

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

135<sup>th</sup> Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chairperson), Saira Cooper (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Larry Morrison (District 8), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At-Large Representative)

**1) Welcome/introductions:** Chair Pamela Thornton called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. She reviewed safety procedures for exiting the auditorium in the event of an emergency. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence in memory of District 6 stakeholder and former Board member Neodros Bridgeforth.

**2) Public Comment on non-agenda items:** District 1 stakeholder Art Cramer stated that the community is deteriorating. He has been trying for years to make address issues and would like to ask others to assist with working on improvements.

Victor Ibarra, Field Representative for 64<sup>th</sup> District Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson, said that stakeholders should contact him for any issues relating to the State of California, such as Caltrans. On Sat. November 4 from 9:30-1 p.m. the Assembly District will host the “It’s Our Neighborhood” conference at Compton Community College in the Little Theatre, with a focus on how to reduce crime in the neighborhood and how to prepare for emergencies.

Rey Paduani, District 3 Representative, reported that the Bureau of Sanitation did not pick up the trash from in front of his home on Monday.

Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary, said that the Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club will be offering the FCC license test for ham radios early in March. The HGNNC can provide study materials for interested stakeholders as the HGNNC is trying to increase the number of licensed Ham radio operators for its emergency communications network.

Christopher LeVeux, District 1 stakeholder, reported on the large amount of trash under the 91 freeway at Figueroa Street. He suggested that if a method could be developed for trash to be recycled for another use, similar to plastic bottles, there would no longer be a trash issue.

**3) Review/Approval – July 25, 2017, General Membership meeting minutes:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the July 25, 2017, General Membership meeting minutes as submitted.

**4) Speaker: Megan Emme, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) – Homeless Count 2018:** The speaker was not able to attend. Chairperson Pamela Thornton reminded the stakeholders that volunteers are needed for the January 24, 2018 homeless count. Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reported that the Section 8 housing waiting list is now open for filing online. Public computers are available at libraries, WorkSource centers, and LAUSD parent centers. In January, the HGNNC will have a homeless services resources card ready for distribution and for posting on the HGNNC website. LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) have outreach teams who work with homeless people to gain their trust and connect them with services and the teams have been working on some of the HGNNC homeless issues. HGNNC Homeless Liaison Bryan Davis said that those seeing homeless encampments can call 311 or use the MyLA311 app on their smartphone. Victor Ibarra of Assemblymember Gipson’s office said that when the homeless are camping along the freeways, his office can be contacted and he will contact Caltrans. A contact number for the Union Pacific railroad where many homeless are now camping along the tracks is (916) 789-6357 or (909) 879-6091.

**5) Speaker: Sandra Erkhart, Forgotten Children, Inc. Human Trafficking:** Sandra said that the non-profit rescues, empowers, and restores young women and young men from being trafficked sexually. The two types of human trafficking are labor trafficking and sex trafficking. There are 20 to 30 million slaves

worldwide today. 80% are females and of those, half are children. Human trafficking happens in the United States as well as other countries. San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego are the three cities with the highest rates of human trafficking because they each have a port. The average age of trafficked women is 12 years old. Human trafficking is a \$37 billion industry. Forgotten Children, Inc. can use funding, supplies, and volunteers. More information is available on their website:

[www.forgottenchildreninc.org](http://www.forgottenchildreninc.org)

**6) Speaker: Neighborhood Councils 101, How your neighborhood works to empower stakeholders to improve their neighborhoods:**

Octaviano Rios presented a certificate from Assemblymember Gipson which acknowledged the 15-year anniversary of the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council's certification. Reginald Zachery, who formerly worked for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and helped to get the HGNNC certified and then worked with the HGNNC as Councilmember Janice Hahn's Field Deputy, congratulated the Neighborhood Council. He now works for Mayor Eric Garcetti in the Gang Reduction and Youth Development Office. He said that the Neighborhood Council and its stakeholders are the best advocate for the community.

Octaviano then encouraged the HGNNC stakeholders to become more involved in their City by letting City government know their priorities for spending, volunteering to help at HGNNC events, joining a Committee, and possibly running for a Board seat in 2019. The Neighborhood Council takes positions on various issues which will go before the City Council and can then file a Community Impact Statement. He encouraged stakeholder to assist the HGNNC develop its budget priorities list so that the HGNNC can file a CIS on the 2018-2019 City budget.

**8) Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council celebrates 15 years – presentation and acknowledgements:**

Reginald Zachery reviewed the formation of the Neighborhood Council and noted that some of those people are still involved. A photo montage of photos from the early years of the Council was displayed. Those helping to get the 500 signatures needed for certification were BJ Mynatt, Mattie Menser, Ray Johnson, Lu Watson, Richard Higashi, Maureen Montoya, and Rosalie Preston. An interim Board helped to oversee the Council until the first election in 2003. The first Board was BJ Mynatt as Chairperson, Charles Edwards as the Vice Chairperson, Delores Allmond as Recording Secretary, Joan Jacobs as Corresponding Secretary, and Betty Hawkins as Treasurer.

A PowerPoint presentation of photos and achievements from the first fifteen years was then presented.

**7) Announcements:** Karen King, Director of Rosecrans Recreation Center, invited everyone to the Tues. October 31 Halloween event at the park, from 4-8 p.m. She thanked the HGNNC for its support in helping to fund the jumper, pop corn machine, and cotton candy machine. Adult volunteers are needed from 4-6 p.m. She also noted that a new child care center building is being built on the east side of the park near the parking lot.

District 8 Representative Larry Morrison reported that District 8 held a recent clean up day.

Vice Chairperson Saira Cooper said that she was in charge of the HGNNC's second Clean Streets LA Challenge grant application and was working with the Youth Representative Richard Lee on clean up and beautification projects at four schools (Environmental Charter Middle School, Gardena Elementary School, Skirball Middle School, and the 116<sup>th</sup> Street School). She needs volunteers to assist with these clean up days.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary