

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

135th Street School Library, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Mark Lupfer (District 1), Clyde Noguchi (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Larry Morrison (District 8), Bryan Davis (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At-Large Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Chairperson Pamela Thornton. She referred to the large posted Code of Civility signs and urged adherence to their recommendations for the conduct of Board members and stakeholders during the meeting. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence for all those who have recently died in various violent attacks

Council District 15 report: Jacqueline Rodriguez, Constituent Services Representative for Council District 15 in the Watts Field Office, noted that the Field Office is now located at 1513 E. 103rd Street. This office serves those living in Watts and the Harbor Gateway. Constituents are welcome to stop by or call. The telephone number is (323) 568-2083. Her email address is Jacqueline.m.rodriguez@lacity.org. Ms. Rodriguez was unable to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

1) Public Comment: District 8 stakeholder Al Spencer noted the noise created in his neighborhood by the ice cream and food trucks that drive through the area until late at night.

District 8 stakeholder G. W. Roberson said that he lives north of the Magic Johnson Park and is concerned about the many illegal pocket bikes which are ridden by small bands of teen boys and cause a lot of loud noise in the neighborhood.

District 6 stakeholder Curtis Blue noted that his street has experienced a rash of burglaries and stolen cars since early January. The gate to the alley south of 117th Street needs to be repaired so it can be secured. There need to be more Sheriffs' deputies patrolling the Vermont Avenue Green Line Station. He would like to be able to refer the homeless population to relevant services.

District 7 stakeholder Lizeth Morales said that she would like to see more community beautification, such as tree planting, pothole repair, and speed humps to control speeding. She would like to have a card to hand out to residents near her which would list the telephone numbers for reporting problem issues.

District 1 stakeholder Art Cramer said that he has similar issues to those mentioned by the others. He has lived in the area a long time and been coming to the HGNNC meetings for many years. He has seen no progress on solving issues.

District 4 stakeholder Lisa Dykes said that she has lived in her home many years and has seen a decline in the neighborhood over that time. She wondered how to get assistance with trimming a bougainvillea and tree which overhang her roof and allow a raccoon to climb onto the roof. She also noted the tremendous number of illegal fireworks which were set off this past July 4 making the area sound like a war zone.

District 6 stakeholder Charlie Choi said that the tree in front of his home has badly cracked the sidewalk and he would like to know how to get the sidewalk repaired with something other than an asphalt patch. He is willing to replace the concrete himself.

District 3 stakeholder Karla Fernandez noted that her home has been broken into three times since she moved there and that on July 24 a drunk individual got into her car which was parked in her driveway. It took the LAPD twenty-eight minutes to arrive and meanwhile her husband made a citizens' arrest.

District 1 stakeholder Maria Oropeza said that her truck had been stolen from in front of her home a few years ago. She asked that the trash issue along Gardena Blvd. be addressed. There are new City trash bins but they are often overflowing. Gardena Blvd. is one of the main streets of our neighborhood and once had improvements made but now it is not well-maintained. She would like to help organize neighborhood watch meetings to be held at the Harbor Gateway Community Center.

District 3 stakeholder Julie Fonseca said that FedEx and DWP trucks, among other vehicles, use Denver north of 149th Street to speed towards Rosecrans to get onto the 110 Freeway. She would like to

see speed humps installed. She also noted that there is a lot of trash along Rosecrans Blvd. and no regular street sweeping. She suggested the Promise Zone grant to South L.A. as a possible source of funding to resolve some of the HGNNC issues.

4) Treasurer's report – June 2016 monthly expenditure report summary and 2015-2016

balance: Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the June 2016 monthly expenditure report with thirty-one expenditures totaling \$13,169.38. The balance left from the \$42,000 allocated for 2015-2016 was \$801.49. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Bryan Davis, and passed 12-0-0, with one Board member ineligible to vote, to approve the June 2016 monthly expenditure report.

7) Approval of up to \$1,500 for the Sat. September 17 Board Retreat at the Holiday Inn-

Torrance: The Board will be holding its annual Retreat to focus on the Strategic Plan on Sat. September 17 at the Holiday Inn-Torrance. Stakeholders are welcome to attend. The cost includes the lunches, breakfast snacks, and beverages, plus use of the room. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 12-0-0, with one Board member ineligible, to approve spending up to \$1,500 for the Sat. September 17 Board Retreat.

5) Approval of Membership meeting minutes

5a. It was moved by Mark Lupfer, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the January 26, 2016, General Membership meeting minutes as submitted.

5b. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the April 26 General Membership meeting minutes as submitted.

6) Appointment of Committee members:

6a. Emergency Preparedness: It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 13-0-0 to appoint Janet Mitchell, Rey Paduani, Rosalie Preston, Larry Morrison, Karla Fernandez, Deborah Lee, and Julie Fonseca to the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

6b. Outreach Committee: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Eva Cooper-Pace, and passed 12-1 (Bell)-0 to appoint Theo Fowles, Joan Jacobs, Richard Lee, Janet Mitchell, Anahi Corte, and Julie Fonseca to the Outreach Committee.

6c. Planning and Land Use Committee: It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Theo Fowles, and passed 13-0-0 to appoint Pamela Thornton, Marvin Bell, Mark Lupfer, Rosalie Preston, Betty Booker, Thomasina Curry, William R. Jackson, Vanessa Johnson, Terry Lupfer, Lu Watson, and Lisa Dykes to the Planning and Land Use Committee.

6d. Ad Hoc Committee – Clean Streets LA Challenge: The focus of the Committee will be to prepare a strong grant application before the deadline of September 16. The project must be carried out between September 17 and November 18. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 13-0-0 to appoint Richard Lee, Mark Lupfer, Janet Mitchell, Rey Paduani, Lizeth Morales, Princess Sykes, Frankie Mays, Julie Fonseca, and Ray Quiroz to the Ad Hoc Committee-Clean Streets LA Challenge.

8) Announcements: Chair Pamela Thornton announced that the August 9 Board meeting is cancelled. However, the Emergency Preparedness, Finance, and Ad Hoc Committee Clean Streets LA Challenge will be meeting.

Pamela asked that Board members submit dates for their planned activities by August 15 for posting on our website calendar. This should help to avoid conflicts and help the Board support the HGNNC events.

For the September 13 Board meeting, the HGNNC will attempt to go paperless. Board members are encouraged to bring their laptops or tablets to view the agenda, minutes, and other documents electronically.

Starting in September, Pamela will be holding office hours on the first and third Tuesday of each month and on Saturdays by appointment at the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd.

National Night Out at Southeast LAPD will be Tues. August 2 from 2-7 p.m. The HGNNC will have a booth there.

A California Friendly Landscape Design Seminar will be held at the Mark Twain Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, 9621 S. Figueroa Street at 10:30 a.m. on Sat. July 30.

Public Works liaison Joan Jacobs said that the Bureau of Sanitation will provide large trash bins for streets that need them and will empty them at least once a week. Call 311 to request them.

Outreach Representative Theo Fowles suggested downloading the MyLA311 app to your smartphone as a way to report issues needing City services. You will automatically receive an email confirmation with a reference number for follow up.

Theo also discussed the Welcome Home project of Mayor Eric Garcetti. Baskets of supplies for the homeless who are going into housing are needed before September 17 and volunteers are needed to create or fund the baskets.

District 8 Representative Larry Morrison said that he looks forward to working with a new Board to improve on the accomplishments in comparison to previous Boards. He would like to see the Board and stakeholders be more proactive in finding solutions to the issues, rather than waiting for the City to get around to them. His motto is “one house, one block, one neighborhood”-start with improving one house, then expand to one block, and then the whole neighborhood.

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

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary