

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

135th Street Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Donald Cook (Outreach Representative), and Gloria Christmas (At-Large Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond. After the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence, Delores reminded those present that two minutes is allowed for each speaker under public comment.

1) **Public Comment:** Vanessa Johnson, District 7 stakeholder, spoke about her experiences being an Air B & B host for a number of years, indicating that not only does the short-term rental money help her keep up maintenance on her home but that she gets to meet visitors from all over the world while the visitors in turn experience what life is actually like in South L.A. and not what is so often sensationalized in the media. Her concern is that now the hotel industry, with some Board members from the Silverlake Neighborhood Council, are seeking to ban such short-term rentals. She believes that there may need to be a change to a City ordinance to allow such rentals to continue.

Octaviano Rios, Harbor Area representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti, introduced himself. The Mayor has been busy appointing new Commissioners. He is also holding office hours throughout the community and we will be notified when he comes to our area. Mr. Rios' area of responsibility is the entire Harbor area, including Harbor Gateway North, but excluding Watts. Please let him know about community events which are planned. He can be reached at (213) 473-2388 or octaviano.rios@lacity.org

Joseph Martinez, LAUSD District 7 District Director for Dr. Richard Vladovic, introduced himself. He can assist with LAUSD-related issues at (213) 241-6385.

2) **Approval of the August 13, 2013, Board minutes:** It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Gloria Christmas, and passed 9-0-0 to approved the August 13 Board minutes as submitted.

3) **Treasurer's report:** In the absence of both Treasurer Joan Jacobs and second signatory Pamela Thornton, Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reviewed the monthly expenditure report for August 2013, which includes all p-card purchases, demand warrant requests, and auto-deductions. A copy of the 2013-2014 budget as revised on August 13, 2013, was also attached, as well as the HGNNC budget goals for the year. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Marvin Bell seconded, and it was passed 9-0-0 to approve the Treasurer's report.

3a. Approval of \$1,000 to fund the October 31 Halloween Carnival prizes at the Rosecrans Recreation Center: Recreation Center Director Mark Wilson said that he and the staff greatly appreciate the support which the HGNNC has provided the park in the past and welcome the support for this year's Halloween Carnival. He noted that the artificial turf for the new soccer field is being laid this week, with the soccer and baseball fields opening in early October. He also noted that he will not be present for the long-delayed grand re-opening as he is being re-assigned to the Westwood Recreation Center on September 23. Serena Fisk is the new assistant recreation director for Rosecrans Recreation Center. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 9-0-0 to approve up to \$1,000 to fund prizes for the October 31 Halloween Carnival at Rosecrans Recreation Center.

3b. Approval of \$800 to support the Board Retreat at the Holiday Inn Torrance on Sat. October 12: Delores Allmond passed out copies of the hot lunch menu for the Holiday Inn Torrance, showing the price range for the chicken and pasta primavera meals. Therefore, Rosalie Preston moved to approve up to \$1,000 for the lunches for the Sat. October 12 Board retreat, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded the motion, and it was approved 8-1-0. Delores noted that the City Attorney must still approve the necessity for the Board to meet at the Hotel, which is located outside of the HGNNC boundaries.

4) Appointment of two Budget Representatives: Each Neighborhood Council is being asked to appoint their two Budget Representatives who will be the liaisons from the Regional Budget Advocates to the HGNNC. Budget Day will be held this fall, on a date to be determined. Joan Jacobs, Treasurer, and Jesus Escandon, District 7 stakeholder, had expressed interest in being appointed, however Jesus Escandon was not present, which concerned some of the Board members. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth and seconded by Rosalie Preston, to appoint Joan Jacobs and Jesus Escandon as the two Budget Representatives. However the motion failed on a vote of 5-4-0. Deborah Langhammer, District 3 stakeholder, then said she would be willing to represent the HGNNC in this position. It was then moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Gloria Christmas, and passed 9-0-0 to appoint Joan Jacobs and Deborah Langhammer to be the HGNNC Budget Representatives.

(Donald Cook entered the meeting at 7:58 p.m.)

5) **Board resolution on the need to hold the Sat. October 12 Board Retreat at a location outside of the HGNNC boundaries:** Delores Allmond read out the proposed Board resolution stating that . It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 10-0-0 to adopt the resolution on the need to hold the Sat. October 12 Board Retreat at the Holiday Inn Torrance, 19800 S. Vermont Avenue.

6) **Recommendation on a position from the PLU Committee on the mural ordinance (File No. 11-0923):** The HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee met on Sat. September 7 to review the status of the City's new mural ordinance which was passed by the City Council on September 5. It allows for murals to be erected on all buildings, after an approval process, except for lots that are improved with only one single-family residential structure and accessory structures. Several amendments were passed at the last minute, with conflicting language. Further details and resolution of the various amendments will take place at a joint meeting of the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee and the Planning and Land Use Management Committee sometime in the next month. The HGNNC wishes to go on record as opposing murals within any low-density residential area. Therefore, it was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Donald Cook, and passed 7-0-3 to adopt the language of the draft letter and to send the letter and file a community impact statement on this issue.

7) **Recommendation on a position from the PLU Committee on the proposed Development Services Department (File No. 13-0046):** The HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee recommended no further action because the letter sent on May 24, 2013, on the combining of the Planning Department and the Building and Safety Department still reflects the HGNNC position on this issue. Three Board members heard further comments on the newly named "Development Services Department" by Matrix Consulting. Their draft report will be ready by September 20, with the final report ready on October 4. The merger will take place in January 2014. The new Department will have over 1,000 employees, with over 800 of those coming from the Building and Safety Department. The HGNNC has concerns with the various streamlining measures being considered which may weaken oversight of new developments.

8) **Report on outreach to the Figueroa Corridor businesses and tour of HGNNC with Councilman Joe Buscaino:** On August 22 Delores Allmond and Rosalie Preston joined Councilman Joe Buscaino, his Economic Development and Planning Director Alison Becker, Field Deputy Daisy Ybarra, Field Deputy John Jones III, and Kokayi Kwa Jitihidi of South L.A. Power on a 50-minute van-tour of the HGNNC area, focusing on the Ralphs at 120th and Vermont, the Metro bus layover issue outside the Ralphs along Vermont and south of the bus stop, the many objectionable uses along Main Street south of Imperial Highway and north of the 105 Freeway, the recycling center on the southwest corner of Figueroa Street and 120th Street, and the potential for growth and job development along the Figueroa industrial corridor from El Segundo to Redondo Beach Blvd. Alison Becker will work on setting up a meeting with Metro to further discuss the bus layover issue and possible creation of a transit center north of the 105 Freeway. District 6 Representative Marvin Bell asked that he be included in further discussions of any Ralphs improvements and the Metro issue. District 3 Representative Rey Paduani and District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins would like to help plan the fall early morning breakfast meeting with businesses of the

industrial corridor, the Harbor City-Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce, Ana Dragin of Councilman Buscaino's office, the Mayor's office, and the HGNNC.

9) Report on pothole blitz on Oct. 16 in the HGNNC – how to promote: Mayor Eric Garcetti is working with the Bureau of Street Services on a city-wide pothole filling effort, with each Neighborhood Council area having crews work in their area on a specific day. For the HGNNC it will be Wed. October 16. The Bureau of Street Services asks that a list be prepared and sent to them in advance so they can assess the locations before the day of actual work. The HGNNC has some locations listed, will e-mail a request for others, and asks that each District Representative assess their area and call or e-mail in the exact locations of potholes by October 1.

10) Appointment of three Board members to file official HGNNC Community Impact Statements: It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Donald Cook, and passed 10-0-0 to appoint Pamela Thornton, Rosalie Preston, and Neodros Bridgeforth to be the Board members authorized to file any HGNNC Community Impact Statements.

11) Assignment of the two HGNNC official parking passes for City Hall: It was moved by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 10-0-0 to assign the two HGNNC parking passes for City Hall hearings to Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston and District 5 stakeholder and Planning and Land Use Committee member Luetta Watson.

12) Report on Harbor Alliance meeting of September 4: The consultant from Matrix presented some information about the proposed new Development Services Department which will combine the Planning Department, Building and Safety Department, and sections of the Public Works, Fire, and Transportation Departments. The upcoming Town Hall with City Attorney Mike Feuer at Harbor College was discussed. Councilman Buscaino has been appointed to the Air Quality Management Control District.

13) Announcements: Marvin Bell reported on Operation Thumbs Down, a joint effort by the FBI and LAPD, which on August 29 arrested about 36 alleged members of the Rollin' 30's Harlem Crips on gang, drugs, and conspiracy charges in the area west of the USC campus. Marvin said that he is acquainted with some of the area residents who believe that the real reason for the arrests and confiscation of property, including homes, is to facilitate the USC takeover of additional properties in order to expand their campus.

The Congress of Neighborhoods takes place on Saturday, September 28 at City Hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and all are invited. Besides workshops on affordable housing projects, disasterpreparedness, how to attract new businesses, and developing leadership skills, breakfast and lunch will be provided at no cost to attendees.

City Attorney Mike Feuer will hold a Community Conversation on Thurs. October 3 from 6-7:30 p.m. to discuss how the City Attorney's office can improve the quality of life in your neighborhood. The event will be held in the Music Recital Hall Auditorium of Los Angeles Harbor College, 1111 Figueroa Place, Wilmington.

The next South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans Working Group meeting will be Wed. September 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Council District 9 Constituent Services Center, 4301 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90011. The Community Plan Implementation Overlay for the Southeast L.A. Community Plan has just been released and can be viewed on-line.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary