

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

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

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

1) Welcome/introductions: Chair Pamela Thornton called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. She introduced herself and then reviewed safety procedures in the event of a major emergency. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

2) Guest speaker: Donald Galaz, Project Street Legal – advocate for an alternative to illegal street racing and street takeovers: Pamela Thornton introduced Donald Galaz, Organizer for Project Street Legal, and said that he has a proposal that might curb the donuts and street takeovers that occur throughout the HGNNC and City of Los Angeles. Donald said that he is the Vice President of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council but is tonight speaking as a representative of Project Street Legal. He introduced Angel Nieves of Teamwork, who volunteers in his retirement to keep kids out of trouble. Donald used to race on the Port of LA site on Terminal Island in 1994 and 1995 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays with Big Willie as part of the Brotherhood of Street Racers. He envisions a similar track which would provide a safe alternative at a temporary location and has been working towards this over the past five years. This would not totally eliminate illegal street racing but would reduce it. So far, he has not gotten any action at City Hall on the issue although he has attended many meetings and talked with many individuals. There is an empty Port of Los Angeles property available and he has talked with the Port of Los Angeles and Council District 15 without any progress as they say the Port will be using the property in the future. No City funds would be requested as there are private investors who are interested and the Long Beach Grand Prix will donate track K-rails. His proposal would be to start with racing on Saturday nights as a pilot project.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

Race car drivers would sign waivers regarding liability. There would be a safe designated area for the audience and police, CHP, or Sheriffs to patrol the site.

(Betty Hawkins entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 10-0-0 to support a pilot program for street racing at a controlled location and file a Community Impact Statement on Council File 14-0054.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:50 p.m.)

3) Comment: District 5 stakeholder Diane Gardiner said that it is hard to have trash picked up and 127th Street and the alley west of Figueroa Street cleaned. There is no posted street cleaning sign. Her apartment manager has been unable to address the issue.

5) Appointment of two Budget Representatives for 2017-2018: No one volunteered, so this item will be tabled until the June 13 Board meeting to see if there are any interested stakeholders.

6) Community Appreciation Day: sponsored by Ralph's Grocery Store (120th/Vermont) and L.A. South Chamber of Commerce on June 10, 2017: Pamela Thornton said that the HGNNC will have a booth at this outreach event and there will be no charge. The HGNNC will

help advertise it. She, Hannah Woods, and Marvin Bell volunteered to staff the booth. There will be two other HGNNC events going on that same morning.

7) Clean Streets South LA Challenge: The Board of Public Works is sponsoring a new Clean Streets Challenge focused on the South LA area. The deadline for submission of a proposal has passed but additional submissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4) Report by Chair: Election Challenge Grievance Panel, Downtown Los Angeles Area Neighborhood Council (DLANC) Subdivision Election to form the Skid Row Neighborhood Council: Pamela Thornton reported that she had been one of three Neighborhood Council Presidents to sit on the grievance panel regarding the recent election for Skid Row to be subdivided into its own Neighborhood Council separate from the Downtown Los Angeles Area Neighborhood Council. The three alleged violations related to campaign materials, inappropriate endorsements of candidates, and electioneering by candidates. The Grievance Panel ruled that an independent investigation will be conducted to determine if DLANC was responsible for those infractions. If so, then Skid Row can be

Pamela noted that there was no cybersecurity protocol in place for DLANC's MailChimp account which might have allowed an email with their logo to be sent out as though DLANC had authorized it. She wants to see a cybersecurity policy in the HGNNC Standing Rules to protect the image of the Neighborhood Council.

Another issue was that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment required online registration and voting without the option for mail in or use of paper, which advocates for the Skid Row NC had requested. Additionally, the Pop Up Polling sites were not located in areas convenient for Skid Row residents.

8) Approval of three letters and filing of Community Impact Statements

- a. Letter regarding HGNNC budget priorities for 2017-2018 (CF17-0600): A draft letter listing the HGNNC budget priorities as represented by stakeholder issues over the past year was reviewed and edited. It was moved by Janet Mitchell, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the letter with the edits.
- b. Letter regarding HGNNC's position on illegal street racing and street takeovers and support for more public safety measures within the Harbor Gateway North community (CF-14-0054): This letter was already approved under item 2 on the agenda.
- c. Follow up letter re-emphasizing support for the suspension of online voting in any future elections within the Neighborhood Council system (CF-15-1022-S2): In light of the Skid Row subdivision election and its issues with online voting, it was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 11-0-0 to send a follow up letter re-emphasizing the HGNNC's concerns with online voting in future Board elections.

9) Consent calendar (items 9a and 9e):

a. Approval of the April 1, 2017, Board minutes

e. Approval of up to \$500 for Congress of Neighborhoods

It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 11-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar items 9a and 9e.

b. Approval of the April 2017 monthly expenditure report: This item was tabled until the unknown Amazon expenditure is investigated.

c. Approval of up to \$150 for refreshments for a presentation to HGNNC churches about the services offered to homeless families by Family Promise of the South Bay:

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 10-0-0 to approve up to \$150 for refreshments for the Sat. June 10 presentation provided there are funds available.

d. Approval of up to \$2,000 for any remaining funds from 2017 budget to Gang Alternative Program (GAP) *Funds to be used for support services provided by GAP solely for HGNNC:

It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Hannah Woods, and passed 9-1(Mitchell)-0 to approve spending any remaining funds from the 2016-2017 budget, up to \$2,000, for GAP services, with documentation provided by GAP of how the funds are used within the HGNNC area.

10) Announcements: District 3 stakeholder Rafael Meza said that he has a dead tree in front of his home and needs to know how to get it removed. He was referred to 311. He also hears noise from the forklift trucks at California Waste Services late at night. He will be mailed the reporting number for the City's Environmental Affairs Division of Building and Safety and also Eric Casper's telephone number.

Octaviano Rios, Neighborhood Council Advocate for the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment, handed out copies of the monthly report for the HGNNC. He reminded the Board that the 2027-2018 Budget package is due to DONE by June 30.

Pamela Thornton said that for the Sat. June 3 Board Retreat, she would like to see everyone proposing projects for the coming year. The rsvp on luncheon menu choice is due by May 23.

Youth Representative Richard Lee summarized his April activity report, which included contact with the HGNNC's six elementary schools to determine how many homeless students each school has.

On Sat. May 13 from 10 am to 12 noon Congressman Maxine Waters will hold a Town Hall at Inglewood High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary