

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
General Membership Meeting of July 22, 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), Leo Youngblood (District 8), Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith-Based Representative), and Eva Cooper (Youth Representative)

Chair Adrian White called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

1) Public Comment: Rose Ibanez, DONE Project Coordinator, discussed the August 14 Board training which DONE will provide, the planning for the next Congress of Neighborhoods on July 30, and the October 11 Congress of Neighborhoods which will be held at City Hall.

Senior Lead Officer Armando Ramirez said that crime is down within the HGNNC overall, except for car thefts, especially 1980's Hondas. The LAPD website (www.lapdonline.org) lists all recent crimes in a neighborhood. In response to a question about a registered sex offender living in a neighborhood, he advised calling Southeast Station and asking to speak to the Sex Crimes Detective.

Rey Paduani, District 3 Representative, pointed out that Officer Ramirez had helped District 3 clear a large dumping of trash near the railroad tracks south of Rosecrans Park and pointed out that the City of Los Angeles offers a reward for those caught doing illegal dumping.

2) The minutes of the June 24, 2008, General Membership meeting were approved as corrected. Bridgeforth (motion), Christmas (second) 10-0

3) Treasurer's Report: Printed copies of the July 1, 2008, monthly funding status report from DONE were available showing a balance of \$93,780.15 and detailing six demand warrant expenditures and fifteen via the VISA card in May. The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Leo Youngblood, second by Neodros Bridgeforth, and vote of 10-0.

It was moved by Leo Youngblood, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth and passed 9-0 to approve up to \$1500 for food and entertainment for the August 26 Asian/Pacific Islander program for the General Membership meeting.

4) Speaker from Dept. of Public Works on Residential Food Scraps Collections pilot program in South Los Angeles: Rowena Romano, Bernadette Halverson, and Joe Zuniga explained the use of the two-gallon green pails in residents' kitchens to collect daily food scraps and food-soiled paper (pizza boxes, used napkins, hamburger wraps, etc.) before emptying them into our green yard bins on a daily basis. This should prevent 8-12 pounds of food waste from going into the black garbage bins per week and thus reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill which the City of Los Angeles uses. The program will begin with District 8 in our area in August and be implemented city-wide by the end of 2008. Any comments on the program can be made by calling 311 and are greatly appreciated by the Public Works Department.

5) Presentation from Lowe's about proposed store at 661 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.: John Mastandrea, La Caze Development -owner of the property, Paul E. Bennett II, Christensen, Glaser, Fink, Jacobs, Weil & Shapiro, LLP, and Jack Mandel, Senior Site Manager for Lowe's, explained that this 9.5 acre site was purchased from Clarion three years ago. The owner had signed a lease with

Home Depot but Home Depot changed its mind about relocating to the site from its current location at 740 W. 182nd Street after residents raised issues about traffic and potential problems from day laborers. The proposed Lowe's will be a 140,000 square foot store, including a garden center. The old Clarion building will be demolished. The City's Planning Department has requested that Lowe's use an attractively landscaped streetscape along Redondo Beach Blvd., which faces the residential area to the south, and have the main entrance and parking lot facing the north job of Orchard Avenue.

This Lowe's will be smaller than the West Torrance location on Skypark Drive. Lowe's believes that there will be no day laborer issue with their store as they are more oriented towards residential customers rather than contractors and they have policies against soliciting and loitering on their property. There will be entrances for vehicles on both Redondo Beach Blvd. and the north jog of Orchard Avenue. Traffic flow along Redondo Beach Blvd. will be synchronized from Vermont Avenue to the 110 Freeway, with traffic lights installed at both the north Orchard Avenue jog and the south Orchard Avenue jog into the residential area to the south (District 2). Lowe's was required to include the projected traffic into the Sam's Club site in their traffic study, even though it is uncertain that the Sam's Club project will be going forward. Trucks bringing merchandise to the store will use loading docks located on the north side of the building and it is estimated that there will be no more than fifteen such trucks per day. When a District 2 resident asked why the traffic study subtracted a substantial number of vehicle visits per day, Lowe's said that existing vehicle visits from California Waste Services were subtracted as well as those vehicles which would be passing anyway but would happen to decide to stop and shop at Lowe's on their way home. When they were questioned about their longer proposed open hours, compared to all other of their stores in the greater Los Angeles area, they said that they would like to have maximum flexibility in setting their hours to meet demand for their services and that their proposal for 24-hour operation in the future would be based on how successful this new location proved to be. They have asked that deliveries be allowed 24 hours per day. They also added that they expect that most of the customers for the proposed Lowe's will come from north of the location and travel to the store going south on the 110 Freeway and then west on Redondo Beach Blvd.

When asked how a decision would be made on their project, the Board said that Districts 2 and 3 would be meeting and recommending a position to the Planning and Land Use Committee before the Board takes a final vote on this issue.

6) Board decision on Home Assembly Church, 13515 S. Figueroa: District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins said that the 135th Street Neighborhood Watch had met on July 17. Their residents heard the presentation from the Home Assembly Church which proposes to relocate to 13515 S. Figueroa Street, found no particular reason to oppose the church and voted to support the project. They were a little concerned about the Church's beginning to meet at 135th Street School on Sunday mornings, because of possible parking and traffic issues for nearby residents. However, Pastor Vanessa Ussery explained that this would be a transitional use due to the delay between the sale of their former property and the renovation of the Figueroa Street property. Betty Hawkins moved, Rey Paudani seconded, and it was passed 10-0 to send a letter of support to both Councilwoman Janice Hahn and the Planning Department from the 135th Street Neighborhood Watch (District 4). It was moved by Willie Blackmon, seconded by Gloria Christmas and passed 10-0 to send a letter of support to both Councilwoman Janice Hahn and the Planning Department from the Board of the HGNNC.

7) Committee reports: The chair of the Bylaws Committee was not present.

Dr. Deborah Robinson, Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee said that the Committee met July 10 and suggested a survey of training needs which was printed on the back of the July 22 General Membership meeting flyer. The Committee discussed further training in the use of Ham radios and whether to again schedule CERT training, which requires a commitment of 21 hours.

Co-Chair Neodros Bridgeforth reported that the Planning and Land Use Committee met on July 8 and recommended requesting from LAUSD Office of Environmental Health Services a new school site review and also a full environmental impact report on the project from the City's Planning Department. On July 16, **Peter C. Misseijer of the LAUSD Charter School Division** notified HGNNC that our letter had been received and that investigation of the environmental health issues raised by the HGNNC about the Magnolia Science Academy #3 will be made.

Neodros Bridgeforth, Chair of the Faith-Based Picnic outreach event, reported that five of the twenty-four invited churches attended, with sixteen being personally contacted. The total expenses for the school use permit, food, two bouncers for the children, and accompanist for the Bel-View Community Presbyterian Church choir totaled \$1709.83.

8) Announcements: There were no announcements.

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

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston