

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

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

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Mark Lupfer (District 1), Clyde Noguchi (District 2), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Larry Morrison (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

1) Welcome/introductions: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Pamela Thornton. She reviewed safety procedures for emergency situations. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

2) Public Comment on non-agenda items: District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell reminded the Board about the Sat. December 17 Clean Up Day in District 7 from 8 am to 2 pm. There will be four areas of focus: 219 E. 116th Street, Charity Mission Church at 200 W. Imperial Highway, Gospel Tabernacle Holiness Church at 11861 S. Main Street, and the Metro Green Line Station area at 11500 S. Figueroa Street and along 117th Street.

District 1 stakeholder Art Cramer discussed the terrible amount of illegal dumping in District 1. He said he has talked with Council District 15 staff and toured the area with Aksel Palacios. When he calls 311, he experiences long waits. He doesn't get a response from calling Senior Lead Officer Carmen Gutierrez. However, the homeless man living under the 110 Freeway at 168th Street has gone, though his belongings are still there. The El Antojito restaurant, 16717 S. Figueroa Street, creates a lot of problems related to parking and the trash generated along Figueroa Street. 17202 S. Figueroa Street is a pallet storage business which is a fire hazard. Building and Safety has come out to check on it. There is no street sweeping along Figueroa Street and vehicles speed along that street.

3) Youth Representative presentation and overview of upcoming events: Youth Representative Richard Lee reported that he has begun reaching out to the elementary schools located within the HGNNC. He and District 8 Representative Larry Morrison met with the Principal of the 116th Street School, Tyra Henderson-Banks, and the Assistant Principal Dr. Teresa Johnson on October 26. As a result, they have helped arrange a field trip to City Hall for the fifth graders on January 16, with Council District 15 providing the bus. They also attended a November 7 assembly to explain about the Clean Streets program and value of calling 311. The school is also interested in working with the HGNNC to expand their mentoring program for young African American males who lack male role models. Their 2016 Dad's Day at the school was very successful, with over 50 fathers, grandfathers, or uncles attending. Clean ups near the school are very much appreciated, especially under the 105 Freeway at Stanford as many children have to walk that way to go to and return from school. The school also serves a number of homeless children who live in a nearby shelter. Support for their clothing and shoes is needed. Funds to support school supplies is also needed.

Richard also said that he has worked with the Boys and Girls Club, 802 W. Gardena Blvd., on a program involving the Game of Life board game for Tues. January 10 from 3-5 p.m. He is looking for a few mentors who can speak to the youth about financial literacy and various career choices. He will also be speaking with Christiana Usenza, the new Community Liaison from the

Environmental Charter Middle School, on December 14 at 4 p.m. about working on joint projects.

4) District 7 Toy Drive update: District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell reported that the 118th Street School organized a toy drive last year and is again holding one this year, with the toy distribution on Fri. December 16. Janet has received some donations but not as many as she would have liked to see. Board members made suggestions of various organizations to contact for toy donations for 2017, including the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Report from CD 15: Chair Pamela Thornton said that the proposed Winter Wonderland at Rosecrans Recreation Center would not happen this year but that it would be possible for next year on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday if planning for it started now. Field Deputy John Jones III said that based on the event put on each year in Watts, \$7,000 to \$15,000 has to be raised, with \$7,000 alone going to cover the cost of the snow. 5,000 attended the event in Watts, 1,500 in San Pedro, and about 2,000 in Wilmington. Various non-profits have booths which offer crafts and holiday-themed refreshments.

John also reported that the Council Office's annual toy drive at the Aquarium of the Pacific is the first Thursday of December. It is advertised via Facebook. Next year, some of the donated toys could go to the 118th Street School Toy Drive.

5) LAPD – upcoming holiday activity within HGNNC: This year, at the request of Chair Pamela Thornton, the LAPD Santa Sleigh will be traveling throughout the HGNNC area on Friday December 16, beginning around 4 p.m. The exact route is not known yet, but it will end at Rosecrans Recreation Center.

6) Board governance

a. Follow up on alternate location for office/meeting space: Chair Pamela Thornton said that as an update to the November 15 discussion of finding an alternate office/meeting space, two storefronts are for lease along Gardena Blvd., 818 W. Gardena Blvd. and 823 W. Gardena Blvd. The latter is 4,000 sq. feet and ready for move in but would cost nearly \$4,000 per month. The asking price for 818 W. Gardena Blvd. is \$1,200 per month, which is possibly negotiable. It was formerly a restaurant space and all of that equipment could be removed and some interior walls removed as well. Jeff Brill of the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment would negotiate the lease, after determining that the space is ADA compliant and meets other City standards, including adequate parking and safety requirements. Having a location along Gardena Blvd. meets her vision of working towards revitalizing Gardena Blvd. and moving it towards a more "Main Street" feel, such as 6th Street in downtown San Pedro. One of the DONE requirements is that a Neighborhood Council not spend more than \$19,000 per year on office space. It might be possible to partner with a non-profit to share the space and costs. There was a discussion by each Board member of the pros and cons of spending the money for such a lease and whether Gardena Blvd. is the best location for a HGNNC office since it is in the southern most part of the HGNNC area.

(Larry Morrison entered the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

It was generally agreed that having a larger, more prominent space would give the HGNNC more visibility in the community. It was suggested that the 802 W. Gardena Blvd. location could have improvements made that would allow for a better meeting experience at that location. John

Jones III said that the lease of the building by the Boys and Girls Club and the Mission Vista Charter School are being studied and that the Dept. of General Services will be coming out to assess the need for repairs. In regards to seeking a location within the City of Gardena or in the County of Los Angeles, Pamela said that the City of Los Angeles strongly prefers that meeting sites be located within HGNNC boundaries.

b. Discussion and possible approval for DONE to negotiate a lease for HGNNC: It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0-0 to authorize the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment, on behalf of the HGNNC, to negotiate a non-binging lease for 818 W. Gardena Blvd., with necessary terms and costs, which would be brought back to the Board for further consideration. Pamela said that she would let Board members know when they could view the interior of the site.

7) Budget/Finance update: Treasurer Joan Jacobs said that she had reviewed the 2016-2017 budget and expenses to date to find categories where there had been savings, such as in the expenditures for the Clean Streets Challenge and the Emergency Preparedness survey and fair, which were both under budget. There is also \$1,000 under Community Beautification which could be moved to another category. Therefore, there are unallocated funds of up to \$1,903 to cover the proposed new expenditures under Item 9.

8) Planning and Land

a. Letter of support for 36 unit apartment development at 16101 S. Figueroa Street in District 1: This item was tabled until the January 10 Board meeting so that impacted residents can view the revised proposal from the developer's representative.

b. City of L.A. Planning Department – Joint Hearing scheduled regarding 17236 S. Hoover Street, (District 1), on Tues. December 20 at 4:30 p.m. in San Pedro (Harbor Commission Board Rom, 425 S. Palos Verdes Street, 2nd floor): Outreach is being made to impacted residents near the proposed 15 two-story homes on the former Caltrans property.

9) Consent Agenda Items

a. November 15, 2016, Board minutes

b. November monthly expenditure report

c. Approval of up to \$100 for ten additional first aid kits for HGNNC emergency preparedness bags

d. Approval of up to \$250 for candy and give-a-ways for LAPD Holiday Activity December 16, 2016

e. Approval of up to \$600 for HGNNC canopies for outreach activities

It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0-1 (Lupfer) to approve the Consent Agenda Items 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, and 9e.

10) Appointments to Committees

a. Ad Hoc Committee on Homeless Issues-additional member: It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Mark Lupfer, and passed 12-0-0 to appoint Clyde Noguchi to the Ad Hoc Homeless Issues Committee.

11) Announcements: Chair Pamela Thornton read out a thank you letter from the 135th Street School for the HGNNC support for the Harvest Health Festival on October 22.

There will be a hearing on Thurs. December 15 regarding accessory dwelling units. Comment can also be made online.

Chair Pamela Thornton handed out “7 things to know about the new community plans that will guide development in South L.A.” from the December 7, 2016, issue of L.A. Curbed.

Bryan Davis, Homelessness Liaison for the HGNNC, provided some handouts regarding resources from the first meeting of the Neighborhood Council Homelessness Liaisons which was held on November 30. The HGNNC Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness will meet January 10 and develop its own list of resources to assist the homeless.

District 1 Representative Mark Lupfer and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Clean Streets LA Challenge showed the certificate received by the HGNNC from the Board of Public Works at their December 12 meeting. The HGNNC was one of four groups within the Council District 15 which were recognized for their Clean Streets efforts this past fall.

Treasurer Joan Jacobs said that the Finance Committee would meet in late December/early January to draft a revised budget of \$42,000.

District 6 Representative Marvin Bell said he would organize a holiday gathering at a restaurant for Board members and stakeholders for Wed. December 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary