

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

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

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Ramon Montoya (District 1 Representative), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Mary Hinton (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative.), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Donald Cook (Outreach Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chairperson Delores Allmond.

1) Public Comment: District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins thanked the Board for supporting purchase of the aluminum foil and red bows for the street trees along Hoover Street in District 4.

District 1 Representative Ramon Montoya thanked the Board for their patience and good wishes during his recent illness.

District 1 stakeholder Art Cramer discussed the many 18 wheelers which now use Figueroa Street just to the east of his home. Many of them are still operating up to 10 or 11 p.m. at night. At his request the AQMD has tested for air quality along that part of the Figueroa Corridor. Most of the truck traffic is related to businesses on the Carson side of Figueroa. He has met several times with Mayor Jim Dear of Carson and other Carson city staff who have been helpful. Carson does not allow 18 wheelers to park on their side of Figueroa and has posted large signs to that effect. Art has also now contacted Mayor Villaraigosa about this issue.

District 3 Representative Rey Paduani said that the English and Spanish CPAB groups would be having their holiday gathering on Fri. December 14 at 6 p.m. at the St. Lawrence of Brindisi Catholic Church, 10122 Compton Avenue.

2) Approval of the November 13 Board minutes: Llewyn Fowlkes moved, Rey Paduani seconded, and it was passed 12-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

(Mary Hinton entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

3) Treasurer's report: In the absence of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Page 1 was the U.S. Bank statement of November 21, with seven p-card purchases; page 2a and 2b showed the expenditures from July 1 to December 11, with a total of \$10,376.90 spent after deduction of the amount encumbered for election expenses; page 3 was details of the November 2012 expenditures, and page 4 was the 2012-2013 budget which was approved June 12, 2012. Allowing for the known demand warrants and auto-deductions for the office telephone and back payments for the paid secretary, it is estimated that approximately \$24,217 remains of the allotted \$37,000. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and it was approved 13-0 to approve the Treasurer's report.

Richard Lee, Youth Representative, discussed the Youth Leadership Program which Toastmasters International offers. In eight sessions, it would help build communication and leadership skills, including knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order for youth ages 12-18. The program encourages development of future leaders and also helps with interviewing skills. Richard would like to see the program offered within the HGNNC boundaries, possibly at Rosecrans Recreation Center or one of our churches. Supplies for the program, including manuals for students, the leader's packet, and certificates should cost no more than \$20-50 and he is looking at having the program start in March.

(Rosario Rico entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

Rosalie Preston moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and it was passed 14-0 to approve up to \$75 for the needed supplies to support this program, with the HGNNC partnering with the Toastmasters International.

Several stakeholders who have completed CERT Emergency Preparedness training need to receive their HGNNC emergency preparedness bags and therefore more first aid kits are needed. It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 14-0 to spend up to \$125 to purchase ten more first aid kits

After discussion of the need to revamp the HGNNC website and the various previous estimates which have already been received, ranging from \$1,000 to over \$5,000, it was moved by Ramon Montoya, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 11-3-0 to spend up to \$5,000 for a newly designed website which would allow the HGNNC to post agendas and flyers and keep up a monthly calendar and also allow for routing of Board e-mails from generic e-mail accounts to each Board member's personal account.

4) Update on the 2013-2013 Budget Day and budget survey process: Lois Hill, one of the two HGNNC Budget Representatives, summarized the November 17 event, with speakers including Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who acknowledged that this would be his last Budget Day, and City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana. HGNNC was represented by Lois Hill, Dr. Princess Sykes, Rosalie Preston, and Pamela Thornton. In the Region 12 meeting after the main presentations, Craig Goldfarb, Northwest San Pedro NC, and Miguel Cordova, Harbor Gateway South NC, were selected as the Region 12 Budget Advocates. Gina Harden, Harbor Gateway South, and Robert Trani, Wilmington, will be the alternates. Lois has not received any updates on the budget survey yet.

5) Update on planning issues, including proposed condominium project for 15812 S. Vermont Avenue, status of senior housing project at 16304 S. Vermont Avenue, and Zoning Administrator decision denying a conditional use for sale of beer and wine at El Antojito restaurant and market at 12730 S. Figueroa Street: The HGNNC has received notice of the developer's proposal to build 34 two-story townhouse-style condominiums over parking garages at 15812 S. Vermont Avenue which is currently partly vacant land and partly the location of a house, a small mini-mart, and a furniture store. The design and entrance look acceptable, but the HGNNC will ask the developer to present more details at a Planning and Land Use Committee meeting early in January. Those living near the project in District 2 will be notified of the meeting.

Several stakeholders have complained about the appearance of the lot where the Pacifica Swap Meet was located at 16304 S. Vermont Avenue. The HGNNC contacted Affirmed Housing, the new owner, who said that they are still awaiting approval of the balance of their financing to construct the 81 senior apartments and that therefore the earliest that construction can begin will be December 2013. Their construction manager will be asked to remove the weeds on the lot and the torn fence tarps.

The HGNNC received a copy of the Zoning Administrator's December 4 decision to deny the sale of beer and wine for either on-site or off-site consumption at the El Antojito restaurant and market, 12730 S. Figueroa Street. The ZA cited the overwhelming opposition from the community and LAPD testimony regarding issues in the surrounding neighborhood which was presented at the January 11, 2012, hearing

(Llewyn Fowlkes left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

6) Update on HGNNC plans and events (Dec. 4 HGNNC 10-year anniversary certificate from Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and plans for outreach events in each District): Delores Allmond, Rosalie Preston, and Richard Lee represented the HGNNC at the

December 4 Board of Neighborhood Commissioners' meeting when the HGNNC was honored for achieving its 10year anniversary. The BONC and also Councilman Buscaino presented certificates. Delores and Rosalie gave some history of achievements to the BONC and answered their questions.

Outreach Representative Donald Cook discussed his goal of having some type of outreach event in each of the eight Districts, with the event being tailored to each District's interests and needs. Districts 1 and 4 are planning cleanup days and the 2013 Health Fair may be held in District 7. District 3 may be the site of a Movie in the Park event during next summer. Other Districts may want to focus on alley clean-ups or planning issues.

7) Announcements: People for Community Improvement, 13008 S. Figueroa Street, is offering a Winter Youth Program for those 7-13 with lunch/snacks provided from December 17 to January 3.

The Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment will offer ethics training taught by the City Attorney's office on Wed. December 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the LAPD Headquarters downtown.

Senator Curren Price will be hosting his annual holiday toy drive and open house on Wed. December 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at his District Office, 700 State Drive, Exposition Park.

Metro's ExpressLanes has opened along the 110 Harbor Freeway with very few people now using the carpool lanes and therefore much heavier traffic in the other lanes. A transponder costs \$40 or \$32 if you belong to the Auto Club. A monthly fee for its use is also charged.

Mabelle Pittman of the Empowerment Congress Southeast is inviting HGNNC to attend the holiday dinner at her church, 10611 S. Hoover Street on Wed. December 19 at 7 p.m.

LAPD Southeast Clergy Council is organizing a second walk along the Figueroa Corridor on Wed. January 30 beginning at 6:30 a.m. to talk with the homeless, unemployed, or involved with drug addiction or prostitution to learn about services to help them improve their quality of life.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary