

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

135th Street Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), Donald Cook (Outreach Representative), and Gloria Christmas (At-Large Representative)

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

1) Public Comment: Veronica Ledesma, Field Representative for Assemblyman Isadore Hall, introduced herself and offered assistance with stakeholder issues. Miranda Hughes is the Field Representative for the HGNNC area and will attend future meetings.

Yvonne Valenzuela, District 2 stakeholder and Gardena High School student, announced that she is competing to be Miss Cinco de Mayo in Gardena and has \$2 raffle tickets for sale which will help her achieve this goal. The Cinco de Mayo parade will take place along Gardena Blvd. on Sat. May 4.

2) Approval of the February 12, 2013, Board minutes: It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 11-0 to approve the February 12 Board minutes as submitted.

3) Treasurer's report: Due to the delayed arrival of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Recording Secretary gave the Treasurer's Report. Page 1 was the U.S. Bank statement for February 21 showing six p-card expenditures. Pages 2a and 2b showed the 2012-2013 expenditures as of March 11, totaling \$15,404.68. Page 3 showed the approved 2012-2013 budget for \$37,000. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Gloria Christmas, and passed 11-0 to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

3a. The Finance Committee met on Sat. March 9 to revise the 2012-2013 budget to reflect actual spending for the year to date and to discuss final expenditures for the year. The revised budget was presented to the Board for brief review. It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 11-0 to approve the revised budget of \$37,000.

(Joan Jacobs arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

3b. After discussion of a proposal to purchase 5-6 iPads for the 135th Street School, at the request of Principal Antonio Camacho, it was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Donald Cook, and passed 11-1 to table this item until April 9 to determine if LAUSD is planning to do this purchase by 2014.

3c. Principal Ra' Daniel McCoy has reported on the difference which the daily morning reading is having on student achievement at the 118th Street School. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 12-0-0 to approve up to \$1,500 to fund books for the Morning Reading Program at the 118th Street School.

3d. In preparation for the St. April 13 Health Fair at the 118th Street School, it was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Donald Cook, and passed 12-0 to approve up to \$1,400 to purchase 1,000 re-usable bags with the HGNNC logo.

4) Planning and Land Use Committee report: PLU Chair Pamela Thornton reported on the March 2 presentation by Carl's Jr. of their proposed new location at 501 W. El Segundo Blvd. The PLU Committee recommended on-site security because the facility would be located along the Figueroa Street Corridor, local hiring, sponsorship by Carl's Jr. of a local youth sports team or other community partnership, and follow-up with the HGNNC before filing their application. The PLU Committee also has concerns that this would be an additional fast food outlet in an area which already has so many. The City's Fast Food restrictions ordinance only extends to 108th Street, so the HGNNC is not covered. Veronica Ledesma from Assemblyman Hall's office attended the PLU Committee and offered her help with constituent issues, such as the large truck issue along Figueroa Street in Districts 1 and 2.

On March 12, Pamela, Delores Allmond, and Rosalie Preston met with Alison Becker, Daisy Ybarra, and Gloria Lockhart of Councilman Buscaino's office to discuss concerns about the proposed Carl's Jr.

Alison had worked with Carl's Jr. on improving their initial designs. The HGNNC is very concerned about the impact of 24-hour operation of the Carl's Jr. drivethrough window on the nearby apartment building residents. It would also encourage loitering around that location.

On February 27 HGNNC PLU Committee members and also Chairperson Delores Allmond traveled to City Hall for the hearing on the proposed new MetroPCS cell panels on top of the Gardena Hotel at 825 W. Gardena Blvd. The hearing officer postponed a decision for three weeks to allow Alison Becker time to talk with the applicant and review the proposal.

On March 5, several PLU Committee members attended the San Pedro Community Plan hearing before the Harbor Area Commission to learn more about the Community Plan approval process. That hearing lasted 2 ½ to 3 hours. On March 14 at 8:30 a.m., the City Planning Commission will meet in San Pedro to vote on the final version of the San Pedro Community Plan.

PLU Committee members will be attending the March 13 meeting of the South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Neighborhood Councils impacted by those two new Community Plans. The next meeting of the PLU Committee will be Sat. April 6 at 10 a.m. at the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd.

5) Discussion on possible HGNNC-sponsored Town Hall for stakeholders: In order to hold a Town Hall with good representation from appropriate agencies who can assist stakeholders with their issues, the support of Council District 15 and also Assemblyman Hall is needed. Possible attendees would be General Services Dept., Dept. of Transportation, Dept. of Water and Power, Street Services, the Building and Safety Dept., and LAPD. A moderator will be needed. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0 to appoint Marvin Bell, Llewyn Fowlkes, Pamela Thornton, and Donald Cook to the Ad Hoc Town Hall Committee to plan such an event on a weekday evening.

6) Possible position on new Economic Development Dept. and separate non-profit to generate economic development (File No. 08-3050): Delores Allmond, Pamela Thornton, and Rosalie Preston attended the Town Hall meeting with CAO Miguel Santana and CLA Gerry Miller on March 21 which the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment had organized for NC's to hear more about the proposal. Rosalie summarized the discussion and generally held opinion that a new Economic Development Dept. to consolidate all business-related and job-creating functions under one new Department utilizing funds and staff from existing City departments was a good idea. However, the creation of a non-profit to handle the funding and development projects themselves raised many issues about equitability, conflict of interest, and possible excessive salaries for the non-profit CEO which cannot be adequately addressed if this process proceeds hastily and by a July 1 deadline. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Donald Cook, and passed 11-1-0 to oppose the creation of both a new Economic Development Department and its associated nonprofit until the public and Neighborhood Councils can receive proper background information and input into their creation and guidelines.

7) Report on the Sat. April 13 Health Fair: Ad Hoc Health Fair Committee Chair Rosario Rico showed a draft of the flyer. So far, there are commitments from Bienestar for their rapid HIV testing van, Walgreen's (blood pressure tests), Hubert Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center Mobile Van (hypertension, glucose, cholesterol, and possible immunizations), Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, Council of Black Nurses, Gang Alternative Project, Los Angeles County Public Library-A. C. Bilbrew (health information resources), Los Angeles Dental Society (150 free toothbrushes and toothpaste), Sanitation Dept., DWP, PhoneSells electronic recycling, UMMA Community Clinic, Western University pharmacy students (blood glucose screenings and blood pressure), and possibly the Braille Institute van with vision screenings. Hoopitup will provide hula hoop games for kids at no charge in exchange for having a booth. The Committee will meet again on Tues. March 19 at 7:30 p.m.

8) Update on the 2013-2014 budget survey-Regional Budget Day on Sat. March 16: Flyers were handed out for the Regional Budget Day closest to HGNNC, which is being held at the Constituent Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All stakeholders are encouraged to attend.
(Donald Cook left at 8:50 p.m.)

9) Report on NC Presidents' meeting with Councilman Buscaino on February 21: Chairperson Delores Allmond attended this meeting representing the HGNNC. Only one person per Council was allowed to attend due to the size of the room. The theme was communication. There will now be regular quarterly meetings scheduled and the next one will take place on Mon. April 29. Councilman Buscaino reviewed his first year in office, saying that he had focused on quality of life issues and utilized the "broken window" theory. He has attended all Neighborhood Council meetings at least one time. He admitted that the first year in office had been a learning experience for him in balancing his job as Councilman and family life. Each NC then presented its "hot topic" and for the HGNNC this was communication with the Council office and the need for a tracking system which would help allocate City services. Councilman Buscaino's staff asked the NC's to utilize Facebook and other social media, such as he is doing. To that end, he will offer a Social Media 101 class during a weekday taught by Communications Director Branimir Kwartuc. Pamela Thornton, Richard Lee, and Joan Jacobs are interested in attending this.

10) Update on HGNNC plans and events (plans for outreach events in each District, including clean up days in Districts 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8): The clean up day for District 1 around Gardena Blvd. is postponed until after the new Environmental Charter Middle School has opened at 812 W. 165th Place. Betty Hawkins has organized the cleaning equipment and dumpsters for the District 4 clean up day on Sat. May 11. Districts 6, 7, and 8 need to set dates for their events.

11) Report on Harbor Alliance meeting of March 6: Lu Watson attended and gave the report. Because the sales tax increase for the City of Los Angeles did not pass, the CAO is threatening either to eliminate the Neighborhood Council elections or reduce the DONE budget by 20%. Rosalie handed out the survey information from Grayce Liu on options for the NC elections and also the comment link information to give your opinion on possible cuts to the Mayor and City Council.

12) Announcements: Youth Representative Richard Lee said that the HGNNC Leadership Academy workshops on public speaking have been postponed. He invited Board members to attend the Friday at 3 p.m. workshop series being held at the Compton High School.

The African American Community Forum will be held on March 28 at the L.A. Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Lu Watson announced that District 5 stakeholder Mike Jones, who was involved in discussions about a Harbor Gateway jazz festival two years ago died March 8 of kidney-related disease. His funeral service will be held Friday March 15 at West Angeles.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary