

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 14, 2010
135th Elementary School Auditorium
801 135th Street, Gardena, CA

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson); Delores Allmond (Vice Chairperson); Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary); Joan Jacobs (Treasurer); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Rey Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5); Marvin Bell (District 6); Gloria Christmas (District 8); Kandee Lewis (Youth Representative); Leo Youngblood (At-large-Representative); Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative).

The Meeting was called to order by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson) at 7:08 p.m.

1) Public Comment: Rey Paduani, District 3, gave feedback on non-response(s) thus far received on both the cul-de-sac issue near the Harbor freeway in District 3 and on the letter which has been sent regarding regular street sweeping in District 3.

Adrian Valenzuela, District 2, reported that the locks have been changed on the restroom doors at Rosecrans Park. The problem was that the locks could be manipulated by the public so that the restrooms would remain locked all day.

(Marvin Bell arrived at 7:15 p.m.)

Rosalie Preston reported that the three new parking passes have not been received from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. DONE has said that while the City Council debates revoking such passes, HGNNC Board and stakeholders needing to attend meetings at City Hall should call DONE the day before to arrange for parking without a fee.

(Joan Jacobs arrived at 7:25 p.m.); (Kandee Lewis arrived at 7:26 p.m.)

2) Approval of the November 9, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Preston read out the November 9 Board minutes. Gloria Christmas moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Neodros Bridgeforth seconded the motion and it was carried 12 – 0.

3) Treasurer's Report: Page 1 documented the purchase card from October 22 through November 22, 2010; page 2 the expenditures from July 1 through December 1, showing that \$8,785.82 of the \$49,000 has been expended; and page 3 consisted of the annual budget for 2010-2011.

Leo suggested that monthly, quarterly, and YTD totals be formatted into the report.

Rosalie pointed out that although six months of the fiscal year have passed, the HGNNC has not spent even close to half of its allocated budget. DONE has said that as of this time, any remaining funds after June 30 will be allowed to rollover,. However, the City Council could vote to change that towards the end of the fiscal year. The Finance Committee needs to meet to study the budget again and reallocate funds.

John Delino, Unit Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Harbor Gateway/Gardena, and Mike Herrera, Executive Director of the South Bay Boys and Girls Club, presented their reasons for applying for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$5,000 to support a staff member for teens at the Boys and Girls Club of the Harbor Gateway/Gardena. Presently understaffed, they would like to hire someone whose educational background and experience would provide appropriate mentorship to the teens. The position would be part-time (6 hours a day). The urgency of this request arises out of the September 15 shooting of a 15-year old youth near the Boys & Girls Club on Gardena Blvd. The victim had been a member of the Club the prior year. Mike said they have a commitment to match the \$5,000 of the HGNNC grant with \$5,000 from the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice. They also have approached the Mayor's office. The total needed would be about \$30,000. Once the first year is established, grant applications for funding can be sent out based on the success of the

program. The club on Gardena Blvd. serves 75 kids now – young kids and some teens. Gang prevention, not gang intervention is the goal.

Kandee Lewis moved that \$5,000 in the form of a Neighborhood Purposes Grant be approved for the Boys and Girls Club of Harbor Gateway/Gardena for the hiring of an additional staff member for the teen program there. The motion was seconded by Delores Allmond. After further discussion, the motion carried 8-4.

Deborah Lee, District 8 stakeholder, requested funding for metal neighborhood street window signs for the 115th Street Neighborhood Watch, the boundaries of which are 115th to 120th and Avalon to Central, which was formed in May 2010. Leo Youngblood moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and the motion carried 12-0 to spend up to \$500 for 40 Neighborhood Watch window signs for District 8.

The Finance Committee will meet in January. Board members should consider the projects they would like to see funded during the last six months of the fiscal year and leave a message at the HGNNC office or e-mail.

There was discussion as to whether a January newsletter to stakeholders should be funded as a method of reaching the approximately 10,000 households within the HGNNC. Rosalie reported that two years ago the cost for printing the small newsletter was \$1,000. CIPS Marketing for door-to-door delivery in the thin plastic bags was an additional \$1,000. The proposed newspaper format would be eight full-sized pages with color and would cost \$1,100 to print. The typesetting is \$2,000 additional, which brings the total to \$3,100. Delivery by CIPS remains at \$1,000 or direct mailing to each of the 10,000 households would be \$2,500. Spanish translation for the larger newsletter would possibly total \$500. Other Neighborhood Councils have committed to comparable costs. The Finance Committee will further discuss the pros and cons.

Stakeholders Deborah and Richard Lee asked if the HGNNC's proposed street fair/block party could be held in District 8, near the 116th Street School, which would help focus attention on their Neighborhood Watch group and the stakeholders of that area, but all HGNNC stakeholders would be invited, with possibly some carnival games or rides and information booths and free food. Marvin Bell moved, Kandee Lewis seconded, and the motion passed 12-0 to support holding the HGNNC Street Fair in District 8. Ad Hoc Committee members will be appointed at the January 11 Board meeting.

Rosalie suggested designing a new HGNNC logo that would take up less room on the agendas than the current segmented map design which cannot be reduced in size. Many agenda items, including those under the Treasurer's report, should have more detail than the current agenda format allows for. She showed a sample of one possible new design in a more compact circular format. There was strong support for retaining the map as the HGNNC logo because it lets stakeholders know the Neighborhood Council boundaries.

4) Proposed removal of Recording Secretary: Recording Secretary Cornita Pitchford was not present at the meeting and had not communicated with the Board since her e-mailed message of November 9. She has missed the July 27 General Membership meeting, the September 14 Board meeting, the October 12 Board meeting, the October 16 Special Board meeting (Board retreat), the October 26 General Membership meeting, and the November 9 Board meeting. Therefore, it was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Kandee Lewis and carried 12-0 to remove Recording Secretary Cornita Pitchford from the Board for failure to consistently attend those meetings at which she was expected and for not carrying out the duties and responsibilities of her office. A letter will be sent to her by both regular and certified mail informing her of her removal and requesting the return of the laptop computer, tape recorder, flash drive, and office key by January 11, 2011.

5) Board position on replacing six bungalows at 135th Street School: At the November 9 Board meeting, Principal Antonio Camacho of the 135th Elementary School had mentioned the school's need to replace the six aging bungalows with either new bungalows or a new building which might also include a new school library. Joan Jacobs moved, Rey Paduani seconded, and the motion carried 12 to 0.

6) Report on Planning issues, including creation of a vision statement for the HGNNC and possible hiring of a planning consultant: The HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee did not meet last month. It was suggested that a retired city planner could be retained to advise the HGNNC on creating a vision statement. This proposal will be put on the Planning and Land Use Committee agenda for an early January meeting.

AT&T is installing an Above-Ground Facility on the south side of Gardena Blvd, west of Denver Avenue. Because Neodros Bridgeforth and Rosalie Preston attended the November 4 hearing, the HGNNC was mailed a summary of the Watts Corridors Project expansion into District 6 along Figueroa Street (CPC-2010-2771-CRA.) This includes a map which indicates that the CRA area includes more of HGNNC's District 6 than was originally thought.

There was a December 8 hearing to review the tentative tract map for 811-845 W. 115th Place just north of the 105 Freeway. This is a 33-unit condominium project with 70 parking spaces in the (T)(Q)R3-1 zone.

The approval details for three additional wireless panels, two microwave antennas, one GPS antenna, and one outdoor equipment cabinet for Clear Wireless at 12938 S. Hoover Street has been received by the HGNNC.

The Case Tracking Workshop, which will help Neighborhood Councils in the Harbor area keep track of planning and development proposals and was originally scheduled for January 15, is postponed until March 5.

7) Report on Harbor Alliance meeting of December 1: Joan Jacobs and Rosalie Preston attended this meeting. Two of the six remaining DONE Project managers attended and will be attending the Harbor Alliance meetings on a regular basis.

8) Update of HGNNC outreach events and recruitment of stakeholders: One more new stakeholder contact has been made (this one because of the Gardena Blvd. shooting), for a total of seven since early November 1.

No progress on scheduling Emergency Preparedness workshops as HGNNC still has not heard from Watts. Rosalie has learned that using the LAUSD schools for the workshops is not very likely due to the cutbacks in scheduling of custodial staff at night. Two possible church locations were suggested.

The fourth HGNNC Health Fair is set for Saturday April 2 at Rosecrans Park. The Lions Mobile van has been contacted and CVS Pharmacy will also be approached.

The cultural outreach event for Sat. April 30 from 1-5 p.m. will now be known as the Harbor Gateway Music Festival and will be held on the football field at Gardena High School. HGNNC and the Harbor Gateway South may each be asked to contribute \$2,500. Contributions are also being asked for from local businesses. If you have suggestions of music groups who might have interest in performing, please leave a message with Justin Brimmer. The Cultural Affairs Department are working on a major name group to highlight the event and that Department will provide two staff members to coordinate the event details and help with publicity. The 116th Street School and 135th Street School as well as the Home Assembly Church have expressed interest in participating.

9) Announcements: Kande Lewis announced that her upcoming youth event is now entitled "The L.A. Teen Summit on Dating Violence, and Bullying Prevention." It will be held Sat. February 26th at the L.A. Convention Center and has the backing of USC, UCLA, the L.A. County Sheriffs Department, the L.A. County District Attorney, Councilwoman Janice Hahn, and L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Recent burglaries in District 5 were discussed, where the thieves carried off the stolen items on bicycles. District 6 has also seen more home burglaries. The slowness of LAPD burglary reports was noted.

District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson reported on revisions being made to the tree roots ordinance. Residents would now have just 90 days from the date of the citation to repair their cracked sidewalks. If the homeowner fails to act, they will be charged for the repairs the City makes plus 40 %.

A favorable ruling has been made in the lawsuit of the City of Gardena vs. the City of Los Angeles for an inadequate Environmental Impact Report in regards to the WesPac Jet Fuel pipeline project which would cross under parts of the HGNNC.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl J. Wendell (Kelly Services)