

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2013
135th Street Elementary School Auditorium

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson); Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Rey Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6); Rosario Rico (District 7), Mary Hinton (District 8), Donald Cook (Outreach Representative), and Gloria Christmas (At-Large-Representative).

The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Delores Allmond at 7:13 p.m.

1) Public Comment:

Jeff Childers, Government and Neighborhood Relations Liaison for Dept. of Water and Power, reminded stakeholders of the Sat. May 4 DWP outreach event.

Roosevelt Holmes, resident from Towne and 101st Street, discussed the weeds and trucks parked in the alley behind his home and the need for the City to address this issue. He also wondered how a nearby two-story apartment building could be constructed without a back door.

Rey Paduani, District 3 Representative, reported that there have recently been two people injured in District 3 due to the poor condition of City sidewalks.

Art Cramer, District 1 stakeholder, asked to have reports about the successful improvements in various areas as well as reports of problems. He also said that his neighborhood has seen a lot of deterioration over the years.

2) L.A. Police Department Report: Senior Lead Officer Hugo Valdez reported on the arrest of suspects in a burglary at 149th and Orchard. They are two females, one in her 30's and one an older teenager. From Vermont Avenue to Figueroa Street and from Imperial Highway to Artesia, there have been sixteen stolen vehicles reported recently. He encouraged stakeholders to report problems to him at 31265@lapd.lacity.org. Council District 15 will soon launch a Code Enforcement Task Force for the Harbor Gateway area, which will address frequent yard sales, illegal vending from City streets, illegal auto repair from residential garages, and other quality of life issues. On April 6, an Illegal Vending Task Force confiscated many illegal carts. The LAPD will have a public meeting on this issue on Thurs. May 2 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Council District 15 Field Office in Watts, 10221 Compton Avenue, Suite 200. Stakeholders reported that there is an illegal food cart at Rosecrans Park and also illegal vendors targeting the 135th Street School, Gardena Elementary School, and the new Environmental Charter Middle School.

3) Council District 15 Report: Daisy Ybarra, Field Deputy for Councilman Joe Buscaino, reported on the recent illegal vending task force which has started with the Watts area. The focus will be the owners of the illegal vending carts. In District 3, better lighting is being installed along 145th Street west of Denver, where the body was found in the trunk of an abandoned car on January 18. If you see potholes, e-mail or call them in to Daisy. The PACE (Police Assisted Community Enhancement) Program which Officer Valdez mentioned will be coming to the Harbor Gateway North by summer. Four-way stops have been installed at Athens Blvd. and Hoover Street and also Laconia Place and Laconia Way at Hoover in District 5 (Athens on the Hill). Italian Heritage Week will be celebrated this year on Sat. July 27 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Watts Towers. CD 15 will

need help from the HGNNC to organize bus signups for the bus which will leave from the 135th Street School.

A stakeholder asked if there is an ordinance which requires residents to clean up their front yards? Daisy said that's what the PACE program will do. Residents will first receive a warning and then fifteen days later a citation from Building and Safety Department. A District 8 stakeholder reported that small dogs are running loose in District 8 and she cannot get a response from Animal Control. Daisy asked for her to call CD 15 about it. A District 5 stakeholder reported that the Vermont Avenue sidewalk between 125th and 126th has been buckled by a large tree and that has been reported with no result yet. Also Vermont Avenue from 123rd to 125th Street has no sidewalk. Another stakeholder reported an elevated sidewalk along 117th Street from Denver to Figueroa.

4) How can we fix our streets and broken sidewalks? Bureau of Street Services answers questions about their services: Ron Olive, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Street Services, discussed the Bureau's four major programs: slurry sealing, pothole repair, street cleaning and sweeping, and street tree trimming.

A break was taken so that stakeholders could get refreshments.

(Marvin Bell left at 8:20 p.m.)
(Rosario Rico arrived at 8:21 p.m.)

5) Approval of the January 22 General Membership meeting minutes: Rey Paduani moved, Donald Cook seconded, and it was passed 10-0 to approve the minutes.

6) Treasurer's Report: Expenditures from July 1 to April 23 total \$33,309.91. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 10-0 to approve the treasurer's report.

6a. It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 10-0 to approve up to \$250 to support refreshments for the volunteers of the District 8 clean up day on Sat. May 25, with a location still to be determined.

6b. Victor Medina, Gang Alternatives Program, discussed the reduced funding over the last year which has impacted clean up of illegal dumping in the HGNNC. GAP also takes care of a lot of graffiti removal throughout the HGNNC. GAP also provides cleanup crews for local clean up days, such as the one which will take place in District 4 on Sat. May 11. Their clean up teams work seven days a week and additional funding is greatly needed. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rosario Rico, and passed 10-0 to approve up to \$2,000 as a Neighborhood purposes Grant to fund GAP for their graffiti abatement and clean up programs.

7) Planning issues update (South L.A and Southeast L.A. Community Plan updates, cell panels at 825 W. Gardena Blvd., fast food restaurants, recycling center on Figueroa at 120th Street): Rosalie Preston reminded stakeholders that two of the HGNNC's three Community Plan areas are being updated and involvement from stakeholders is greatly needed to insure that stakeholder needs are addressed. The South L.A. Community Plan covers District 6 and the Southeast L.A. Community Plan covers Districts 7 and 8. The HGNNC has joined a coalition of other Councils in the South L.A. area to work on organizing for the hearings which will be held in the fall. Currently the preliminary drafts are available online.

MetroPCS applied for and received permission to install cell panels on the top of a residential hotel at 825 W. Gardena Blvd. with equipment cabinets located on the bottom floor behind a

commercial use. The HGNNC opposed the application due to concerns about the potential long-term health effects of the electromagnetic fields that will be created. However, the City of Los Angeles is only allowed to deny such applications based on aesthetic concerns and the Federal Communications Commission has ruled that such installations are allowed as long as FCC guidelines are met.

Carl's Jr. had considered locating a new drive-through restaurant at 501 W. El Segundo Blvd. but after considering potential crime issues in that area and design requirements of Council District 15's Planning Director, they have decided not to proceed.

The recycling center located on Figueroa Street just south of 120th Street is being investigated as an illegal operation.

8) Report on HGNNC activities (April Health Fair and clean up days): Rosario Rico reported that the Sat. April 13 Health Fair had an attendance of over 400 people, with 140 adults. She thanked the Board and stakeholders who volunteered and the stakeholders who came to the event. Chair Delores Allmond thanked Rosario for all of her hard work as the Ad Hoc Health Fair Committee Chair, especially considering that she also works full-time and is finishing her Master's Degree.

District 4 will hold its annual clean up day on Sat. May 11 with a continental breakfast at the 135th Street School and a lunch there for the volunteers at noon. Large bins for unwanted items will be placed at three locations along Hoover Street. District 4 residents do the clean up with the assistance of City staff, the Council office, GAP, and Clean and Green.

9) Announcements: Victor Medina, Gang Alternative Project, announced that GAP offers gang prevention programs for youth in grades 2 through 4 and said that he hoped they could partner with Central City Human Services.

Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary, reminded those present that the HGNNC is being honored by the City Council on Fri. April 25 at 10 a.m. for receiving one of the first seven EmpowerLA awards and encouraged Board and stakeholders to attend the ceremony.

Dexter McLeod, People for Community Improvement, reported on the very successful April 20 Town Hall meeting on court closures, including Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center, which is scheduled to close on June 3. Dexter also reminded stakeholders of the monthly food pass outs on the second and fourth Fridays. They are also sponsoring a Women's Summit on Gang Prevention from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sat. April 27 at the Home Assembly Church,

Yvonne Valenzuela, District 2 stakeholder, announced that she is competing to become the 2013 Gardena Miss Cinco de Mayo and has raffle tickets available for \$2 each. Sales of the tickets will contribute towards her scholarship money from the competition. Her goal is to be a USC student in two years' time after her graduation from Gardena High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston