

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

135th Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Clyde Noguchi (District 2), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Larry Morrison (District 8), and Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative)

1) Welcome/introductions: In the absence of Chair Pamela Thornton, the meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Corresponding Secretary Hannah Woods. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

(Chair Pamela Thornton entered the meeting at 7:13 p.m.)

Pamela Thornton introduced herself and the District Representatives. She reminded stakeholders of the Code of Conduct for meetings and also reviewed safety procedures.

4) Public Comment: District 1 stakeholder Marc Panetta asked about the illegal marijuana clinic at 16400 S. Vermont Avenue and why it had not been shut down yet. He noted that having a security guard stationed outside causes the neighborhood around it to look bad.

Dexter McLeod, LA South Chamber, announced an upcoming Health and Business Expo at the Los Angeles Convention Center on February 11.

Dawn Cotterell, LADWP liaison, announced that there is now a DWP Bill of Rights. Customers can make comment on it.

2) LAPD report: Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez acknowledged that marijuana dispensaries are a big issue for stakeholders and the LAPD. All of the dispensaries located within the HGNNC are illegal. The operators can be arrested but within a few hours they are back in business. LAPD has created Project HOPE to address the homeless issue. There has not been a recent increase in gang activity; over the ten years that she has worked the Southeast Division, it has remained at the same level. The LAPD has programs which seek to steer youth away from gangs. Dexter McLeod of the South L.A. Chamber said that programs are needed to give youth hope and purpose. Pamela Thornton said that the LAPD had routed their annual Santa sleigh through parts of the HGNNC last December. The HGNNC hopes to have a winter program and sleigh at Rosecrans Recreation Center in December 2017 and will be starting to organize for that next month.

3) Guest Speaker Nicole Wells Council District 15, Manager of City Services: Nicole Wells, City Services Manager for Council District 15, said that she is responsible for handling a majority of Council District 15 constituent complaints, including regarding the homeless. Up to three years ago, it was illegal to live in a vehicle. But due to a lawsuit, now it is allowed to live in a vehicle but only in commercial and industrially zoned areas, not residential or near schools. LAPD and Parking Enforcement can now cite those vehicles. In the past, it was illegal for people to block sidewalks or alleys. Now, after a lawsuit, it is illegal to block a sidewalk or alley from 6 am to 9 pm but there are exceptions for very cold or very hot days. A three foot clearance must be allowed on the sidewalk for pedestrians to pass. The Dept. of Sanitation takes tents and belongings to storage in an area of downtown Los Angeles for up to 90 days. Call 311 or call Nicole to start the clean up process for encampments. A team will come out and offer social services. Sanitation must document the situation before a clean up is posted and scheduled. A biohazard cleaning will also be done. For private property, it is the owner's responsibility to post "no trespassing" signs, per the City Attorney. Is there anyone helping people find housing?

LAHSA, who comes out up to two to three times. They find that 80-90% of the time, the offer of support services is rejected. Also, there is not enough housing at this time. Measure HHH money will be spent over a ten-year period. The L.A. County Measure H will help pay for social services for the homeless. Over the past year, there has been a big increase in funding rapid re-housing to prevent the homeless from becoming used to living on the streets. There was a big push by Mayor Eric Garcetti to house veterans and that has made a big difference in their homelessness. L.A. County provides mental health services for the homeless. Once the homeless are housed, then support services are provided to them. The priority is to house elderly veterans and children. Some landlords won't rent to the homeless as they are concerned about the ease of evictions if those become necessary. If a landlord rents out ten units under Section 8 housing, then a case worker will be provided to assist those residents. Call Harbor Interfaith Services in San Pedro to refer homeless families. The LAPD's Project HOPE was created to have trained officers focus on homeless issues. There are ten officers assigned to each of the LAPD Bureaus. Southeast LAPD has two Project HOPE officers assigned and every day they visit the encampments with LAHSA and social workers and make clean up referrals.

How can the HGNNC help solve the homeless issues within our boundaries and possibly create a model program? Nicole suggested having Union Pacific, Caltrans, and the City of Gardena as partners. Nicole suggested helping out with the homeless count, then identify issues and work on them step by step. For the homeless in a park, the parks have Park Rangers. Can more officers be put on street patrol? Councilmember Joe Buscaino has partnered with Councilmember Mike Bonin to ask LAPD Chief Beck to figure out why more police are not on patrol.

5) Board Governance:

a. Follow Up: District 5 Representative to address the Board: Llewyn Fowlkes, the District 5 Representative, has returned to the Board after an illness and family issues. He thanked those who had supported him while he was away.

b. Appointment to replace District 5 Representative, if needed: Since the District 5 Representative has returned, this vote was not necessary.

6) Committee Reports:

a. Budget Advocate: Regional Budget Day will be held on Sat. February 25.

b. Youth Representative: Youth Representative Richard Lee was not present, being in class for Civic University. District 8 Representative Larry Morrison read out the report on the Game of Life tournament which was held January 17 in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club – Gardena. Twelve youth participated, along with six HGNNC adult stakeholders acting as Life Coaches who discussed their careers and basics of financial literacy. The goal was to introduce basic financial concepts to the youth.

Larry also reported on the field trip to City Hall made by the 116th Street School, with a bus provided by Councilmember Joe Buscaino. 75 fifth graders participated and were introduced to the City Council and then had a tour of City Hall.

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 8:35 pm)

c. Clean Streets Team: On January 14 the HGNNC received one of the Clean Streets LA Challenge grants in the amount of \$2,100 for organizing three Clean Up events during the challenge period and highly publicizing use of 311 via telephone and internet, as well as the MyLA311 app for cell phones. 117th Street from Figueroa to Broadway is one of the worst areas for illegal dumping. District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell raised awareness of this issue with the Board of Public Works when they met in Watts on December 12. It is an area with a large homeless encampment and many street lights which are broken.

d. Planning and Land Use: Pamela Thornton thanked all of those in District 1 who attended the January 17 Harbor Area Planning Commission hearing regarding the proposal for fifteen single-family homes on the former Caltrans property. After hearing from so many homeowners and visiting the site, the Commission voted to deny the project.

e. Emergency Preparedness: Deborah Lee announced that CERT classes will be offered at the 135th Street School beginning May 4 through June 8. It is still expected that a Ham radio class to prepare for the FCC license will be given before the summer. The Health Fair planned for March 18 will have an emergency preparedness component.

f. Outreach: The HGNNC website is being redesigned and will be ready in the next month. Photos of HGNNC sites are needed.

7) Consent agenda items: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 10-0-0 to approve consent agenda items 7a and 7b.

a. Approval of the October 25, 2016, General Membership minutes

b. Approval of the December 2016 monthly expenditure report

8) Announcements: Vice Chairperson Tim Richardson has resigned due to taking a new job which will require extensive travel.

District 7 stakeholder Dr. Princess Sykes asked whether the HGNNC would be holding a Black History month program and said that she had large photos which could be displayed at such a program. Chair Pamela Thornton said that they could be displayed at the February 14 Board meeting.

Volunteers are needed for the South L.A. Homeless Count on Thurs. January 27 at 8 p.m. at the Watts Labor Community Action Committee, 10950 S. Central Avenue.

There will be a Clean Air Community Forum to discuss air pollution on Thurs. January 27 from 7-9 pm at St. John's.

Treasurer Joan Jacobs said that she will be setting a Finance Committee meeting to allocate the additional \$5,000 in the budget and also the \$2,100 awarded via the Clean Streets LA Challenge grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary