

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 23, 2012
135th Street Elementary School Auditorium
801 135th Street, Gardena, CA

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson); Delores Allmond (Vice Chairperson); Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Rey Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5); Marvin Bell (District 6); Gloria Christmas (District 8); Deborah Lee (Community Org. Rep.); Kande Lewis (Youth Representative); and Eva Cooper-Pace (At-large Representative).

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson).

3) **Councilman Joe Buscaino discusses his first six months in office:** Councilman Joe Buscaino reported on the 300 trees that have been trimmed in the Harbor Gateway, on 10 miles of streets that were resurfaced using only one mile of the street resurfacing budget and how jobs were created using public/ private partnerships. He reported on an ordinance to ban reckless skateboard riding that was passed by the City Council, with educational sessions held for both skaters and police officers on the ordinance. His office will focus on ideas for additional skateboard parks at the 2nd meeting of Neighborhood Council presidents in December. In response to District 3 Representative Paduani's inquiry, Mr. Buscaino said there was no budget for speed bumps. Rey had pointed out that one really needs to be placed in front of Rosecrans Recreation Center to slow down traffic along 149th Street. District 1 stakeholder Richard Higashi asked why the palm trees were trimmed from Vermont to Menlo along Gardena Blvd. but no trimming was done from Menlo to Estrella. The Councilman said he would find room in the budget for the trees mentioned. He then left so he could go home to treat his cold. Field Deputy Quincy O'Neal then answered stakeholder questions.

District 1 stakeholder Art Cramer broached the subject of the 18-wheeler trucks parking next to residential zones along Figueroa Street. Quincy said that, apparently, the City of Los Angeles has no ordinance banning parking of 18-wheelers in such areas. It would require Councilman Buscaino to develop an ordinance and then lobby his colleagues to pass it.

District 8 stakeholder Richard Lee discussed the pine trees planted in 1964 along 115th between Wadsworth and Stanford that are now overgrown and breaking up sidewalks and lifting street pavement..

Betty Hawkins, District 4 Representative, asked if a study could be done on the intersection of 135th Street and Vermont Avenue because of the many accidents and deaths there. Also, trees near the 135th Street School were overlooked for trimming, while more "out-of-the-way" trees were trimmed. Councilman Buscaino said he would look into it.

Quincy pointed out that City tree trimming is now on a 70-year cycle and, that this community was the only recipient of any tree-trimming services within the 15th Council District. The City has done all that they could based on what the is in the City budget.

(Break for refreshments)

1) **Public Comment:** Principle of the 135th Street School, Antonio Comacho, announced the establishment of a school leadership council. Anyone interested in serving can complete an application. The panel members will be teachers and four community representatives. The focus is on developing guidelines for the budget, school discipline, professional development, the schedule for school events, along with other school governance issues. The Council will meet once a month at 5:00 p.m.

2) **L.A. Police Department Report:** Senior Lead Officer Hugo Valdez serves the area from Imperial Highway on the north to the 91 Freeway on the south, Vermont Avenue on the west, and Figueroa on the east. Problems are still arising with strangers going into a neighborhood, knocking on front doors and, if no one answers, burglarizing the premises. If persons are seen knocking on doors and they are not known to you, call the police. Officer Valdez' contact information is (213) 793-0727. His email is 31265@lapd.lacit.org. A stakeholder asked about the CPAB meetings and Officer Valdez said that they meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at Broadway and Century.

4) **What is RePower LA and how can it lower your electric bill, create jobs, and green up our environment?:** Speakers LAANE's RePower LA initiative said that they are partnering with the Department of Water and Power and

their labor unions to create reduced usage of energy in Los Angeles, weatherize homes for energy efficiency and lower monthly bills for qualifying residents, and create good jobs.

Jessica Goodheart from L.A. Alliance for a New Economy gave a PowerPoint presentation of the multi-level concerns of this organization, specifically our aging infrastructure; the DWP's requirement to reduce the use of coal for electricity, mandates for energy efficiency; the current high unemployment rate; and customers who have struggled with bills. DWP has nine thousand employees and 40% are at retirement age, so new trained workers are needed. A partnership with IBEW Local 18 has launched a pre-craft trainee program. The 2nd group began training in September and the jobs they are training for lead to careers. Projection is for 50,000 homes to be up-graded over the next five years; 1,200 jobs to be created over the next five years; and of those, 750 will be Utility Pre-Craft Trainee jobs.

Ron Nichols, General Manager of DWP, was introduced and stated that the program has a U.S Department of Energy grant for weatherization for low-income customers. In cooperation with the IBEW Local 18, low-income applicants, with no background in utilities are eligible to be trained as employees. Further, he stated that the City Council considers this the best way to achieve energy supply goals. The goal is that by 2020, 45% of power needs will be met without the use of fossil fuels.

A representative of IBEW Local 18 spoke to the group about the hiring and training process of workers in this program. The Union Hall address, open Monday through Friday, is 4189 W. 2nd Street, Los Angeles. Parking is available in the rear of the building. Those living in the Los Angeles County area, ages 18 and up, having a valid California driver's license, and a willingness to work are eligible to apply for the position of Utility Pre-Craft Trainee. The On-the-Job Training (OJT) is paid at an hourly rate of \$16.00 per hour, which also is the hourly work wage.

5) **Approval of July 24 Membership meeting minutes:** Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Gloria Christmas seconded, and it was passed with 11-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

6) **Treasurer's Report:** The budget from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 is \$37,000. An outstanding encumbrance for the recent election expenditures is a little over \$2,000 of the total election expenditures, which totals close to \$5,000. Not all expenditures have been processed as of today. \$11,251-21)has been spent to date. The Finance Committee will meet early in January to revise the budget for the coming year. Marvin Bell moved that the Board approve the Treasurer's Report. Llewyn Fowlkes seconded the motion and it passed 11-0.

7) **Report on HGNNC activities, including the October 20 Board election results, planning issues updates, and November 10 Board retreat:**

Out-going Chairperson, Rosalie Preston announced that 147 voters turned out for the recent Board election. A "thank you" was extended to stakeholders who voted and also for those who volunteered. There is still a vacancy for District 7 Representative and for the At-large representative. The swearing in will be at the November 13 Board meeting.

The Board Retreat will be Saturday November 10 at the Home Assembly Church, 13515 S. Figueroa Street. The meeting will begin 9:30 a.m. for "meet and greet," and will be catered. A keynote speaker is still being sought.

Planning issues still under consideration are support for using Proposition K funds for playground and landscaping at the Environmental Charter Middle School, 812 W. 165th Place in District 1 (the former Methodist Church.)

The Mayor's Budget Day will be held on Sat. November 17 at City Hall. Lois Hill and Dr. Princess Sykes have volunteered to be the HGNNC Budget Representatives, but all stakeholders are encouraged to attend on November 17 and later take the budget priorities survey.

Rosecrans Recreation Center, 149th Street, will be the site of the Halloween Carnival for kids on Thurs. October 31 from 4 to 8 p.m. Stakeholders are needed to help judge Halloween costumes.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on the Tuesday January 22+.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl J. Wendell (AppleOne)