

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Special Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2017

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

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Recording Secretary), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Larry Morrison (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), and Theo Fowles (Outreach Representative)

**1) Welcome/introductions:** Chair Pamela Thornton called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. She explained that the meeting was a replacement for the cancelled February 14 Board meeting, which was cancelled as a quorum would not be achieved. This Special Board meeting will also feature a Black History month presentation.

This was followed by the salute to the flag and the singing of “Lift Every Voice and sing” led by District 5 stakeholder Askia Muwakkil.

**2) Public comment on non-agenda items:** District 5 Representative Llewyn Fowlkes said that he has noted speeding along 126<sup>th</sup> Street, with vehicles traveling over 25 mph. He asks that Athens on the Hill residents observe the speed limit in the interests of the safety of others.

**3) Guest Speaker – Dr. Princess Sykes, Black History Photo Presentation:** District 7 stakeholder Dr. Princess Sykes showed photos from the 1979 civil rights march against the Ku Klux Klan in Decatur Alabama, the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth League, which helped to gain support for having his birthday declared a national holiday, and many other photos. Ofelia McNair read out her poem “I got to just sit down” in honor of Rosa Parks. Dr. Sykes then read out the “Legacy” portion of Mary McLeod Bethune’s “Last Will and Testament,” which begins “I leave you love. Love builds.”

Askia Muwakkil, who is a holistic practitioner and fifth generation herbalist, briefly discussed the importance of the psychological and physical health of the African American community. He noted that the Twa people of Central Africa were very spiritual and much admired by the Egyptians. He recommended reading J.A. Rogers. World’s Great Men of Color, volumes 1 and 2.

**4) Review of revised 2016-2017 budget of \$44,100**

**a) Clean Streets Initiative Award funds: Discussion among Board to make determination if Board should request funds for 2016-2017 or 2017-2018:** Chair Pamela Thornton said that Clean Streets challenge award recipients have been notified that they can have their award funds added to the current year’s budget or next fiscal’s years. HGNNC was awarded \$2,100 for the October and November clean up days and efforts to make stakeholders aware of 311 for reporting illegal dumping and items for bulky item pick up. The Board had mixed opinions about this. There was also a question about whether the award funds could be used solely for clean up projects or were not restricted.

**b) Depending on Board’s decision, the proposed revised budget (\$44,100), will need to be adjusted and receive Board approval:** The budget revised by the Finance Committee on February 2 will need to be adjusted, if the Board decides at the March 14 Board meeting to have the award funds added to next year’s budget.

**5) Creation of the Ad Hoc Winter Wonderland Committee and appointments (Joan Jacobs, Richard Lee, Rey Paduani, Pamela Thornton, and Karen King):** It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and Passed 9-0-0 (L. Fowlkes not eligible) to appoint Joan Jacobs, Richard Lee, Rey Paduani, Pamela Thornton, and Karen King to the newly created Ad Hoc Winter Wonderland Committee.

- 6) **Consent calendar items:**
- a. **Approval of the January 10 minutes**
  - b. **Approval of the February 4 Special Board minutes**
  - c. **Approval of the January 2017 monthly expenditure report**
  - e. **Approval of up to \$2,700 for 7 VCERT classes, May 4 to June 15 at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School**
  - f. **Approval of up to \$250 to support the March 25 clean up day in District 7**
  - g. **Approval of up to \$1,000 to support a spring clean up day in District 8**

It was moved by Janet Mitchell, seconded by Hannah Woods, and passed 9-0-0 (L. Fowlkes not eligible) to approve 6a, 6b, 6c, 6e, 6f, and 6g under the Consent calendar.

**6d. Approval of up to \$2,500 for the March 18 Health and Safety Fair at the 118<sup>th</sup> Street School:** Due to needing to add additional funds so that a shred truck can be added to the March 18 outreach event, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Deborah Lee, and passed 9-0-0 (L. Fowlkes not eligible) to approve up to \$3,000 for the Sat. March 18 Health and Safety Fair at the 118<sup>th</sup> Street School.

- 7) **Announcements:** District 5 stakeholder Askia Muwwakkil discussed various displays on the school's stage which were presented in honor of Black History Month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary