

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 2015
135th Street School, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chair), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewlyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Shirley Johnson (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

1) Public Comment: Sylvia Moore, Southern California organizer for California Common Cause, noted that the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission is proposing strengthening public financing of City primary and general elections by increasing the matching funds for small donor contributions to six to one from the current two to one. The Commission would also increase the total amount which a candidate could receive. The Public Hearing on this proposed change will be held on September 18.

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins reported that the AQMD has placed dust catchers at the homes of several residents living along 149th Street in District 3 and also placed one at California Waste Services to see if there is evidence that the dust found in the backyards of residences is from the construction recycling that California Waste Services performs. The lab analysis will take two to three weeks. If evidence of hazardous materials is found in the samples, then California Waste Services will be fined. She also noted that there is recycled materials outside the CWS property.

2) Position on the proposed 24-hour 7-Eleven at 501 W. El Segundo Blvd., in District 5, ZA-2015-1551-CU; ENV-2015-1552-MND, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee, with CD 15 presentation on the issue: Pamela Thornton, Planning and Land Use Chair, said that the Planning and Land Use Committee met on September 1. Council District 15 had said they would send a representative but didn't and then had said they would send someone to tonight's meeting to report on their meeting with the 7-Eleven corporate offices regarding the proposed new 24-hour 7-Eleven at 501 W. El Segundo Blvd. District 5 Representative Llewlyn Fowlkes said that Athens on the Hill Community Association had met with 7-Eleven representatives Armen Ross and Michael Stewart on August 18. Lu Watson, District 5 stakeholder and Secretary for the Athens on the Hill Community Association, pointed out the sixteen conditions agreed to by 7-Eleven at that meeting. These are listed at the end of the draft HGNNC letter on the 7-Eleven at 501 W. El Segundo Blvd. She pointed out that the Planning and Land Use Committee had adopted the recommended conditions which she presented at the September 1 meeting and hoped that the full Board would do the same.

Pamela then read out an e-mail from the Council District 15 Community Planning Deputy Heather Anderson, which had been sent in the afternoon before the Board meeting. The Council Office and LAPD support 24-hour operation with certain conditions. Heather pointed out that although the sixteen conditions were agreed to by 7-Eleven and the Athens on the Hill Community Association on September 1, a number of them cannot be legally required in the conditional use permit, such as the provision of fresh foods. Local hire cannot be legally required; this is something that is worked out for those projects receiving public subsidy. However 7-Eleven says that they will make this a priority. Heather also pointed out that the issue of whether the soil has been properly remediated under the property will be looked into, but is something that should have been brought to the addition of the City sooner. LAPD will work with 7-Eleven on placement of the interior and exterior security cameras. Capt. Al Pasos of

Southeast Division LAPD and Councilman Buscaino support having an on-site security guard from 6-10 p.m. for the first 90 days. After that, they will consult with stakeholders as to what is needed. The LAPD and CD 15 see no justification for not allowing e-cigarette sales. Heather suggested combining the conditions related to sexually explicit magazines and products into one condition. She also pointed out that it is not legally possible to require a community benefits agreement as part of a conditional use permit. However, she noted that 7-Eleven has committed to a commitment to the community and to developing relationships with local organizations. CD 15 will also have a condition related to exterior lighting.

After further discussion about the details of the HGNNC letter, it was moved by Llewlyn Fowlkes, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 10-0-2 (Preston, R. Lee) to adopt the Planning and Land Use Committee recommendation to oppose 24-hour operation and include the 29 listed recommended conditions in their entirety.

3) Appointment of Wendy Talaro as the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Representative, with report on the August 29 meeting:

Wendy Talaro, a District 2 stakeholder, presented her background in written format. She is a graduate of Peary Middle School and Gardena High School. She studied environmental studies at UC Santa Cruz and has an M.A. in ecological agriculture. She has worked as a sustainable landscape and garden designer. The August 29 Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance meeting featured the Dept. of Water and Power presentation on the need for rate increases. Tree People also discussed their 2,500 gallon pilot above-ground cistern program. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 12-0-0 to appoint Wendy Talaro as the HGNNC Sustainability Alliance representative.

4) Approval of the August 11 Board minutes: It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Adrian Valenzuela, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the August 11 Board minutes as presented.

5) Treasurer's report on expenditures to date and August monthly expenditure report: In the absence of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Rosalie Preston reviewed the August monthly expenditure report showing total expenditures of \$4,109.68 during August. Total expenditures for the 2015-2016 fiscal year now total \$5,120.88, with \$31,879.12 remaining of the \$37,000 allocated for the fiscal year. It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the August monthly expenditure report. Rosalie noted that the HGNNC is saving more than \$50 per month on the telephone bill, as when she saw how much AT&T is charging for the new voicemail system, she cancelled it and set up the office telephone answering machine to record messages. She also reported that it is now official that each Neighborhood Council is allocated an additional \$5,000. Therefore, the Finance Committee will meet before the October 13 Board meeting to draft a revised 2015-2016 budget of \$42,000. District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins wants to investigate why the HGNNC has to pay to use the 135th Street School for meetings when some other Neighborhood Councils and organizations do not have to. District 6 Representative Marvin Bell commented that the custodian is paid to stay until 9:30 p.m. whether a group meets at a school or not.

5a. Report on 2014-2015 final balance issue: LAUSD was issued two checks for permit invoices in late June but only cashed one in late August. After a number of telephone calls to LAUSD and to the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment Funding representative Mario Hernandez, Rosalie believes that the last check to LAUSD from 2014-2015 funds will clear any day now. This will leave the 2014-2015 funds balance at \$79.97. The August report from DONE mistakenly listed the amount swept as including the money still owed to LAUSD. The money will not be swept until the 2014-2015 account is closed after that last check clears.

6) Review of the HGNNC Self-Assessment for 2014-2015: The draft Self-Assessment was reviewed. The data was compiled from the HGNNC stakeholder database, review of listed items in the budget, count of Constant Contact e-mails sent, number of robo-calls, number of agendas posted, etc. Two minor changes in wording were made. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Llewlyn Fowlkes, and passed 11-1 (Richard Lee)-0 to approve the Self-Assessment for 2014-2015 with the corrections.

7) Update on the Days of Dialogue program sponsored by HGNNC re: dates venue, and outreach: Youth Representative Richard Lee said that he is considering use of an area church or school as the venue. Pamela Thornton noted that the church location must be one that does not display a religious symbol, per the guidelines of the City Attorney. Richard is looking at a Thursday evening or Saturday morning, probably in January. The Dialogue will bring people together to discuss the future of police-community relations. An LAPD officer will need to be present as part of the Dialogue. Pamela suggested that Councilman Joe Buscaino be asked to participate. Richard asked that appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee be put on the October 13 Board agenda.

(Adrian Valenzuela left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.)

8) Report on the proposed HGNNC-sponsored Financial Literacy workshop for youth: Richard Lee said that his fraternity Phi Delta Sigma Chapter is willing to sponsor this but needs to know the target audience, date, and location. Phi Delta Sigma has a relationship with Wells Fargo Bank. A date in March or April was suggested. An Ad Hoc Committee will be appointed at the October 13 Board meeting.

9) Report on the August 31 Neighborhood Council Presidents' meeting with Councilman Buscaino: Since Chair Delores Allmond was not able to go to this meeting, Vice Chair Pamela Thornton attended. She raised the issue of California Waste Services at 621 W. 152nd Street in District 3 and the dust from recycled construction debris that blows outside its property. Councilman Buscaino said that as an AQMD Board member, he has gotten a dust net and misters installed along the 110 Harbor Freeway. Deputy District Director Jacob Haik has visited the site to make a field assessment. At the Councilman's request, the AQMD will make a presentation to the HGNNC Board. When Pamela asked if there was any evidence of toxic materials being found in the dust particles, the Council office said that the AQMD was still investigating this. Pamela also raised the issue of the two 7-Eleven convenience stores coming into the Harbor Gateway North area. The Councilman said that the San Pedro 7-Eleven has had some crime issues and also a request to sell alcoholic beverages after being open for a while. He said that his office supports 7-Elevens opening as 24-hour operations but would require that they have a security guard and cameras tied in with the LAPD. She also raised the issue of the continued illegal dumping on Main Street south of Imperial Highway. The Council Office noted that Caltrans and Union Pacific are not good neighbors and difficult to work with when their right-of-ways in our area need clean up.

10) Request for a meeting on issues related to upkeep of the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd. with Council District 15 staff, Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council, and the Department of General Services: Rosalie explained that recently the Council District 15 Field Deputy John Jones III was investigating issues along Gardena Blvd. and noted the poor condition of the interior and front garden of the Harbor Gateway Community Center at 802 W. Gardena Blvd. The HGNNC previously sent a letter to

the Council office on October 16, 2014, requesting a meeting on this issue. Therefore, Mr. Jones suggested writing a follow-up letter to set up a meeting. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 11-0-0 to write a letter to CD 15 requesting a meeting relating to upkeep of the Harbor Gateway Community Center.

11) Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of September 2: The Dept. of Water and Power gave a presentation on the need for a rate increase. Most low water use customers (Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the new four-tier schedule) will see about a \$100 increase per year after several years of small increases. The new Harbor area deputy for Mayor Garcetti is Manny Lopez. The former deputy, Octaviano Rios, now works for the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment. He gave the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment report, asking that each Neighborhood Council appoint both a Public Works representative and also an Animal Services representative.

12) Announcements: The Congress of Neighborhoods will be held on Sat. September 26 from 7:45 am to 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. Breakfast and lunch are free, as are the many workshops relating to outreach, leadership skills, and developing your planning and land use knowledge. Board members and stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

People for Community Improvement as part of the Athens/Willowbrook Neighborhood Empowerment Coalition is sponsoring B2B Networking Breakfast on Thurs. September 24 from 7:30 am to 9 am at 13301 S. Main Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary