

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

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), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Mary Hinton (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative.), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), Donald Cook, and Gloria Christmas

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Delores Allmond. Gloria Christmas offered a prayer for the well-being and success of the meeting.

1) Public Comment: Officer Dawson Hill, Southeast LAPD, Community Relations Office, thanked the HGNNC for its support of supplies and food for the Jan. 30 Clergy Council's Empowerment Walk, which was the second one they have held, the first taking place on May 30, 2012, which the HGNNC also supported. Those walking along the Figueroa Corridor gave out information on shelters and jobs programs to prostitutes, veterans, and the homeless. He promised that the next Empowerment Walk would go south of Imperial Highway so that more of the HGNNC section of Figueroa is covered. Pastor Andre Marshall of the Southeast Clergy Council, who coordinated the Walk with Officer Hill, also thanked the HGNNC saying that the Board and stakeholders are part of the solution. He particularly thanked Deborah Lee and Rosalie Preston for facilitating the HGNNC's contribution. The Los Angeles Sentinel wrote an article about the walk.

Chairperson Delores Allmond thanked Senior Lead Officer Hugo Valdez for meeting with her on February 11 to discuss various HGNNC safety issues and ways to improve communication with stakeholders.

2) Appointment of At-Large Representative: Marvin Bell moved, Ramon Montoya seconded, and it was passed 11-0 to appoint Gloria Christmas to the vacant At-Large Representative position on the Board.

8) Letter on issues related to 146th Street and Denver Avenue in District 3: Senior Lead Officer Hugo Valdez of 18A97 apologized for not being present at the January 22 General Membership meeting when residents of the 146th Street and Denver Avenue area made the Board aware of a number of safety issues in that area. He did meet with the affected stakeholders the next day and the following day, as well as District 3 Representative Rey Paduani, and has come up with a number of recommendations. He reassured residents that the abandoned car with the body in the trunk was from out of the area. He is aware that this location has been a dumping area for other stolen cars and that tow trucks have been seen leaving vehicles in the neighborhood. Stakeholders should feel free to call him about safety issues, but if something of a life-threatening nature is happening, call 911. Use 877-ASK-LAPD for non-emergency issues. To report burglaries after they have occurred, call the Southeast LAPD desk at (213) 972-7828. He then answered a question about a recent shooting death at a bus bench on Vermont Avenue just north of Gardena Blvd.

(Donald Cook left at 7:25 p.m.)

District 3 residents asked about having 146th Street closed off from Figueroa Street and were told that 50% of the residents of the area must agree to it.

The Board reviewed the possible solutions which Officer Valdez had suggested and then Marvin Bell moved, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded, and it was passed 11-0 to send a letter to Councilman Buscaino recommending those solutions, which include providing more light to the area, higher

fencing for the community garden south of 146th Street, possibly installing a closed circuit camera or motion sensor to a DWP pole, better maintenance of the parkways fronting the community garden and DWP-leased property on the north side of 146th Street, possible closing off of 146th Street along Figueroa Street (or another street closure), and encouragement of Neighborhood Watch meetings in the area.

3) Approval of the January 8 Board minutes: It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Deborah Lee, and passed 11-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

4) 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 January 21, 2013, with four p-card purchases; page 2a and 2b showed the expenditures from July 1 to February 12, with a total of \$14,199.81 spent and page 3 was the 2012-2013 budget which was approved June 12, 2012. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Adrian Valenzuela seconded, and it was approved 11-0 to approve the Treasurer's report.

(Rosario Rico entered the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)

4a) A budget outline for the April 13 Health Fair was presented, outlining estimates for the LAUSD permit for use of the 118th Street School playground, flyers, delivery of flyers, three new banners, rental of canopies, tables, and chairs, a donation to either Beacon House or Chrysalis for help with set-up and clean-up tasks, and boxed lunches and bottled water for an estimated 500 attendees. Richard Lee moved, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded, and it was passed 9-2-0 to approve spending up to \$7,000 for the Sat. April 13 Health Fair at the 118th Street School.

4b) After receiving estimates from a number of web design companies, ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000, Delores Allmond, Pamela Thornton, and Rosalie Preston are recommending that a new website for the HGNNC be designed by Wendy Moore of Moore Business Results, who has designed a number of other Neighborhood Council websites. The new website will utilize Drupal content management software so that three Board members will be able to easily update the website, an interactive calendar, Google search of website pages and PDF documents, and the ability to translate the whole site into Spanish. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Gloria Christmas, and passed 12-0-0 to spend up to \$5,000 for the new website design.

5) Appointment of additional member to Finance Committee: Jose Alcala, District 8 stakeholder, has taken Treasurer training, may possibly become the next HGNNC Treasurer, and wishes to be appointed to the Finance Committee. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 12-0 to appoint Jose Alcala to the Finance Committee.

6) Position on proposed condominium project for 15812 S. Vermont Avenue: Pamela Thornton, Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee, summarized the discussion which the Committee held with developer Steve Stapakis on February 2. He has agreed to reduce the number of units from 34 to 30 and has sent a letter to the HGNNC so stating this intention. He has also given the Committee a listing of similar projects which they may view, including the condominiums at 15623 S. Vermont Avenue. He is willing to work with the HGNNC on the landscaping elements. The Planning and Land Use Committee has recommended support for this project with the lower number of units. Ramon Montoya moved, Marvin Bell seconded, and it was passed 12-0-0 that the HGNNC support the proposed condominium project at 30 units for 15812 S. Vermont Avenue in District 2 (TT-69586).

7) Position on proposed 6 cell panels, 825 W. Gardena Blvd.: Pamela Thornton, Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee, reviewed the issues which led to the Planning and Land Use

Committee voting to oppose the proposal at the February 2 meeting, primarily the concern over potential long-term health effects on the building's residents and workers and those who live nearby, as well as the several sensitive uses in close proximity (Boys and Girls Club of Harbor Gateway-Gardena, Gardena Elementary School, and the soon-to-be-opened Environmental Charter Middle School). It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 12-0 to oppose this proposal (ZA 2012-3374-CUW).

9) Discussion of Board conduct during meetings, need for a Sergeant-at-Arms, how to handle stakeholder issues, possible Town Hall on stakeholder issues: Amber Meshack, Project Coordinator for Harbor and Westside Neighborhood Councils, introduced herself. She has worked for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for nearly thirteen years and helped form the West L.A. Neighborhood Councils. She remarked that the conduct of the HGNNC Board at the current meeting was not at all objectionable; however she realizes that some Board members had concerns after the meeting of January 22 when the Chair was given a variety of opinions on how to handle an important stakeholder issue which was brought up during the discussion of another issue. Some Board members think that others need more training in Robert's Rules of Order. Others think there is a need for quarterly Town Hall meetings to allow stakeholders more time to discuss their issues. Others are concerned that Board members' get up and move around during the meeting which causes disruption and that there are also too many side comments between Board members. Perhaps a Sergeant-at-Arms would help keep the meetings more orderly. Amber said that it is possible to schedule more training at a future meeting, training to be provided by the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment. Also, the Board can address these issues at the annual Board retreat. She suggested printing out the Code of Civility and/or including it on the back of the agenda as a reminder. The most important thing is for the Board to commit to following whatever rules of conduct are agreed upon. When stakeholder issues are raised at meetings, the Brown Act does not allow the Board to enter into a dialogue with the stakeholder or to vote on solutions. The issue must be placed on a future agenda for discussion and action. The Board needs to listen but not get emotionally involved. Additionally, the Board needs to keep in mind their obligations as public officials and therefore conduct themselves in an orderly manner during meetings and to respect the time limits of the meeting. She recommended attendance at future workshops which the Dept. will be offering and viewing of the Brown Act workshop on the empowerla.org website under the Leadership Academy tab. She also reminded the Board that Dee Olomajeye who helped facilitate the HGNNC Board retreat on November 10 could come back to help facilitate more training.

Betty Hawkins expressed concern that stakeholders be heard without the Board cutting them off. District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson said she saw the need for a HGNNC Town Hall, possibly on a Saturday, so that stakeholders had more time to bring up their individual issues. Daisy Ybarra, Field Deputy for Councilman Joe Buscaino, advised that it would not be possible to have City Department representatives present on a Saturday due to staffing and overtime issues, so a weekday evening would be best.

10) Setting of a meeting with Councilman Buscaino to follow-up on service requests and communication issues: New Harbor Gateway Field Deputy Daisy Ybarra, introduced herself. She was formerly the Constituent Services Representative in the Watts office. She can be reached at (213) 473-5128 for the Watts field office or (310) 732-4515 for the San Pedro field office. Quincy O'Neal has now become the Field Deputy for Watts. She announced that Councilman Joe Buscaino will be holding a Town Hall meeting at Gardena High School on Wed. February 20 at 7 p.m. As for tracking service request issues, when requests for service are made online to the Building and Safety Department, a tracking number is generated. Likewise, when one calls 311, a service request number is given and that is how the Council office can help follow up, if needed. She suggested that stakeholders try to contact individual City Departments on their own first and then if there is

not a response within a reasonable time, ask the Council office to follow up, preferably by using e-mail: daisy.ybarra@lacity.org

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 8:48 p.m.)

She can offer some suggestions if the HGNNC decides to organize its own Town Hall for stakeholders. She said the Council office is working on a way to address the issue of tree trimming and sidewalk repair.

11) Appointment of Ad Hoc Health Fair Committee: It was moved by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Mary Hinton, and passed 10-0 to appoint Neodros Bridgeforth, Rosalie Preston, Rosario Rico, Deborah Lee, and Donald Cook as the members of the Ad Hoc Health Fair Committee to plan and carry out the Sat. April 13 Health Fair.

12) Update on HGNNC plans and events (plans for outreach events in each District and April Health Fair): After hearing about the proposed clean up days in Districts 1 and 4, stakeholders in District 8 are working on a clean up day for that area. Rosario Rico, District 7 Representative, also expressed interest in having a clean up day in her area. Daisy Ybarra said that tools and dumpsters needed to be requested through the Council office no later than two weeks in advance of the event. Rosalie Preston said that groups organizing clean up events can have flyers run off at the HGNNC office, also arrange for a robo-call to stakeholders in individual Districts, and arrange for lunches to be provided for volunteers.

13) Report on Harbor Alliance meeting of Feb. 6: Attendees discussed how to improve communication from and to Councilman Buscaino's office. Kevin Bingham, San Pedro Field Deputy, was present and announced that the Councilman has scheduled a second Presidents' meeting for Thurs. February 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Torrance. Commissioner Doug Epperhart discussed the Neighborhood Council Plan Review meetings. The Factual Basis Stakeholder definition is being discussed at the Board of Commissioners' meeting tonight.

14) Announcements: Pamela Thornton attended the Community Development Department's meeting on February 6 which reviewed the City's proposals for spending \$3 billion in Federal block-grant funding over a 5-year period. It seemed that the priorities would be for transportation oriented development and increased housing units.

The draft Goals and Policies and draft implementation Programs for the City's Mobility Element are now online: la2b.org. Comments can be made up until March 31 to either Claire.bowin@lacity.org or my.la@lacity.org. Scoping meetings will begin in April 2013.

Dexter McLeod announced that People for Community Improvement will be hosting a Job and Resource Fair on Thurs. February 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 13008 S. Figueroa Street.

Rosario Rico announced that there will be a Town Hall meeting on the Affordable Care Act at Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center, 1720 E. 120th Street, on Tues. February 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary