

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

135th Street Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), Donald Cook (Outreach Representative), and Gloria Christmas (At-Large Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond who reviewed some of the suggested techniques received at the June 15 Board training, which the HGNNC will implement to help keep the meetings on time and orderly. She asked Donald Cook to serve as Parliamentarian, Neodros Bridgeforth to be the timekeeper, and Betty Hawkins to serve as a resource person for stakeholders with community issues. Delores also reviewed the list of who had taken the mandated ethics training and reminded the Board that now the 20-minute funding training is also required before September 5.

1) Public Comment: Alexander Garfinkel, Field Representative for Assemblyman Isadore Hall III introduced himself and said that he could help the HGNNC with Caltrans-related issues and stakeholders with Employment Development Department claims. Veronica Ledesma of the Assembly office has been working on the issue of trash and debris along the Union Pacific railroad tracks and he will let the HGNNC know where that stands.

2) Approval of the June 27 Special Board minutes: It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Donald Cook, and passed 12-0 to approve the June 27 Special Board minutes as submitted.

3) Re-affirmation of the Board's Code of Civility and compliance requirement: Delores read out the HGNNC Code of Civility as adopted June 10, 2008.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:25 p.m.)

Richard Lee suggested that further Brown Act Training at the Board retreat would also be helpful for the Board. It was then moved by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth and passed 12-0 to re-affirm the HGNNC Code of Civility.

4) Treasurer's report: Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the treasurer's report, with page 1 being the U.S. Bank statement for June 21 showing five p-card expenditures. Pages 2a and 2b showing the 2012-2013 expenditures as of June 14, totaling \$36,385.52, with about \$614 remaining which should be expended before June 30 for Ricoh copy machine payments. It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Richard Lee and passed 13-0 to approve the treasurer's report.

Joan reported that as most Board members already knew from the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment's weekly electronic newsletter, the new funding program has been delayed for two to three months while a new bank is found to handle the on-line checking for each Neighborhood Council and to issue new debit cards for smaller purchases. Wells Fargo Bank announced at the last minute that they could not carry out those activities as they had previously agreed to do.

(Betty Hawkins recused herself from the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

3a. Approval of \$250 to fund barbecue meat and supplies for the Officer Appreciation Luncheon on Mon. August 19 in District 4: Catherine Walker, President of the 135th Street Neighborhood Watch, asked for support of the annual Officer Appreciation Luncheon which is held in District 4, in the amount of \$500 because the cost of meat and supplies has gone up so much. It was pointed out that the budgeted amount was \$250. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Gloria Christmas, and passed 10-2-0 to approve \$250 to support the Officer Appreciation Luncheon in District 4.

3b. Approval of \$3,000 budget for the "Movie in the Park" event on Fri. August 30 at Rosecrans Recreation Center: Donald Cook, Chair of the Outreach Committee, discussed the details of the budget for the planned "Movie in the Park" community outreach event and picnic. At its meeting at 6 p.m.

tonight, the Outreach Committee decided that the HGNNC would provide popcorn and possibly ice cream bars for those attending but not provide hot dogs and probably not encourage food trucks since there is not good parking for them near the park and also it's uncertain how many of the movie attendees would patronize them. The event will run from 6-9:30 p.m. and most likely the movie to be shown will be "Despicable Me." However, there is now more uncertainty about the event taking place because of the park's grand re-opening being delayed again and liability issues being raised if the park isn't officially open by August 30. It was moved by Donald Cook, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 13-0 to approve the outlined budget of up to \$3,000 for the Movie in the Park outreach event.

5) Update from Community Health Councils about the new South L.A. (District 6) and Southeast L.A. (Districts 7 and 8) Community Plans and how CHC can help us get more stakeholders

involved: Alex Campbell from Community Health Councils discussed how over 300 people came out for the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Public Hearing on their Community Plan update. The CHC would like to help replicate that type of turnout for both the South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plan Public Hearings. There are similar issues in all three areas, such as too many drive-through fast food restaurants and a lack of healthier food options, including full-service grocery stores. The moratorium on new drive-through restaurants covers Council Districts 8, 9, and 10, but not CD 15. Other issues that need to be addressed are an increase in open space, improved transit options, and the bicycle plans. Over 2,000 postcards to support these types of proposals were submitted in relation to the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan.

It is now expected that the proposed new zoning for the South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans will be released in late July or August. Alex presented a sample letter which he hopes that the HGNNC will adopt, asking for 90 days to review the draft EIRs, rather than the shorter period that the Planning Department usually offers, as well as holding the Public Hearings locally rather than in downtown Los Angeles, so that more stakeholders can attend in person. The South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Working Group meetings are continuing, with the next one being on Wed. July 24 at the Constituent Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Alex also gave out a flyer on how to use the Planning Dept. website to access Community Plan documents. He recommended looking at the details of the West Adams plan as a good sample. Alex has been assigned by the CHC to work closely with the HGNNC and the Southwest Empowerment NC on the two Community Plans. He also mentioned that there is a \$100,000 grant to document City-owned vacant lots, with the idea of utilizing them for more green space. CHC is working on this with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, and other groups, with a meeting scheduled on Tues. July 16 at 6:15 p.m. at Mercado La Paloma Conference Room, 3655 S. Grand Avenue.

(Rosario Rico left at 8:10 p.m.)

6) Report on the LANI conference on June 20: Rosalie Preston, Delores Allmond, and Llewyn Fowlkes attended this event held at the Davidson Conference Center and learned more about ways to create small parks, outdoor art projects, and improve business corridors through the use of business improvement Districts and/or also either formal non-profits or informal beautification groups that can take charge of specific projects.

(Deborah Lee left at 8:15 p.m.)

7) Report on plans to outreach to the businesses along Figueroa Street from El Segundo to Redondo Beach Blvd.:

A meeting with Joeann Valle of the Harbor City/Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce will take place later in July to begin planning a September or October get-together with the businesses and industries along Figueroa Street. A mailing will be done to all, with the meeting being held in the conference room of one of the businesses. The HGNNC will help to provide refreshments and possibly mailing costs. The get-together will have representatives from the HGNNC, Council District 15, and the Chamber to explain what resources the City of Los Angeles can offer the businesses and also let them know that they are located within a State Enterprise Zone, which gives them access to certain reductions in costs and encourages business expansion and job creation.

8) Review of the July 23 General Membership meeting agenda and assignment of responsibility for refreshments and greeter: The draft agenda with speakers about the new bike lanes was reviewed and an item about the letter to the Dept. of City Planning, as mentioned in item 5 above, will be added.

Marvin Bell volunteered to arrange for refreshments from Woody's Bar-B-Que in Inglewood. The budget for General Membership meeting refreshments is \$250. Delores and Rosalie will work on arranging a greeter.

9) Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of July 3: The main speaker was Dr. Fred Pickel, the DWP Ratepayer Advocate, who discussed the solar feed-in tariff auctions for the FIT 100 program and how the DWP is being charged too much by the mainly out-of-state companies that are going to be installing the solar panels on large warehouses and along the ridgelines of the foothills in the Valley. He said that the ratepayers will end up having to cover the increased costs for the resulting "green" energy. DWP is allowing the companies to pay 17 cents per kilowatt hour of energy generated while other utilities are buying such power at half that rate. Alicia Rivera of Coalition for a Clean Environment had then countered some of his argument at the end of the meeting under public comment. She maintained that the agreement provides funding so that local residents, such as in Wilmington, can be trained in the solar panel installation.

10) Announcements: Youth Representative Richard Lee announced that a letter to five area schools will be mailed out soon, explaining the Neighborhood Council and offering opportunities to work together with the schools and their students on various projects, such as the Movie in the Park, the Halloween Carnival, and the Youth Leadership Academy.

The Hollypark Homeowners Association in Hawthorne will be showing a Movie in the Park on Sat. July 13 at 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and HGNNC Outreach Committee and Board members are encouraged to stop by to see how they set up their event. It is being held at Center Field, 2058 W. 120th Street, Hawthorne, CA 90250.

Councilman Joe Buscaino is providing a bus to take stakeholders to his swearing in ceremony in Watts on Sat. July 27. The bus will leave at 12 noon and return at 4:30 p.m. The 135th Street Neighborhood Watch is coordinating the sign ups.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary