

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2016
135th Street School, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Acting Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Acting Chair Pamela Thornton. She reviewed locations of the fire alarms and routes for evacuation and pointed out the adopted Code of Civility printed on the back of the agenda. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

1) Public Comment: William Jackson, newly elected Trustee of the South Vermont Baptist Church in District 4, introduced himself. He said that the church plans to become more involved with the community. He also introduced Deacon Robert Doss. They would like to see street sweeping along Vermont Avenue.

Youth Representative Richard Lee announced that as of Sat. January 23, he will be retiring from his position as a Public Relations Representative with the City of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works for 31 years. He invites the Board to attend his retirement party which will be held sometime in February and also the Board of Public Works presentation of a certificate to him on Fri. January 22 in the Board of Public Works Room at City Hall.

2) Approval of a letter of support for a variance to pave a LADWP right-of-way to create employee parking for the Jonathan Louis furniture company, 544 W. 130th Street in District 4 (APN6132-003-900): Rosalie Preston, Secretary of the Planning and Land Use Committee read out a draft letter of support for the variance to pave the right-of-way, based on the fact that Jonathan Louis is an expanding business in the Figueroa Corridor industrial area and has been seeking additional employee parking for several years, there is no impact to the residential neighborhoods on the west side of the 110 Harbor Freeway, and the DWP has already approved the lease of the easement under their power lines for this purpose for a period of ten years. When asked, District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins reaffirmed that she has no objection to this variance. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 (with Acting Chair Pamela Thornton voting) to support the request for the variance.

3) Approval of the December 8 Board minutes: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Deborah Lee, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the minutes as corrected (with Acting Chair Pamela Thornton voting).

4) Treasurer's report on expenditures to date and December monthly expenditure report: Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the draft December 2015 Monthly Expenditure Report with eleven items which totaled \$2,028.44. \$30,802.78 remains of the \$42,000 allocated for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Joan asked all District Representatives to draft budgets for any additional projects they are planning to propose and send them to her before the Sat. January 30 Finance Committee meeting. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 9-0-0 (with Acting Chair Pamela Thornton voting) to approve the Treasurer's report.

4a. Approval of up to \$1,000 to Richard Platkin on a fee for service basis for Planning and Land Use advice: Rosalie Preston, Secretary of the Planning and Land Use Committee, explained that the Committee decided that retired City Planner Richard Platkin's professional advice on some key Planning and Land Use issues, including the proposal for 15 single-family homes at 17236 S. Hoover Street in the Merit Tract section of District 1, would enable the HGNNC to make the strongest possible arguments on

behalf of impacted stakeholders. His rate for Neighborhood Councils is \$75 per hour. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 9-0-0 (Acting Chair Pamela Thornton voting) to approve up to \$1,000 to Richard Platkin on a fee for service basis for Planning and Land Use advice.

5) Board Election 2016 update, including outreach events, online voter registration progress, and election timeline: Ad Hoc Election Chair Nancy Trojan reported that the Committee has found that the online voter registration process can be very slow, up to 10 minutes per person, which becomes problematic when trying to sign up a number of people at an event. So far, only about seven people have signed up online, to her knowledge. She has been told that a paper application for voters is coming, with the HGNNC then submitting it to EmpowerLA for entering into the online system. Community Shred Day is being planned as a major outreach event at the Gateway Crossroads Center, with the goal of signing up a lot more voters. Online candidate registration begins February 27 and continues until April 12. All District Representatives are needed to reach out to stakeholders to help them register to vote online. Those who vote in person on Sat. June 11 at the 135th Street School Auditorium will also need to register online.

5a. Approval of the appointment of Betty Hawkins to the Ad Hoc Election Committee: Ad Hoc Election Chair Nancy Trojan said that Betty Hawkins had already been coming to meetings and would be a great addition to the Ad Hoc Election Committee. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 (with Acting Chair Pamela Thornton voting) to appoint Betty Hawkins to the Ad Hoc Election Committee.

6) Action items follow up from the December 8 Board meeting: Acting Chair Pamela Thornton handed out a chart of issues needing follow up from the December 8 Board meeting, the January 7 Executive Committee meeting, and the January 9 Planning and Land Use Committee meeting. A copy was provided to each Board member. The chart will help the Board keep up with resolving the various issues.

7) District Representatives report on activities within their Districts: District 2 Representative Adrian Valenzuela is working with Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez on the illegal sales of vehicles along Redondo Beach Blvd. from Ainsworth to Orchard Avenue. District 2 is also working on possible signage along Alondra Blvd. from Menlo Avenue to Vermont Avenue to ease the difficulty of exiting south onto Alondra Blvd. from Ainsworth and Menlo Avenues during peak traffic hours. Christopher Ryder of the Dept. of Transportation has gotten "Keep Clear" painted on the two intersections but drivers do not observe the signs and there is no enforcement. There is also a problem with traffic accidents at the south jog of Orchard Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd. due to both cars illegally making U-turns from the Gateway Crossroads Center to go back to the freeway and also the drivers in the dedicated right-turn lane heading eastbound on Redondo Beach Blvd. not yielding to vehicles coming into and out of the Orchard south jog.

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins said that the DWP lot at Hoover and 130th Street needs to be cleaned again. John Jones III has said that between January 14 and 24 all of the District 4 alleys will be cleaned. There are still issues with excessive speeds along 135th Street between Vermont Avenue and Figueroa Street. A follow up meeting is needed with the Gardena City Manager and Gardena City Council members about progress on installing a left-turn signal westbound at 135th Street for southbound turning onto Vermont Avenue. Another left-turn signal is needed for northbound on Vermont Avenue. Large trucks are still using 135th Street west of Estrella even with the signs posted; the problem is there is no enforcement mechanism. In regards to having street sweeping along Vermont Avenue, this has been a long-standing issue and would involve having the street posted for street sweeping.

District 5 Representative Llewyn Fowlkes said he had no update.

District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell reported that one week after the December 5 clean up day there was a huge amount of dumping along 116th Place. Nicole Wells of Council District 15 has been

helping to get additional services for the 116th Place and San Pedro Street underpass which is a perennial location for illegal dumping. She has said that 4-5 cameras will be purchased soon and one can perhaps be installed to monitor that area. Janet Mitchell has learned that Caltrans owns the property to the west of the 116th Place cul-de-sac west of San Pedro Street. She would like to work with them to create a Neighborhood Fitness Park.

The Youth Representative Richard Lee said that he plans to meet with the principals of the HGNNC schools and introduce them to the Neighborhood Council and discuss ways of working together. He would like to see youth be more involved in our programs and with other civic groups.

Public Works Liaison Joan Jacobs said that she's been trying to get in touch with John Jones III and also the Public Works Department.

(Joan Jacobs left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.)

Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair Deborah Lee said that the Emergency Preparedness Alliance and the Fire Department have been focusing on preparations for El Nino. She has brochures to give out at the Tues. January 26 General Membership meeting. The next Emergency Preparedness Alliance meeting will be Sat. January 23 and all licensed Ham radio operators are asked to attend. The Fire Department wants Neighborhood Councils to be represented on their Board of Commissioners. The next Ham radio class and FCC test will be held by the Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club on Sat. February 27.

8) Report on the HANC meeting of January 6: The main speaker for the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting on January 6 was Chris Cooper, Pacific Region Manager for the Department of Recreation and Parks. During the recession, the Department lost one-third of its staffing. More hiring is happening now and therefore the number of Park Rangers will be increased. There is still Proposition K money for building new parks. Vince Bertoni has been nominated by Mayor Garcetti to be the new General Manager of the Department of City Planning, replacing Michael LoGrande. CERT classes will be offered in March at the Normandale Recreation Center.

9) Announcements: District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson said that she attending the January 9 PlanCheck meeting. The online Budget Survey deadline has been extended to January 15. Council offices have said they will monitor which Council District has the most submissions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary