

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 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), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Shirley Johnson (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Charlene Marshall (At-Large Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Acting Chair Pamela Thornton, who reviewed safety procedures in the event of an emergency. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence. Pamela pointed out the adopted Code of Civility printed on the back of the agenda and urged adherence to it.

1) Public Comment: Acting Chair Pamela Thornton noted that it is Black History Month and acknowledged the contribution of Carter G. Woodson in helping to establish this annual observance.

2) Board Business:

a. Standing Rules review: Acting Chair Pamela Thornton handed out proposed new additions to the Standing Rules, which reflect her memo of December , with directives on handling Board communications, Committee meetings and reports, HGNNC website review, and duties of the Sustainability, Public Works, and Budget Advocates Representatives. There was a question about whether the proposed new Standing Rules should first go through a review by the Bylaws Committee, but Pamela said that she had been advised by the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment that only a Board review and vote was necessary. Pamela said that the new Standing Rules would be in effect until the new Board is seated on July 12 and then could be reviewed and changed at that time. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 8-1 (Preston)-2 (Mitchell, R. Lee) to approve the addition of the new Standing Rules to those previously adopted in 2013.

b. Corresponding Secretary role: Pamela has talked with Corresponding Neodros Bridgeforth, who has been ill and unable to attend meetings. Neodros indicated that she wishes to remain as Corresponding Secretary to the end of her term. Pamela noted that if she as Acting Chair is unable to attend a meeting and Neodros is not present, then Treasurer Joan Jacobs would chair the meeting. Additionally, if Neodros becomes unable to sign the official correspondence, then Pamela will be notified and she will sign the letters.

3) Appointment of new members to the Outreach Committee: Outreach Chair Richard Lee apologized for indicating after the last Board meeting that most of the District Representatives could be appointed to the Outreach Committee. He now realizes that the Bylaws limit the number of Board members on Standing Committees to no more than four Board members. Three Board members were previously appointed to the Outreach Committee in July 2014: Richard Lee, Marvin Bell, and Shirley Johnson. Therefore only one more can be appointed and he suggests Charlene Marshall. New stakeholder members are also needed and two stakeholders have expressed interest. Twyller Weary said that she has lived in District 6 since 2001 and is responsible for marketing and outreach for the Benevolence Health Centers. Julie Fonseca moved to District 3 last year. She and her husband work as business consultants. Richard said that the purpose of the Outreach Committee are to promote the goals and objectives of the Neighborhood Council and to publicize HGNNC events and the June 11 Board election. The Outreach Committee will coordinate with the Ad Hoc Election Committee until the election is over. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 11-0-0 to appoint Charlene Marshall, Twyller Weary, and Julie Fonseca to the Outreach Committee.

4) Approval of the January 12 Board minutes: It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Shirley Johnson, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the January 12 Board minutes as presented.

5) Treasurer's report on expenditures to date and January monthly expenditure report: Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the draft January 2016 Monthly Expenditure Report with three items which totaled \$260.68. She noted that she had inadvertently added the LAUSD permit fee twice, so that actually \$28,701.94 remains of the \$42,000 allocated for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the January monthly expenditure report as corrected.

5a. Approval of \$230 to support the Ham radio exam class on March 5 (boxed lunches and six exam review booklets): Rosalie Preston gave the background on the HGNNC's efforts to create a Ham radio network within the HGNNC so as to be able to communicate among stakeholders and to the Fire Department and others in the event of a major emergency when regular phone lines and cell phone towers are not working. Currently the HGNNC has seven FCC licensed operators and has the goal of at least sixteen. Meanwhile, the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment via the Emergency Preparedness Alliance is encouraging the establishment of internal communication plans for all Neighborhood Councils. The HGNNC is now working with the Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club which gave one FCC test July 11, 2015, and is now giving the one-day review class and FCC test again on Sat. March 5. HGNNC Ham operators are calling in to the LAARC's Saturday evening net to practice their radio skills and plan eventually to create a net solely for HGNNC use. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 11-0-0 to support the effort to have more licensed Ham operators via up to \$230 for boxed lunches and six to seven exam review booklets.

6) Approval of revised 2015-2016 budget of \$42,000 as recommended by the Finance Committee: Second Signatory Deborah Lee reviewed the draft budget of \$42,000 as drafted by the Finance Committee at its January 30 meeting. It includes an additional \$6,000 for the Board election, for a total of \$12,000 along with other adjustments. Adjustments will again be made in mid-April to make sure that all allocated money is spent in this fiscal year. New proposals for the 2016-2017 fiscal year will be considered in May. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 10-0-1 (Hawkins) to approve the revised budget.

7) Report on outreach activities for the June 11 Board election including voter registration and activities planned: Ad Hoc Election Chair Nancy Trojan said that candidate filing will begin February 27 and conclude on April 12. She noted that Acting Chair Pamela Thornton has said she can assist with facilitating sign ups at the HGNNC office during her second and fourth Monday office hours. One big outreach event for the election will be Sat. March 26 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Gateway Crossroads Center. This will be a Shred Day for stakeholders and include voter and candidate registration. The next Ad Hoc Election Committee meeting will be Wed. February 10 at 6:30 p.m.

8) Planning and Land Use Committee updates: Regarding the California Waste Services dust issues, Pamela followed up with John Anderson and Cher Snyder, Executive Deputy Officer of the AQMD. She was told that this week they will be outreaching to the stakeholders who had talked with them after the October 26 General Membership meeting. The HGNNC may possibly organize a Town Hall for those impacted by the construction demolition recycling dust generated by California Waste Services.

The Planning and Land Use Committee had a training on the project approval process and said that other trainings will follow each month. She encourages all stakeholders to attend and learn more about the City's planning and land use process.

She will be getting an update from the Sustainability Liaison Wendy Talaro.

Lu Watson asked that Council File 15-1004 be put on the March 8 Board agenda for review and for a Community Impact Statement filing. The ordinance, if approved, would allow micro-housing, which are units of 300 square feet for those who are seniors, single-person households, and those who prefer lower housing costs.

9) District Representatives report on activities within their Districts: At-Large Representative Charlene Marshall, who lives in District 1, said that she had contacted CD 15 Filed Deputy John Jones III about the overgrown ficus trees along Gardena Blvd. and Figueroa Street outside her condominium complex. He has contacted Urban Forestry who have responded that there is no money in the tree trimming budget for this fiscal year. Meanwhile, the tree roots are causing major plumbing problems for the Three Ranch Estates residents. The tree roots have also lifted portions of the sidewalk, especially along the Gardena Blvd. side. She also noted that a lot of recent G13 graffiti has been removed from along Gardena Blvd. and assumes that CD 15 is responsible for the prompt response.

District 6 Representative Marvin Bell said that he had contacted United Way about community service volunteers who could possibly help out in the HGNNC office.

District 5 Representative Llewyn Fowlkes said that a financial planner had contacted him about making a presentation at a Board meeting to promote his services. Pamela suggested that he might be able to assist with the Financial Literacy for Youth workshop and asked Llewyn to refer him to the Outreach Committee Chair Richard Lee.

District 2 Representative Adrian Valenzuela said that there had been a daytime break in of a home on Ainsworth. Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez is working on the issue of the illegally parked cars along Redondo Beach Blvd.

Deborah Lee, Emergency Preparedness Liaison, said that now that El Nino seems to be changing course, we may have to deal with unusually high temperatures instead of flooding.

District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell, said that she has planned a mini-Health Fair with mobile units on Saturday February 20 at Ralphs. One unit will be from the Benevolence Health Services, which needs to be assured of 25 signed up for screenings. There should also be representatives from the Red Cross and a diabetes screening. There will also be voter registration at the event. She is also working on a possible homebuyers workshop for the first week of March. She will be holding three more mini-clean up days on Saturday March 19, Sat. April 16, and Sat. May 14 and is coordinating these with Caltrans, GAP, and District 7 stakeholders.

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins reported that there has been a lot of illegal dumping in District 4, such as old couches and mattresses. She called the DWP and they cleaned up their lot under the power lines from Menlo to Vermont Avenue. She is monitoring an industrial building at 13324 Estrella which has been emitting a lot of smoke from the top of the building at night beginning on January 20. She contacted the AQMD and now in the last three days has not seen the smoke. She has noticed that the company is installing large, heavy equipment. The owner says that he is moving his business from the "eastside." He would not open the door to the AQMD. Betty has also found out from John Phillips in Gardena Public Works that the County of Los Angeles Public Works has approved funding \$200,000 to install the left turn signals at 135th and Vermont Avenue going north and south. This is a location where many traffic accidents have occurred. He told Betty that one more study would need to be done before the installation can begin. Betty has also called the Bureau of Street Services about the illegal posting of signs on public utility poles. She has also talked with the Dept. of Transportation about permit parking for some of the streets in District 4 and been told to work through Council District 15.

Joan Jacobs Public Works Liaison, said that she is working with CD 15 to ensure that Clean Harbor Gateway, CD 15's effort, and Clean Streets, Mayor Garcetti's initiative, work together on our clean up issues.

10) Report on the HANC meeting of February 3: The new Dept. of Neighborhood liaison for the Harbor Area is now a team of Octaviano Rios, Stephen Box, and Jasmine Elbary. Former Project Coordinator Thomas Soong will be working with other Neighborhood Councils in the Northeast Area.

Let Octaviano Rios know if you are planning a clean up day and he will help to find volunteers in his role as the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment liaison to the Dept. of Public Works. Neighborhood Councils are urged to keep their contact information for Chairs/Presidents and Secretaries updated in case there is a Public Records request and a timely response is needed. Councilmember Buscaino is helping to coordinate a Neighborhood Council Retreat from 9-12 on Saturday April 16, 23, or 30. The Retreat will be open to stakeholders. The major focus will be a discussion of how to work effectively with City Departments. Each Neighborhood Council needs to designate one person to help plan the event.

11) Announcements: Youth Representative Richard Lee said that he has four boxes of books which those present should feel free to look over and take for free. He has been cleaning out his garage after retiring.

District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell said that in regards to the Caltrans land on the west side of her block of 1116th Place west of San Pedro, she has been in contact with a person from the Harbor UCLA meeting on park creation about turning the property into a neighborhood fitness park.

District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson gave out the link to a *CityWatch* article about the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative which is currently gathering signatures in order to qualify for the November 8 ballot. It would place a two-year moratorium on developments which requires a General Plan Amendment, zone change or height district change or whenever the General Plan has been updated, whichever occurs first, therefore ending spot development.

District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell announced that she was notified on February 3 that she has been hired by the Los Angeles County Dept. of Children and Family Services. She has been retired for seven years from METRO.

Community Organization Representative Deborah Lee announced that Fire Station 64 finally has received more sand to fill the sand bags which they had in stock. The sand bags are free for the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary