

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

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

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chairperson), Saira Cooper (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Larry Morrison (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth 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 for exiting the auditorium in the event of an emergency. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence in recognition of two Board members who are in the hospital.

Youth Representative Richard Lee called attention to the display board where many of the thank you letters from the students of the 116th Street School were posted. The letters of appreciation were for the field trip to City Hall, which the HGNNC organized on January 13 for 75 fifth grade students and their teachers. Council District 15 provided the bus. Richard thanked District 8 Representative Larry Morrison for helping with trip supervision and Octaviano Rios, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment Neighborhood Council Advocate for facilitating the trip and arranging the visit to the City Council chambers so that the students could meet Councilmember Joe Buscaino.

Chair Pamela Thornton introduced herself and then each of the Board members present introduced themselves.

2) LAPD report: Senior Lead Officer Angelo Stewart who covers Districts 7 and 8 reported that there have been four homicides concentrated in one area over the past month (one was domestic violence, one a car accident, and then a double murder via drive by shooting on 116th Street). He noted that the illegal marijuana clinic at 117th and Broadway is a magnet for illegal parking, including in the red zone, near the fire hydrant, and blocking residents' driveways on 117th Street. He said that traffic officers would be making an impound sweep of his patrol area for unregistered vehicles. He announced that the mattress store which has been located at two addresses on Main Street and each time experienced fires is moving out of the HGNNC area. It will now be located north of Imperial Highway as a result of a concerted effort by LAPD, Council District 15, and the City Attorney.

District 1 stakeholder Art Cramer noted that there are continuing parking issues along Figueroa Street and that there are long wait times when calling 311.

District 2 stakeholder Shirley Lahm thanked the LAPD for their work in removing the homeless man who has lived on the Alondra Blvd sidewalk under the 110 freeway off and on for months and also the burned out motor home that was parked next to his encampment.

Dexter McLeod, President/CEO of the L.A. South Chamber of Commerce, asked how the LAPD was approaching the illegal marijuana clinics. SLO Stewart said that it is very difficult as they make so much money they can easily close and re-open after the City has spent a lot of time documenting their illegal activity. New regulations under recently passed Measure M go into effect January 1, 2018.

Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez, who patrols District 1 through 6, said that there was a homicide of a male on March 17 at Redondo Beach Blvd. and Figueroa Street. There have been a number of burglaries throughout her patrol area. Council District City Services Manager Nicole Deering is working to change the designation of Alondra Blvd. near Figueroa Street so that RV's are not allowed to park there.

4) Guest Speaker: Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, District 8: Councilmember Harris-Dawson introduced himself and said that he represent a small area of the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council, the part of District 6 north of the 105 freeway. He works closely with Councilmember Joe Buscaino on issues relating to the two Council Districts. Albizael Del Valle is his field deputy for the HGNNC area. They are working on revising the RV parking map, which was first published with some streets incorrectly shown as allowing RV parking. The Councilmember is very familiar with the area around the 135th Street School as his grandmother lived on the 800 block of 134th Street. He was asked about economic solutions for the South L.A. area as it has been 25 years since the

1992 uprising and there are still many vacant lots and under utilization of properties. Councilmember Harris-Dawson said that in many ways the community has changed over those years, with much more civic engagement, such as that provided by the Neighborhood Councils. The homicide rate which was over 1,000 per year is now under 300 per year for the whole City. The LAPD has greatly changed and improved its policing model. However, the financial sector has not changed and redlining and unspoken racism still are barriers to economic development. He does see possibility in the future and said that stakeholders have to keep pushing to make it happen.

5) Public comment on non-agenda items: District 6 stakeholder Nancy Trojan showed a flyer about a free exercise and fitness program for those ages 18 and older which takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Helen Keller Park, 1045 W. 126th Street.

District 8 Representative Larry Morrison reminded those present that the District will hold a Clean Up Day on Sat. April 29 from 8 am to 1 pm. Sign in at the Metro Park and Ride lot on the corner of Stanford and 116th Place. There will be five dumpsters for unwanted items as well as clean up of weeds and trash.

Treasurer Joan Jacobs said that the 2017-2018 budget will be drafted later in May. Proposals for projects need to be received by May 9. The HGNNC Board Retreat will be held on Sat. June 3 to set the goals for the year and finalize the new budget to reflect those goals.

Dexter McLeod, President/CEO of the L.A. South Chamber of Commerce, said there will be recognition of the 25th anniversary of the 1992 uprising on Sat. April 29 at the Carson Community Center from 8 am to 2 pm. Some of the issues to be addressed are dilapidated businesses and lack of restaurants. There will also be a workshop on Sat. April 29 called Small Business Saturdays at the A.C. Bilbrew Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. which will discuss steps to opening a business. On Tues. May 2 L.A. Trade Tech will have a workshop on access to capital. There will be a Small Business Expo at the Carson Community Center on Thurs. May 4. Ralphs will be the location for a South L.A. Community Day on Sat. June 10 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Denise Estelle, of Estelle for Humanity, announced an Honor Thy Father awards dinner on Sun. June 18 at 3 p.m. at the Proud Bird. Invite an important male in your life to be honored. Tickets are \$65.

Chair Pamela Thornton announced that there will be two important issues on the agenda of the Planning and Land Use Committee meeting of Sat. June 6: the proposed Prologis building with 24 hour operation and up to 72 truck bays and information about clean up of toxic soil for the Gramercy/Wilmington right-of-way east of the 110 freeway and south of Gardena Blvd.

Chair Pamela Thornton announced that the Board Retreat will be held on Sat. June 3 to set goals for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Stakeholders are invited to attend, with an rsvp required.

CD 15 report: John Jones III, Field Deputy, said that he works with Aksel Palacios. They have been trying to meet with community members to address their issues. They are working with Athens on the Hill (District 5) to have the City keep up their medians, do slurry sealing of streets, put in stop signs, and come up with a solution for preventing cars doing wheelies at 126th and Ainsworth. On May 6 Sharefest will hold a workday to install the new planting in the Laconia median east of Hoover Street, with funding provided by Council District 15 and also the HGNNC. CD 15 is also working to monitor cars speeding along 135th Street in front of the school and also to create a walking path along Hoover Street next to the freeway in District 4.

District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell thanked John for riding around her area with her. However, she noted that her area still has not received any of the City's special trash containers. John said that they have received a list of where the previously delivered trash bins are located and will re-evaluate the assigned locations.

John said that a pilot program has been started to place some cameras under freeway overpasses to get evidence of illegal dumping. He also said that three large pine trees on the 700 block of E. 115th Street are scheduled to be removed and six new, smaller trees planted.

3) Speaker/Presentation: Alicia Rivera, Communities for a Better Environment, discusses STAND-LA: Alicia is a community organizer for Communities for a Better Environment, which works in communities of color in Wilmington and other areas near the Port of Los Angeles. CBE has sued the City of Los Angeles to bring equity in how the existing oil ordinances are enforced so that they are enforced the same in Wilmington as in West Los Angeles. She said that Tesoro and BP refineries have asked the AQMD for permission to merge. They would then add eight new storage tanks, which are explosive and inflammable. As a result, the release of volatile organic compounds will greatly increase, causing more

cancer and asthma. Already, per the AQMD, refineries are under-reporting the amount of volatile organic compounds that are released. Tesoro actually released 12 times more than what they reported. There needs to be a new EIR for this proposed merger which comprehensively assesses the actual impact of the merger. The refineries are in Wilmington but impact all of us due to the air pollution and green house gases released. The greatest sources of local air pollution are the refineries, freeways, and recycling facilities. And also oil extraction next to residences.

STAND-LA is a coalition of 25 groups which are working to end neighborhood drilling. The health risks from toxic air contaminants are the most significant within a half mile of active oil and gas operations.

(Saira Cooper entered the meeting at 8:50 p.m.)

Los Angeles sits on top of the nation's largest urban oil field. There are 1,077 active oil wells in Los Angeles. There should be a buffer of at least 2,500 feet from homes and other sensitive uses. She noted that the HGNNC has taken a stand to support such an ordinance. City Council President Herb Wesson has introduced the ordinance, which will require an initial study which will take four months to complete. She will keep the HGNNC informed of its progress.

Sat. April 29 is the People's Climate March in Wilmington, leaving from Banning Park at 11 a.m. This site will be the focus for the Los Angeles area.

DONE report: Neighborhood Council Advocate Octaviano Rios said that the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment is one of 42 City departments or agencies. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment oversees the certified Neighborhood Councils, of which there are now 97. He is part of the communications, outreach, and elections team which oversees 14 of the Neighborhood Councils, including the HGNNC. DONE's role is to help Neighborhood Councils be aware of City legislation which is of interest to them so that they can in turn make their stakeholders aware. The role of the Neighborhood Councils is to responsive to local needs.

(Deborah Lee and Marvin Bell left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.)

6) Approval of second draft of revised September 1, 2015, Bylaws: A copy of the second draft was handed out, with the two new edits in blue. The Bylaws Committee considered a number of issues which Board members had raised at the April 11 Board meeting and by email, but only approved two corrections. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Betty Hawkins, and passed 7-3(Preston, Mitchell, R. Lee)-0.

7) Consent calendar (items 7a. through 7g.)

- a. Approval of the January 24, 2017, Membership minutes
- c. Approval of \$500 to the San Pedro Art Association as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to support Harbor Gateway area art contest
- d. Approval of up to \$200 for refreshments to support three (3) youth Ham Radio trainings on May 6, 13, and 20 in partnership with the Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club
- e. Approval of up to \$250 for District 7's fourth Clean Up Day on Sat. May 13
- f. Approval of up to \$1,000 for the District 4 Clean Up Day on Sat. June 10
- g. Approval of up to \$1,700 for the June 3 Board Retreat at the Holiday Inn

It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the Consent Calendar items 7a, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, and 7g.

Item 7b. was pulled for special consideration as the amount needed to be revised from \$500 to \$1,000. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Hannah Woods, and passed 9-0-0 to approve \$1,000 to Sharefest as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant for a median planter project in District 5 on Laconia Blvd.

8) Announcements: District 8 Representative Larry Morrison reminded those present that the District 8 Clean Up Day will be Sat. April 29 from 8 am to 1 pm, with sign ins at the Metro Park and Ride, Stanford and 116th Place.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary