

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council  
General Membership Meeting of April 28, 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), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Mattie Menser (District 7), Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith-Based Representative), and Eva Cooper (Youth Representative)

Vice Chair Delores Allmond called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

**1) Public Comment:** Officer Phillip Bobo, Southeast Division Community Relations, announced that on May 9 the LAPD will hold their 2009 anonymous gun buyback program. A \$100 gift certificate for Ralph's or a VISA gift card will be given anyone turning in a handgun. There will be a \$200 gift card for Ralph's or VISA for those turning in an assault weapon. He also reminded those present that August 4 is National Night Out at the Southeast Division and invited the HGNNC and any non-profit to participate. LAPD will provide a table and chairs for the organization. Call him at (213) 972-7966.

(Adrian White entered the meeting at 7:23 p.m.)

Lu Watson reported on the WesPac jet fuel pipeline hearing held before the Transportation Committee of the Los Angeles City Council on April 22. The Community Impact Statement which the HGNNC had filed was reflected on the agenda for file number 90-0670, stating opposition to the project. The South Bay *Daily Breeze* of April 26 reported on the hearing.

Dr. Deborah Robinson, Emergency Network L.A., discussed the current swine flu outbreak and gave out information on how to prevent becoming ill with this new virus.

(Llewyn Fowlkes entered the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)

Dr. Stella Robinson (District 8) thanked the HGNNC for all the work that went into putting on the April 4 Health Fair.

**4) Speaker from the Bureau of Sanitation on alternative technologies to process our solid waste:** Helen Yoon, Bureau of Sanitation, explained that the Bureau is the lead agency for handling the City's solid or black bin waste. City residents generate 10 million tons of waste per year, with 3,600 tons of that coming from our black bins. This waste is currently sent to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, which is running out of space. Of all major cities, Los Angeles is the best on diverting waste from its landfills, with 64% of all waste being recycled. However, there is now a plan to meet a zero waste goal of over 90% by 2029. There will be a city-wide conference on this issue at the Los Angeles Cathedral on May 30. The Zero Waste plan calls for one alternative technology facility in each of the six City waste sheds, plus one larger facility outside City boundaries. These sites would each process 200-900 tons of waste into energy using biologic and thermal technologies. Currently the Bureau of Sanitation is doing siting studies, with M2/ M3 zones close to freeways being targeted. Sensitive receptors, such as parks, schools, and hospitals would be avoided. The first such facility would open in 2012. Engineer Jorge Santiesteban answered some of the questions which stakeholders had about potential locations of the new waste handling facilities. The HGNNC falls into two waste shed areas: South and also Harbor (south of 120<sup>th</sup> Street). For more information, contact Miguel Zermeno, Project Manager, at (213) 485-3611 or [Miguel.Zermeno@lacity.org](mailto:Miguel.Zermeno@lacity.org) or look at [www.alternativetechnology.lacity.org](http://www.alternativetechnology.lacity.org)

(Eva Cooper entered the meeting at 8:12 p.m.)

**5) Stakeholder review of April 14 proposed bylaws revision and final vote by Board of the HGNNC:** After discussion and correction of Article IV to read “who declare a stake in the HGNNC Neighborhood Council,” Article VII B6 to read “Newly elected Board Members” instead of “Newly Elected Directors,” and Article VIII D2 last line to read “no longer a HGNNC Board Member” instead of “HGNNC Officer,” Gloria Christmas moved, Joan Jacobs seconded, and it was passed to approve the proposed bylaws changes 12-0

**LAPD Report:** Senior Lead Officer Armando Ramirez thanked the Board and stakeholders for all of the volunteer work that they do. Crime in the neighborhood has dropped dramatically. A certificate of appreciation for Catherine Walker, Neighborhood Watch Captain for the 135<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Watch (District 4), was read out. She was honored for her many activities on behalf of her neighborhood.

**6) Foreclosure prevention:** Jonathan Bislig from L.A. Neighborhood Housing Services, part of the National Neighborhood Network (a coalition of nonprofit organizations offering foreclosure prevention services), discussed their free foreclosure prevention clinics held around Los Angeles County. If after counseling foreclosure still seems inevitable, then housing relocation help is provided. Contact them at 1—888-895-2647. In answer to a stakeholder question, Jonathan said that if a lender agrees, a homeowner may qualify for services under the Obama administration’s recently passed mortgage support program. More information about this program is available at [www.makinghomeaffordable.gov](http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov).

Charles Doakes, community activist, presented information on the background of the foreclosure crisis and noted that California is one of the four states with the highest rate of foreclosure. He mentioned the Senator Dick Durbin bankruptcy repair bill in Congress, which has not come up for a vote for two years. The previous bill which modified the bankruptcy laws does not allow home loans to be modified in bankruptcy court. He also urged stakeholders to look up information on Sheila Bair, Chair of the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and her attempts to help homeowners restructure their mortgages.

**2) Approval of the Feb. 24 and March 24 Membership meeting minutes:** After reading, the February 24 minutes were approved as presented Motion: Christmas Second: Paduani Vote: 12-0 The March 24 Membership minutes were also approved as read. Motion: Bridgeforth Second: Joan Jacobs Vote: 12-0

**3) Treasurer’s Report:** Gloria Christmas reported that the Neighborhood Council Funding Report for April 1, 2009, shows a balance of \$85, 505.34, with 16 VISA expenditure and 6 demand warrants during March. The summary of expenditures by quarter shows a total of \$75, 676.75 spent from July 1, 2008, to April 27, 2009. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Delores Allmond and passed 12-0 to approve the treasurer’s report.

Three Board members have expressed interest in attending the 2009 Neighborhoods USA conference in Spokane, Washington May 20-May 24. It was moved by Delores Allmond, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth and passed 12-0 to spend up to \$4,500 for Eva Cooper, Llewyn Fowlkes, and Rey Paduani to attend this conference. This amount will cover conference registration, air fare, hotel, and meals.

It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Delores Allmond, and passed 12-0 to allocate up to \$1,000 for National Night Out activities at the Southeast Division on the evening of Tuesday, August 4.

The former Community Advocate for the HGNNC, Reginald Zachery, will be honored for his service to the community at the Tues. May 26 General Membership meeting. Betty Hawkins moved, Joan Jacobs seconded, and it was approved 12-0 to spend up to \$1,000 on refreshments for that meeting, to encourage more stakeholders to attend. The HGNNC will present a certificate of appreciation and two of the eight Districts also plan to present him with certificates or plaques.

**7) Report on Sat. May 2 Mayor's Day of Service/ShareFest project to beautify the plantings at 802 W. Gardena Blvd.:** Rosalie Preston asked Board members and stakeholders to participate in this event, which the HGNNC is sponsoring and which will beautify the grounds around the Harbor Gateway Community Center at 802 W. Gardena Blvd.

**8) Announcements:** Home Assembly Church, 13515 S. Figueroa, will host a free electronic waste recycling event on Sat. May 16 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Empowerment Congress Southeast Area Neighborhood Council will hosts an Emergency Disaster Preparedness fair on Sat. May 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Green Meadows Park, 431 E. 89<sup>th</sup> Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston