

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council  
General Membership Meeting of June 23, 2009**

Present: Adrian White (Chair), Delores Allmond (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Corresponding Secretary), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Mattie Menser (District 7), and Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith-Based Representative)

Vice- Chair Delores Allmond called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

**1) Public Comment:** Dr. Deborah Robinson (District 8) gave an update on the H1N1 (swine flu) virus, which has now been identified in over 90 countries. She pointed out that many of those who have died have had underlying health disorders, such as asthma and cardiovascular disease, and she gave out information sheets.

Lu Watson (District 5) reported on the PlanCheck meeting which she attended on June 13. The Westside Regional Alliance of Neighborhood Councils has voted to support a resolution in favor of building a peripheral canal for the Sacramento delta area, as this would ensure continued water for Los Angeles from that source. They are encouraging other Neighborhood Councils to support this resolution. Ms. Watson asked that the issue be placed on a future HGNNC agenda.

Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary, reported that on June 11 the City of Gardena filed a lawsuit against the Los Angeles City Council, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the City Council's Transportation Committee, and the Board of Transportation Commissioners because of their approval of the flawed final Environmental Impact Report for WesPac jet fuel pipeline.

**2) Approval of the May 26 Membership meeting minutes:** The minutes were approved as corrected. Motion: Bridgeforth Second: Allmond Vote: 10-0

**3) Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of Treasurer Gloria Christmas, Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reported that the monthly funding status report from DONE shows a balance of \$50,081.52, with six demand warrants (checks) and twenty-three VISA card expenditures during the month of May. The summary of HGNNC expenditures from July 1, 2008 to present shows that a total of \$93,180.49 has been spent. The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Neodros Bridgeforth, second by Willie Blackmon, and vote of 10-0.

In order for Rosecrans Recreation Center to offer the same types of summer programs for children as last year, in spite of the City's financial difficulties, it was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 10-0 to spend up to \$1,000 to purchase two large wading pools and related program supplies for the use of the Rosecrans Recreation Center during their summer programs.

**Done Project Coordinator:** Rose Ibanez, DONE Project Coordinator, explained that HGNNC Board members can now update their information themselves on DONE's web page and training will be provided for this soon, as well as sexual harassment prevention training. The HGNNC 2010 election will be held on Tuesday, June 8. The 2009 Congress of Neighborhoods will be held on Saturday, October 10, and volunteers are needed to help plan this. The Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Day will be held Saturday, June 27, at City Hall, and all HGNNC Board and stakeholders are invited to attend. The next Neighborhood Council training will be held on Saturday August 8.

**4) Speaker from Building and Safety Dept.:** Leo Fuller, Principal Inspector for South Region, which covers five City Council Districts, has worked for the Building and Safety Department for over 23 years. Building and Safety Department has several functions, including issuing construction permits and enforcing the legal requirements for buildings. Due to limited staffing, the Department is not pro-active and relies on residents to know about violations. Any resident can call 311 to report a code violation in their neighborhood. E-mailing or mailing a photo can help to speed up the request. The response time is now greater than the 72-hour standard

which the Department formerly followed, due to budget cuts and limited staffing. Violations are considered to be misdemeanors, which can result in a \$1,000 fine and/or a year in jail. In 70% of cases, those who are cited voluntarily make changes to meet code requirements.

Conversion of a garage to a living quarter is not allowed because the City of Los Angeles requires that space be allowed for cars and other vehicles to be parked off of the street. A suitable substitute for a garage is a covered carport, but this must meet certain guidelines. Auto repair, except for minor repairs to one's own vehicle, is not allowed. A residence cannot be used as an auto repair business. Vacant houses which are not kept up or are being broken into should be reported to the Building and Safety Department. A Board and Care facility housing no more than six people can be located within an R1 zone. A shed should be no larger than 64 square feet. If a homeowner wishes to legalize a structure which was previously built on their property in an illegal manner, they can draw up a plan, take it into a Building and Safety Department office and have the PlanCheck engineer advise on how to build the structure to meet code requirements.

**LAPD Report:** Community Relations Officer Phillip Bobo reminded those present that National Night Out at Southeast Station, 145 W. 108<sup>th</sup> Street, will take place on Tuesday August 4 from 2-8 p.m. LAPD has participated in this nation-wide observance for the past ten to fifteen years. The street in front of the station will be blocked off and there will be forty 8-foot tables and 400 chairs for community groups to present information. No sales from the booths will be allowed. Many area Neighborhood Councils, such as HGNNC, are donating \$1,000 to cover the cost of T-shirts, which will include the names of those contributing to their purchase. He also gave out crime statistics for the Southeast Area from June 16 – June 22 showing a great number of auto thefts during that week.

**5) Position on proposed 61 foot T-Mobile tower at 14032 S. Vermont Ave.:** T-Mobile is requesting a conditional use permit to construct a 61-foot cell phone tower, disguised as a pine tree, at the Sea Rock Inn, 14032 S. Vermont Avenue. District 4 discussed this proposal at their June 18 meeting and voted to oppose it due to the impact on the residential areas to the north and east of this property and the additional visual blight which it would bring to this major thoroughfare. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Delores Allmond, and passed 10-0 to write the Zoning Administrator expressing the opposition of the HGNNC Board to this proposed new cell phone tower.

**6) Report on the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils and vote on three top issues to work on:** A survey was given out for stakeholders to fill out during the meeting and also was e-mailed to stakeholders. This survey summarizes the possible issues which the newly formed Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (HANC) can study and take positions on. Responses from HGNNC stakeholders will be tallied and presented to HANC at their July 2 meeting. Stakeholder Lu Watson and Board member Rosalie Preston attended the June 10 HANC meeting which discussed the proposed structure of the new group, determined a recording secretary and a rotating chair, and planned publicity of the group and its issues.

**9) Announcements:** Councilwoman Janice Hahn will be sworn in for her third term on Sat. June 27 at 10:30 a.m. at the Banning Residence Museum in Wilmington. All stakeholders are invited to attend.

A SurveyLA meeting will take place on Tues. June 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Constituent Service Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue. Information will be presented about the first citywide survey of Los Angeles' historic and cultural buildings as part of the updates to local Community Plans.

Those between the ages of 14-24 and low income can apply for a summer job at one of the local L.A. County WorkSource Centers, such as South L.A., 7518 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles Urban League, 12700 S. Avalon, and South Bay One-Stop, 16801 S. Western Avenue, Suite A.

The LAPD is hiring for Police Officer 1 and offering evening testing at six locations around the City and Saturday morning testing at the City's Personnel Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston