

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

135th Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

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), Mary Hinton (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative.), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Donald Cook (Outreach Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

1) Public Comment: Chair Delores Allmond read out a letter from City Attorney Mike Feuer which asks for the Neighborhood Council's help in enforcing Proposition D which prohibits the operation or establishment of a Medical Marijuana Business within one-thousand feet of a school. The HGNNC has already reported the two locations it knows of which are illegal because they are not among the 135 that had operated since September 2007. One is on Vermont Avenue in District 6 and one is on Gardena Blvd in District 1. The one in District 1 would also be within 1000 feet of a school.

2) Approval of the October 8 Board minutes and October 12 Special Board minutes: It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Rey Paduani and passed 10-0 to approve the minutes as presented. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 10-0 to approve the October 12 Special Board minutes as presented.

3) Treasurer's report: In the absence of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reviewed the monthly expenditure report for October 2013, with attached 2013-2014 approved budget as revised August 13, 2013. For the end of October, total HGNNC expenditures of the \$37,000 allocated are \$11,472.45, with \$25,527.55 remaining. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Mary Hinton, and passed 10-0-0 to accept the Treasurer's report.

3a. Approval of \$200 for holiday tree decorations along Hoover Street (District 4): Catherine Walker, Block Captain for the 135th Street Neighborhood Watch in District 4 requested that the HGNNC purchase red bows and aluminum foil for use in decorating the 114 street trees that the City of Los Angeles has planted along Hoover Street, next to the freeway sound wall, from El Segundo to Rosecrans Blvd. Catherine will coordinate passing out flyers about the tree decorating event and the flyers will acknowledge the HGNNC's support. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 10-0-0 to approve this expenditure for beautification and outreach.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

3b. Approval of \$500 for holiday tree decoration along two blocks of District 5: Addie Johnson of the Laconia Boulevard Block Club in District 5 requested that the HGNNC purchase red bows and aluminum foil for trees and street light poles along Laconia Blvd. from Vermont Avenue to Figueroa Street. She showed a sample greeting card that will be attached to the bows acknowledging the HGNNC support for this beautification event. Board members pointed out that it is illegal to put anything on a streetlight or telephone pole. Youth Representative Richard Lee who works for the Dept. of Public Works said that he will inquire if an exemption could be made for the holiday decorations. Elaine Simpson of the 121st Block Club in District 5 asked for the HGNNC to spend \$150 for red bows and aluminum foil for the trees and utility poles in their area. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Deborah Lee, and passed 11-0-0 to approve \$450 to for these expenditures for beautification and outreach on street trees only, unless an official exemption is received for the light poles and utility poles.

3c. Approval of \$2000 for a basketball training workshop in March in District 8 as a Neighborhood Purposed Grant to the Rhema Development Corporation: Donald Cook III, youth member of the Rhema Church, requested that the HGNNC fund a Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for Rhema Development Corp. to use for rental of equipment and for refreshments to support a mid-March 2014 basketball camp for those ages 7-17. The event will take place in the parking

lot of the Rhema Church, 11860 S. Avalon Blvd. in District 8. for all HGNNC youth. Youth from Rhema Church will deliver flyers to District 8 stakeholders. The Rhema Development Corp. is putting on its first basketball camp on December 28 from 11 am to 2 p.m. and the HGNNC sponsored one would be the second. The hope is that if successful, then eventually the church could purchase its own equipment and offer the basketball training on a regular basis as there are no parks or recreational facilities nearby. It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 10-0-1 to support this March basketball workshop via a Neighborhood Purposed Grant in the amount of \$2,000.

4) Appointment of an Ad Hoc Election Chair and Committee for the Sat. May 3, 2014, Board elections: It was moved by Donald Cook, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 11-0 to appoint DeWayne Lacy (District 2) as the Ad Hoc Election Chair and to appoint Donald Cook, Rosalie Preston, and Vanessa Johnson (District 7 stakeholder) as the Committee members.

5) Approval of the Standing Rules as recommended by the Bylaws Committee, including duties of the District Representatives, how to handle a motion for reconsideration, and procedures on returning HGNNC equipment before a Board election: The draft of the proposed three Standing Rules for duties of the District Representatives, procedure for motion of reconsideration, and procedure for returning HGNNC equipment/property before a Board election were reviewed as drafted by the Bylaws Committee on November 11 was presented. After discussion, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Mary Hinton, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the three items for the Standing Rules.

6) Consideration of cancelling the Tues. December 10 Board meeting: Chair Delores Allmond suggested cancelling the Tues. December Board meeting to give the Board a break. However, it was pointed out that the Election Stipulation Worksheet is due on November 22 and the new Ad Hoc Election Committee needs to meet first and then have the full Board approve the Worksheet. Alternate dates for a short Board meeting were discussed, but in the end, it was moved by Betty Hawkins, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 1-10-0 to oppose cancelling the December 10 Board meeting and to have a short meeting on the regularly scheduled Board meeting date of Tues. December 10.

7) Approval of the funding application form for non-profits and other groups to apply for funding from HGNNC: The draft form which was prepared by the Finance Committee was reviewed. It was moved by Donald Cook, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 11-0-0 to adopt the form to assist the Finance Committee and Board evaluate proposed applications for HGNNC funding from outside groups.

8) Approval of the funding application for the eight internal HGNNC Districts: The draft form which was prepared by the Finance Committee was reviewed. A separate form will be used for each proposed project by a District and presented to the Finance Committee by April 1 of each year to aid in preparation of the HGNNC fiscal year budget and to assist the Board when considering funding proposals from each of the eight Districts. It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 11-0

9) Follow-up on HGNNC strategic planning: Chair Delores Allmond reviewed the action points which need follow-up from the Sat. October 12 Board Retreat. The Board was happy to note that one of the actions has already been taken, to create duties for the District Representatives. Others to be worked on are reporting on Strategic Plan progress at each Executive Committee and Board meeting, Executive Committee to draft the mission and vision statement for Board approval, delegating tasks to achieve the various Strategic actions, clarify duties of all Board members, organize a training meeting for District Representatives, which may include having them draft a survey for stakeholders, setting a date for an internal communications workshop, setting quarterly trainings for the Board on needed topics, creating an administrative "to do" list with dates and people responsible for various actions, and reviewing the summary of Board goals as expressed in the on-line survey taken before the October 12 Board retreat.

10) Letter on traffic issues along 135th Street between Hoover and Vermont during the after school hours: District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins asked that the Board send a letter to the Dept. of Transportation, Council District 15, Principal of the 135th Street School Dr. Pablo Osorio, and the LAPD

to officially request that all work together to reduce the dangerous traffic issues along 135th Street south of the 135th Street School, particularly during the drop off and after school pick up times. Parents are parking illegally and double-parking, large trucks are using the street, which is a violation, there is speeding of cars, and additionally illegal vendors are encouraging children to go into the street when there is heavy traffic. Betty has been working on the valet parking for the school. Dr. Osorio has already had a special meeting for the parents on the various issues and how they can help. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paudani, and passed 11-0-0 to send such a letter.

11) Update on HGNNC projects (Halloween Carnival at Rosecrans Recreation Center, Clean Up Day in District 8, Figueroa Corridor Business Breakfast on January 16): Rey Paduani, Delores Allmond, Rosalie Preston, Richard Lee, and Joan Jacobs represented the HGNNC at the Rosecrans Recreation Center Halloween Carnival on October 31 and helped judge the costume contests for the various age groups. Richard Lee also served as the costume contest MC and helped give additional publicity to the Neighborhood Council. Hundreds of children and parents attended and enjoyed the carnival games, bouncer and slide, hot dogs, candy, and costume contest.

Mary Hinton reported that for a first effort, the District 8 Clean Up Day on November 2 went smoothly though more stakeholder involvement would have been appreciated. 820 flyers were passed out by Mary Hinton, Deborah Lee, Rosalie Preston, Joan Jacobs, Richard Lee, and District 7 stakeholder Vanessa Johnson. About 42 large bags of trash and weeds were collected. 27 Board members, Clean and Green volunteers from the L.A. Conservation Corps, and District 8 stakeholders participated, plus GAP surveyed the area for graffiti removal, District 4 stakeholder Ray Washington of PhoneSells collected a truck-load of electronic waste, and the one large dumpster parked next to Rhema Church was filled to over-flowing. A number of stakeholders asked to repeat the Clean Up Day in the spring.

The Figueroa Corridor Business Breakfast has been set for Thurs. January 16 to accommodate Councilman Buscaino's schedule. It will be held in the upstairs training center at WSS, 13425 S. Figueroa Street from 7:30 to 9 a.m.

12) Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of November 6: The L.A. City Fire Department is working on its first ever strategic plan and asks for Neighborhood Councils to have stakeholders take the on-line survey before December 1. Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Amber Meshack reported on the Sat. May 3 Board elections/selections in the Harbor Area. A goal of 1% of a Neighborhood Councils population has been set for the number of voters, which means that Harbor Gateway North's goal will be 309 voters. The new checking system should be in place in January, with Union Bank being the selected vendor. The two Budget Advocates for the Harbor Area are Craig Goldfarb from Northwest San Pedro, Joan Jacobs from Harbor Gateway North, and Kali Merideth from Central San Pedro as the alternate. City Controller Ron Galperin wants to have a Town Hall meeting in the Harbor Area later in January. Harbor Gateway South is sponsoring CERT training at Normandale Recreation Center, 22400 Halldale Avenue, starting Monday January 6 for six weeks, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. State Senator Rod Wright stopped by and in answer to questions about fracking by oil companies, mentioned the State website for DOGGR, Dept. of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources. Rosalie has since looked at the site and noticed that there are many capped and inactive oil wells under District 5 and even some under the apartment buildings along the south side of El Segundo Blvd. in District 4.

11) Announcements: Joan Jacobs reported that the Budget Advocates have met once and will meet again on Mon. November 18 and later meet with various City Departments. The Mayor's proposed budget is due by January 17.

Llewyn Fowlkes, District 5 Representative, read out a memo from Alvin LaBostrie, President of the Athens on the Hill Community Association in District 5, regarding the decision to withdraw their request for 2013-2014 funding of the Laconia Blvd. median enhancement project.

Rey Paduani, District 3 Representative, said that the re-opening of the sports fields at Rosecrans Recreation Center in District 3 is still not certain but is estimated to be sometime around late November.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary