

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Special Board Meeting

Saturday, July 23, 2016

Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd.

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chair), Tim Richardson (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Mark Lupfer (District 1), Clyde Noguchi (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Bryan Davis (Community Organization), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chair Pamela Thornton.

1) Public Comment: Richard Lee stated that he would like to see the HGNNC go on record regarding the online voting issues which the HGNNC experienced during the 2016 HGNNC Board election.

7) Review and approval of the 2016-2017 budget of \$37,000 as recommended by the Finance Committee: Chair Pamela Thornton explained that ideally the HGNNC sets priorities and goals for the year via the Strategic Plan and then utilizes the budget to achieve those goals during the fiscal year. Proposed projects need to fit in with the HGNNC Strategic Plan. There will be a time to review projects which have not already been presented when the Finance Committee meets later this summer. The HGNNC can support neighborhood watches and non-profits located within the community or which benefit HGNNC stakeholders.

Treasurer Joan Jacobs clarified that neighborhood watch groups can only be funded if their project has an outreach component and the HGNNC sponsors or co-sponsors the event. Projects need to include a way for the HGNNC to become better known to stakeholders. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has guidelines for how projects can be funded. Funding cannot benefit individuals but instead should generally benefit the community as a whole. These are some of the elements which the Finance Committee considers. Joan then reviewed the draft budget of \$37,000 line by line for the major categories of 100 Operations (which has many fixed and required expenditures), 200 Outreach, 300 Community Improvement Projects, and Neighborhood Purposes Grants. There were adjustments in two line items because it is now known that Councilman Buscaino will not be sponsoring a Movie in the Park at Rosecrans Recreation Center in August. It was moved by Rey Paduani, Rosalie Preston, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the budget of \$37,000. The budget will be adjusted as the Finance Committee receives new requests and after the Strategic Plan is finalized.

(District 1 Representative Mark Lupfer recused himself)

2) Approval of letter stating opposition to APCH-2015-3175-ZC and VTT-73816 for 17236 S. Hoover Street in District 1 (currently proposed 15 two-story single family homes):

Pamela explained that the HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee had taken a position of opposition to the project at its November 7, 2015, meeting. The developer had never met with the Committee. On July 13, 2016, a public hearing was held about his proposal and at this time the HGNNC wishes to send an official letter of opposition.

District 1 stakeholder John Finnegan said he has done a lot of research on this proposal. He attended the July 13, 2016, public hearing on the proposal for the 15, two –story homes and said that he was surprised to hear the City Planning Department acknowledge all of the limitations which would impinge on this project as proposed, including the narrow entry road from Hoover

Street, the 22' wide Caltrans easement which is show in the deed to the property, and the issues regarding closeness to the freeway and the 91 Freeway HOV lane which is built over part of the property and for which Caltrans needs the easement for maintenance of that overpass lane. The Planning Department urged the developer to resubmit the proposal with a reduction from 15 single-family homes to no more than 4 to 5 because of the various existing limitations. John urged the Board to approve the draft letter with an additional paragraph offering a future solution for this property. Since the developer has the right to build on his property, he believes that the zone change will be made by the City; otherwise the developer would not be able to build anything on even the current R1 parcel as it is too small. John suggests that after the [Q] parcel is changed to R1 via the proposed zone change, then the developer would request that the two R1 parcels be joined into one parcel and then after that, the one large R1 parcel would be split into two equal R1 parcels so that the Caltrans easement running from Hoover Street would be unaffected. The developer would then be able to build one R1 home on each of the two parcels and the access from Hoover Street would be a 10' driveway into the properties. The lots would be considered flag lots and each would have a 25' frontage onto Hoover Street. He noted that at the July 13 hearing, Emilio Gutierrez, the developer's representative, stated that they had talked with Caltrans and that Caltrans had no problem with their proposal for how the 15 homes would be laid out over the easement. However, John has talked with Caltrans and they have are unaware of any conversations with Mr. Gutierrez.

It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Tim Richardson, and passed 9-0-2 (Hawkins, Davis) to send the letter of opposition including the recommendation for combining and then re-subdividing the two lots into two equal parcels.

3) Approval of \$550 to fund supplies for the 118th Street School/HGNNC clean up day event in October: In June, District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell had submitted a proposal to the Finance Committee from the new 118th Street School Principal for a clean up focused on the school grounds and all around the school. The money would be used for cleaning supplies and for lunches for the volunteers. There was discussion about whether the school already had funding for supplies in their own budget. Rosalie Preston made a motion to support the request, but there was not second. Therefore, the proposal will go back to the Finance Committee to seek further information and additional review of the proposal.

4) Approval of HGNNC application for a Clean Street LA Challenge grant, with implementation during October or November 2016: The Department of Public Works and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment will distribute awards totaling \$25,000 for proposals to improve area neighborhoods based on the strengths of each application, including creativity, innovation, volunteer engagement, and social media strategies, plus improvement metrics proposed and completed. The application deadline is September 16 and projects need to be completed during September 17 to November 18, 2016. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the HGNNC applying for such a grant.

5) Appointment of the new Finance Committee members: It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 11-0-0 to appoint Joan Jacobs, Hannah Woods, Janet Mitchell, Tim Richardson, Deborah Lee, Nancy Trojan, and Paula Wahls-Brooks, and LaShun Segura to the Finance Committee. Treasurer Joan Jacobs will call a Committee meeting for later in August and invite additional funding proposals to be submitted at that time.

6) Approval of the Outreach Survey as recommended by the Outreach Committee:

Completion of an Outreach Survey each year is one of the requirements of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. It is submitted online at the same time as the new fiscal year budget. The Outreach Committee reviewed the draft survey at its June 22 meeting. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the HGNNC Outreach Survey for 2016-2017.

8) Announcements: Pamela noted that the HGNNC has already received two EmpowerLA awards, one for work done with the first proposal for 17236 S. Hoover Street in 2012 and one in 2015 for the work done on the November 2014 Emergency Preparedness Neighborhood Survey. She reminded Board members to keep that in mind as they develop projects for this fiscal year.

For Clean Streets projects in the various Districts, GAP and Beacon House are resources that can be used to assist with clean ups.

Pamela is creating a calendar of HGNNC events and meetings so that there aren't conflicts. Please provide her with your planned dates for events and meetings through December 31 before August 15.

District Representatives should start outreaching to neighborhood watch groups, churches, and other groups within their Districts to learn about networking opportunities and other events where the HGNNC could have a booth. Plan ahead to arrange for funding for your events.

Pamela noted that Mayor Garcetti is encouraging individuals and groups to sponsor Welcome Home projects where baskets of essential items which a formerly homeless person would need in order to settle into new permanent housing are provided. This could become a project for a neighborhood watch group, church, or Neighborhood Council.

Mayor Garcetti along with the Small Business Administration has set up a series of small business workshops, with the first one being on Thurs. July 28 from 6-9 pm at Harbor College.

Pamela would like to see the HGNNC move towards paperless meetings. She is looking into tablet access to agendas, minutes, monthly expenditure reports, etc. and the use of Google docs.

National Night Out is Tues. August 2 from at Southeast LAPD Division and the HGNNC will have a booth there.

A California Friendly Landscaping Design Seminar will be offered at the Mark Twain Branch Library, 9621 S. Figueroa Street, on Sat. July 30 at 10 a.m.

District 6 has issues with large RV's parked along 115th Street and which are being used for prostitution. This will be referred to the LAPD Southeast Division.

There are apartment buildings on Figueroa Street at 117th Street that are not being well-maintained. It was suggested to take photos via the MyLA311 app to report code violations with a photo attached.

District 1 is interested in having parking restriction signs posted along Merit Avenue due to RV's parking there for more than 72 hours. The Dept. of Transportation Harbor Engineer Crystal Killian should be contacted.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.