

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
January 22, 2013, General Membership Meeting**

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson); Pamela Thornton (Vice Chairperson); Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary); Ramon Montoya (District 1); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Rey Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5); Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative); Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Donald Cook (Outreach Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Chairperson Delores Allmond.

1) **Public comment:** A representative of the Fair Housing Foundation brought brochures explaining their services which educate tenants and landlords on their rights and responsibilities, provide mediation and counseling services, and investigate discrimination. The next tenants' rights meeting will be held on Mon. January 28 at the Florence Firestone office. Call 1-800-446-FAIR for more information.

Maureen Montoya, District 1 stakeholder, discussed the on-going issue of double-parking at El Antojito located at 168th and Figueroa, which results in accidents occurring at that intersection.

Gina Harden, a member of the Harbor Gateway South Neighborhood Council board announced her write-in candidacy for Council District 15 on the March 5 ballot.

Art Cramer, District 1 stakeholder, discussed the trash and dumping issues along Denver Avenue between Gardena Blvd. and 168th Street and also under the nearby freeway overpasses.

2) **Los Angeles Police Department report:** No representative was present.

3) **Los Angeles County Public Library update on community programs:** Judy Weigel, Library Manager at the A.C. Bilbrew Library, 150 E. El Segundo Blvd., explained the many services available to those who have their free Los Angeles County Public Library card. There is daily two hours of free Internet use, librarian assistance to set up free e-mail accounts, databases with resume templates, the Job Scout database, Tutor.com which has a section designed for adults with career information and interview coaching, Learning Express with practice exams for job applicants, and business and company background information. Additionally, the library has the African American Resource Center, the Los Angeles Sentinel newspaper on-line from 1934-2005, and genealogy resources.

4) **Speaker: Looking for a well-paid career? Learn about the construction apprenticeship programs to prepare men and women for upcoming local jobs:** Frank Alvarado, of LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy), introduced various speakers from organizations who are working with LAANE to encourage people to go into the construction trades because so many large projects have been funded for the greater L.A. area and well-trained workers are needed. LAANE wants to encourage the building of an economy that works for everyone and also considers what is good for the environment. They want to see that public dollars create decently paid jobs, especially for those communities that need the jobs. They also explain to the community what are the benefits of having workers who are unionized.

The Community Redevelopment Agency has 10 unfinished projects (mostly affordable housing with 30% of the jobs reserved for those living in areas of high unemployment), City of Los Angeles Public Works has 104 on-going projects, the Port of Los Angeles has 42 projects with 30% local hire, the Expo Line has \$1.6 billion worth of construction with a 30% local hire requirement, METRO has 17 projects, including the Crenshaw line, the downtown connector, and the Westside subway), the County of Los Angeles has a number of projects on-going to reconstruct many of the old County buildings, and LAUSD has on-going construction projects which require 50% local hire.

Miriam Scott-Wong from METRO mentioned the construction careers program at METRO to support the expanding rail and bus routes. METRO has agreed to reserve a portion of jobs for those workers most in need of them.

To get into a construction union, you need to start by having the following:

- Social Security card and a U.S. birth certificate or proof of eligibility to work in the U.S.
- Either a high school diploma or a G.E.D. , a written and oral examination, certain math basics depending on the trade, and possibly your high school transcripts to prove your math skills
- Ability to meet certain physical requirements, such as the amount of pounds you can lift

Frank gave some examples of requirements by trade: cement masons—must be able to lift 90 lb., electricians require passing high school algebra with a C grade, iron workers require an entry fee of \$400-600. Other construction trades which need trained workers are the pipefitters, laborers, plumbers, and welders (often favored by women going into the trades). Some things to consider before looking into a construction job: whether initiation fees are required (though various support groups may be able to help you pay these), having a reliable means of transportation for yourself and your tools, and which trade best matches your skills, past experience, and interests. A union job provides a good salary, health benefits, retirement pension, and a safe working environment. There is support and encouragement for veterans, those coming out of prison, and emancipated youth. METRO is encouraging African American workers to go into the construction trades.

Program Coordinator Norma Fernandez of We Build, the LAUSD program which trains pre-apprenticeship construction workers and is a partner with LAANE, METRO, and the WorkSource Centers, discussed the ten-week training program which We Build provides that includes training provided by experienced construction workers. The cost is \$120 for the course and reviews OSHA safety rules and covers math basics. To sign up for the We Build training, you must be at least 18 years of age, live within the boundaries of the LAUSD, and have a California driver's license. Of the 1500 who have gone through the We Build program so far, 85% have been placed in construction jobs. The two closest We Build centers to HGNNC are the Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center at 10925 S. Central Avenue and the Harbor Occupational Center, 740 N. Pacific Avenue in San Pedro.

WINTER (Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles) is a support program for women who are 18 years of age and older and who have a high school diploma or G.E. D. After taking some qualifying classes, which include physical training, WINTER offers women a free ten-week apprenticeship program. They also offer free classes for youth ages 16-24 who are interested in the construction field. www.winterwomen.org

Roy Kim of the Southeast L.A. WorkSource, 3965 S. Vermont Avenue, explained that there are seventeen different WorkSource centers in the City of Los Angeles and others nearby. They are non-profits focused on job preparation, training, and then placement. They are open to anyone who lives within the City of Los Angeles or the County of Los Angeles. On the first and third Thursdays of each month they offer classes and support for those new to construction work. On the second and fourth Thursdays, they offer support for those who previously held construction jobs. They also offer financial assistance for getting back into a construction union. There are also WorkSource Centers located at 12700 S. Avalon and 16801 S. Western Avenue.

8) Report on HGNNC activities and planning issues updates, including preliminary drafts of the South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans and proposed new cell panels and equipment at 825 W.

Gardena Blvd.: Under the leadership of Outreach Representative Donald Cook, who is encouraging each of the eight HGNNC Districts to hold an outreach event, District 1 is planning a clean-up day around Sat. March 9 in conjunction with the Environmental Charter Middle School for the area south of Gardena Blvd. and north of 168th Street with placement of dumpsters for bulky items.

1) **Public Comment:** This item was taken out of order at the request of District 3 stakeholders who were present to discuss the January 18 discovery of a stolen car with the body of a man in the trunk on 146th Street near Denver Avenue. The victim was 44 years old and from North Hollywood. District 3 stakeholders said that residents have been mugged near the stolen-car area, a home has been burglarized, and many other stolen cars, and couches and other trash have been dumped there. Residents wondered if part of 146th near where the street

curves around to become Estrella could be fenced off. They suggested better lighting and possibly a camera. A lot of dumping also occurs at Figueroa and 149th Street. Concern was expressed by both Board members and District 3 stakeholders that communication with Senior Lead Officer Valdez needs to be improved so as to address such major safety issues. Further discussion will occur on this issue at the February 12 Board meeting.

5) **Approval of the October 23 Membership meeting minutes:** Rey Paduani moved, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded, and it was approved 10-0 to approve the October 23, 2012, Membership meeting minutes as corrected

6) **Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Recording Secretary Preston reviewed the expenditures summary from July 1 to January 22, which shows that \$12,956.95 of the allocated \$37,000 has been spent. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Adrian Valenzuela seconded, and it was passed 10-0 to approve the Treasurer's Report.

7) **Vote on the motion to have the City Council postpone any action on File 13-1300-S1 (proposed \$3 billion street bond measure):** Councilmen Englander and Buscaino had proposed a \$3 billion bond measure for the May ballot which would pay for the reconstruction of all streets in the City with a "D" or "F" rating by the Bureau of Street Services. However, after much protest that Neighborhood Councils and residents were not given enough time to study the issue, the City Council has postponed placement of this bond issue for a later time and will arrange for hearings throughout the City. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 10-0 to support the postponement on File 13-1300-S1.

8) **Report on HGNNC activities and planning issues updates, including preliminary drafts of the South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans and proposed new cell panels and equipment at 825 W. Gardena Blvd.:** (continuance) District 4 is again planning their annual clean-up day for Sat. May 11, with dumpsters, electronic recycling, and a luncheon for volunteers. Youth Representative Richard Lee discussed the Youth Leadership Academy in conjunction with the Toastmasters International which will be eight weeks of free classes in public speaking, parliamentary procedures, and leadership development. This is tentatively scheduled for Sat. March 23, possibly at Rosecrans Recreation Center for those ages 12-18. Two young people present were signed up. Rosecrans Recreation Center sports fields will re-open in May and there will be a grand re-opening ceremony.

9) **Announcements:** The next General Membership meeting will be held on Tues. April 23.

Council District 15 Field Deputy Quincy O'Neal asked whether the HGNNC would want to sponsor a showing of "Power Broker: Whitney Young," a documentary made by Young's niece, possibly on February 15 or sometime after that. The 135th Street School Auditorium or Gardena High School were suggested as possible sites.

Art Cramer, District 1 stakeholder, suggested developing a better approach to handling stakeholder issues which are raised at meetings.

Eva Cooper, District 5 stakeholder, recommended allowing more time for community issues to be discussed at meetings.

Lu Watson, District 5 stakeholders, suggested organizing a Town Hall meeting with the Councilman present, LAPD, and other City Departments in order to address stakeholder issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary