

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council October 22, 2013, General Membership Meeting

Present: Delores Allmond (Chair), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chair), 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), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Gloria Christmas (At-Large-Representative).

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Delores Allmond at 7:12 p.m. After reading out the code of civility, she led the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

1) **Public Comment:** Kreston Jordan (District 4 stakeholder) commented on how the LAPD does not always take complaints by stakeholders seriously, such as when last year a number of tires were slashed in District 4 and the officer who came out to investigate seemed to blame the victim. Currently, regarding illegal street vendors, the LAPD has told him that “they have the right to make a living.” Kreston had to insist that an LAPD officer take a harassment report when Kreston was followed by one of the illegal street vendors.

Keith Smith (District 7 stakeholder) moved to the HGNNC area one year ago and asked why there is no street sweeping along Imperial Highway. He was advised that Daisy Ybarra, Field Deputy for Councilman Buscaino, would take up that issue under item 3.

Betty Hawkins (District 4 Representative) asked that the Board consider funding holiday tree decorations for the street trees planted along Hoover in District 4.

Murray Taylor (District 8 stakeholder) noted that a lot of street lights are out along Central Avenue between the 105 Freeway and Imperial Highway. He also said that the off-ramp to the freeway is in need of repair. And there is a problematic recycling center at Imperial Highway and Central Avenue. He has a list of issues which he presented to Councilman Buscaino when he was first elected and which have not been addressed. He was advised to submit a copy of his list to the HGNNC.

Art Cramer (District 1 stakeholder) said that District 1 still has many problems and a need for clean up. He will be meeting with Mayor Jim Dear of Carson within the next two weeks to further discuss how to reduce the number of 18-wheeled trucks which use Figueroa Street past Mr. Cramer’s home.

2) L.A. Police Department Report: Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez introduced himself as the new Senior Lead Officer for Basic Car Area 18A97 which covers HGNNC Districts 1 through 6. He gave an example from the 800 block of 147th Street of how a male Hispanic came to a female resident’s front door and told her there was an emergency and that he needed to check in her backyard. While she went with him to the backyard, two other male Hispanics in their early 20’s were ransacking her home. Also, on the same street there was a G13 shooting. There have been many grand theft auto reports for older Hondas, Toyotas, and Nissans, especially in the Athens on the Hill neighborhood. He also commented on the illegally posted yellow signs next to the 135th Street school that say “Real estate investor seeks students” and a telephone number. The investor apparently wants students to deliver flyers for him door-to-door.

3) Council District 15 Report: Daisy Ybarra, Field Deputy for Councilman Joe Buscaino, explained that there is currently no money to add additional street sweepers for streets that are not already posted. The sweepers were purchased many years ago with special grant funding. The non-working street lights could be due to their copper wiring having been removed rather than just burned out bulbs. The homeless encampment near Imperial Highway and Central Avenue is being dealt with by working with the County of Los Angeles. However, the homeless have rights, also, and there is currently an injunction against removing their property, which can include a lot of trash. This can be done only if it is blocking a walkway. She is working with parking enforcement on the alley parking issues in District 4, just south of 135th Street, which are due to parents using the alley to wait for their children when school gets out. She is working with the Bureau of Street Services on the illegal food vendors and there will be patrols in front of 135th Street School at 2:30 p.m.

when the street vendors are targeting the students who are getting out of school. CD 15 is also working on valet parking for the 135th Street School, with a pick up spot along both 134th Street and 135th Street. Councilman Buscaino thanks all those who attended his second annual spaghetti dinner on October 13. On Sat. November 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the USS Iowa in San Pedro will be offering free tours to all veterans.

Vanessa Johnson, District 7 stakeholder, thanked Daisy for her help with various issues. She pointed out that the 118th Street School also needs Valet Pick Up after school and also has illegal street vending next to the school. Dr. Stella Robinson, District 8 stakeholder, said that the 116th Street School also needs Valet Parking. Debbie Langhammer, District 3 stakeholder, pointed out that Rosecrans Recreation Center has just had a major renovation yet there is a very lifted sidewalk on Vermont Avenue next to the Center which badly needs to be repaired. She also commented on the illegal food vendor at the park who has been evicted many times but keeps coming back or someone else using the same cart. Another stakeholder mentioned that there is a homeless encampment at Hoover Street and the 105 Freeway and also illegal street vending there which creates a lot of trash. There is illegal speeding along Figueroa Street in front of Figueroa Street School and where is parking enforcement when they are needed to help with a serious matter.

4) How will the South L.A. (District 6) and Southeast L.A. (Districts 7 and 8) Community Plan updates affect your neighborhood—presentation by the Dept. of City Planning: Griselda Gonzalea and Marie Cobian discussed the two plan updates which have been underway since 2007. The two plans are part of the 35 separate Community Plans which form the Land Use Element of the City’s General Plan Framework. The South L.A. Plan covers an area from the 10 Freeway to 120th Street and from Van Ness to the 110 Harbor Freeway; HGNNC’s District 6 is included in this Plan. The Southeast L.A. Plan covers the area east of the 110 Harbor Freeway to Alameda; HGNNC Districts 7 and 8 are included in this Plan area.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 8 p.m.)

The Community Plan text will set policy for development for many years to come. The Dept. of City Planning has already held several hundred community meetings on these Plans and in the last few years have been focusing on technical aspects of finalizing them. After the draft EIR is released during the spring of 2014 then the Public Hearings and adoption process will take place. The CPIO (Community Plan Implementation Overlay) drafts for each plan were released late last year. Because they are drafts, this is the time to comment and have input. Stakeholders are encouraged to sign up for future notices of the Public Hearings. They then shoed the proposed designations for the two Plans, such as general corridors, commercial corridors, transit oriented districts, etc. Some stakeholders expressed interest in seeing Main Street north of 120th Street have more than just a “residential” designation since some small businesses are still existing along that street. 120th Street will remain legacy single-family and even though it is zoned R2, it will be kept low-scale and the height limit lowered due to much public comment at a previous HGNNC meeting. There will also be new design standards for the multi-family housing which is now so prevalent along 120th Street east of Broadway. New second units will only be allowed at the back of a property. Central Avenue zoning will encourage mixed use buildings as that is what was requested in previous meetings with the community. In District 6, the Ralphs property is currently zoned C2. The proposed new designation would allow from two to five stories of mixed usage because this is within a transit-oriented zone. Some stakeholders thought that this would not fit into the R1 uses to the east of that property. The planners said that the Ralphs site is a targeted site because the property is so large and the only lot in that area which would allow for additional commercial for the neighborhood. Any building of a taller height would have stepbacks next to the R1 properties. As to marijuana clinics being added to the list of objectionable uses as liquor stores that are more regulated by City Planning, the planners said that City Planning had requested this but the City Attorney had said this was not currently possible. Concern was expressed about the new bike lanes along 120th Street which reduces that street essentially to one lane for cars in each direction. The planners mentioned

that Imperial Highway is proposed for bike lanes. Stakeholders were encouraged to review the draft CPIOs on-line and make their comments.

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 8:42 p.m.)

5) Habitat for Humanity home repair program: Josh Butler presented a as PowerPoint to explain Habitat for Humanity's home repair program for single family homes, mobile homes, and condominiums/townhomes which are lived in by the owners and where the homeowners are low income, demonstrate the need for the repairs, partner with Habitat for Humanity, and complete 24 sweat equity hours which may include participating in outreach events. They have now completed 183 projects. There are different criteria for non-veteran homeowners and veteran homeowners. Most of those completing the repairs are volunteers. Qualified homeowners can receive about \$10,000 to \$12,000 worth of repairs. If you remain in your home, you do not pay anything. If you move, then you are required to pay back the value of the repairs that were completed. Call (424) 246-3640 or e-mail rsanchez@habitatla.org for more information.

6) Approval of the July 23 Membership meeting minutes: It was moved by Mary Hinton, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 11-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

7) Treasurer's report: Treasurer Joan Jacobs presented the expenditures summary from July 1 to October 19, 2013. To date, the HGNNC has spent nearly \$8,988.53 of its allocated \$37,000. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 11-0 to approve the treasurer's report.

8) Announcements:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston