

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting of November 18, 2008

Present: Adrian White (Chair), Delores Allmond (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Gloria Christmas (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Mattie Menser (District 7), Leo Youngblood (District 8), Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith Based Representative), and Eva Cooper (Youth Representative)

Chair Adrian White called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

1) Public Comment: Sonja Dawson, Deputy City Attorney and Southeast Neighborhood Prosecutor, gave an update on actions taken against X-tra Fuel, 424 E. Imperial Highway and other businesses nearby. X-tra Fuel has been the site of loitering, narcotics, trash and debris, illegal auto sales, and illegal street vending. A hearing was held with the owner in October 2007 and he was given time to correct the nuisances. Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez has made some arrests in these cases and X-tra Fuel has painted the outside of their building. In nuisance cases, the first approach is by the LAPD, with Code Enforcement following up. The goal is to encourage the business owner to voluntarily comply with requests for improvement. Abatement litigation is the last resort as it costs the City money. Ms. Dawson offered to return to the HGNNC in early 2009 to give an update. She also gave out flyers on the "Don't Dump on LA!" program which provides a \$1,000 reward for those who help convict illegal dumpers.

Rey Paduani, District 3 Representative, reported on the dedication ceremony for the Boundless Playground which was constructed at Rosecrans Recreation Center by CVS Caremark. The HGNNC was acknowledged by park director Anthony Gordon for our contribution to their Halloween Carnival. He especially noted HGNNC Youth Representative Eva Cooper for her efforts.

Lu Watson, District 5 stakeholder, attended a Metro meeting about Fastlanes, the congestion reduction demonstration project which is proposing to convert the carpool lane of the 110 Harbor Freeway to a toll lane by December 31, 2010 as well as increase buses using those lanes. Metro representatives will attend the HGNNC General Membership meeting on January 27.

2) Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the October 14 Board meeting were approved as corrected. Motion: Bridgeforth Second: Paduani Vote: 10-0

3) Treasurer's Report: Gloria Christmas reported that the Neighborhood Council Funding Report for November 1, 2008 shows a balance of \$121,784.42, with 21 Visa expenditures and three demand warrants during October. The summary of expenditures by quarter shows a total of \$30,772.00 spent from July 1 to November 14, 2008. However, one Board member noticed that the entry for "Office Postage" for the 2nd Quarter was entered incorrectly and therefore the correct summary should be \$22,190.18.

Rosalie Preston moved, Gloria Christmas seconded and it was passed 8-0 with two abstentions to spend up to \$550 for 50 aluminum neighborhood watch signs for District 4 windows.

Estimates had not been received for printing up HGNNC T-shirts for special programs and therefore this item was tabled.

It was moved by Leo Youngblood, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 9-0 with one abstention to approve up to \$500 to pay a non-profit such as B.J. Sisters Inc. to distribute flyers to advertise and to seek volunteers to help with the holiday tree and pole decorations in Districts 6, 7, and 8. (Delores Allmond entered the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Leo Youngblood, and passed 11-0 to allocate up to \$120 for six hours of accounting clerk time to help DONE Funding complete the audits of the 1st and 2nd quarter reports for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, using the bookkeeper line item.

Payment of Frank Voit for the 27 Ham radio technician study manuals which were used for the 2006 Ham radio workshops in the amount of \$388.15 was tabled pending the previous treasurer investigating

what her files show as being paid in March 2007. DONE has e-mailed the HGNNC a copy of what was in their files, which covered the actual Ham radios and related equipment for a total of \$5,486.60.

Gloria Christmas moved, Eva Cooper seconded and it was passed 11-0 to spend up to \$600 to reprint the Board members' business cards because the current cards reflect terms ending in October 2008.

After discussion of the Finance Committee's recommendations for revising the July 1, 2008 budget for 2008-2009, it was moved by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth and passed 11-0 to approve the November revised budget, which shows a correct total for the fiscal year of \$143,780 (instead of \$150,000) a new line item for the Chair's Neighborhood Council cell phone, removal of the line item for the Gardening Service – weekly, and other adjustments to reflect actual spending.

4) Letter to Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment and Councilwoman Hahn on issues related to location of Board retreats: It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Mattie Menser, and passed 11-0 to send a letter asking for an exemption to the requirement that special Board meetings/retreats be held within the boundaries due to the unique situation of the Harbor Gateway North not having any hotels or other suitable locations for such retreats within its boundaries but having one just a mile south.

5) Updates on WesPac hearing (rescheduled to early 2009) and Scoping hearings for South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plans: The HGNNC received notice that the WesPac jet fuel pipeline hearing set for November 13 was cancelled and the hearing will be rescheduled in late January or early February of 2009.

No Board member attended the Scoping hearings on the Community Plans which cover Districts 6, 7 and 8.

6) Goal-setting discussion for 2008-2009: Suggestions were made to hold a Health Fair in the spring, possibly at Bel-Vue Community Presbyterian Church or one of the schools in the northern part of the HGNNC. Another suggestion was to hold an Environmental job fair in March or April. Some suggested locations for the proposed litter removal project are Gardena Blvd. between Vermont and Menlo Avenue or to the 110 Harbor Freeway, along Rosecrans between Vermont and the 110 Harbor Freeway, and along Broadway or Figueroa south of the 105 Freeway. District 7 is planning a clean up in early 2009. Samples of the 48 Clean Team bright lime vests were shown. These can be loaned out for such clean-up projects. Betty Hawkins reminded those planning such events to call Community Advocate Reginald Zachery or California Waste Services in advance to arrange for dumpsters to put the trash bags in once filled.

7) Announcement: Rey Paduani reminded the Board of Officer Appreciation Day at Southeast Station on Friday, November 21 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Volunteers to help serve the donated food are needed.

Rosalie Preston pointed out the flyers for the 2008 Environmental Youth Conference to be held on Dec. 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the L.A. Convention Center. If an area or group has 25 young people going, then free buses can be arranged. The deadline for requesting the bus is November 26.

Mark Lewis, District 7 stakeholder, announced that he is running to represent District 7 of the L.A. Community College District. The election will be held March 3.

Eva Cooper thanked the Board members who attended and helped out with the Halloween Carnival at Rosecrans Recreation Center on October 31.

Lu Watson, Co-Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee, reminded the Board that the hearing before the full Planning Commission on the Magnolia Science Academy will be held on Thurs., November 20 at 8:30 a.m. in Van Nuys.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston