

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council  
General Membership Meeting of September 23, 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), Llewyn Folkes (District 5), 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 7:17 p.m.

**1) Public Comment:** Rey Paduani (District 3 Representative) called attention to the photocopies of the Los Angeles *Times* editorial of September 22, 2008 entitled “City Hall’s black comedy,” which is critical of the Department of Water and Power raises which were negotiated with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 2005.

Chair Adrian White reminded stakeholders of the Congress of Neighborhoods coming up on Saturday, October 11 at City Hall.

Christina Reeder, Senior Real Estate Representative, Southwest Division, for 7-Eleven Inc., stated that 7-Eleven has heard the concerns of the community and made the decision to withdraw their proposal to sell beer and wine at their 700 W. Imperial Highway store. They also will now withdraw their Conditional Use Permit application to be open twenty-four hours per day. Their hours will be as per existing City guidelines, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. She was asked if that decision could be put in writing and she said that 7-Eleven will be contacting the Zoning Administrator to withdraw the item from the agenda for Thurs. October 16.

Senior Lead Officer Armando Ramirez asked if there were any community concerns and was told about youth and young adults using nitrous oxide balloons to get high along 119<sup>th</sup> Street between Main and San Pedro from approximately noon to 9 p.m. Officer Ramirez advised calling 1-877-ASK-LAPD when such illegal activity is occurring. Another stakeholder raised the issue of the motorcycle club on Main Street between 118<sup>th</sup> and 119<sup>th</sup> which creates a lot of noise from the revving of their motors. Rey Paduani, District 3 Representative, said that there are also large numbers of motor cycle riders along Rosecrans, between Vermont Avenue and the 110 Harbor Freeway. Another stakeholder asked about the motorized pocket bikes which young people illegal ride through neighborhoods and Officer Ramirez also advised using the non-emergency LAPD telephone number to report such occurrences .

Richard Higashi, stakeholder from District 1, announced that the Gardena Blvd. Area Neighborhood Watch group will host a neighborhood clean up along Gardena Blvd. on Sat. November 8 and Saturday November 22.

Rose Ibanez, DONE Project Coordinator, also announced the Congress of Neighborhoods on Saturday, October. 11 at City Hall, gave out reminder cards, and read out some of the workshop titles. Stakeholders can register on-line or via telephone.

District 4 stakeholder BJ Mynatt announced Ham Radio training in San Pedro on September 27 and October 11.

**2) The minutes of the August 26, 2008, General Membership meeting** were approved as read. Bridgeforth (motion),Menser (second) 12-0

**3) Treasurer’s Report:** Printed copies of the September 1, 2008, monthly funding status report from DONE were available showing a balance of \$134,566.25 and detailing two demand warrant

expenditure and ten via the VISA card in August. The approved budget for 2008-2009 was also available as was the summary of HGNNC expenditures from July 1, 1008 to present, which totals \$12,028.14. The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Leo Youngblood, second by Eva Cooper, and vote of 12-0.

As the HGNNC Chair has found that his personal cell phone bill has dramatically increased due to calls received on it for neighborhood council business, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth and passed 12-0 to approve the cost of a dedicated cell phone from AT&T for HGNNC business calls in the amount of \$29.99 per month plus a one-time charge for the sales tax on the manufacturers' suggested retail price of the selected phone, which would most likely be the Nokia 2610 for \$169.99. A question was raised as to why the air card for Internet connection of the HGNNC laptop and cell phone were not combined into one, to be cheaper. Rosalie Preston said that AT&T had advised the separate accounts, both in the name of the HGNNC and both of which can be canceled at any time. She also clarified that DONE had advised this to be a legitimate expenditure as long as the cell phone number and account is kept separate from the Chair's personal cell phone line. A new line item for this expenditure must be created in the HGNNC annual budget once the Finance Committee meets.

It was moved by Leo Youngblood, seconded by Delores Allmond and passed 12-0 to use \$576.44 of District 6 Improvement Project funds to rent a bus from California Touch of Class to take interested stakeholders to the 7-Eleven hearing at City Hall on Thursday, October 16. Neodros Bridgeforth will take sign ups after the meeting and there will also be a sign up sheet at the Community Coalition presentation on Tuesday, October 14, as well as flyers at various community locations throughout the HGNNC.

Dr. Deborah Robinson, Co-Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, requested that the speaker reimbursement and supplies for the existing HGNNC emergency preparedness bags be tabled as the Emergency Preparedness Committee needs more time to decide on and obtain the supplies to fill the bags. Therefore, the two-hour workshop on disaster preparedness training for Saturday, October 4 has been cancelled. It and a CPR/First Aid class will be scheduled early in 2009, with attendees receiving the bags as an incentive.

#### **7) Speaker about the "Great Shakeout" on November 13 and earthquake preparedness:**

Margaret Vinci, Manager from the Office of Earthquake Programs at Caltech, reminded the audience of the "Great Shakeout" drill scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 13 in eight counties of the Southern California area and, via slides, projected the effects of a 7.8 or greater earthquake. Organizers of the drill hope to have five million people participate in the "drop, cover, and hold on" drill as well as preparing themselves and their families to have enough water and food to be able to survive on their own for three to five days after a major earthquake. It is likely that during the "Big One" the ground will shake for over two minutes, with fifty-five seconds of very heavy shaking, and that it will impact ten million people. The earth could move as much as ten to twenty feet and 1800 people could be killed by the fall of building materials and fires caused by broken gas lines.

**4) Discussion of recommended bylaws changes:** Bylaws Committee Chair Mark Lewis explained that the Neighborhood Council Review Commission had issued a set of recommendations on improving the functioning of neighborhood councils and therefore the HGNNC Bylaws Committee has incorporated the required new language as well as various needed changes based on HGNNC experience over the last six years into the proposed new bylaws. The Board had received paper copies of the proposed changes and they were e-mailed to stakeholders and posted to the HGNNC webpage.

He explained that the definition of a stakeholder is a DONE requirement, which will be inserted into all neighborhood council bylaws as they are revised. The City Clerk's office will now handle the neighborhood council elections and that necessitated some language changes. The way that Board vacancies will be filled is also the language which DONE has provided. It was moved by Leo Youngblood, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 12-0 to table the further discussion and vote on the bylaws changes in October.

**5) Planning and Land Use Committee Report:** Co-Chair Lu Watson reported that the hearing date for the proposed Magnolia Academy #3 has been set for Monday, October 20 at 10 a.m. in San Pedro. The HGNNC is still planning to attend the Thursday, October 16 hearing on the 7-Eleven store at 700 W. Imperial Highway at 9:30 a.m. which will be held in Room 1020 of City Hall.

Rosalie Preston announced that the HGNNC had just received notice via Councilwoman Hahn's Planning Director Frank Hong that California Waste Services, 621 W. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street, proposes to install a mechanized sorting system for their large volume construction and demolition debris processing facility on the north side of their property. Comments must be received by 5 p.m. on October 24.

**6) Position on Lowe's, 661 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.:** Rosalie Preston, District 2 stakeholder, read out the conditions which Districts 2 and 3 wish to have the HGNNC adopt on the proposed Lowe's store at 661 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., including various methods to avoid having traffic on Redondo Beach Blvd. back up onto the 110 Harbor Freeway or cut through District 2 going south. Other conditions relate to undergrounding utility poles along Redondo Beach Blvd., securing the Lowe's shopping carts, dealing with potential day laborer issues, opposition to 24-hour operation of the store or extension of open hours greater than what their existing stores in the Los Angeles area now have, a limit on when delivery trucks can make deliveries, a request for a percentage of new jobs to be filled by HGNNC stakeholders, and the possibility of creating an exit from the Lowe's store onto Vermont Avenue as well as the proposed one from Orchard. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 9-2 with one abstention to adopt these conditions and present them to Lowe's and to the City Planning Department.

**8) Approval of goals of the DWP Committee of LANCC and appointment of representative to the DWP Committee of LANCC:** Neodros Bridgeforth explained that under a recent agreement by the DWP Oversight Committee of the Neighborhood Councils, it had been agreed that this committee would limit itself to providing oversight of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Water and Power only. Therefore, neighborhood councils still need a group to lobby for needed changes in DWP operations and decisions and have formed a DWP Committee under the auspices of LANCC (Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Congress). It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Gloria Christmas and passed 12-0 to support the goals of this LANCC committee to advocate on behalf of ratepayers, stakeholders, and neighborhood councils on water and power issues. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Mattie Menser, and passed 12-0 to appoint Neodros Bridgeforth to be the HGNNC representative to this committee of LANCC.

**9) Announcements:** Eva Cooper, District 5, pointed out the voter registration forms on the display table. The deadline for registering for the November 4 election is October 20. She also reminded stakeholders to not wear campaign buttons or T-shirts while in the polling place so as not to be denied one's right to vote because of appearing to be campaigning for a particular candidate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston