

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

135<sup>th</sup> Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chair), 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), Rosario Rico (District 7), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond, followed by the salute to the flag, and a moment of silent reflection. Delores then pointed out the Code of Civility printed on the back of the meeting agenda.

**1) Public Comment:** Sondrina Bullitt, of the Community Health Councils, said that her organization has been holding monthly meetings to educate the community about the process for updating the South L.A. and southeast L.A. Community Plans. The next meeting will be held on Wed. April 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Constituent Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue. This meeting will focus on the South L.A. Community Plan and CHC will provide a copy of the South L.A. Community Plan for each Neighborhood Council which attends.

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins asked that funding request for the August Police Appreciation Luncheon in District 4 be put on the next agenda. However, because this event will be using 2014-2015 HGNNC funding, it will need to be put on the July 2014 agenda after the 2014-2015 budget has been created and approved.

**2) Approval of the March 11 Board minutes:** It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 10-0-1 to approve the minutes as presented. (Richard Lee abstained).

**3) Treasurer's report:** In the absence of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Rosalie Preston reviewed the monthly expenditure report for March 2014. As of the end of March, total HGNNC expenditures of the \$37,000 allocated are \$19,566.91. The more detailed 2013-2014 Expenditures-to-Date form of April 7 shows a total of \$19,957.10 spent, leaving \$17,042.90. Rosalie said that another \$10,000 has been encumbered or is budgeted to be spent before June 30. The HGNNC is still trying to obtain an accurate dollar amount from DONE on the Ricoh copier lease expenditures and recent amounts paid to AT&T for telephone, fax, and dsl service at the office in the Harbor Gateway Community Center. It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 10-0-1 to accept the Treasurer's report. (Betty Hawkins abstained).

3a. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 7-0-0 to approve up to \$250 for refreshments for the District 4 Clean Up Day volunteers. (Thornton, Preston, Paduani, Hawkins, Rico, D. Lee, R. Lee)

3b. It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 7-0-0 to approve up to \$1,600 for approximately 20 neighborhood watch signs for District 5, to replace the very old, faded ones in that neighborhood, which will increase public safety. (Thornton, Preston, Paduani, Hawkins, Rico, D. Lee, R. Lee)

3c. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 7-0-0 to approve up to \$200 for two new neighborhood watch signs for district 4 to replace two old ones in that neighborhood, which will increase public safety. (Thornton, Preston, Paduani, Hawkins, Rico, D. Lee, R. Lee)

3d. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 7-0-0 to approve \$2,000 to fund a Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the Gang Alternatives Program (GAP) for graffiti removal throughout the HGNNC area. (Thornton, Preston, Paduani, Hawkins, Rico, D. Lee, R. Lee)

**4) May 6 Board election update:** So far, approximately 92 vote-by-mail forms have been submitted to the City Clerk. The candidate for the At-Large Representative seat was not certified as the City Clerk would not allow a letter from the HGNNC to be used as verification and several other possible verifiers were not able to submit a letter by the deadline date of March 27. Therefore, the Community Interest Stakeholder voters will have no one to vote for. The Candidate Forum will be held Tues. April 22 as part of the General Membership meeting. Three stakeholders have volunteered to help out on election day and another five or more are still needed.

**5) Report to the Board on alleged Brown Act violations:** On April 1 at the Executive Committee meeting, District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson submitted a memo stating Brown Act violations of 54950, 54952(b) and (c)(2), and 54952.6 and asked that this item be placed on the April 8 agenda for a Board vote. She alleged that actions had been taken in regards to the District flag map on both the new website and 2014 election outreach materials that had not been approved by a majority of the full Board. The Executive Committee decided to refer to issue to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Lu Watson was present and explained that she believes that the white flag map helps stakeholders know where they live. She strongly objects to the substitution of that map on the website and candidate recruitment election flyer by a different map. To the charge that the flag map is not a logo for the HGNNC, she read out a definition of a logo. Thomas Soong, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate for the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment, said that he does not believe that the actions referred to constitute a Brown Act violation which would relate to not following agenda-posting policy and conflict of interest policies. Usually the details of a website are left up to a committee. The scope of a committee's determination of details should be determined by the original Board action in authorizing a website or other action. Rosalie pointed out that there will be one more election flyer, for get-out-the-vote. Pamela suggested that at least the Chair review the materials and relevant e-mails when there is no time for a full Board review. Thomas Soong will have the City Attorney double-check his interpretation that no Brown Act violation occurred.

**6) Approval that DONE will hold a new Board orientation on Tues. June 10 to educate and train all Board members:** Thomas Soong said that the training will take about an hour and be conducted by members of the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-1 to hold the new Board orientation on Tues. June 10. (Rey Paduani abstained; Neodros Bridgeforth was out of the room and absent for this vote)

**7) Support for designating Imperial Highway as one of the Mayor's "Great Streets":** The Board had previously informally expressed support for this, as a means to obtain a variety of funding sources to improve the appearance of Imperial Highway. Council District 15 has expressed support for this designation. Richard Lee said that Imperial Highway had many historic associations, including a former business district at Main and Imperial, the Southside Theatre at Vermont and Imperial, and flashpoint of the 1965 Watts Riots nearby. It also serves as the gateway highway to LAX. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes,

and passed 11-0-0 to approve requesting that Imperial Highway be designated one of the Mayor's "Great Streets."

**8) Update on Rosecrans 3D Imaging Project property issues and May 3 Public Forum/Town Hall on property damage, ground subsidence, and active well issues:** The Bureau of Engineering has e-mailed a copy of the permit. One Board member who had asked for a structural engineer provided by L.A. Seismic to evaluate damage to her home from the sound wave testing has received the report via e-mail but said it was not very complete. The report basically says that L.A. Seismic has no responsibility for the damage found. Another Board member has requested an evaluation by a structural engineer but the engineer has never been scheduled for the evaluation and meanwhile his garage door no longer shuts properly due to subsidence. The Town Hall is now scheduled for 10 a.m. on Sat. June 7 at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School.

**9) Update on HGNNC meeting with Councilman Buscaino:** The HGNNC sent its list of issues on March 5, but the Council office has not yet set a date for the meeting. Delores will call to follow up.

**10) Report on HGNNC activities and events:** Rosario Rico reported that District 7 held its first-ever Clean Up day on Sat. April 5. It turned out really well with over 50 people showing up, including a Clean and Green team. She and Vanessa Johnson knocked on doors, CIPS Marketing delivered flyers door-to-door, and special outreach was done to the eight churches along Main Street, four of which participated. Others joined in when they saw the clean up going on along Main Street. Many asked when the next clean up would occur. Main Street under the 105 Freeway was completely cleared of trash, as were the alleys east and west of Main Street from 118<sup>th</sup> Place to 119<sup>th</sup> Street.

Richard Lee said that the Youth Leadership Academy provided by Toastmasters will begin in the HGNNC on Thursday April 19 or possibly a week later. He is seeking youth to participate.

The Bureau of Street Services spring Pot Hole Blitz takes place in the HGNNC on Wed. April 16. The HGNNC will ask for a focus along Vermont from 135<sup>th</sup> down to Gardena Blvd.

**11) Announcements:** Rosecrans Recreation Center is holding a Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sat. May 3 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Save the date: the Congress of Neighborhoods will be held at City Hall on Sat. September 20 from 8:30 a.m. Many great workshops will be held for stakeholders to learn more about improving their neighborhoods.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary