

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting of February 19, 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 Fowlkes (District 5), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith Based Representative), Dr. Peter Rivera (Community Organization Representative), and Eva Cooper (Youth Representative)

Chair Adrian White called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1) Public Comment: Paris Miller of Unity Two introduced Ben Owens ("Taco") and Barry Bryant of Detours (Youth Our Future), 1202 W. 135th Street (near Budlong in the City of Gardena). This recently established non-profit seeks to use positive reinforcement, counseling, and afterschool educational activities to deter local youth from joining gangs. They also work with the Gardena Police Department and the Los Angeles Police Department.

Neodros Bridgeforth reported on the Neighborhood Council Planning Pilot Program Oversight Committee meeting which took place in Tujunga on Sat. February 9. Neodros will be our representative at the four Planning training sessions on Feb. 23, March 29, April 19, and May 10.

Neodros Bridgeforth summarized the Neighborhood Council DWP Oversight Committee meeting which took place on Sat., February 16 at the Constituent Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue, with the new DWP General Manager David Nahai. Nahai explained why the DWP rate increases are urgently needed to upgrade electrical infrastructure and cannot wait until the Industrial, Economic, and Administrative survey is completed.

2) Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the January 15 Board meeting were approved as submitted. Motion: Dr. Rivera Second: Christmas Vote: 10-0

3) Treasurer's Report: The Neighborhood Council Funding Report for February 1 was read out by Gloria Christmas, with the remaining account balance being \$123,022.32. Dr. Rivera moved, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded and the report was approved 10-0.

The previous treasurer, Betty Hawkins, who has been assisting Gloria during the transition of the treasurers, reminded the Board that it is desirable to select vendors who can accept the City's VISA card for purchases under \$1000 so that we can minimize the use of demand warrants and our petty cash. Petty cash is now limited to \$500 per month.

(Mr. Fowlkes entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

4) Approval of the new space sharing agreement for 802 W. Gardena Blvd: Rosalie Preston read out the responses to previous questions regarding the agreement which Daniel Ruiz of DONE had e-mailed to the HGNNC. Board members asked if provision could be made for occasional 24-hour notification to the Boys and Girls Club for emergency Board meetings and also asked if improvements to the upkeep of the grounds outside the building could be made. Therefore a vote on this item was tabled until the March 18 Board meeting.

5) Update on activities calendar events for 2008: Regina White reviewed the Black History program events planned for Tuesday February 26. Eva Cooper explained that the Youth Fair scheduled for March 15 would need to be postponed until May 17 to allow more time to plan it. Rosalie Preston reported that after a long period of trying to contact 118th Street School, she had been told by Principal Tina Choyce that Sat. April 26 was not available due to Saturday School. She is now going to ask Washington Primary Center, located at 860 W. 112th Street, which has a playground visible from Vermont Avenue. Neodros Bridgeforth is organizing the faith-based fellowship picnic in June at Belvue Presbyterian Church, although there is a concern about adequate parking there. District representatives are asked to create lists of churches and other faith-based organizations in their Districts so that Neodros can contact them.

6) Discussion of contents for March newsletter and hiring of translation service: Rosalie Preston discussed the types of articles which will be printed in the first HGNNC newsletter and asked for other suggestions. She has contacted several local translation services to translate the two English-language pages of the newsletter into Spanish. They seem to charge by the word and it is difficult to have them give estimates on cost. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, Seconded by Dr. Peter Rivera, and passed 11-0 to allocate up to \$300 for the March newsletter translation.

7) Approval of additional actions related to Board's opposition to the WesPac jet fuel pipeline project: Lu Watson discussed the stakeholder and Board letters which were submitted to Public Works as comments on the WesPac draft EIR. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Dr. Peter Rivera, and passed 11-0 to write a letter specifically addressed to Councilwoman Hahn, asking her to support our position when the issue comes before the full City Council later this year, to also authorize Board and stakeholders to lobby other City Council members, and to file a Community Impact Statement on the issue.

8) Discussion on contacting other Neighborhood Councils within the Harbor Gateway Community Plan area to move revision of our Plan to the current cycle: After having attended City Council meetings related to the density bonus, Lu Watson expressed her concern that we work with Harbor Gateway South and Harbor City Neighborhood Councils to ask the Planning Department and Councilwoman Hahn to move the revision of our Harbor Gateway Community Plan to an earlier cycle. Language in our plan needs to be strengthened to protect our neighborhoods from overdevelopment. A letter to the other neighborhood councils was approved with a motion by Dr. Peter Rivera, a second by Neodros Bridgeforth and vote of 11-0.

9) Approval of letter to schools within the HGNNC service area: Rosalie Preston read out a suggested letter which could be sent to all of the schools within our boundaries and also to those outside our boundaries (Amestoy, Peary, Gardena High School, Locke, Gompers) which our young people attend. The letter introduces the HGNNC and seeks to find ways of working together. The draft letter was approved on a motion by Gloria Christmas, second by Llewyn Fowlkes and vote of 11-0. It will be sent to the schools within our boundaries first and other relevant neighborhood councils will be contacted about schools we share jointly with them.

10) Announcements: The Tony Hawk Foundation is offering grants to create public skateboard parks. The deadlines for this year are March 1 and October 1.

There will be a LOTS Technology and Neighborhood Planning Conference on Wed. Feb. 27 at the L.A. County MTA related to Transit Oriented Development.

The County of Los Angeles Public Health Dept. is offering a free workshop on Community Emergency Preparedness on Fri. February 29, 9-4:30 with a free lunch and validated parking at the Japanese American National Museum.

Additional Zero Waste Planning Workshops are being presented on Wed. February 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Expo Center, 3980 S. Menlo Avenue, and Thurs. February 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the San Pedro Regional Branch Library, 931 S. Gaffey Street. A city-wide conference will be held on Sat. May 3.

Samples of the new 311 brochure were given out. More can be ordered for various community meetings.

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