

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

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

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chairperson), Saira Cooper (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

**1) Welcome/introductions:** Chair Pamela Thornton called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. She reviewed the Code of Conduct for meetings and safety procedures in the event of an emergency. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of Hannah Woods' sister.

**2) Public Comment on non-agenda items:** Dexter McLeod, President/CEO of the L.A. South Chamber of Commerce, announced a workshop on Tues. September 26 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles County A. C. Bilbrew Library, on the topic of starting and sustaining a small business. He said the Chamber will be creating a listing of predatory businesses in the area and posting the list on its website.

(Hannah Woods entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)

District 4 stakeholder Olivia Beltran said that she has a big concern with the traffic on 135<sup>th</sup> Street in front of 135<sup>th</sup> Street School during the mornings when the children are walking to the school and being dropped off. She has talked with the school but has seen no improvement. She hopes that the LAPD can get involved to resolve the dangerous issues.

District 6 stakeholder Nancy Trojan asked to be notified of the date for the next Ad Hoc Homeless Issues Committee meeting.

### **3) Board communication**

- a) **Brown Act:** A summary of the Brown Act was given to each Board member present. Pamela reminded Board members to refrain from profanity when using email communication with other Board members; the Code of Conduct applies to email communication as well as to conduct during Board meetings.
- b) **Serial communication:** Pamela said that the City Attorney had advised her that at times, HGNNC Board members are violating the Brown Act requirement regarding serial communication. She reminded Board members that their emails are part of the public record and subject to discovery. Board members were given a hand out on this issue from the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment which states that per the Brown Act, Board members cannot discuss agenda items via email among themselves. "Any type of communication is prohibited if that communication allows the majority of the members of the body to engage in a communication that should instead occur at a public meeting." "Serial communication may involve a series of communications, each communication involving less than a quorum of the board, but when taken as a whole, involve a majority of the board."

### **4) Planning and Land Use Committee**

- a) **Appointment of Llewyn Fowlkes to the Planning and Land Use Committee:** This item was tabled due to lack of a quorum.
- b) **Update on Prologis Traffic Study – review by LADOT:** Pamela said that the Planning and Land Use Committee will meet on Tues. September 26 at 7 p.m. to review the report by the Los Angeles Dept. of Transportation of the Kunzman traffic study for the proposed Prologis warehouse at 747 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. The LADOT study notes that traffic

would back up at the on and off ramps of the 110 Freeway at Redondo Beach Blvd. Eric Casper, owner of California Waste Services said that the westbound lanes which provide access to the northbound lanes of the 110 Freeway, need to have two left-turn lanes at that location instead of one, which would ease the traffic tie-ups at that location.

c) **Our LA2040 Open Space Working Group:** Pamela noted that the HGNNC has filed a Community Impact Statement on this issue. Participation in future meetings regarding Open Space planning throughout the City of Los Angeles is encouraged. The Open Space is one segment of the City's plan to update its General Plan over the next 20 years. More details and meeting dates can be viewed at [www.ourla2040.org](http://www.ourla2040.org).

d) **Surface Air Noise affecting HGNNC:** Alec Makie, a resident of the West Athens neighborhood in the Los Angeles County area has emailed the HGNNC asking for HGNNC involvement with a recent increase in commuter planes flying low over the area on approach to the Hawthorne Airport. He has been asked to attend an upcoming meeting.

e) **17236 S. Hoover Street – District 1-APCH-2015-3175-ZC; VTT-73816:** District 1 stakeholder John Finnegan reviewed the history of this former Caltrans property next to the 91 and 110 freeways, beginning with the 2011 proposal for 24 small-lot townhomes. That proposal for a zone change from public use to R6 was denied by the City Planning Commission which then created the 1000' notification for freeway-adjacent properties. In 2015, the owner applied for a zone change to R1, to build 15 two-story single family homes on the same property. The Advisory Agency approved the tract map and then John filed an appeal based on an incorrect interpretation of the engineering requirements for the curb widths, which the representative from the Bureau of Engineering at the hearing contested. The Harbor Area Planning Commission at their second hearing and after each member personally viewed the location, ruled to uphold John's appeal and also ruled against a one change to R1. After several postponements, the City's PLUM Committee upheld the Harbor Area Planning Commission's appeal of the tract map decision and the denial of the zone change because of the closeness of the proposed homes to the two freeways and concerns over air pollution and freeway noise during outdoor use. On August the City Council voted 12-0-0 to support the PLUM Committee's decision.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 7:50 p.m.)

John summarized that the actions taken by the Harbor Area Planning Commission, PLUM Committee, and City Council reemphasize that the property is not suitable for residential uses and creates a precedent that he believes cannot be overturned for any future proposal. John thanked the HGNNC Board for their support of the Merit Tract residents during this long struggle to defeat these proposals.

f) **Commercial Cannabis Public Hearing 9/14/2017:** The City Planning Commission will be reviewing the proposed new ordinance (CPC-2017-2260-CA) for Commercial Cannabis outlets at their September 14 meeting at City Hall after 11 a.m. and public comment in person or via email is encouraged. The new ordinances are expected to take effect on January 1, 2018.

g) **Permanent Supportive Housing/Interim Motel Conversion Draft Ordinance-Public Comment ends October 30, 2017:** This measure is intended to increase affordable housing and help ease the homeless crisis.

h) Bureau of Street Services Asphalt Repairs on 9/28/2017: Board members need to submit locations by September 21.

i) **Clean Streets LA Challenge 2017-application deadline 9/21/2017:** Pamela asked if any Board members were interested in applying for another grant.

(Saira Cooper entered the meeting at 8:12 p.m.)

Saira said that she would work on a proposal with assistance from Youth Representative Richard Lee, with partnership with local schools.

**5) Police Commission Community Meeting-September 19, 2017:** Since the Los Angeles police Commission will be meeting nearby in Watts on September 19, Pamela asked that the Ad Hoc Homeless Issues Committee meeting be postponed so that more Board members could attend the Police Commission meeting at Markham Middle School, 1650 E. 104<sup>th</sup> Street.

**6) Community Impact Statement:**

**a) Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP)-Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach:** The Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils has recommended sending a letter encouraging the use of cleaner fuels at both Ports and phasing out the use of trucks with diesel engines within five years. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 9-0-0 to send a letter stating these recommendations.

**b) Planning Land Use Appeal Fees-Council File No. 09-0969:** After discussion, it was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 9-0-0 to send a letter and file a Community Impact Statement opposing any fee increase for appeals of planning decisions as this would be a significant deterrent for community stakeholders' ability to express their opinion on neighborhood development projects

**4) Planning and Land Use Committee**

**a) Appointment of Llewyn Fowlkes to the Planning and Land Use Committee:** As Marvin Bell has resigned from the Committee, there is a space for one other Board member. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 9-0-0 to appoint Llewyn Fowlkes to the Planning and Land Use Committee.

**7) Consent Calendar (items 7a through 7c):**

- a. Approval of the July 11, 2017 Board minutes
- b. Approval of the July Monthly Expenditure Report
- c. Approval of the August Monthly Expenditure Report

It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 8-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar items 7a. through 7c

**8) Announcements:** John Jones III, Field Deputy for 15<sup>th</sup> District Councilmember Joe Buscaino, reported that Aksel Palacios is now the Field Deputy for Harbor Gateway South and Harbor City, while John will cover Harbor Gateway North and Watts. He encourages participation in the Clean Streets Challenge and said that Council District 15 will provide a letter of support. CD15 is doing a lot of work on Athens on the Hill issues, including tree trimming. He will work with District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins on speeding along 135<sup>th</sup> Street and having a crossing guard in front of the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School. He referred to the City's sidewalk repair program and said that trees which are lifting sidewalks and streets which impact the mobility of the disabled will get priority for repair. He advised making frequent calls and having neighbors call, also, so that issues needed addressing will receive priority spending in the City budget.

Pamela announced that the HGNNC will co-sponsor a National Electric Drive Week event on Sat. September 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Harbor Gateway Transit Center. CD 15 is assisting with providing chairs, tables, and two portable toilets. Volunteers to help out are still needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary