

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council  
Special Board Meeting of September 6, 2008  
(Board Training and Goal Setting)**

Present: Adrian White (Chair), Delores Allmond (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Corresponding Secretary), Gloria Christmas (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Mattie Menser (District 7), Leo Youngblood (District 8), Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith Based Representative), Dr. Peter Rivera (Community Organization Representative), and Eva Cooper (Youth Representative)

**1) How to run an effective meeting, including how to best utilize the Standing Committees:**

Gary De La Rosa from the City's Human Relations Commission began by discussing the purpose of the Neighborhood Councils (to represent the stakeholders) and reminded the Board that the Board does not have to have unanimous opinions; there can be majority and minority positions on issues before the Board. A Neighborhood Council is a microcosm of the democratic experiment—rule is by majority but the minority viewpoint has the right to be heard. The Board needs to be aware of what is happening throughout their boundaries and promote participation. Each District can adopt the method that best fits that District. Desirable characteristics of Neighborhood Councils: collaboration with other Neighborhood Councils regarding common concerns, facilitation of service delivery and government response to need (potholes, speed humps, graffiti, disaster preparedness training, etc.), provision of equal opportunity to participate in government decision-making and problem-solving processes, support for grassroots organizing to continue to grow the Neighborhood Council, fostering a sense of community for all people to express ideas and opinions about their neighborhood and City government, and to be inclusive and diverse. He reminded the Board that all actions must be transparent, as per the Ralph M. Brown Act. Consider setting time limits on agenda items to help keep the meeting on time. Maintain a degree of independence from City government as appropriate.

**2) How to beautify/improve our neighborhoods most effectively, including ways to track stakeholder requests for service:** Tom Houston, President of the Harbor City Neighborhood Council, discussed some of the techniques they have used to improve their neighborhood and involve stakeholders, such as a conflict resolution program at Narbonne High School, installation of security cameras at problem areas throughout the N.C., funding of a flashing crosswalk sign where a young girl had been hit by a car, the use of lawn signs throughout the N.C., large banners, and door-to-door delivery of flyers by students to advertise their meetings, and assistance to their local Boys and Girls Club. Harbor City N.C. plans issue-driven meetings for stakeholders to ensure good attendance. He also suggested working closely with the assigned deputy from Councilwoman Hahn's office and her other staff.

**3) Techniques for improving outreach, especially to youth, business, and those speaking languages other than English:** Steffanie Stone of the Coro Foundation used an interactive paper and pencil exercise to demonstrate that stakeholders within the Neighborhood Council have different capabilities, see the same topic from many different perspectives, and that setting a time limit forces a decision to be made. She pointed out that the responsibility of the HGNNC is to

represent the community, recognize the various cultures, languages, and ages which are represented and then make some decisions about which group to target and how to outreach to that specific group. Of our 35,000 stakeholders, 21,000 are Hispanic and most are under the age of 40. Therefore, these two groups should be more represented on the Board, at meetings, or in projects we work on. Asset mapping can be used to help with outreach with a Board member who may know a contact in a youth organization or community organization which can help bring in the targeted group. Some community assets to consider are schools (whose students can provide community service), businesses, churches, the Harbor Gateway Boys and Girls Club, Rosecrans Recreation Center, students at local colleges, such as California State University Dominguez Hills and Southwest College. When working on a project, ask specific stakeholders to get involved. Provide recognition for those having beautiful yards or holiday light displays, for example. Coro Foundation and the Human Relations Commission can provide suggestions for relevant groups to help with outreach.

**4) What specific projects should we work on from September 2008 to July 2009?** This item was tabled due to lack of time.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston and Joan Jacobs