

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 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); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Marvin Bell (District 6); Paris Miller (District 7); Gloria Christmas (District 8); David Ortega (Community Org. Rep.); Kande Lewis (Youth Representative); and Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative).

The Meeting was called to order by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson) at 7:07 p.m.

1) Public Comment:

An agenda flyer for the October 16 Board retreat was circulated. Attendees need to be at the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd., Gardena, CA, at 9:30 a.m. Six stakeholders have made RSVP so far. At the moment twenty-two are attending.

Justin Brimmer, Community Advocate for the 15th Council District from Councilwoman Hahn's Office, noted that he will attend the first part of the Board retreat. As a follow-up to the announcement and discussion at the September 14 Board meeting, Justin shared the latest status of the cultural outreach concert. He is networking with certain entertainers who have expressed a desire to be on board. The first planning committee meeting to plan this joint event with Harbor Gateway South will be Tues. October 19 at 7 p.m. at the Harbor Gateway Community Center. Justin reported that he needs more phone calls each week from District representatives on issues such as streets needing cleaning, graffiti, residents having excessive number of yard sales, mechanics working on cars on the street (other than their own), abandoned vehicles, etc.

Betty Hawkins, District 4 Representative, announced she wished to amend the request for funding from HGNNC to be in the form of support via the purchase card, not the Neighborhood Purposes Grant, and that the project is on hold until all of the funding can be obtained.

Richard Higashi, District 1 stakeholder, asked how to obtain the \$200 for roasted chicken for the November 19 Officers' Appreciation Day at LAPD Southeast Division, and was advised to work with the treasurer to make the purchase via the purchase card. A signup sheet should be at the event for those who are partaking of the food and later will be submitted with the quarterly report.

Eric Griffin, Facilities Director of the Rosecrans Recreation Center, addressed the group to request an additional \$700 above the \$1,000 already approved by the Board as funding for their Halloween Carnival on Saturday, October 30. Eric had planned a scaled-down version of the Carnival this year but his supervisor requested that the carnival games again be included. This request will be placed on the October 26 agenda. Justin Brimmer said that he will ask Councilwoman Hahn to split the additional requested amount with the HGNNC Board. Eric also said the gym floor has been newly renovated, new doors and locks installed, repainting done.

Rosalie Preston read out the letter from Councilwoman Hahn responding to the request from District 3 to set up regular street sweeping in their area. The Councilwoman said that District Three would be placed on the priority list for when the City's funding improves.

2) Approval of the September 14, 2010 Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and carried 11 – 0 to approve the minutes of the September 14 Board meeting as read.

3) Treasurer's Report:

The report consisted of two handouts – the HGNNC Expenditures from July 1, 2010 – September 14 and the HGNNC Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. There had been no expenditures since the last treasurer's

report in September. A motion was made by Dolores Allmond, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 11 – 0 to approve the treasurer’s report. Justin Brimmer asked about the \$6,614 in the budget for advertising. He is willing to be part of the Outreach Committee to analyze the effectiveness of spending \$995 for CIPS Marketing delivery of the General Membership meeting flyers door-to-door. He also questioned the \$1,700 for website hosting and maintenance and said he could refer the HGNNC to a cheaper and more effective website designer.

Kandee Lewis said that the teen dating violence prevention summit presented by her Positive Results non-profit would now be held outside the HGNNC boundaries and therefore will not be eligible for support from the HGNNC. Kandee asked Board members to consider serving on the planning committee, which would require fielding emails and attending meetings once a month between now and December, with increased participation closer to February. This event has the support of Councilwoman Hahn.

The subject of the skateboard park in District 8 was tabled as Leo Youngblood was not present and had not relayed any current details of the proposal.

The request for matching funds to support clean up services along Gardena Blvd. in District 1 cannot be made because the non-profit offering the match, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, does not currently have any projects within the Harbor Gateway North. A spokesperson for LANI suggested working with Councilwoman Hahn’s office to change this in the future. Currently the neighborhoods LANI works with are located in South L.A., Wilmington, and San Pedro.

Officer Armando Ramirez commented on a previous report of his concerning a trespassing and eviction issue. There was discussion from District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins of potentially hazardous materials discovered in her area for which she had contacted HAZMAT without result.

4) Appointment of two Mayor’s Budget Representative: Saturday, October 16 is Community Budget Day and thus far 40 of the 92 neighborhood councils are sending representatives. Due to the late notice this year, the date is in conflict with the HGNNC Board retreat, but there will be additional budget-related meetings. A motion was made by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Kandee Lewis, and passed 11-0 that Joan Jacobs and Neodros Bridgeforth be the official Mayor’s Budget Representatives.

11) Announcements:

Community Organization Representative David Ortega announced that as his church which was located at 16412 S. Ainsworth in District 1 has now moved into the City of Gardena, he is no longer eligible to sit on the Board. He was thanked for his service over the past year and a half. Suggestions for eligible people to fill this vacancy are those affiliated with community organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club, South Bay Family Health Care, parents’ groups from elementary schools, park board members, and those who are part of non-profit organizations located within the HGNNC boundaries. A District 1 Representative is still needed, as well.

(David Ortega left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)

5) Report on planning issues:

Another call was made to Building and Safety about the La Chiquita Mini-Market at 15818 S. Vermont Avenue. There are currently only five code enforcement officers for the whole city. A Planning Commission hearing on the proposed sale of liquor at 449 W. Imperial Highway will be held early next year and the HGNNC will need to comment again at that time. The HGNNC has received notice through the early notification system of proposed new condominiums at 15812 S. Vermont Avenue (probably on the site of the La Chiquita Mini-Market). The AT&T above ground facility at 860 W. 168th Street has been approved, with the Dept. of Public Works noting that the AGF ordinance does not allow Council District offices, Neighborhood Councils, or home owner associations to appeal such decisions, only individual homeowners. The Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils will be hosting a workshop on January 15 on how to best use the City Planning Department’s Early Notification system, to track development issues within a Neighborhood Council’s boundaries.

Planning and Land Use Committee member Lu Watson reminded the Board that Councilwoman Hahn has still not scheduled a meeting with the HGNNC Planning Committee to discuss the excess number of liquor stores applying to open with the HGNNC boundaries; a letter was sent to her on May 8. Neodros Bridgeforth and Rosalie Preston followed up by talking to Councilwoman Hahn personally on August 5 in San Pedro. Justin Brimmer had said the meeting would be set up after Labor Day but still no date has been set. Another letter will be sent and if necessary, Rosalie Preston will press the issue in person when she and other Neighborhood Council presidents meet with Hahn on October 28.

Lu Watson discussed the City of Los Angeles' plans to "gut" the zoning codes. The Planning Commission has this on their agenda as item number 8 on Thursday, October 14, at 8:30 at City Hall. Lu said that under the guise of simplifying the zoning code, rights to protest zoning adjustments are being taken away. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Eva Cooper, and passed 10-0 to file a community impact statement in opposition to CPC 2010-1572 –CA and to also send a letter to Councilwoman Hahn reflecting that opposition to the core findings ordinance. At the same hearing, item 9 on the agenda (CPC-2009-800-CA) would provide clearer guidelines for the appropriate enforcement of boarding homes with transient characteristics and prohibits Boarding or Rooming Houses in one-family dwellings zoned RD.

6) Update on the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment: Councilman Paul Krekorian is having a second workshop to discuss the future of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment on Sun. October 24 at the USC Galen Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Rosalie Preston encouraged Board members to attend. It was noted that the morning time on a Sunday discourages those who attend church.

Ethics Training was announced for Thurs. October 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Playa Vista. Funding may be cut if Board members are not current in this training. Rosalie Preston read out the names of those Board members who are current on training and those who are not. The training can also be taken online.

7) City fee for use of Neighborhood Council parking passes: There was discussion of a new proposal, which would require a \$7.00 fee each time one of the three Neighborhood Council parking passes was used by a Neighborhood Council member to attend a hearing or workshop at City Hall or whenever a City parking facility was used for Neighborhood Council business. A motion was made by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Marvin Bell, and carried with a vote of 10 - 0 to oppose council file 10-1114S1 which would mandate the fee and ask that Neighborhood Councils be exempted.

8) Position on hiring civilian workers to staff LAPD Metropolitan jail and Harbor Area jail: Discussion was tabled on this issue due to lack of time.

9) Harbor Alliance meeting of October 6. Due to lack of time, there was no report on this meeting.

10) Review of agenda for Tues. Oct. 26 General Membership Meeting. The agenda for the Tues. Oct. 26 General Membership meeting was reviewed by the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl J. Wendell
Kelly Services