

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

135th Street School, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Acting Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Deborah Lee (Community Organization), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Acting Chair Pamela Thornton. She reviewed the emergency exits for the 135th Street School and the areas just outside the school for regrouping after an emergency exit. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

1) Public Comment: There was no public comment.

2) Approval of the April 12 Board minutes: It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the April 12, 2016, Board minutes as corrected.

4b) Approval of letter to Councilmember Buscaino stating needed conditions of operation at California Waste Services, 621 W. 152nd Street: Acting Chair and Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee Pamela Thornton explained that a public hearing was held on May 4 at 4:30 p.m. at the Rosecrans Recreation Center by the Local Enforcement Agency to review and offer a time for comment on the application of California Waste Services to combine their two permits from CalRecycle (one for inert materials and one for construction and demolition materials) into one permit. As a result of that hearing, Pamela is asking the California Waste Services owner, Eric Casper, Councilmember Buscaino's Chief of Staff Jacob Haik, and other representatives to meet to discuss mitigation measures which would resolve some of the issues raised by HGNNC stakeholders who live to the north of the facility or have businesses in the Gateway Crossroads Center. The Local Enforcement Agency is allowing additional written comments to be submitted until Fri. May 20 at 5 p.m. and the HGNNC will be encouraging stakeholders who could not attend the meeting to submit comments.

A draft letter which the HGNNC will be submitting was created with input from the Planning and Land Use Committee and Dr. Tom Williams of the Citizens Coalition for a Safe Environment, who is serving as a technical advisor on this issue.

Eric Casper, owner of California Waste Services, was present and said that he used to attend many of the HGNNC meetings but stopped coming three to four years ago. He stressed that he is responsive to reports of problems at his business. He said that in the May 4 hearing, he heard comments about issues which he had never heard about before. If something happens at the facility, he wants to be called about it immediately. His permit allows for 24-hour operations but he chooses not to operate 24 hours. He now has the trucks entering the facility back up in the area near the 110 Harbor freeway to mitigate the noise. In 15 years of operation, he has not received a single warning or write up. He also has residents who support his business. The complaint about CWS being responsible for flies and rats is not accurate; that problem is caused by the homeless encampment along the railroad tracks. Residents should call Eric directly and he will fix the issues. He realizes that his business creates impacts and wants to do all he can to mitigate those impacts. For dust, there are misters, nets at an angle to move the dust back onto

his property, and bigger water pumps. He pointed out that a lot of the dust comes from the other operator on the Walmart leased property to his southwest. Eric said that business owner would be vacating the property, which will result in an improved situation. He can't address the illnesses and deaths which the residents mentioned at the hearing. Call or email him on issues for immediate feedback: (310) 538-5998 x101 or eric@californiawasteservices.com. He also welcomes tours of his facility for Board members but requires advance notice so that the protective equipment is ready. When asked how many trucks per day come into his facility, he said one permit allows for 217 trucks per day going into and coming out of CWS. But one mitigating measure he has put into place is that no trucks will be coming up Orchard Street at night within the next two weeks.

Eric said that he has two permits (one for inert materials recycling and one for construction and demolition materials recycling) and also a solid waste collection vehicle operation permit which allows 24-hour operation of parking vehicles and is permitted through the LEA. CWS is allowed to switch out dumpsters 24-hours per day but this is done on the east side of the property, near the 110 freeway to reduce the noise impact.

In answer to a question about the trucks going in and out and not being covered, Eric said that they are all covered going in but they aren't required to be going out. However, he could have the empty beds of trucks sprayed with water when leaving the facility as another dust mitigation measure. Eric maintains that outside contractors' truck come in with coverings because that is a requirement of his business in order to accept their loads for recycling. And he pointed out that it is illegal for a truck to drive on the highways untarped. However, Board members have seen many trucks going in without covers. Eric said that some trucks remove their tarps on Orchard before entering his facility.

In regards to the portable toilet on the east side of Orchard, on the sidewalk, near CWS, Eric said that his facility has six portable toilets on site but he had to install the additional one on Orchard to encourage the truck drivers to use it rather than urinate in public before going into his facility.

After reviewing the draft letter to Councilmember Joe Buscaino listing a number of conditions which the HGNNC would like to see instituted in order to mitigate the impact of California Waste Services on the residents and businesses, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the letter.

4c) Approval of letter to the Local Enforcement Agency on the request to combine two permits for California Waste Services, 621 W. 152nd Street: The draft letter requesting an extension of time to comment and two additional public meetings was reviewed. It was moved by Janet Mitchell, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 9-0-0 to approve sending the letter to the Local Enforcement Agency by the May 20 deadline.

4a) Approval of proposed zone variance related to parking for industrial condominiums at 15101-15191 S. Figueroa Street (ZA-2016-0678-ZV) in District 3, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee: The draft letter of support for the zone variance to allow for a reduced number of parking spaces compared to the current requirement for existing leased industrial buildings which will be eventually sold as industrial condominiums was reviewed. The Planning and Land Use Committee met with the applicant on April 16 and the Committee recommended supporting the variance. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Deborah Lee, and passed 9-0-0 to approve supporting the parking variance.

5a) A position of “General Comments” on Council File No. 16-0093 and filing of a Community Impact Statement relative to a proposed ballot measure to amend the L.A. City Charter and Administrative Code to restructure the governance of the LADWP:

Acting Chair Pamela Thornton said she had attended one of the meetings which reviewed some of the reform proposals which will be placed on the November 2016 ballot, but she thought that not enough background had been presented and that more information meetings throughout the City needed to be held for such a complex proposal. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 7-1-(Mitchell)-1(R. Lee) to send a letter and file a Community Impact Statement with a “no position” position on Council File No. 16-0093, the proposed DWP reform measure.

3) Treasurer’s report on expenditures to date and April monthly expenditure report:

Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the April 2016 Monthly Expenditure Report with nine items which totaled \$1,379.73. After factoring in the checks in progress, the balance of the \$42,000 allocated for the 2015-2016 fiscal year is \$18,524.94. Joan pointed out that of the \$12,000 allocated for the 2016 Board election, \$8,000 has not yet been spent. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the April monthly expenditure report.

3a) Approval of up to \$500 to fund T-shirts for the Rosecrans Recreation Center Summer Camp:

Rosecrans Recreation Center Director Karen King has asked for funding for the T-shirts for the Center’s Summer Camp which will begin later in June. Treasurer Joan Jacobs said that she had consulted with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Funding Section and was told that she could write a check to the T-shirt vendor but that the T-shirts would have to have the HGNNC name or logo on them. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 9-0-0 to approve spending up to \$500 for the T-shirts for the Rosecrans Recreation Center Summer Camp with the HGNNC name on them.

5b) Report on the April 23 HANC Retreat with Councilmember Buscaino and four City Departments:

Pamela Thornton, Deborah Lee, and Rosalie Preston attended this meeting. Deborah reported that the four Departments present were LA Fire Department, Department of Water and Power, Recreation and Parks, and Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. HANC will have a follow up discussion about the Retreat at the June 1 HANC meeting. Minutes of the meeting were taken but have still not been finalized and distributed.

6) Report on outreach activities for the June 11 Board election, including status of voter registration, pop-up polling, activities planned for the polling location on Sat. June 11, and seating of the new Board on Tues. July 12:

Ad Hoc Election Committee Chair Nancy Trojan was unable to be present tonight. Outreach Chair Richard Lee said that he had reached out to KTWB and KJLH about the costs of doing public service announcements about our election on their stations. Various events are planned for the Sat. June 11 election outreach event at the 135th Street School. Possible pop-up polling locations are Ralphs, the Harbor Gateway Community Center, and McDonald’s. The Tues. July 12 Board meeting will begin with the swearing in of the new officers and a one-hour Board orientation/training.

7) Announcements: Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston said that Sat. June 25 is Field Day for all Ham radio clubs. The HGNNC licensed Ham radio operators and those studying to be licensed will be encouraged to attend the Field Day event put on at California State University Dominguez Hills by the Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club.

Acting Chair Pamela Thornton said that the Active Shooter workshop on April 27 attracted 40 attendees. The next training will be an active shooter event simulation at the LAPD Southeast Division, which will be held in the next six to eight weeks.

Community Organization Representative Deborah Lee said that she is working with the Fire Department to hold a mock simulation of a major disaster sometime in the fall.

District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell said that she is holding her fourth and final mini Clean Up Day on Sat. May 14 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary