

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting of January 13, 2009

Present: Adrian White (Chair), Delores Allmond (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Corresponding Secretary), Gloria Christmas (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Mattie Menser (District 7), Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith Based Representative), and Eva Cooper (Youth Representative)

Chair Adrian White called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

1) Public Comment: Rey Paduani, District 3 Representative, reported on the recent CPAB meeting which mentioned the Department of Water and Power Outdoor Area Lighting program which provides lighting for alleys and businesses which need better security. The requirement is a wooden LADWP utility pole with an appropriate voltage within 25 feet of the property line. The fee is usually \$12 a month per light for residences and \$16-\$36 per month per light for businesses. Contact 1-800-342-5397 for more information.

Adrian White thanked Mattie Menser for her efforts in decorating the street trees in District 7.

Betty Hawkins asked that all meetings be recorded and that the Board consider purchase of a better quality tape recorder if the current Sony Clear Voice is not adequate.

2) Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the December 9 Board meeting were approved as corrected. Motion: Bridgeforth Second: Christmas Vote: 9-0

4) Presentation and possible vote on expansion of mini-mart at 14221 S. Figueroa: Erika Skeie of the Fiedler Group, discussed BP Arco's plans for the expansion and upgrade of the building and landscaping of facility #5221, located at 14221 S. Figueroa, on the northwest corner of Rosecrans and Figueroa in District 4. Once the improvements are made, the gas station and mini-market will be sold to a franchisee, as is being done with all other BP Arco stations. The two fueling canopies will remain while the convenience store will be enlarged from 2,300 square feet to 3,000 square feet.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

A seven foot landscaped buffer will be added along Figueroa and additional landscaping will be added to the north side of the property. There will be additional lighting and thirty-two security cameras. BP Arco has talked with Frank Hong, Director of Planning and Development Services for the 15th Council District, and the Council office is supportive of this upgrade. Beer and wine for off-site consumption will continue to be sold, as previously permitted, between the hours of 6 a.m. to 2 a.m.

(Eva Cooper entered the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins expressed concern that in the future hard liquor would be sold in the mini-market. Ms. Skeie assured the Board that no BP Arco sells hard liquor. It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Gloria Christmas and passed 10-0 with 1 abstention to support the expansion and upgrade of this business as presented, with the requirement that a letter from BP Arco be sent to the Neighborhood Council stating its position on hard liquor sales. A letter in support of the project will be sent to the Zoning Administrator before the January 29 hearing on the matter at San Pedro City Hall.

3) Treasurer's Report: Gloria Christmas reported that the Neighborhood Council Funding Report for January 1, 2009 shows a balance of \$111,235.12, with 14 Visa expenditures and three demand warrants during December. The summary of expenditures by quarter shows a total of \$31,741.81 spent from July 1, 2008 to January 9, 2009. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Delores Allmond, and passed 11-0 to approve the treasurer's report.

Betty Hawkins asked clarification from the Board about the October 28, 2008 vote on expenditures for holiday decorations in Districts 4, 6, 7, and 8 because she thought that prizes for the three top entries in the District 4 holiday lights contest had been approved. Rosalie Preston said that the draft minutes of that meeting did not reflect that aspect. Rose Ibanez, DONE Project Coordinator, clarified that whether

the minutes were correct or not or whether the Board had voted approval of funding the prizes or not, an award of gift cards cannot be made to individuals using DONE funds, while certificates for prize winners and other forms of acknowledgement are acceptable. Because of the confusion over this issue, Rodger Shimatsu, Program Training and Analyst for DONE, will be present at the General Membership meeting of January 27 at 6 p.m. to review DONE funding guidelines.

Rosalie Preston moved, Rey Paduani seconded, and it was passed 11-0 to approve an additional \$250 to B.J. Sisters for distribution of an additional 1000 flyers in Districts 6, 7, and 8 to promote the holiday tree decoration program in those Districts.

It was moved by Eva Cooper, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 11-0 to approve up to \$ 3,200 to provide three 46" round coated steel tables with four seats each plus umbrellas for Gardena Elementary School's new flower garden area. The school will acknowledge the support of the Neighborhood Council via a plaque or with recognition in their newsletter.

It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 11-0 to approve spending up to \$7,500 for stage lighting for 135th Street School.

It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 11-0 to spend \$1,000 on four canopies for the outdoor eating area and \$6,000 on a public address system for both the auditorium and the playground area of 116th Street School, which has a new principal and is in great need of replacing many worn and missing items at the school.

It was moved by Delores Allmond, seconded by Joan Jacobs and passed 11-0 to approve \$4,550 for direct mailing of the January 27 program agenda to HGNNC stakeholders as an experiment to see if more participation will result.

It was moved by Delores Allmond, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 11-0 to approve \$4,550 for direct mailing of the Feb. 3 Candidates' Forum flyer to increase attendance at the event which is jointly sponsored by both the HGNNC and the Harbor Gateway South Neighborhood Council.

5) DONE Report: Rose Ibanez, DONE Project Coordinator, reported that the City budget surveys are now due by January 31. There will be a Neighborhood Council Regional Town Hall on February 7 in the morning, with the location still to be announced, for the South/Harbor/ West Regions. This meeting will cover the Dept. of Transportation MOU with the Neighborhood Councils, the guidelines for the new Neighborhood Purposes grants, and a DONE funding update for the 2009-2010 budget year. All Neighborhood Councils need to have their bylaws ready in draft form by late March, ready for review by DONE and the City Clerk.

6) Letter to Street Services requesting street sweeping signs for Orchard between Rosecrans to 149th and the service road to the south of Rosecrans between Menlo and the 110 Harbor Freeway: Rey Paduani, District 3 Representative, asked that a letter be sent to Street Services requesting street sweeping signs for these two streets in District 3. It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0 that such a letter be sent.

7) Update on Feb. 3 candidates and issues forum: Rosalie Preston reported that Councilwoman Hahn and her one opponent Chris Salabaj will be present at the Candidates' Forum, as well as three other of the City Attorney and City Controller candidates and also a pro and con speaker for Measure B, the Solar Initiative. Harbor Gateway South N.C. will handle the refreshments for the Forum and the moderator.

8) Appointment of committee for April Health Fair: It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Neodros Bridgeforth as the chair of the committee, with Rosalie Preston, Mattie Menser, Adrian Valenzuela, and Eva Cooper also serving on the committee. The Health Fair will be probably be held Sat. April 4 at either 116th Street School or 118th Street School, as both schools have expressed interest in hosting it.

9) Finalize agenda for Jan. 27 Membership meeting: A few items were added to the draft agenda.

10) Announcements: Adrian White said that he would like to schedule a meeting of the Outreach Committee, probably on Sat. January 31 in the morning.

J. Eldridge Taylor of the Jet Foundation reported on their Sat. January 24 event, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the campus of L.A. Southwest College which will feature information on green jobs, financial literacy, gang prevention, parent/student motivation, and the Youth Leadership and Success Institute (YLSI).

The Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Forum will take place Sat. January 24 at 9:30 a.m. at Los Angeles City College in the Faculty Lounge.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston