

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

135th Street School, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Ramon Montoya (District 1), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Shirley Johnson (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Donald Cook (Outreach Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond. The meeting opened with the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

1) Public Comment: District 1 Representative Ramon Montoya reported that there was a lot of support for the November 8 Emergency Preparedness Event in the Merit Tract section of District 1 and that many told him afterwards that it had been a very unifying experience for them and that they hope other areas of the HGNNC had a similar experience.

Youth Representative Richard Lee reported that he spoke about leadership skills to twenty teens and parents during the “Stop the Pain” symposium held at California State University Dominguez Hills on Sat. November 15. Afterwards he received a number of positive comments from the attendees.

2) Approval of the November 11 Board minutes: It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the November 11 Board minutes as corrected. (Shirley Johnson entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)

3) Treasurer’s report on expenditures to date and November monthly expenditure report: Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the six items and one adjustment reported on the November 2014 monthly expenditure report.

(Marvin Bell entered the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

It was noticed that there needed to be a correction to line D Total Expenditures and commitments and also to Line G Balance of Budget. The total expended and committed through November 2014 is \$15,535.19 with \$21,464.81 of the \$37,000 still available. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the November 2014 monthly expenditure report as corrected. Joan said that she would schedule a Finance Committee meeting on December 16 to review all outstanding commitments and estimate remaining definite commitments so as to determine how much will be available for community groups and non-profits to apply for in February.

3a. Support for up to \$250 for additional small first aid kits for HGNNC emergency supply bags: As an incentive to recruit Block Leaders for the Sat. November 8 Emergency Preparedness Neighborhood Survey, the Emergency Preparedness Committee promised Block Leaders one of the HGNNC emergency preparedness bags with a flashlight and small first aid kit. The HGNNC still has many of the bags and flashlights but will need to purchase more of the first aid kits. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Adrian Valenzuela, and passed 12-0-0 to authorize up to \$250 for the purchase of additional small first aid kits.

4) Support for City Council File 09-2645 Regulation of Cell Towers) which would include expanded notice and appeal rights, proof of a significant coverage gap, and enhanced aesthetics and design standards for cell towers and Above Ground Facilities boxes in the

public right-of-way: File No. 09-2645 was actually introduced when Carmen Trutanich was the City Attorney and has been slowly making its way through the City Council committees. Two Neighborhood Councils have filed Community Impact Statements supporting this proposed ordinance. A draft letter was reviewed and then it was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 12-0-0 to support File 09-2645, with the addition of asking that the coverage gap be verified by an independent third party rather than by the service provider themselves.

5) Discussion of outreach efforts for the first four months of 2015: After discussion, it was decided to aim for a clean up day in District 8 during the first quarter of 2015, possibly in March, a clean up day in District 6 in April, and a clean up day in District 4 on May 9. The Emergency Preparedness Committee will work on scheduling Ham radio training near the end of January or early February.

(Marvin Bell and Deborah Lee left the meeting at 8:12 p.m.)

During discussion of whether to hold another business breakfast or not, it was suggested that the HGNNC meet with the manager of the Farmer Boys at 641 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. as he has expressed interest in working with community members; possibly some of the Committee meetings could take place at that location to help develop the relationship. Donald Cook suggested holding a how to start a small business workshop. There was also the suggestion of surveying stakeholders on their concerns via e-mail and also paper copies handed out at meetings. Chair Delores Allmond asked that the Outreach Committee hold its first meeting of the fiscal year to follow up on these suggestions.

6) Update on planning issues, including the Vermont Villas affordable housing project in District 1, South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plan updates, dust and noise issues in District 3; oil drilling issues: Applications for the Vermont Villas apartments at 16304 S. Vermont avenue are supposed to be available in January. Two stakeholders have already contacted the HGNNC about how to get an application. The Department of City Planning has sent a notice that the South Los Angeles and Southeast Los Angeles Community Plans each have a new revised draft available for viewing on-line which incorporate minor revisions and edits to the plans. There is still no word on when the draft EIR may be ready. The petition which the residents of District 3 submitted to the HGNNC has been sent to Council District 15, the Air Quality Management District, the Environmental Affairs Office of the City of Los Angeles, and CalRecycle at the State level. No responses have been received as yet. The Sierra Club's Fracking Committee will be meeting on Sat. December 13 and two of the Planning and Land Use Committee members will attend to get updates on proposed new regulations of oil production within the City of Los Angeles.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.)

7) Report on the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting of Dec. 2: General Manager Grayce Liu is on vacation until December 22. The lack of staff is impacting the functioning of the Department and adequate support for the 96 Neighborhood Councils. Each Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate currently has to oversee 20 Neighborhood Councils. There was discussion of the merits of hiring temporary staff immediately or pushing for the lifting of the hiring ban for the already authorized permanent positions. 78 Community Impact Statements have been filed so far; the Department's goal for the fiscal year is 200. Most Neighborhood Councils are behind in filing their Monthly Expenditure Reports (the HGNNC is up to date, thanks to Treasurer Joan Jacobs). Councils4Councils volunteers are available to assist Neighborhood Councils with preparing their MERs.

8) Report on the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates: Harbor Area Budget Representative Joan Jacobs has been unable to attend the recent meetings but is aware that the Budget Advocates have continued to meet with City Departments to learn about their proposed budget submissions and priorities.

9) Announcements: The Department of Transportation has sent a letter stating that they have made a study and will install a traffic signal at the intersection of 168th and Figueroa Street once they secure funding for it. The City of Carson has agreed to help pay for it. This is in response to the HGNNC letter requesting this installation which was sent on June 6, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary