

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2012
135th Street Elementary School Auditorium
801 135th Street, Gardena, CA

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson); Neodros Bridgforth (Corresponding Secretary); Joan Jacobs (Treasurer); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Rey Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5); Deborah Lee (Community Org. Rep.); Kandee Lewis (Youth Representative); and Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative).

The Meeting was called to order at 7:21 p.m. by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson).

1) **Public comment:** District 8 Stakeholders Jose Alcala and Armenia Nunez (118th and Belhaven) reported that DWP-provided water at their home was again dark brown and burning to the skin when used in their shower. A similar occurrence happened 1 ½ years ago. Betty Hawkins suggested that besides contacting the DWP liaison for Neighborhood Councils, HGNNC have the water independently tested. Kandee Lewis said she had a contact with the West Basin Water District and would check with them for a recommendation on a water testing company.

District 3 Representative Rey Paduani announced that the 29th annual National Night Out will be Tuesday August 7 and there will again be many booths, entertainment, and other activities along 108th Street in front of the LAPD Southeast Station. Neighborhood Councils may volunteer to help out by staffing a booth, providing monetary support for t-shirts, etc. Website for more info is <http://www.natw.org/nno/>

Community Organization Representative Deborah Lee reported that LAPD Southeast Volunteers Group is sponsoring a fund-raising pizza night to raise funds for their activities in support of the LAPD Southeast Station at Shakey's, 665 E. Del Amo Blvd. in Carson on Wed. May 30 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. (Phone: 310-327-2570). Shakey's donates 25% of the menu price of any food purchased and this also applies to take-out orders.

7) **Update on planning issues, including Gateway Crossroad Center traffic/parking issues and June 14 hearing on 24 small lot homes in District 1:** There is still a delay in the installation of the new traffic signals on Redondo Beach Blvd. for entrance into the Gateway Crossroads Center, 661 Redondo Beach Blvd. This is causing a dangerous situation for UEI College students when crossing the street from the south side of Redondo Beach Blvd. where some of them are now parking. UEI College seems to have many more students currently enrolled than the amount of parking spaces they told La Caze Development that they needed. They now have 500 students for classes in the morning and 500 for the afternoon classes. Students have been told by La Caze not to use any of the retail parking on the east side of their campus. Joe Buscaino, L.A. City Councilperson for the 15th District now has a planning deputy and she will be attending a meeting on these issues which is scheduled for May 18th at 9:30 a.m. at 802 W. Gardena Blvd. Besides Alison Becker, there will be a UEI College representative, someone from La Caze Development, residents from the neighborhood south of Redondo Beach Blvd., and also Neighborhood Council Board members.

Rosalie reported that although HGNNC had thought that the issue of the proposed zone change to build 24 small lot homes in the Merit Tract at 17236 S. Hoover Street was on hold, the HGNNC has been notified that the issue will be on the agenda of the City's Planning Commission for Thurs. June 14 in the morning. Merit Tract homeowners have been notified.

The hearing before the Zoning Administrator was held this morning at City Hall on a zone variance to allow livestock slaughter at Farmers Tran Market, 12920 S. Figueroa Street (ZA 2012-189-ZV). Residents from District 4 were present and represented both sides of the issue. Randy Hughes of the Friends and Neighbors Community Club in the Los Angeles County area to the east of Broadway was also present to speak against the proposal.

(Joan Jacobs arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

Hughes maintained that although the State of California said that they will be inspecting the market at least three times a week, he was told that there are only six State inspectors for the area which runs from Bakersfield to San Diego. The HGNNC Board voted 7-3-0 on April 10, 2012, to support the zone variance to allow livestock slaughter in the M2 industrial zone.

Lu Watson, District 5 stakeholder, reported that the zoning Administrator's report has not yet been issued on the application to revise the conditions placed on the Edge O' Town Motel, 503 W. Athens Blvd, There has also been no further action on the application to sell beer and wine at the El Antojito Grill, 12750 S. Figueroa Street, (ZA 2011-2120 CUB).

2) **Appointment of members to the Ad Hoc Committee on Election Procedures:** The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) is administering the 2012 Neighborhood Council Board elections. Those for HGNNC will probably be held on the third Saturday in October. To prepare for the election, the Department is suggesting having both an Election Committee and also an Outreach Committee. The Election Committee will meet to decide the place of voting, hours of voting, methods of verifying candidates and voting eligibility of stakeholders, setting up a candidate forum, and determining how ballots will be counted. It was moved by Kandee Lewis, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 9-0 to appoint Richard Higashi, Antonio Sandoval, and Eula Leichman to the Ad Hoc Election Committee. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Election Committee will be later in May. The Outreach Committee will be meeting on a regular basis over the summer and will be responsible for finding candidates for the seventeen Board seats, for advertising the election widely, and ensuring that a lot of stakeholders vote. Members were appointed in 2010 but have never met. Additional appointees are needed and this will be on the June 10 Board agenda.

3) **Approval of the April 10, 2012 Board Minutes:** Lu Watson noted, in regards to the zone variance for the proposed livestock slaughter in the market at 12920- S. Figueroa Street, that the fact of the application being a zone variance should have been more significantly emphasized on the agenda. It was moved by Kandee Lewis, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

4) **Treasurer's Report; approval of \$3,000 for new books for the 135th Street School Library and encumbrance of \$5,000 for Fall Board election outreach:** Joan Jacobs presented the report. Page 1 showed the p-card transactions from April 9 through April 19, 2012, Page 1a showed the p-card transactions from April 23 through May 2, Pages 2 - 2a are all known expenditures from July 1, 2011 through May 8, 2012, which total \$30,134.91, Page 3 showed the HGNNC Expenditure Details for April 2012, Page 4 showed the HGNNC Expenditure Details for May 2012, Page 5 is the approved budget for 2011-2012, Page 6 included ideas for possible final major expenditures for the remaining funds from the 2011-2012 budget and also possible funding ideas for the 2012-2013 budget. Joan noted that there is \$4,000 more than we had expected left to spend because after submitting the Neighborhood Purposes grant on behalf of Washington Primary School for the electronic LED sign board and having DONE mail the check to LAUSD, LAUSD notified the school that they could not fund the sign in that manner and so the money was returned. Rey Paduani moved, Neodros Bridgforth seconded, and it was approved 9-0 to approve the Treasurer's Report.

The Finance Committee will meet later in June to draft the 2012-13 proposed budget, which is expected to be several thousand dollars less than this year. By May 15, all last demand warrants must be in to DONE. The p-card can be used until mid-June.

Antonio Camacho, Principal of the 135th Street School, has asked the HGNNC to fund up to \$3,000 for multicultural picture books for the new school library which will be opening in August 2012. Rey Paduani moved, Joan Jacobs seconded, and it was passed 9-0 to spend up to \$3,000 for new books for the new 135th Street School library.

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is encouraging encumbrance of up to \$5,000 from this year's funds for publicity and other outreach for the fall Board election. Kandee Lewis moved to encumber up to \$5,000 for the outreach activities for the election, Rey Paduani seconded the motion, and it was passed 9-0.

5) **Priority list of neighborhood improvements for each District, to be presented to Councilman Joe Buscaino:** Board members reviewed the listing of various needed improvements as listed by each of the eight HGNNC Districts. Improvements included replacement of badly lifted sidewalks; speed humps to slow traffic through neighborhoods, stop signs and left turn signals to prevent accidents, and other capital improvements. Kandee Lewis moved, Rey Paduani seconded, and it was passed 9-0 to present this list to Councilman Joe Buscaino with any needed additions submitted by the District representatives by May 30.

6) **Next steps on Project RENEW overlay districts-letter to the City of L.A. Planning Dept. and HGNNC Planning Committee meeting on this topic:** Retired City Planner Dick Platkin, retained by HGNNC for help in developing a vision statement on planning issues, has also assisted the Hollywood area Neighborhood Councils with their response to the newly updated Hollywood Community Plan. He has emailed HGNNC some suggestions on how to proceed with addressing the concerns raised by the proposed Project RENEW. Rosalie reported that the City Planners working on the updated South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans wish to address either the HGNNC Board or Planning Committee with more accurate information about the new Community Plans and how Project RENEW elements would or would not be incorporated into those plans. The meeting will need to be held in the 135th Street School Auditorium as

stakeholders of Districts 5, 6, 7, and 8 will be encouraged to attend. Kandee suggested that three dates be given for a meeting and then the City Planners can decide on the best date. Joan Jacobs moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and it was passed 9-0 to set up a Planning and Land Use Committee meeting dedicated to learning more about the new South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans as well as Project Renew, with the City Planning Department present and other relevant City Departments.

(Kandee Lewis left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.)

8) **Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of May 2:** Lu Watson reported on LAUSD's presentation, including a potential bond issue on the November ballot and redesigning the LAUSD Board seat boundaries and 2012 Neighborhood Council Board elections. The Postal Service has a new direct mail service called "Every Door," which might be a cheaper way to get our flyers to our stakeholders.

9) **Update on HGNNC events (People's Convention on Saturday, May 12, 2012; October Board election; skateboard park in District 8; meetings with Councilman Buscaino and his staff)** HGNNC stakeholders are encouraged to attend the 2nd Annual South Los Angeles People's Convention and Candidates' Forum on May 12, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Maya Angelou Community High School, 300 E. 53rd Street, L.A., CA. There will be workshops on public education, jobs, housing, re-entry/prison policy, and immigration. A candidates' forum will be held with candidates for state assembly, state senate, Los Angeles City Council, District Attorney, judges, and more. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. RSVP at www.southlapower.org; or, by phone: (424) 240-8510, or email: info@southlapower.org. The HGNNC has helped sponsor this event by funding the lunches. Rosalie noted that the date is in conflict with the District 4 Clean-Up Day.

The Trust for Public Lands has e-mailed that they have reviewed our suggested sites for skateboard parks and met with the Department of Recreation and Parks. Their recommendation is to use the north side of the 105 freeway along Avalon, where the Metro Park and Ride lot is located. It was noted that the City of Gardena has been able to procure funding through the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas for two new skateboard parks.

The Rosecrans Recreation Center renovation is proceeding faster than expected and should re-open in May 2013. The renovation is funded by State and City bond measures. The grounds are being leveled, new fields built, and a walking path created around the park, with many new trees added.

(Eva Cooper arrived at 9:02 p.m.)

The Meet and Greet with Councilmember Joe Buscaino and his staff went well, with a number of HGNNC stakeholders attending and presenting their issues.

(Rey Paduani left the meeting at 9:06 p.m.)

10) **Announcements:** Wed. May 30 at 6:30 a.m. is the date of the Southeast Clergy Council Clergy Walk, beginning at the Mark Twain Branch Library, 9621 S. Figueroa Street. The walk and talk by clergy and police will be in and about the Figueroa corridor where information about services will be offered to help get people off the streets and starting over again. For more information, contact Officer Dawson Hill (213) 972-7965, or email 39599@lapd.lacity.org, or contact by phone to Pastor Vernon Johnson (310) 743-4092

(Adrian Valenzuela left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.)

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl J. Wendell
(Kelly Services)