.

Director Lennen asked for closing remarks from the candidates, for which each was allowed two minutes.

Director Lennen called a short recess at 8:10 p.m.
The meeting re-convened at 8:20 p.m.

Action Items

1. **Approve One of the Following Four Alternatives in Consideration of Filling the Vacated GCSD Board Seat:**
 - a) **Consider Appointing from Among the Candidates Interviewed a Replacement to Fill the Board Seat Vacated by John Gray until the Next Regularly Scheduled Board Election**
 - b) **Call for a Special Election to be held on June 2, 2009**
 - c) **Defer to the County Board of Supervisors to make the Appointment**
 - d) **Continue the Consideration of Appointment until December 22nd Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting.**

Director Perreira spoke in opposition to appointment, asserting his position that the electorate should decide on their Board member. He stated that he would not support an appointment.

A member of the public spoke in support of appointment, stating that to spend the money for an election of a member for an interim term would be irresponsible.

Director Lennen said that he would not support hitching our wagon to a BOFGUSD recall that may or may not happen. Additionally, he stated that it would be unreasonable to call an election every time a Board member resigned or got sick. He asserted that an the appointment of an interim official is commonplace at the County, State, and Federal level, and makes the most sense for the District.

Director Johnson motioned, seconded by Director Allegri, and the motion passed, to consider appointing from among the candidates interviewed a replacement to fill the Board seat vacated by John Gray until the next regularly scheduled Board election. Ayes: Directors Lennen, Allegri, and Johnson Noes: Director Perreira

Director Perreira moved to appoint Joseph Riley. The motion died for lack of a second. Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Lennen, to appoint John Graham as Director to the Board of Groveland Community Services District, and the motion passed. Ayes: Directors Lennen, Allegri, and Johnson Noes: Director Perreira

Information Items

Adjournment

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

APPROVED:

Richard Lennen, President

ATTEST:

Vicki L. West, Board Secretary