

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
Special Board Meeting of December 1 2007**

Present: Adrian White (Chair), Delores Allmond (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Ray Johnson (District 1), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Folkes (District 5), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Mattie Menser (District 7), Leo Youngblood (District 8), and Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith Based Representative)

The special Board meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Chair Adrian White.

1) Discussion of how to improve outreach and participation within each of the eight districts of the HGNNC, including methods of publicity, identification of community organizations, and development of outreach events: It was acknowledged that flyers are one method for reaching stakeholders but that the delivery needs to involve more personal contact. We will try a paid distribution service for the first three months of 2008 but should also try mailing to businesses, churches and other faith-based institutions, and also other community organizations, such as Block Club leaders. Flyers still need to be left at the schools. We need to develop more stakeholders with Spanish-language fluency to deliver flyers and explain the purpose of the Neighborhood Councils to stakeholders. We should explore bulk-rate mailing, to see if it would be cost effective, and contact churches about putting dates of HGNNC meetings into church bulletins. Channel 7 (ABC) may be able to list HGNNC meetings on their planner.

It was suggested that we try a quarterly newsletter, in English and Spanish, with articles written by stakeholders. Leo Youngblood and Rosalie Preston volunteered for the newsletter committee and Juanita Boyd of District 1 was suggested by Ray Johnson.

Some of the ideas suggested for outreach events are:

- block party for District 6
- discussion of partnership ideas with Ascension Catholic Church (District 6)
- presentation of N.C. information at a 118th Street School parent meeting (District 7)
- talent contest with food and beverages for teens
- organize a carnival with petting zoo in a District
- multi-house garage sale along one block
- raffle of prizes at General Membership meetings to increase attendance
- providing refreshments at General Membership meetings (each District Representative will be responsible for a month; Mattie Menser will coordinate for January and Betty Hawkins for February and the HGNNC will create a letter for the District reps to present to area grocery stores and mini-marts to solicit donations)
- bringing a number of Block Club members to a General Membership meeting
- having a greeter for the General Membership meetings

Some of the ideas for programs are:

- a focus on youth at one meeting after surveying them about their needs and interests
- honoring a student from each District at each General Membership meeting, with a small prize for them (students to be referred from our local schools)
- have Toastmasters organize a group for our youth
- ask Councilwoman Janice Hahn to be more involved with the HGNNC

- organize an event for all of the churches or faith-based organizations within the HGNNC, such as a picnic
- arrange a bus trip to a cultural event or museum for all interested stakeholders
- ask each school principal (or a representative) to attend our Jan. 22 meeting
- have a Black History month program or skit for the Feb. 26 meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston