

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 14, 2012
135th Street Elementary School Faculty Lunch Room
801 135th Street, Gardena, CA

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson); Delores Allmond (Vice Chairperson); Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary); Joan Jacobs (Treasurer); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Rey Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5); and Deborah Lee (Community Org. Rep.).

The Meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson).

1) **Public Comment:** Richard Lee discussed the HGNNC sponsoring a Youth Leadership Program through the Toastmasters International Club. He is a Toastmaster and is willing to coordinate this to enhance HGNNC participation with youth. Components of the 8-week program include evaluation of present speaking ability, chairmanship principles, how to organize a speech and utilize gestures while speaking, and tips on using the voice and vocabulary. Focus is on better communication skills and leadership development. Toastmasters would provide the instructors and HGNNC would bring in up to 25 youth (ages 12-18) for the program. This may be discussed further at the November 10 Board Retreat.

Leaders of the Environmental Charter Middle School gave an update on the renovation and opening date of the school, which will be located at 812 165th Place in District 1. Prop K grant money, which is available for playgrounds and projects in low-income areas from City of L.A., is being applied for to “green” the parkway along 165th Place.

A new 8:00 a.m. Spanish-speaking worship service at the Home Assembly Church, 13515 S. Figueroa Street, will begin on Sun. August 19. The Home Assembly Church will also be sponsoring a Community Unity Faire on Saturday, September 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (email info@HomeAssembly.org) or call (310) 436-6336 x 212.

Rosalie reported that District 7 Representative Reynard Harrison has resigned from the Board because he has moved out of District 7.

2) **Approval of the July 10 Board Minutes:** Neodros Bridgeforth moved to approve the July 10 Board minutes as submitted. Rey Paduani seconded the motion and it was passed 9-0.

3) **Treasurer’s Report, including approval of \$300 to support the Congress of Neighborhoods on Saturday, September 22; and \$100 to pay for NC booth at Saturday, August 25 Community Coalition event (October 20 election promotion):** Page 1 of the Treasurer’s Report was the p-card statement of July 23, 2012. Page 2 showed total expenditures from July 1 through August 14, totaling \$3,095.46. Page 3 was the expenditure details for July 2012. Page 4 showed the expenditure details for August 2012 thus far. Page 5 was the approved Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 for \$37,000. Rey Paduani moved, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded, and the Treasurer’s report was approved 9-0.

There was an update on the Congress of Neighborhoods to be held at City Hall on Saturday, September 22. Volunteers from other Neighborhood Councils are the organizers and all Neighborhood Council Board members and stakeholders are encouraged to attend. There will be a continental breakfast, lunch, workshops, and a mini-forum of mayoral candidates. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Rey Paduani seconded, and it was approved 9-0 to spend \$300 to support the Congress of Neighborhoods luncheon.

A Region 9 and Region 10 joint election outreach event sponsored by the Community Coalition is scheduled for Sat. August 25 with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment having a booth at the M.L. King Jr. Recreation Center, to advertise the October 20 and October 27 Neighborhood Council Board elections. Llewyn Fowlkes moved, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded, and it was approved 9-0 to spend up to \$100 to pay for the NC booth at the South L.A. Summer of Power.

4) **Approval of a letter regarding the need for a left turn signal at 135th Street going west at Vermont Avenue due to two deaths there this year:** Betty Hawkins asked that the Board request by letter for a study of safety measures to be conducted regarding the intersection at 135th Street and Vermont Avenue due to two deaths there this year and three others in the last two years. Betty Hawkins moved that a letter to Councilman Buscaino, the City of Gardena, and the Department of Transportation be written requesting a safety measures study of the intersection and that the need for a left turn signal (at 135th Street going west at Vermont Avenue) be investigated. Llewyn Fowlkes seconded the motion and it was passed 9-0.

5) **Approval of a letter to Attorney General Kamala Harris in support of her position for environmental justice considerations during the planning process:** Issues concern high-density housing units and the L.A. County General Plan and easement footage alongside freeways. Joan Jacobs moved that the Board approve a letter to Attorney General Kamala Harris in support of her position for environmental justice considerations during the planning process. Llewyn Fowlkes seconded the motion, and it passed 9-0.

6) **Saturday October 20 Board Election report, including outreach efforts and candidate filings:** The Harbor Gateway North Facebook page has been created. A letter about the election has been mailed out to the 29 churches. Delores Allmond is working on contacting some of our many businesses in regards to our election. We are hoping that McDonald's, Ross Dress for Less, Staples, and others may be providing coupons on an information table 100 feet away from the polling place. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment suggests having balloons tied outside 135th Street School to advertise it as the polling site. A six-hour election will require about twelve volunteers to help at the polling site and information table. There will not be a need for stakeholder verification. The goal is 325 voters. Door hangars to advertise the need for candidates will be distributed on the last Sunday in August.

7) **Update on planning issues, including the Environmental Charter Middle School, Zoning Code revision, and August 3 talk by Dr. Eric Walsh on the health impacts on children of high density development in urban transportation corridors.**

A Plan Check Meeting is held downtown on the second Saturday of every month where staff from City Planning attend. They did a presentation of the proposed revision of the zoning code, which has not been updated since the 1940's. Some R1 neighborhoods have concerns about the zoning code revision and its impact for single-family home areas.

Delores Allmond and Rosalie Preston attended the Fri. August 3 talk by Dr. Eric Walsh, health director of Pasadena, who cited the long-lasting health effects of high density development in urban transportation corridors (tall buildings, small units, lack of trees) on children's health.

8) **Update on HGNNC events (National Night Out, Walk for Life, 135th Street School West building dedication on Monday, August 13. Saturday October 20 Board Election report, including outreach efforts and candidate filings)**

Good participation by HGNNC Board members and stakeholders was reported at the National Night Out, the Walk for Life, and the new west building dedication at the 135th Street School.

9) **Announcements:** The annual Board Retreat is set for Sat., November 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. A DONE staff member will facilitate and the location may be the Home Assembly Church, 13515 S. Figueroa Street.

Rosalie reported on the Harbor Alliance meeting of August 1. RePower L.A. is working with DWP to allocate more resources for retrofitting of low-income homes for saving money and saving energy. HGNNC and HGSNC (incoming President Miguel Cordova) will set a date to have both sets of stakeholders attend a meeting.

Another useful program is one put on by LAANE (L.A. Alliance for a New Economy). Representatives from the building trades come to discuss their mostly free apprenticeships programs. They are reaching out to the South L.A. area for more trained carpenters, sheet metal workers, plumbers, and electricians because there are many multi-million dollar public projects coming up, such as the Crenshaw light rail, more LAUSD construction, and improvements to the LAX Airport. The HGNNC will look into hosting this program late this year or in January 2013.

Deborah Lee said 1,000 people attended National Night Out and there were 62 vendors. Next year's giveaways may be grocery bags or school supplies replacing the t shirts.

Belvue Community Presbyterian Church, 675 E. 118th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90059. celebrates its 65th anniversary September 14-16

L.A. World Airports – A draft environmental impact report is at the major libraries evaluating potential alternatives to the Master Plan.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl J. Wendell
(Kelly Services)