

# Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

135<sup>th</sup> Street School, 801 W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Acting Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Acting Chair Pamela Thornton. She reviewed the emergency exits for the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School and the areas just outside the school for regrouping after an emergency exit. Youth Representative Richard Lee led the salute to the flag and the moment of silence. Pamela Thornton pointed out the Code of Civility on the back side of the agendas and noted that if anyone exhibits threatening behavior during the meeting, they will be asked to leave. She asked those present to be respectful of the time limits.

**1) Public Comment:** Richard Lee reported that when he took the HGNNC-sponsored CERT training last May and June 2015, he missed sessions 2 and 6 and has now finally found a new session at Normandale Recreation Center where he can make up those sessions.

District 6 stakeholder Veda Hill reported that since October 2015 transients near the 110 freeway and Imperial Highway have been stealing residents' black trash bins to use for storage of their items. There are also a lot of issues around the Laundromat at 113<sup>th</sup> and Figueroa Street, including prostitution and public defecation and urination. She and her neighbors have reported this to Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez and also Sanitation. The transients may be living in a gated area near the 110 freeway.

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins said that she would like to know more details of the proposed new policy of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners regarding posting of Neighborhood Council Board meeting minutes. This issue will be discussed later under agenda item 11.

**2) Approval of the February 9 Board minutes:** It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 9-0-0 (Pamela Thornton voting) to approve the February 9, 2016, Board minutes as corrected.

**3) Presentation by LAPD Jeopardy program:** No speaker was present.

**4) Board Business: District Representative Resignation; Vacancy:** Acting Chair Pamela Thornton said that she had received a telephone call from the wife of District 1 Representative Ramon Montoya letting the Board know that he is very ill and will be absent from upcoming Board meetings. Because the bylaws preclude the appointment of a new District 1 Representative within sixty days of a Board election, he will remain on the roster until a new Board is seated in July.

**5) Treasurer's report on expenditures to date and February monthly expenditure report:** Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the February 2016 Monthly Expenditure Report with eight items which totaled \$1,337.44. After factoring in the checks in progress and other known commitments, the balance of the \$42,000 allocated for the 2015-2016 fiscal year is \$26,728.82. Joan also explained that she is working with AT&T to resolve the amount still due to them under the CalNet 2 and 3 program. She has learned that the checks to them need to be sent to a different address so that they are credited. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 9-0-0 (Pamela Thornton voting) to approve the February monthly expenditure report.

**5a. Approval of up to \$60 for updating HGNNC outline map via Minuteman Press graphic designer:** Treasurer Joan Jacobs showed a draft of the updated HGNNC outline map as created by the Minuteman Press graphic designer. Board members also had a copy of the official map of HGNNC boundaries prepared by the City's Bureau of Engineering so that they could compare the outlines of the

two. The updated map would reflect a small area between Grand Avenue and the 110 Freeway north of Imperial Highway in District 6, the south side of 120<sup>th</sup> Street for Districts 7 and 8 and the east side of Figueroa Street for parts of District 3 and for Districts 4 and 5. Both maps reflect the boundaries descriptions as stated in the HGNNC bylaws. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Adrian Valenzuela, and passed 7-1(Fowlkes)-1(Bell) (with Pamela Thornton voting) to approve spending up to \$60 to have Minuteman Press create an updated HGNNC outline map.

**6) Approval of the 2016 Board Election budget of \$12,000 as recommended by the Finance**

**Committee:** Ad Hoc Election Chair Nancy Trojan said that the budget was finalized by the Ad Hoc Election Committee at their February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting after the Finance Committee met on January 30 to increase the allocation for Board election outreach to \$12,000 from \$5,000. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 8-0-1(Bell) (with Pamela Thornton voting) to approve the 2016 Board Election budget of \$12,000 as presented.

**7) Letter to Mayor Garcetti on HGNNC budget priorities for the 2016-2017 City budget:** A draft HGNNC letter to Mayor Garcetti was reviewed, with a list of recommended areas for additional City funding based on HGNNC stakeholder calls, emails, and comments at public meetings on needed City services over the past year. The HGNNC has sent a similar letter for the past several years, with the format adopted from a draft which the South LA Alliance of Neighborhood Councils suggested. District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins asked that Rosecrans Avenue be added to the list of major streets that need to have funds assigned for regular street cleaning. It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 (Pamela Thornton voting) to approve sending the revised letter to Mayor Garcetti, with copies to Councilmembers Buscaino and Harris-Dawson.

**8) Update from Planning and Land Use Committee:**

**c. Micro Housing/Community Impact Statement Request:** Acting Chair Pamela Thornton noted that at the Board's February 9 meeting, a stakeholder had requested that the HGNNC file a Community Impact Statement on File No. 15-1004 regarding micro housing. Pamela handed out the City Council's PLUM Committee motion of August 25, 2015, regarding HOUSE LA: Permitting Micro-Unit Housing, which would evaluate utilizing the Greater Downtown Housing Incentive Ordinance to encourage the production of micro-units for young, single professionals, seniors, single-households, and others who prefer lower housing costs. This proposal will be further considered at the Sat April 2 HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee meeting.

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.)

**9) Report on Election outreach activities, including the March 26 Shred Day and status of voter registration and candidate filing:** Ad Hoc Election Committee Chair Nancy Trojan showed the flyer for the Sat. March 26 Shred Day and suggested that Board members and other candidates who will be running for Board seats should attend the event to encourage HGNNC stakeholders to register to vote and to vote for them. Candidate registration began on Sat. February 27 and runs until April 12. Pamela Thornton has offered to assist candidates with their registration during her second and fourth Monday office hours of 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd. The Committee had suggested holding the Candidate Forum as part of the Tues. April 26 General Membership meeting and CD 15 Field Deputy John Jones III has agreed to be the Forum facilitator. However, there has been a suggestion to make the Candidate Forum a separate event. The Committee will consider this proposal at their next Committee meeting on Wed. March 9.

**8) Update from Planning and Land Use Committee**

**a. Report from AQMD:** Acting Chair Pamela Thornton handed out a response from the AQMD dated \_\_\_\_\_. She has been working with the AQMD since February when they reached out to the HGNNC to

follow up on the California Waste Services dust issues which District 3 stakeholders are experiencing. The AQMD has now met with three of the six residents who made complaints at the October 27, 2015, General Membership meeting. For some of the others, the AQMD needs working telephone numbers. The AQMD response will be further discussed at the Sat. April 2 Planning and Land Use Committee meeting, which she would like to see affected residents attend. Pamela will also suggest holding a Town Hal on the issue with residents, the AQMD, and possibly other relevant agencies.

**b. Neighborhood Integrity Initiative Ordinance:** Pamela handed out a copy of the March 3, 2016, CityWatch article by Richard Platkin entitled “Neighborhood Integrity Initiative Won’t Block Affordable Housing – Critics Should Back Up Their Claims!” The Initiative also has ardent opponents who question why the AIDS Healthcare Foundation is supporting the Initiative and heavily spending a lot of money to see it win at the November 8, 2016 ballot. Pro and con arguments for the Initiative will be further discussed at the April 2 HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee meeting.

**10) Report on Outreach Committee activities, including update from Feb. meeting:** Outreach Committee Chair Richard Lee reported that the Outreach Committee met on Wed. February 24 with four out of the seven Committee members present. The Committee will hold its next meeting on Wed. March 23.

**11) Board member reports on activities:** Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston read out from the proposed draft of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners new policy requiring that all Board and Special Board minutes contain certain basic information, including how a Board counts abstentions, and requiring that all approved minutes be posted to the Neighborhood Council’s website within 30 days of approval. She also said that the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment has asked all Neighborhood Councils to update their equipment inventory lists and she and Treasurer Joan Jacobs will be working on this.

District 2 Representative Adrian Valenzuela reported that Public Works has been using a camera to snake through sewer lines in the District 2 area. Bureau of Street Services is now creating handicapped accessible curb cuts throughout the District 2 area. There was another burglary of a home in the 15900 block of Ainsworth recently.

Public Works Liaison Joan Jacobs said that she attended the open house at Hyperion by the Dept. of Public Works. The Dept. says that the new trash bins being put on various streets throughout the City, including on Gardena Blvd., will be emptied as often as needed by the Bureau of Sanitation as part of the Clean Streets Initiative. They are known as automatic lift bins.

District 5 is experiencing copper wire theft from light poles in their area, which is causing power outages. John Jones III said that one of the solutions to the copper wire theft, which occurs all over the City, is to install solar panels on light poles to provide the power.

**12) Announcements:** Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reminded the Board that in April the HGNNC will be submitting a list of priority potholes for filling by the Bureau of Street Services. This time Public Works Liaison Joan Jacobs will coordinate submittal of the list.

Youth Representative and Outreach Chair Richard Lee announced that the Institute of Non-Violence has notified the Southeast Division of LAPD that they will organize a Days of Dialogue event with them in July. The HGNNC will work on helping to host this, possibly during the month of June.

Acting Chair Pamela Thornton announced a forum on LAPD and the Community – Overcoming Mistrust on Sat. April 2 at 9:30 a.m. at Loyola Law School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary