

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

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

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Clyde Noguchi (District 2), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Larry Morrison (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), Theo Fowles (Outreach Representative), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At-Large Representative)

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

2) **Public comment on non-agenda items:** Debbie Stinson, San Pedro Art Association, asked the Board to consider granting funds via a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to support the annual All Grades Student Art Competition in Harbor-area schools and also to provide some volunteer for judging and showing the art at Crafted at the Port of Los Angeles. Last year thirty three out of sixty schools participated, over 300 art works were entered, and 112 were chosen for display. Each of the selected art works is framed and the artist receives a 120 piece art set. There are also four monetary prizes for the top art work for each level (elementary, middle, and high school). Letters have gone out to all schools, including those in the HGNC. The deadline for submitting art works this year is April 28.

Dexter McLeod, President/CEO of the LA South Chamber of Commerce, announced the first class of their Entrepreneur in Training program on March 29 at Strive, 9124 S. Main Street. Other classes will take place at the newly renovated A.C. Bilbrew Branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library. April 20 there will be another round-table discussion of business issues at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science from 10 am to 12 noon. On Sat. June 3 from 10 am to 2 pm there will be a Community Day and Resource Fair at Ralphs, 11922 S. Vermont Avenue. The event will be free to the public. The HGNNC is welcome to have a booth there at a cost of \$50.

Freddy Cupen-Ames, intern at the Controller's Office announced an April 1 Financial Planning for Tax Season workshop from 9:30-11 am at the Constituent Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue. Learn about the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and also how your City taxes are utilized. He also reminded Board members to save the date of September 9 for the next Congress of Neighborhoods.

Ray Felton, District 2 stakeholder, asked for assistance with homeless issues and illegal dumping at 157th Street on the east side of the 110 freeway. Calls to the non-emergency LAPD number bring no results. Also, the LAPD does not have a regular presence in her neighborhood.

(Eva Cooper-Pace entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

Larry Morrison, District 8 Representative, recommends that the HGNNC buy a higher quality clean up vest and he showed a possible sample.

3) **Outreach Committee:**

a. **New website overview:** The new website is now live. Compared to the previous version, it is less wordy, picture-oriented and easily navigated.

b. **Logo design recommendation:** Outreach Committee Chair Theo Fowlkes showed two possible logo designs and said that the Committee voted to recommend that the name block be adopted as the official HGNNC logo. He said it could be used equally well on either wearables or flyers. Many Board members expressed a preference for the other logo of homes and buildings with a sun behind, which is a more visual design. Some Board members felt that the name block design does not convey anything about the Council and the design blends in to the background. A logo that conveys warmth, friendliness, and desirability is preferred.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 7:47 p.m.)

A graphic design would be more recognizable as representing the Neighborhood Council. The name block logo design is too plain. Rosalie Preston pointed out that design number 2 still needs some revisions, as to design and color. It was moved by Janet Mitchell, seconded

by Eva Cooper-Pace, and passed 9-3 (Deborah Lee, Pamela Thornton, Theo Fowles)-1 (Richard Lee) not to support design number 1, the name block logo. Julie Fonseca, member of the Outreach Committee, noted that attendance at the Committee meetings has not been consistent and this has made it difficult to finalize design proposals in a timely manner. After further discussion, it was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Hannah Woods, and passed 10-3 (Deborah Lee, Theo Fowles, Betty Hawkins)-0 to approve moving forward with design number 2, the graphic design, with needed revisions to be made by the APC Fine Arts graphic artist. The finalized design will come back to the Board for approval. The next Outreach Committee meeting will be Mon. March 27 at 6:30 p.m. Julie urged Board members who feel strongly about the logo design to attend.

4) Finance Committee update:

- a. **Clean Streets Initiative award--Are funds to be requested for use in 2016-2017 or 2017/2018?** Treasurer Joan Jacobs reported that the Finance Committee met on February 2 and drafted a budget of \$44,100 which includes the Clean Streets award of \$2,100. After the meeting, the Neighborhood Councils were informed that Councils could decide to use the award money in next year's budget rather than in the current fiscal year. It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 13-0-0 to designate that the \$2,100 award for the Clean Streets LA Challenge be used in the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget.
- b. **Revised 2016/2017 budget overview:** After review of the revised budget of \$42,000, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Eva Cooper-Pace, and passed 13-0-0 to adopt the revised budget.
- c. **Brief overview of DONE's expenditure requirements/deadline for 2016-2017:** A listing of the key dates for wrapping up the 2016-2017 fiscal year was handed out. June 1 is the last day to submit funding requests. June 7 is the last day to write checks for payment. June 11 is the last day to use the purchase card. The cut off dates are earlier this year because of a transition to a new online funding system. Joan asked that all requests for funding projects be made by April 1 so that the Finance Committee can meet to review them before the April 11 Board meeting.

5) Ad Hoc Homeless Issues Committee report/update: In the absence of Committee Chair Bryan Davis, Committee Secretary Rosalie Preston reported that the Committee met on February 21 and is currently focused on putting together a resources brochure to be given out to the homeless and also for stakeholders to use for service referral, coordination with services providers, and funding backpacks with toiletries for the homeless children attending local schools.

Dexter McLeod, President/CEO of the Los Angeles South Chamber of Commerce, said that at the meeting at Phillips 66, representatives from LAHSA and Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas were present and the group discussed the large number of RV's parked along Broadway and other major streets in the L.A. County area in front of businesses. There will be another meeting on this issue on April 20 at Charles R. Drew University. He urged the HGNNC to work on the homeless issue together with the Los Angeles South Chamber.

6) Board/Committee vacancies:

- a. **Bylaws Committee:** Since Tim Richardson is no longer a Board member, one more Board member can be appointed to the Bylaws Committee. It was moved by Janet Mitchell, seconded by Eva Cooper-Pace, and passed 13-0-0 to appoint Richard Lee to the Bylaws Committee.
- b. **Planning and Land Use Committee:** Julie Fonseca, District 3 stakeholder, said that she has lived in the HGNNC for 18 months. She has a background in real estate finance. Her husband works in construction. She has experience in negotiating community benefits and has also worked on economic development. Saira Cooper, District 4 stakeholder, said she has lived in the HGNNC for the past two years. She is attending graduate school in public administration and she has a background in the community development field.

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 13-0-0 to appoint Julie Fonseca and Saira Cooper to the Planning and Land Use Committee.

- c. **Vice Chairperson:** Saira Cooper, District 4 stakeholder, said that she was interested in being appointed to the vacant Vice Chairperson position. It was moved by Janet Mitchell, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 13-0-0 to appoint Saira Cooper as the Vice Chairperson of the HGNNC.

7) **Community Impact Statement: Council File 04-1935-S1 Decision on whether to conduct NC elections in 2018 with Board members having 3-year terms, extend the current Board terms for one-year term and hold NC elections in 2019, or hold NC Board elections in 2018 with a one-year term and hold elections again in 2019:** Because the City elections will be held during even-numbered years to align with State and Federal elections as a way to increase voter turnout, Neighborhood Council elections must change from even-numbered years to odd-numbered years beginning in 2019. The Board discussed the pros and cons and then Eva Cooper made the motion, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded the motion, and it was passed 6-5 (Fowles, R. Lee, Morrison, Noguchi, Preston)-2 (Mitchell, Thornton) to support extending the current Board term for one year and holding NC elections in 2019.

8) **Consent calendar (items 8a and 8b)**

a. **Approval of the February 27, 2017 Special Board minutes**

b. **Approval of the February 2017 monthly expenditure report**

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Clyde Noguchi, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the consent calendar items 8a and 8b.

c. **Approval of up to \$1,500 for backpacks and toiletry supplies for homeless children attending HGNNC elementary schools:** This proposal was recommended by the Ad Hoc Homeless Issues Committee as a way of addressing one of the homeless issues. It was moved by Janet Mitchell, seconded by Eva Cooper-Pace, and passed 12-0-0 to support spending up to \$1,500.

d. **Approval of up to \$650 for a new wireless microphone set:** One of the older non-wireless microphone sets of the HGNNC no longer work well. Therefore, it was moved by Janet Mitchell, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and Passed 12-0-0 to approve spending up to \$650 for this purpose.

9) **Announcements: Chair** Pamela Thornton said that the Office of Historic Preservation has previously mapped sites of historic importance for the African American community and now is beginning a similar project for various Asian American communities.

Youth Representative Richard Lee said that Gardena Elementary School has expressed support for their fifth graders visiting City Hall.

Larry Morrison and Richard Lee will soon be official volunteers to serve as male role models at the 116th Street School.

Julie Fonseca said that she provided a dvd on the life of Tom Bradley as part of an outreach effort to local HGNNC schools; she sits on the Board of the Tom Bradley Foundation. There will be a celebration of Tom Bradley's 100th birthday this fall.

Janet Mitchell reminded the Board that the Health and Safety Fair takes place on Sat. March 18 at the 118th Street School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and that volunteers are needed to help out.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary