

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

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

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Mary Hinton (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative.), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Donald Cook (Outreach Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by out-going Chairperson Rosalie Preston.

1) Public Comment: District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson thanked all who had sent cards and called her during her recovery from knee surgery.

Delores Allmond thanked all stakeholders for their 88% vote of confidence in her as the incoming Chairperson and expressed her enthusiasm for her new role.

2) Seating of the new Board members by District Director for CD 15 Jacob Haik: Jacob Haik, District Director for Councilman Joe Buscaino, read out the Neighborhood Council oath of office for the new Board members and gave out certificates of appreciation for those Board members who were completing their term of service. Delores Allmond then took over chairing the meeting.

3) Appointment of District 7 Representative: District 7 stakeholder Rosario Rico expressed interest in being appointed as the District 7 Representative. She had considered running for the seat after receiving the HGNNC Call for Candidate door hanger but had not filed at that time. She has lived at her home for 20 years, is completing her master's degree in Urban Public Health and works at UMMA Community Clinic in South Central. Rosario also is an Army veteran and completed one tour of duty in Iraq in 2005-2006. Her sister is a teacher at the 118th Street Elementary School in District 7. Neodros Bridgeforth made the motion to appoint Rosario Rico as the new District 7 Representative, Rey Paduani seconded the motion, and it was passed 11-0-0.

4) Appointment of At-Large Representative: As no interested person was present, this item was tabled until the December 11 Board meeting.

5) Approval of the October 9 Board minutes: It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Donald Cook, and passed 11-0 with one abstention to approve the minutes as presented.

6) Treasurer's report: In the absence of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reviewed the Treasurer's report. Page 1 was the US Bank statement for October 22, 2012, showing nine transactions. Pages 2a and 2b were the Expenditures to Date as of November 8, 2012, for a total of \$12,247.51 but not subtracting the amount for the Board election expenses which had been encumbered from 2011-2012 funds. Page 3 showed details of the September 2012 expenses. Page 4 showed details of the October 2012 expenses. Page 5 was a copy of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 as approved on June 12, 2012. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Marvin Bell seconded, and it was approved 12-0-0 to approve the Treasurer's report.

(Deborah Lee entered the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

After brief discussion of the details by Deborah Lee, who is President of the Southeast Volunteers, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 13-0-0 to spend up to \$200 for either sandwiches or baked chicken for Officer Appreciation Day at Southeast Division on Thursday, November 29. Deborah Lee is willing to coordinate purchase of the food with Treasurer Joan Jacobs.

District 4 is the only neighborhood requesting funding for holiday tree decorations this year. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 13-0-0 to spend up to \$200 for the aluminum foil and red bows to decorate the Hoover Street trees in District 4 during December.

7) Possible support for Don't Waste L.A. Campaign: This item was tabled because the speaker was not present.

8) Possible support for Prop. K funding for Environmental Charter Middle School's Urban Greening projects at 812 W. 165th Place: This item was tabled until Alison Suffet-Diaz, Executive Director, Environmental Charter School, could arrive.

9) Reappointment of Standing Committees (Bylaws, Emergency Preparedness, Finance, Outreach, and Planning and Land Use) and also official representatives to the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils: After Board members and stakeholders volunteered for the various Standing Committees and Harbor Alliance (HANC), it was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 13-0 to approve the following appointments:

Bylaws (Dr. Princess Sykes, Mary Hinton, and Betty Hawkins)
Emergency Preparedness (Rey Paudani, Alvin LaBostrie, Mary Hinton, and Deborah Lee)
Finance (Llewyn Fowlkes, Joan Jacobs, Rosalie Preston, Donald Cook, and Dr. Princess Sykes)
Outreach (Marvin Bell, Richard Lee, Donald Cook, Rosario Rico, and Kreston Jordan)
Planning and Land Use (Lu Watson, Pamela Thornton, Kim Moore, Leo Youngblood, Betty Booker, Marvin Bell, Thomasina Curry, Llewyn Fowlkes, and Rosalie Preston)
Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (Lu Watson, Rosalie Preston, Pamela Thornton, Richard Lee, Marvin Bell, and Llewyn Fowlkes)

District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson pointed out that the Bylaws Committee may want to review the HGNNC boundaries in light of part of the northern HGNNC area now being part of Council District 8.

8) Possible support for Prop. K funding for Environmental Charter Middle School's Urban Greening projects at 812 W. 165th Place: Alison Suffet-Diaz, Executive Director, joined by Kami Cotler, Principal for the Middle School, discussed their application to use \$650,000 of Prop. K funding for two areas of the school grounds. In the courtyard facing 165th Place, the proposed projects would be an Outdoor Community Art space with a solar-powered water feature and shade trellis, a Timber Play structure of 2,000 square feet featuring monkey bars, balance beams, and low climbing areas, a Garden Zone of 555 square feet with raised and ground level garden beds for youth gardens, a lattice shade structure, and a water source, and a Living stream fed by rain water collection with a solar-powered pump. Along the northeast corner of the property adjacent to the multi-purpose building there will be an Outdoor Fitness Circuit with stationary equipment to build cardiovascular health, strength, flexibility, and balance and coordination which can be used by both youth and adults of the community. The grant funding would also fund two solar-powered green houses located on the roof deck of the classroom building and up to forty trees along the edges of the campus. The courtyard and outdoor fitness circuit features will be available from 3:30 to 6 p.m. five days a week for the afterschool program which will be open to the public and also once a month on Saturdays for workshops on gardening, composting, rainwater harvesting, etc. The Outdoor Fitness circuit will be open to the public at all times.

Total Prop. K funding for the current application cycle for the Southern Region area is about \$8 million and all of the proposed projects for the Prop. K funding which the Bureau of Engineering has reviewed and recommended can be funded by this amount. Therefore, although the final approval rests with a City Council hearing in April and final decision in early June, Alison believes that the proposed projects for the Environmental Charter Middle School have a very good chance of being approved. If ECMS's Prop. K proposal is approved, then the school hopes to finish construction of the Urban Greening projects by fall 2013. The school remodeling is slated to be completed by next February 1.

Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Richard Lee seconded, and it was passed 11-2-0 to support using Proposition K funding for the Environmental Charter Middle School's Urban Greening projects.

10) Update on HGNNC events (Oct. 31 Halloween carnival at Rosecrans Rec. Center, Sat. Nov. 11 Board Retreat, and Budget Day on Sat. Nov. 17): Rey Paduani, Adrian Valenzuela, and Llewyn Fowlkes represented the Board at the Oct. 31 Halloween Carnival at Rosecrans Recreation Center, which the HGNNC helped to support. A few more Board and stakeholders could have been used to help out.

The three goals which were voted on at the Sat. November 11 Board Retreat are planning and land use issues, emergency preparedness, and communication/outreach. For the last category, Outreach Representative Donald Cook will be encouraging one outreach event in each of the eight Districts. District 1 will be hosting a clean up event south of Gardena Blvd. in mid to late January, partnering with the Environmental Charter Middle School and the Boys and Girls Club of Harbor Gateway/Gardena. District 4 will hold its annual clean up day on Sat. May 11. District 6 may be able to host the HGNNC Health Fair. Donald will also work on a survey for stakeholders to help determine the most needed event or workshop for each District.

7) Possible support for Don't Waste L.A. Campaign – proposed franchise system for L.A. City private waste haulers for small businesses and apartments: Amardeep Gill, Senior Organizer for LAANE's (L.A. Alliance for a New Economy) Don't Waste L.A. campaign, arrived and discussed the proposal to reduce the number of waste haulers for businesses and apartments of more than five units from 45 haulers to 11, one for each newly created franchise area. While recycling from single-family homes (provided by the Bureau of Sanitation) has reached a very high percentage, 70% of waste picked up from apartments and businesses goes to the landfill. The landfills are approaching capacity and having multiple waste hauling trucks traveling in neighborhoods is inefficient and creates congestion and pollution. The issue is being voted on by the City Council on Wed. November 14 at 10 a.m. as File No. 10-1797. If passed, the Bureau of Sanitation would lead a task force to write standards for those applying for the new franchises and measures for accountability, including penalties. Don't Waste L.A. believes that the costs for small businesses would be stabilized and a higher quality of waste disposal would result. The franchises would be granted for at least two years. Certification for recycling facilities would also be part of the ordinance. Stakeholders will be able to have input into the policies and help shape them. Other cities with exclusive franchises include San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, and San Jose, as well as 60% of the cities in Orange County.

It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 12-0-1 to support the proposal of Don't Waste L.A. for exclusive waste hauling franchises.

11) Announcements: Rosalie Preston reminded the Board and stakeholders that the Mayor's Community Budget Day is Sat. November 17. She will be accompanying the two HGNNC appointed Budget Representatives, Lois Hill and Dr. Princess Sykes, to this event at City Hall.

The next Board training offered by the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment will be Sat. December 1 at a location to be determined.

District 7 stakeholder Dr. Princess Sykes announced that the Watts Christmas Parade will be held on Sat. December 1.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary