

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

135th Street Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Ramon Montoya (District 1), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Mary Hinton (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Gloria Christmas (At-Large Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairperson Delores Allmond.

1) Public Comment: Rossa Dona, Recruitment and Outreach Coordinator for the Environmental Charter Middle School, announced that the school had opened today at its new location, 812 W. 165th Place in District 1. The official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Wed. May 22 from 10 a.m. to noon. They have just learned that the school has received the KaBOOM! grant that they applied for. The grant will allow them to build a play structure with input from students, parents, and the community.

Mike Herrera, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the South Bay, announced the opening of a new Learn4Life Charter High School, to be located in the former teen room of the Boys and Girls Club Gardena. The school will focus on independent study and serve 150 to 200 students. Sign ups are beginning now. After comments from Board members about the public bathrooms at 802 W. Gardena Blvd, Herrera said that he is working on better maintenance of the interior of the Harbor Gateway Community Center building with the Kiwanis and South Bay Rebuilders.

Fred Quintana, Policy Director for Dr. Richard Vladovic, Board of Education member for District 7, stated that Dr. Vladovic is committed to working with local students. He knows that the 135th Street School is now within Marguerite LaMotte's District, after the redistricting. He suggested consulting the district maps on the LAUSD website to see where the boundary now is between District 1 and 7.

2) Approval of the March 12, 2013, Board minutes: It was moved by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Mary Hinton, and passed 10-0 to approved the March 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 March 21 showing three p-card expenditures. Pages 2a and 2b showed the 2012-2013 expenditures as of April 9, totaling \$20,494.65. Page 3 showed the approved 2012-2013 budget (revised March 12, 2013) for \$37,000, and page 4 showed some possible funding ideas for the remaining fiscal year funds. There were some questions as to whether Moore Business Results, designer of the new HGNNC website, can present the draft version of the site for all Board members to comment on. There was also a question about how translation services are obtained and the accuracy of the translation for the January 22 General Membership meeting. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 10-0 to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

3a. Principal Antonio Camacho from the 135th Street School explained the reason for asking for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to fund five iPads for classroom use. These tablets would represent the latest technology with all the other twenty-eight computers now in classrooms being ten years old. There are also ten computers in the new school library. The budget for school equipment and supplies was formerly \$60,000 a year and now has been reduced to \$9,000. As to the L.A. Times article which caused the Board to table the discussion at the March 12 meeting, the LAUSD Board vote for \$50 million to cover iPads for 47 schools by 2014 and does not include the 135th Street School. Also, LAUSD has 800 schools. He asked that the HGNNC fund these iPads for the 135th Street School so students would have access to them within a few months and not years from now. Ramon Montoya expressed concern about children being more likely to drop and damage the iPads, but Mr. Camacho explained that the price for each includes a service agreement so that any damaged iPad would be immediately replaced.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 7:47 p.m.)

Rosalie Preston moved, Mary Hinton seconded, and it was passed 9-1-0 to approve the Neighborhood Purposes Grant for \$3,000 to fund five iPads for classroom use for the 135th Street School. The school will attach labels to each to acknowledge the HGNNC contribution.

Mr. Camacho announced that he will be retiring in June after fourteen years as the principal at the 135th Street School. His retirement party will be held on Thurs. June 20 at 5 p.m. at the Tamayo restaurant in East L.A. More details can be found at www.amae.org

3b. The HGNNC has been assisting to keep up the grounds around the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd. A new phormium is needed and also 20 bags of bark to help suppress weeds and discourage walking through the garden. It was moved by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 10-0-0 to approve up to \$200 for this purpose. HGNNC volunteers will do the planting and distribution of the bark.

3c. Catherine Walker, President of the 135th Street Neighborhood Watch, asked that \$250 be spent to provide a continental breakfast and lunch for the volunteers for their Sat. May 11 clean up day in District 4. It was moved by Mary Hinton, seconded by Ray Montoya and passed 10-0-0 to provide this support.

3d. Mike Herrera of the South Bay Boys and Girls Clubs explained the need to build a storage shed for the parking lot area in order to store the folding tables and chairs which are used by both the Club and community groups using the Harbor Gateway Community Center. With the new Charter school using the teen room and the need to have open space in the other rooms to allow for Summer Camp members, the shed is critically needed. The grant will pay for the lumber, sealer, and other supplies needed to build the shed. A previously purchased shed proved to be too flimsy and was broken into in the past, so this one will be designed for durability and security.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 8:00 p.m.)

Mike also explained the finished shed would be about 8 feet by 12 feet. It was moved by Mary Hinton, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 11-0-0 to approve up to \$1,000 to purchase the materials needed via a Neighborhood Purposes Grant.

(Llewlyn Fowlkes entered the meeting at 8:08 p.m.)

4) Update on planning issues (Carl's Jr., Metro PCS, South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans, and Rosecrans Park easement issue): Planning and Land Use Committee Chair Pamela Thornton reported apply to build a new restaurant at 501 W. El Segundo Blvd.

The Zoning Administrator has approved the Metro PCS cell panel application for 825 W. Gardena Blvd. Council District 15 supported the application since there were no grounds for denying it based on aesthetic considerations and the City cannot deny such an application based on possible health concerns.

Rosalie Preston reported that members of the PLU Committee and District 6 stakeholders will be finding a Saturday to walk the area noting the condition of streets, sidewalks, alleys, and the walkability of the area near the Green Line station at Vermont Avenue as preparation for the draft of the South L.A. Community Plan. The hearing of the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan before the Planning Commission takes place on Thurs. April 11 at 8:30 a.m. and some HGNNC stakeholders will attend to observe the process.

On April Rosalie Preston, Delores Allmond, and Rey Paduani (District 3 Representative) met with the construction team for the Rosecrans Park renovation to discuss the issues related to the original plan to eliminate the fencing and concrete bottom of the L.A. County easement next to 149 S. Menlo Avenue at the request of the homeowner of that property. The property owner had been unaware of the plan to redesign the easement to allow for trees along her block wall, shrubbery and grass as a means of allowing more water to percolate into the ground rather than running out a culvert at the end of the easement where it meets the railroad track area. The result of the meeting was that the construction team agreed to re-fence the easement after placing new concrete over its surface and creating a new drain under the sidewalk at the end of the Menlo Avenue cul-de-sac. This will prevent any homeless people from sleeping on the easement close to the stakeholder's property.

5) Position on File No. 13-0191 Speed hump policy change to ban new humps and remove existing humps which help calm speeding vehicles on residential street: Rosalie happened to notice a proposal to ban all new speed humps and remove existing ones when looking over a Transportation Committee agenda in February. Supposedly the Dept. of Transportation is concerned about the impact of speed

humps on emergency vehicle response times, especially on streets with multiple speed humps. However the report from DOT General Manager Jaime de la Vega concludes by saying that an alternative would be to “only accept requests for the installation or removal of speed humps if the project is financially supported by city budget appropriations or private interests that can fund all costs, including public outreach, project coordination, traffic studies, engineering design, construction inspections, and administrative services.” The HGNNC asked for speed humps along 149th Street in front of Rosecrans Park in 2011 after a child was hit by a speeding car in front of the park. Recently, a District 1 stakeholder living on Ainsworth south of Alondra has asked the HGNNC to support his request for speed humps along his street after two of his dogs were killed by speeding cars and a child was also hit and injured by a speeding car. Betty Hawkins pointed out that speed humps are also needed along Hoover Street in District 4 and in the alley just south of 135th Street. It was moved by Llewlyn Fowlkes, seconded by Gloria Christmas, and passed 12-0-0 to write a letter in opposition to File 13-0191 due to need for speed humps or some type of alternative traffic calming measures for residential neighborhoods which have streets that are used by cut-through traffic or need the humps to create safer streets for pedestrians.

6) Support for the South L.A. Alliance mayoral candidates’ forum on May 11: The Harbor Alliance will not be sponsoring a candidates’ forum for the two remaining mayoral candidates or for the other citywide offices. The HGNNC has attended some of the SLAANC meetings in order to forge partnerships in relation to the upcoming South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans. And now the SLAANC is organizing a mayoral candidates’ forum on Sat. May 11 in the Crenshaw area. The HGNNC will be able to suggest questions for the candidates. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 12-0-0 to support the refreshments or printing of flyers for this event in the amount of \$100.

7) Follow up training from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: The HGNNC Board had asked Amber Meshack in February for further Board training. The Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment has responded with a form to request such training. It was moved by Llewlyn Fowlkes, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 12-0-0 to request in-person training for “Roles and Responsibilities for Board Members” and “parliamentary Procedure-Meeting Formats.” Ideally the training will take place on either Sat. May 11 or Sat. May 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the 135th Street School.

8) Update on HGNNC plans and events (April 13 Health Fair, clean up days, Town Hall for stakeholders): A program outline and a summary of the vendors participating in the Sat. April 13 Health Fair was given out and Board volunteers for the event were requested. Mary Hinton reported that District 8 is planning their clean up day for Sat. May 25. The Ad Hoc Committee on a Town Hall has not yet met; Pamela Thornton said she would follow up.

9) Report on Harbor Alliance meeting of April 3 and SLAANC meeting of March 21: The focus of the Harbor Alliance meeting on April 3 was a presentation by Planner Claire Bowin about the City’s Mobility Element and the new Health and Wellness Chapter of the Framework Element. Comments are needed on both and can be made via myla@lacity.org. Comments on the Mobility Element are due by May 6. Pamela Thornton attended the March 21 SLAANC meeting where the focus was on the upcoming City ban on use of plastic bags.

10) Announcements: Richard Lee announced that Toastmasters International will be hosting a two-hour free workshop on parliamentary procedure on Sun. April 14 from 3-5 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary