

# Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

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

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chair), Tim Richardson (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Clyde Noguchi (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Larry Morrison (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), Theo Fowles (Outreach Representative), and Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative)

**1) Welcome/introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Chair Pamela Thornton. She reviewed safety procedures for emergency situations. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

**2) Public Comment on non-agenda items:** Viridiana Yahuaca, Unit Director for the Boys and Girls Club – Harbor Gateway Gardena, said she will be working with the HGNNC on the January 17 financial literacy program featuring the Game of Life. This is a pilot program and will have three age groups. The program is scheduled from 3-5 p.m. at the Club. A few more volunteers are needed as life coaches.

Christiana Usenza, Community Liaison for the Environmental Charter Middle School – Gardena, Said that she started in her position in October 2016. She thanked the HGNNC for its Neighborhood Purposes Grant which helped the Middle School open their playground to the surrounding community on Saturdays. Some of their upcoming programs are a Sat. January 14 Green Up Day from 8 am to noon, which is the first of clean up days every other month in the neighborhood around the school, and the Wed. February 15 Neighborhood Watch meeting at 5:30 p.m. for neighbors living around the school. It will be held in the multi-purpose room on the second floor. The school is also working on creating a community mural along Ainsworth. The school's multipurpose room is available for community meetings. The school can also help distribute HGNNC flyers to parents. Tours of the school are available every Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Dexter McLeod, of the Los Angeles South Chamber of Commerce, announced that a Business Roundtable will be held on Thurs. January 19 from 10 am to 12 noon at Charles Drew University, 1731 E. 120<sup>th</sup> Street. There will be discussion of the Chamber's HOPE community initiatives (relating to public policy, safety, education, health and wellness, and workforce development). There will also be a community event day in the Ralphs parking lot at 11922 S. Vermont Avenue sometime in late May. The HGNNC is invited to participate in both events.

### **3) Board Governance:**

**a. Meeting/Office Space relocation update:** Pamela reported that Jeff Brill of the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment had called the representatives for 818 W. Gardena Blvd. and learned that the space there is no longer available for lease. He will investigate other spaces which are available in the area. There is a possibility that space could be leased in the city of Gardena or within the County of Los Angeles, if nothing within City of Los Angeles boundaries is available. DONE places a \$19,000 limit per year for space rental expenses from a Neighborhood Council's annual budget. There is also the possibility of partnering with a City Department or non-profit on the lease costs.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

**b. Board discussion and approval to hold meetings at County of Los Angeles Helen Keller Park in multi-purpose room:** Pamela said that the multi-purpose room at the recently renovated Helen Keller Park is available to be used for Planning and Land Use Committee meetings and possibly some other HGNNC meetings at no cost, on a temporary basis until a more permanent site could be leased. However, DONE would have to create a formal agreement with the Park in relation to liability issues and the room would have to be requested well in advance. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Rey

Paduani, and passed 15-0-0 to support hold some of the HGNNC Committee meetings at Los Angeles County Helen Keller Park on a temporary basis through 2018.

**c. District 5 Representative – Motion to replace current elected District 5 Rep and appoint an alternate representative for area coverage:** The elected District 5 Representative Llewyn Fowlkes has not been present for any Board meeting since the March 8, 2016, Board meeting. However, District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson read out a letter emailed and faxed to the HGNNC in which he asked to be allowed to remain on the Board and with the explanation that he had been out of the state due to “urgent and critical family matters” and also “physically out of commission..” The letter also stated his intent to return to Los Angeles on January 13 to continue his Board duties. Pamela Thornton read out the relevant language on Board removals from the Bylaws. After discussion of the pros and cons, it was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Rey Paduani, and then voted 6 (Paduani, Bell, Woods, Cooper-Pace, R. Lee, Hawkins)-6 (Jacobs, Richardson, Preston, Fowles, Noguchi, Mitchell)-2 (D. Lee, Morrison), with Pamela Thornton not voting, to table a new appointment until the January 24 General Membership meeting. District 5 stakeholder Elayne Simpson was present and expressed interest in being appointed to the Board as the District 5 Representative if Llewyn Fowlkes does not return.

**d. Recommendation for two HGNNC Board members to attend Civic University – 1/17/17, 1/24/17 and 1/31/17:** The Pat Brown Institute and the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment are again offering this course to help train Board members and interested stakeholder in techniques to empower their communities. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 15-0-0 to appoint Eva Cooper-Pace and Richard Lee as the two HGNNC representatives to attend this series of classes.

**4) Community Impact Statements – HGNNC Board position recommended to be formally submitted regarding City of Los Angeles policy updates:** Pamela Thornton explained that the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment encourages the filing of Community Impact Statements on City ordinances that are being considered. Once a Neighborhood Council files on a topic, if they attend the hearing for that file, they can speak for a longer amount of time at the City Council meeting. Also, Councilmember Joe Buscaino encourages CIS filings, as he views those filed by Neighborhood Councils within his District to help determine his position.

**a. 15-1022-S2 Online Voting for Neighborhood Councils:** The Board reviewed the proposed language for supporting suspension of further implementation of the online voting system for future elections until the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment completes a report on the 2016 voting experience. Some of the HGNNC experience with online voting in the election will be stated and also a sentence added that Neighborhood Councils need to be given the option of voting either online or via paper ballots. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 15-0-0 to support File No. 15-1022-S2 because of the HGNNC experiences with the first online voting in 2016.

**b. 06-125-S2 Nuisance Motels – Police Feasibility Study:** This File would ask for a study to determine the most effective strategies to regulate the impact of nuisance motels, of which several are located within the HGNNC boundaries. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 15-0-0 to support Council File No. 06-125-S2.

**c. 17-1100-S2 Cannabis Related Activity:** This File would support placing a measure on the March 7, 2017, ballot which would provide for the enforcement, taxation and regulation of cannabis and/or cannabis products effective as of January 1, 2018, when the new State law regarding recreational marijuana takes effect, including criminal penalties for unauthorized activities and new business taxes. It was moved by Eva Cooper-Pace, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 13-1(Mitchell)-1(R. Lee).

(Janet Mitchell left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.)

**5) HANC update:** HGNNC Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils representative Lu Watson summarized information presented at the January 4, 2017, HANC meeting. Budget Day will be February 25 at various locations around the City. Stakeholders are encouraged to go online at ncbala.com to complete the service report card survey.

(Deborah Lee left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.)

**a. Tracking Mitigation; letter of support written by HANC to Councilman Buscaino (CD 15):** HANC representative Lu Watson discussed the proposed letter from HANC to Councilmember Joe Buscaino which would address some of the issues regarding tracking and enforcing mandated mitigation measures for Port-related and development projects. Some of the HANC Neighborhood Councils also want to ask that mitigation projects be carried out as close to the affected communities as feasible. However, Lu pointed out that this would mean that often the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council area would not have access to such mitigation funds. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Tim Richardson, and passed 13-0-0 to have the HGNNC recorded as an abstention when this letter comes up at the February 1 HANC meeting.

**6) Committee updates:**

**a. Planning and Land Use Committee**

**i. Position on 36 unit apartment development at 16101 S. Figueroa Street in District 1 (DIR-2016-2255-DB; DIR-2016-2256-CE):** The proposed draft letter supporting this project with various conditions, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee, was reviewed. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Eva Cooper-Pace, and passed 13-0-0 to support the 36-unit apartment development at 16101 S. Figueroa Street with the thirteen listed conditions.

**b. Youth Advocate activities discussion:** Youth Representative Richard Lee reported that the pilot financial literacy program for youth will take place on Tues. January 20 from 3-5 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 802 W. Gardena Blvd. He could use a few more Board volunteers to assist. On Friday January 13, he and District 8 Representative Larry Morrison will accompany three fifth grade classes from the 116<sup>th</sup> Street School to City Hall via a bus provided by Councilmember Joe Buscaino to view the City Council in session and then a tour of the building.

**c. Clean Streets Initiative Ad Hoc Committee:** The HGNNC was one of the awardees of a grant from the City for the efforts made to clean up within the HGNNC and also to make stakeholders aware of using 311 via telephone, smartphone app, or online to report illegal dumping. The HGNNC will receive \$2,100 and be honored at a ceremony on Sat. January 14 in City Hall.

(Rey Paduani left the meeting at 9:13 p.m.)

**7) Consent agenda items: /Finance update**

**a. December 13, 2016, Board minutes:** It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Tim Richardson, and passed 12-0-0 to approve Consent agenda item 7a.

**b. December monthly expenditure report:** This was tabled until January 24 as an item on the December MER has to be corrected.

**8) Special Meeting – Saturday, February 4, 2017 – Strategy Planning and Committee Break Out Sessions:** Pamela Thornton said that she is planning to organize a Special Board meeting on Sat. February 4 at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School, which will be a follow up to the September 17 Strategic Plan Board meeting.

**9) Announcements:** This year a number of Neighborhood Councils, including the HGNNC, will be celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversaries. Articles about the HGNNC experiences as a Neighborhood Council are being requested by the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority will be conducting the annual homeless count on Thurs. January 26. The HGNNC is hoping to have a team of four to survey homeless encampments within the HGNNC on that night.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.