

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2015
135th Street School, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Vice Chair), 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), Shirley Johnson (District 8), and Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative)

In the absence of Chair Delores Allmond, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Pamela Thornton.

1) Public Comment: Fire Dept. Captain Brian Jones of the Harbor Bureau introduced himself. The Harbor Bureau runs from San Pedro to the USC area and from Century City to the eastern boundaries of the City. It encompasses three battalions. He encouraged sponsoring of and attendance at CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes. He noted that all fireworks are illegal in the City of Los Angeles. The drought has impacted the Fire Department as now training classes in the use of fire hoses cannot use actual water. He announced a Community Safety Fair on Sat. August 22 at Fire Station 65 at 1801 E. Century Blvd.

2) Adoption of the Planning and Land Use Committee recommendation to support the proposed subdivision of one R1-1 parcel into two R1-1 lots, including a variance of the 20 foot width driveway and frontage for 17216 S. Hoover Street in District 1: Planning and Land Use Chair Pamela Thornton said that after hearing from two realtors and nearby neighbors, it was the unanimous recommendation of the Planning and Land Use Committee to support the proposed subdivision of 17216, an R1-1 parcel, into two R1-1 lots. The realtors, Mina Semenza of Nakaoka Realty in Gardena and Jimmie Williams, District 1 stakeholder, realtor, and also a former Board member, both said that currently the property is considered a duplex and the cost of a multi-unit property made it more likely that it would be purchased by an investor for all cash and then each unit rented out. Therefore, a subdivision would make it more likely for the future purchasers to be homeowners. Also, the property would be more valuable as two R1-1 lots, which would add value to the neighborhood. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 to support the subdivision.

3) Approval of the July 14 Board minutes: It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Adrian Valenzuela, and passed 9-0-0 (with Vice Chair Pamela Thornton voting) to approve the July 14 Board minutes as presented.

4) Treasurer's report on expenditures to date and July monthly expenditure report: In the absence of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Rosalie Preston presented the July monthly expenditure report showing total expenditures of \$1,011.20. Board members asked to have more details of the 2014-2015 final expenditures and what exactly was left at the end of that fiscal year, which Rosalie said would be presented in September. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the July monthly expenditure report.

4a. Approval of up to \$500 to support refreshments for the Sat. October 24 Harvest Health Fair at the 135th Street School in District 4: 135th Street School teacher Valgene Pavageau, asked for support for the 2nd annual Harvest Health Fair, which will be held on the campus on Sat. October 24.

(Deborah Lee entered the meeting at 7:58 p.m.)

This year there will be a greater emphasis on healthy foods and health information. The Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council had a booth at last year's fair and will have one again at this year's. Fifteen of the twenty booths already have vendors. The support from the HGNNC would help pay for boxed or bagged lunches for 400 people. Some Board members expressed concern that the 135th Street School unfairly receives a lot of support each year compared to the other schools located within the HGNNC boundaries. Vice Chair Pamela Thornton asked that this item be referred to the Finance Committee for further review, after Ms. Parvenu has completed an HGNNC funding form.

4b. Approval of up to \$1,100 for a 4-drawer, 42" wide lateral file cabinet for the HGNNC office: Rosalie explained that after researching new file cabinets near the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year, she had determined that one 4-drawer lateral cabinet would better fit in the HGNNC office than two 2-drawer cabinets. Some Board members questioned the cost of such a cabinet and Rosalie explained that the proposed amount covers tax and shipping and that a quality metal cabinet would be a little more expensive but hold up longer. There was also a question as to why the cabinet(s) had not been purchased out of the 2014-2015 funds. Vice Chair Pamela Thornton recommended tabling this item until comparisons of various file cabinets could be made.

4c. Approval of up to \$300 for 48" wire shelving for the HGNNC office: This item was also tabled due to some Board members questioning the amount.

4d. Approval of up to \$1,200 to support the Sat. October 10 Board Retreat at the Holiday Inn-Torrance: Rosalie is working with Marites Benosa of the Holiday Inn-Torrance to create a contract which the City Attorney working with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment can approve before the event. It is estimated that about 22 will attend, including most Board members and a small number of active stakeholders who are part of Standing Committees. The suggested amount is similar to last year's cost (although a number of Board members did not attend and yet never notified the Committee so that the luncheon charges could be cancelled). Pamela suggested adding a little more, just in case there is higher attendance this year. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 9-0-0 to approve up to \$1,500 to cover the costs of the Sat. October 10 Board Retreat at the Holiday Inn-Torrance.

4e. Approval of up to \$370 for ten 15 inch antennas, one replacement battery, and Kenwood installation software for HGNNC Ham radios: Rosalie said that both Ham City, where the three new Kenwood Ham radios were recently purchased, and the members of the Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club recommend having a longer antenna for the Kenwood radios to increase their range during emergencies. It is also recommended to purchase the Kenwood software so that all radios can be programmed with the most commonly used frequencies. One battery for one of the older radios was damaged some years ago by moisture and needs to be replaced. The HGNNC will now have ten Kenwood radios to loan out on long-term loan to those stakeholders who are FCC licensed and agree to participate in HGNNC call ins and other activities to be prepared for a major emergency. It was moved by Deborah Lee, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 9-0-0 to approve up to \$370 for ten 15 inch antennas, one replacement battery, and Kenwood installation software for the HGNNC Ham radios.

5. Support for filing a Community Impact Statement in favor of File No. 15-0524 to allow a Neighborhood Council more time to speak when presenting issues to the City Council, its committees, commissions and Boards: Rosalie explained that for many years, Neighborhood Councils have asked to have more time when presenting their positions on various issues before the City Council, its committees, commissions, and Boards, in recognition of their status as official elected bodies of the City of Los Angeles charged with advocating on behalf of the needs

of their stakeholders. It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 9-0-0 to support File No. 15-0524 in relation to the issue of granting up to five minutes, separate from general public comment, for a certified Neighborhood Council or Neighborhood Council Alliance representative to present the official view of the Neighborhood Council Board or Alliance on issues to the City Council, its committees, commissions, and Boards, and to receive priority as City entities and be called for comment before general public comment. A Community Impact Statement to that effect will be filed.

6) Support for filing a Community Impact Statement in favor of File No. 15-0389, which would allow a Neighborhood Council more time to speak when presenting issues to the City Council, its committees, commissions and Boards: It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 to support File No. 15-0389 which would amend the Council rules allowing for official representatives of Neighborhood Councils or Neighborhood Council Alliances to address the City Council, its committees, City commissions, and Boards with sufficient time of at least five minutes to present the official view of their Neighborhood Council Boards or Alliances on the decisions to be made on projects that directly affect their communities.

7) Update on HGNNC activities, including National Night Out on August 4, Days of Dialogue event, Ham radio training, and upcoming planning and land use issues: Community Organization Representative Deborah Lee, who also helped to organize the event as President of the Southeast Volunteers, reported that 3,200 people attended National Night Out on August 4 and there were 72 vendors, including the HGNNC. Councilman Buscaino was out of town, but Mayor Eric Garcetti attended and also Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

The HGNNC under the leadership of Youth Representative Richard Lee, is planning a Days of Dialogue session within HGNNC boundaries and has voted up to \$500 at the July 28 General Membership meeting to support this. No date has yet been selected but it is hoped that it can take place at one of the HGNNC churches, such as Bel-Vue Community Presbyterian Church.

Rey Paduani, Rosalie Preston, and Wendy Talaro, who all are FCC licensed Ham radio operators, attended the August 2 meeting of the Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club at the Sheriff's Youth Foundation, 11911 S. Vermont Avenue, where they were warmly welcomed to the group. Club members have suggested frequencies for the HGNNC to use as their call in frequency and also will offer help in setting up a tower within the HGNNC to better facilitate a network. The HGNNC now has seven licensed operators, with five having the Kenwood TH-F6ra radios on long-term loan. The Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club plans to offer another FCC license class and test later this fall. There are at least eight to ten HGNNC stakeholders interested in taking it.

In regards to current Planning and Land Use issues, the PLU Committee will most likely meet again on Tues. September 1 to take a position on the 7-Eleven at 501 W. El Segundo Blvd. after Athens on the Hill Community Association has met with the applicant's representative Armen Ross. The hearing is set for Wed. September 16 at City Hall at 12 noon. The appeal hearing on the Planning Department's determination for the 7-Eleven at 600 E. Imperial Highway has not yet been set. The letter of support for the 12 small-lot houses at 16101 S. Figueroa Street has been sent, however, now that property is for sale. The developers/owners say that they are overstretched financially with other projects and also have concerns that they were never told about the former leaking gasoline fuel tank on the property when they purchased it about two years ago. The 80 affordable housing units for veterans and the homeless at 16304 S. Vermont Avenue should be opening soon and the HGNNC will try to get notification of the ceremony. The appeal by Mark and Erica Hall of the proposed cell tower and Above Ground Facility in the

parkway next to their home at 805 W. 173rd Street in District 1 was sustained by the Board of Public Works. Meanwhile, at the August 8 PlanCheckNC meeting, Vanessa Johnson and Rosalie Preston learned that state legislation AB57 (supported by the communication utilities) is nearing approval which would take away any right to appeal any such future proposals by stating that siting of a wireless telecommunications facility would be deemed approved if the city or county fails to approve or disapprove the application within the time periods established by the Public Utilities Commission.

8) Announcements: Betty Hawkins announced that the Board and stakeholders are invited to the 17th annual Officer Appreciation Luncheon and community planters dedication on Mon. August 17 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the home of Catherine Walker in District 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary