

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson); Delores Allmond (Vice Chairperson); Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Rey Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Marvin Bell (District 6); Gloria Christmas (District 8); Leo Youngblood (At-Large Representative); and Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative)

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

1) **Public Comment:** Richard Lee presented follow-up information about the Youth Leadership program of Toastmaster's International, which he introduced last month. He would like the Board to consider supporting this program for the youth of the HGNNC community. There is a Toastmasters meeting for youth on Saturday mornings at Southwest College and he would like to introduce a representative at the next HGNNC General meeting or the next Board meeting. An invitation stands if any Board member is interested in accompanying Richard to one of their meetings as well. The components of the program are evaluations, discussion, chairmanship, presentations, effective listening, and parliamentary procedure training. Focus is on leadership, communications, and leadership development for youth. This proposal can be discussed further at the November 10 Board Retreat.

Leo Youngblood asked again that the Planning and Land Use Committee have a discussion on the best uses for the property owned by Mike Amidi at 705 W. El Segundo Blvd. Rosalie explained that the September 29 Planning and Land Use Committee meeting would be entirely devoted to discussion of development along Imperial Highway between Avalon and Broadway, as part of the Southeast L.A. Community Plan update, so this item will have to be placed on a future Planning and Land Use Committee agenda.

2) **Approval of the August 14 Board Minutes.** Leo Youngblood moved and Delores Allmond seconded the motion to approve the August 14 Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed with 9-0.

3) **Treasurer's Report, including approval of \$1,400 to support the Halloween Carnival at Rosecrans Rec. Center and \$600 to support South LA election advertising on KJLH.** Eric Griffin of Rosecrans Recreation Center was present and expressed thanks for past financial support by HGNNC for the Halloween Carnival. One thousand dollars of the money will go for the game booth rental and \$400 goes toward purchase of prizes. Eric also expressed interest in providing a location for the Youth Leadership Academy classes. Leo Youngblood moved to approve \$1,400 in support of the Halloween Carnival at Rosecrans Recreation Center, Rey Paduani seconded the motion, and the motion passed 9 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Page 1 of the Treasurer's Report is the bank activity statement up to 8-21-12. Pages 2a and 2b are Expenditures to Date. Expenditures are averaging about \$3,000 per month – the total expenditures to date being \$6,136.34.

(Leo Youngblood left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.)

(Betty Hawkins entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

Eva Cooper made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted, Gloria Christmas seconded the motion, and the motion passed with 9-0.

Marvin Bell made a motion to approve the funding of \$600 to support South LA election advertising on KJLH, Rey Paduani seconded the motion, and the motion passed with 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

4) **Approval of a letter regarding the need for more staff in the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program and the opening of a Council file on this matter.** Rosalie reported that Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council has sent a letter requesting reinstatement of the Neighborhood Prosecutor program which the City Attorney provides and opening of a Council file on this issue. The HGNNC has received assistance with at least two major nuisance abatement issues in the past. Marvin Bell moved to approve a letter regarding the need for more staff in the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program and the opening of a Council file on this matter, Rey Paduani seconded the motion, and the motion passed with 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

5) **Approval of a letter to the Mayor on HGNNC preferred qualities in the next General Manager of the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment and possibility of recommending Specific candidates.** Circulated to the Board was

a draft of the letter to Mayor Villaraigosa from the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils setting forth a number of desired qualities for the next General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. The letter also recommended that one representative from each Neighborhood Council alliance be included in the selection process. Rosalie also mentioned that at the September meeting, HANC voted to support the appointment of Grayce Liu, Acting General Manager, to be the new General Manager. However, the HGNNC Board expressed reservations about recommending a specific individual. Marvin Bell moved that the Board approve sending a letter to the Mayor with recommendations similar to those of the August HANC letter on the qualities desired in the next DONE General Manager. Rey Paduani seconded the motion and the motion passed 9-0.

6) Saturday, October 20 Board Election report, including outreach efforts, candidate filings, and new Facebook

Page: The candidate filing deadline is nine (9) days away. Marvin, Adrian, Rey, Delores, Neodros, Gloria, and Betty have filed. Candidates to run for District 7 and Youth Representative are needed. At least one more candidate to run for each District is desired. Three more volunteers are needed to help out at the polling place. Several local businesses (McDonald's, Anna's Linens, etc.) will hopefully provide discount coupons which will be given out at the HGNNC information table set up outside the polling site and which voters can stop by on their way out. Voters are stakeholders if they live, work, own property or otherwise have a declared stake in the neighborhood, such as attend church, have a child in one of the schools, or participate in activities at the Rosecrans Recreation Center or the Boys and Girls Club.

7) Update on planning issues, including the September 29 Planning & Land Use Committee meeting about Imperial Highway development and Zoning Administrator's ruling on the proposed livestock slaughter at 12920 S. Figueroa Street (ZA 2012-189-ZV), an application for livestock slaughter in the M2 zone

The September 29 Planning and Land Use Committee Meeting will be held at the Bel-vue Presbyterian Church, 675 E. 118th Street (118th & Stanford). The issues to be addressed relate to the upcoming Southeast Community Plan update and specifically the proposals for Imperial Highway between Avalon and Broadway. Do stakeholders want to see multi-level housing with commercial businesses on the lower level, more stand-alone commercial, more new apartments, better design standards, a street median along Imperial Highway? A CIPS flyer should be sent out to Districts 7 and 8 and also a "robo" phone call. Alison Becker, Planning Deputy for Councilman Buscaino, will be able to attend the meeting.

Chair Rosalie Preston reported that the Zoning Administration denied the request for a zone variance to add livestock slaughter to Trans Farmers Market at 12920 S. Figueroa Street. The HGNNC had voted to support the proposal while some District 4 residents and many in the County area east of Broadway had expressed opposition. The determination denied the request after the County of Los Angeles weighed in with their opposition, pointing out that Tran's property, particularly the part of the building where the livestock slaughter would take place, sits on both County and City property.

8) Update on HGNNC events (Saturday, September 22 Congress of Neighborhoods at City Hall; Councilman Buscaino and RePowerLA at Tues. October 23 General Membership meeting; and Saturday, November 10 Board Retreat).

As discussed at the August meeting and noted on the handout of the event, there are many workshops being held at the Sat. September 22 Congress of Neighborhoods to be held at City Hall. Our Council, HGNNC, is being presented with one of the first Empower L.A. awards by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners for our role in opposing a zone change that would have allowed 24 small-lot homes next to the Merit Tract and right below a freeway overpass. Board members are encouraged to attend to accept the award. A Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Councilman Buscaino and RePower L.A. members are scheduled to attend the HGNNC October 23 General Membership meeting.

The yearly HGNNC Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, November 10, possibly at the Home Assembly Church.

9) Announcements: Congratulations to Eva Cooper, who announced her recent marriage. Her new last name is "Pace."

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

(As the meeting adjourned, Elections Administrator Stephen Box, Interim General Manager Grayce Liu, Independent Election Administrator Rashad Rucker, and Gary __, UCLA intern, arrived to speak about the upcoming October 20 Board election and to introduce Grayce Liu. A question was asked by our Board about uploading candidate photos on the website before the election.)

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl J. Wendell -Kelly Services