

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

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

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Ramon Montoya (District 1), 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), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Donald Cook (Outreach Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond, followed by the salute to the flag, and a moment of silent reflection.

1) Public Comment: There was no public comment.

3) Approval of the February 11 Board minutes: It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.
(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:18 p.m.)

4) Treasurer's report: Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the monthly expenditure report for February 2014. As of the end of February, total HGNNC expenditures of the \$37,000 allocated are \$16,181.10, with \$20,818.90 remaining. It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 14-0-0 to accept the Treasurer's report.

5) May 6 Board election update: Ad Hoc Election Committee member Rosalie Preston reported that so far eight candidates have filed for the Board seats and 29 vote-by-mail forms have been returned for submittal to the City Clerk's office. Two candidates have encountered a delay in their verification due to the City Clerk's interpretation of the verification rules in regards to relevant organizations and whether they are located within HGNNC boundaries, even though the candidates live within the HGNNC boundaries. Mon. March 24 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for filing candidate applications. Vote-by-Mail forms can be received until April 28. The Candidate Recruitment flyer was delivered by CIPS Marketing door-to-door on Sun. March 9 but many reported not receiving it. There will be a first informal recruitment meeting for interested potential candidates on Sat. March 15 from 2-3 p.m. at the Gateway Crossroads Shopping Center, with the Subway franchise owner donating a dozen cookies.

6) Update on Rosecrans 3D Imaging Project property issues, citywide fracking moratorium update, public records requests, and April Public Forum/Town Hall on property damage and ground subsidence issues: Lawrence Cuaresma, Engineer from the Bureau of Engineering – Harbor Area, said he had been sent by Jacob Haik, Council District 15 Deputy Chief of Staff, to explain that it was Mr. Cuaresma's error in telling Jacob that there was no permit taken out by L.A. Seismic for the sound wave testing that occurred during August 2013 as part of the Rosecrans 3D Imaging Project. The permit was issued in May 2013.

A year before that, Nodal Seismic had conducted a similar sound wave testing project under Wilmington. For the testing, small yellow sensors are inserted into the street. Then a large truck creates vibrations which the sensors receive and use to create a map of the underground structures. The truck has a computer which receives the data. For the Wilmington Project, Nodal Seismic was working on behalf of Lawrence Resources. At that time, Nodal presented a

12-page hand-out which the Bureau of Engineering used to determine that the testing would not cause damage to properties. The U-permits or Utility permits are normally given for work by private companies doing work in the public right-of-way. Because the sensors are not permanent, the Bureau of Engineering was not sure that a permit was needed. Therefore, a new type of permit was created so that the Bureau of Engineering's staff oversight time could be charged. Mr. Cuaresma said that he would e-mail a copy of the U-permit issued to Breitburn Energy Partners to the HGNNC.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

Diane Ripley, Communications/Public Relations for L.A. Seismic, said that Breitburn Energy Partners had hired L.A. Seismic to do the sound wave testing. Breitburn Energy Partners owns the mineral rights below our properties. The seismic test creates a 3D map of the below-ground area. The large truck which moves down a street pushes energy into the ground. The ultrasound wave is forced into the ground. Diane said that a geophysicist could explain the process better than she can. The truck has a computer to receive the data. The nodes which were previously inserted into the ground are removed and the holes that were created are filled up. Diane has been to six homes of HGNNC residents who have reported claims of having cracked interior and exterior walls and concrete driveways. She has hired a forensic structural engineer to evaluate the damage. He takes pictures and measurements and will write up a report. He will send the original to the homeowner and a copy to Diane. The seismic testing trucks were on the streets for eight to nine days in August 2013, so Diane is not sure why residents are still complaining about having new cracking and vibrations. She is concerned that HGNNC stakeholders are mentioning fracking. Breitburn Energy never uses fracking. They may consolidate wells and do cross-directional drilling. She has been trying to get a list of properties where damage has supposedly occurred. She has asked the HGNNC for a list but not received one. Meanwhile the press have contacted her and they told her they have the list.

A Board member asked if the Rosecrans 3D Imaging Project report will be shared. Diane said it would be sent to the U.S. Geological Survey and through them the HGNNC could get a copy. Notices of the work were sent out in August 2013 to properties within a 600 foot radius from where the nodes were inserted. An hour before the actual testing, a crew was sent down each street and knocked on doors to notify residents. Lawrence Cuaresma said that he now realizes that there needs to be formal notice to a Neighborhood Council in advance of such a project.

(Lawrence Cuaresa, Diane Ripley, and Donald Cook left the meeting at 8:15)

2) Introduction of Thomas Soong, new NEA for DONE: The new Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate for the HGNNC, Thomas Soong, introduced himself. He knows many of the HGNNC Board members from having led our 2012 Board retreat at the Home Assembly Church and also from various DONE workshops and annual Congress of Neighborhoods. He asked about the voter turnout goal for the Tues. May 6 Board election, which is 200, which would be a 27% increase. He reported that recent NC Board elections in the Valley have had turnouts of over 600 and 700 stakeholders. Treasurer Joan Jacobs expressed concern that DONE has not been able to mobilize the City's clout to put public service announcements on the radio or get advertisements in the L.A. Times about the Board elections. Tom said that DONE provides the structure to assist Neighborhood Councils to focus on their community issues. At the first Board meeting after the HGNNC Board election has been certified (June 10), he will provide an orientation/training to the new Board. He also reminded the Board that the Congress of Neighborhoods takes place Sat. September 20 and Board members are invited to help plan for it and to create and lead workshops.

(Marvin Bell and Mary Hinton left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.)

6) Update on Rosecrans 3D Imaging Project property issues, citywide fracking moratorium update, public records requests, and April Public Forum/Town Hall on property damage and ground subsidence issues (continuations): Rosalie Preston reported on the PLUM Committee meeting at City Hall on February 25 which she, Llewyn Fowlkes, and District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson attended. There was an overflow crowd and the Committee of two unanimously approved moving the fracking moratorium (13-1152-S1) to the full City Council. The City Council passed the motion unanimously 10-0 on February 28, with five Councilmembers absent, including Councilman Joe Buscaino, who was in Washington D.C. Three other Neighborhood Councils had filed Community Impact Statements in support of the motion besides the HGNNC (which was the first to do so). Rosalie pointed out that residents of the Esperanza Housing project thanked Councilman Gil Cedillo at the PLUM hearing because his staff had taken the time to contact each of the affected residents individually for their oil well-related issues. The HGNNC has so far not seen that level of support from CD 15. The PLUM and City Council also passed Councilman Bernard Parks' motion 13-1152 which provides for establishment of land use regulations and zoning laws that would ensure that public health and safety is protected from the negative impacts of fracking activities. There was some discussion of when to schedule the Public Forum/Town Hall on the various oil testing and drilling issues within the HGNNC which stakeholders have reported to the HGNNC Board and what type of speakers to invite.

9) Report on HGNNC activities and events (Saturday Feb. 15 re-opening ceremony at Rosecrans Recreation Center): Because a stakeholder needed to leave and wanted to hear more about the Rosecrans Recreation Center Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on Sat. February 15, the details of this event were discussed.

4a.) Approval of \$200 for Youth Leadership materials from Toastmasters: Richard Lee reported that the Toastmasters Youth Leadership program should be scheduled for Rosecrans Recreation Center sometime in April on a weekday evening. The requested funds will cover coordinator guides, award ribbons, stopwatch, and approximately \$40 for a banner to advertise the program outside Rosecrans Recreation Center. It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 6-0-0 to spend up to \$200 to support the Youth Leadership Academy program.

7) Update on a Board meeting with Councilman Buscaino: A copy of the list of issues which the HGNNC compiled via consultation with the District Representatives was given out to Board members. The list was submitted to Field Deputy Daisy Ybarra on March 5 and no response on a potential date has been received yet.

8) Approval of a letter recommending HGNNC budget priorities: Since there doesn't seem to be any other sort of budget priorities survey this time, the HGNNC has drafted a list of budget priorities based on the types of service requests that stakeholders have made to the HGNNC over the past year or so. Therefore, it was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 11-0-0 to send a letter with this listing to Councilmembers Joe Buscaino and Bernard Parks and to Mayor Eric Garcetti for their use in the upcoming 2014-2015 budget deliberations.

9) Report on HGNNC activities and events (Sat. Feb. 15 re-opening ceremony at Rosecrans Recreation Center; District 7 clean up day on April 5, and HGNNC Strategic Plan): The Rosecrans Recreation Center re-opening ceremony for the sports fields was very well-attended

and all 500 hot dogs provided by the HGNNC were eaten. The HGNNC staffed a booth and signed up a number of stakeholders for vote-by-mail.

Rosario Rico thanked the Board for voting funding for a District 7 clean up day on Sat. April 5. She and Rosalie contacted all of the churches located along Main Street; Second Zion Missionary Baptist Church will host the event in their parking lot and provide a bathroom and indoor room for lunch while True Love Missionary Baptist Church has agreed to coordinate their church spruce-up day for that same Saturday morning. Rosario is working with CD 15 Field Deputy Daisy Ybarra on arranging for Clean and Green and four dumpsters to be placed around the neighborhood.

The HGNNC Executive Committee decided that further work on the HGNNC Strategic Plan will be postponed until after the May 6 Board election because of more pressing priorities in March and April.

Rosario mentioned the March 1 Planning and Land Use Committee meeting at 118th Street School which was intended to focus on the proposed new zoning for Main Street from 120th Street to the 105 Freeway, as well as other sections of the new South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans. Three City planners were present. She, Vanessa Johnson, Rosalie Preston, and Thomasina Curry hand-delivered 300 bi-lingual flyers to homes to the east and west of Main Street, there was a robo-call to District 6, 7, and 8 residents, and an e-mail notice, with just nine District 7 residents showing up. There is still no clear consensus on what residents would like to see along Main Street. Therefore one more informal meeting will be scheduled before the next Planning and Land Use Committee. Also, Rosario has been appointed to the Southeast Community Plan Advisory Board and has attended a meeting along with nine others. She advocated for adequate parking, more green spaces, and more retail in the new Community Plan.

10) Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of March 5: The main topic was a discussion of fracking issues by Alex Nagy of Food and Water Watch (amount of water used, watershed contamination from the chemicals used with the water to break apart the shale rock, property damage from the earth movement, earthquakes, and release of volatile organic compounds into the air which are cancer causing) and Glenn Swanson, Petroleum Engineer, Sterling Engineering, who presented a PowerPoint on how oil drilling and fracking are done. He said that only Wilmington has had fracking below ground because of a section of shale rock there, whereas the rest of the ground below the South Bay is sandstone which does not require fracking for easy oil and gas removal.

11) Announcements: District 3 Representative Rey Paduani noted that the illegal food vending is still going on in front of Rosecrans recreation Center with an electrical cord being run from one of the houses on 149th Street.

Rosalie Preston distributed the flyer that is intended for local businesses encouraging them to provide a job for a youth ages 14-24 this summer. Mayor Eric Garcetti's goal is to hire 10,000 young people and provide them some job readiness training and job support. The HGNNC will e-mail this flyer to the Figueroa Corridor businesses and give out to some businesses along Gardena Blvd. and the Gateway Crossroads Shopping Center on Redondo Beach Blvd. The flyer for youth with job sign up information will be out by late March or early April.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary