

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Figueroa Street Elementary School, 510 W. 111st Street

Present: Pamela Thornton (Chair), Saira Cooper (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Hannah Woods (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), David Matthews (District 1), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Janet Mitchell (District 7), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At-Large Representative)

1) **Welcome/introductions:** Chair Pamela Thornton called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. She explained that the HGNNC Board was rotating meetings until March and holding meetings in every District within its boundaries in advance of the June 8 Board elections.

2) **Ad Hoc Cultural Arts Committee – Bell by Bell Winter Event, December 21, 2018:** Community Partnership introductions: David Matthews, Chair of the Ad Hoc Cultural Arts Committee, said that the HGNNC would host a Bell by Bell event from 4-8 p.m. along Gardena Blvd. There will be a partnership with the City of Gardena and food trucks will be present. Bell by Bell started in New York City and this year will take place in twenty-six cities across the country. The HGNNC event will be the first one held in Los Angeles.

a) **Food Forward:** Jason Landers, Los Angeles Harvest Coordinator for Food Forward, explained that in the greater Los Angeles area there are 1.1 million people who are food insecure (1 in 9 people). Food Forward links excess food with those who are food insecure. The three elements of their program are 1) Backyard Harvest, where volunteers gather unwanted fruit from backyards and give to the food insecure via a number of non-profits, 2) Farmers Market Recovery, where volunteers pick up unwanted produce from local farmers markets and donate it to local hunger relief organizations, and 3) Wholesale Recovery, where 100,000 lbs of produce per day is gathered and delivered to very large hunger relief agencies. One of the local sites for distribution of the excess produce is the Watts Labor Community Action Committee on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Each person who shows up gets two bags of produce. Food Forward currently is active in Ventura County and the San Fernando Valley and is interested in expanding into South L.A. and the South Bay. Homeowners with fruit trees can sign up on the Food Forward website and volunteers can sign up that way, also. Students can receive community service credit for their volunteering.

b) **Gardena Police Department:** Lt. Steve Prendergast said that the City of Gardena has three policing districts, with meetings for each area. Anyone is welcome to attend, with the meetings taking place at G Trans, 13999 S. Western Avenue on the last Tuesday of each month.

(Joan Jacobs and Eva Cooper-Pace entered the meeting at 6:55 p.m.)

3) **Presentation by Laura K. Guglielmo, Los Angeles Housing+Community Investment Department, an informational overview: programs and services available, including information on Rent Stabilization and what to do if offered Cash for Keys:** Laura emphasized that her Department (HCIDLA) oversees the Worksource Centers and Family Source Centers where families can have their income taxes done, find resources for domestic violence and human trafficking. They also oversee rental housing in the City of Los Angeles. 60-70% of Los Angeles residents are renters and many are rent-burdened (needing to pay 50% of their income for rent), which leads to homelessness. The Department works to support new affordable and supportive housing with fifty projects under construction currently. The Department also offers a home-buying program for first-time homeowners. One of the key responsibilities of HCIDLA is oversight of the City's Rent Stabilization program (rent control). This applies to any rental units built in 1978 or earlier. HCIDLA can provide information on "Cash for Keys" offers by landlords (when a landlord offers a tenant money to move out so that the landlord can then rent the unit for a higher rent.) They also have a contract with the Housing Rights Center so that renters who need legal representation on rental issues can be referred to them. Laura noted that non-citizens have the same housing rights as citizens. HCIDLA also provides systematic code inspection for all units on a cycle which runs about every four years. For a building emergency, such as lack of hot water, an inspector will come out immediately. There is also a REAP (Rent Escrow Account Program) program

with the purpose of encouraging landlords to make needed repairs; the tenant's rent is reduced until the repairs are made.

4) **Presentation by Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin, an informational overview: how to access data via Control Panel link:** Controller Ron Galperin was unable to attend tonight's meeting and his presentation will be rescheduled.

5) **General public comment on non-agenda items:** There was no public comment.

6) **2019 Neighborhood Council Elections – Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Chair Pamela Thornton said that the HGNNC has been using different locations for Board meetings as a way to better outreach to different parts of the Neighborhood Council area. Outreach Coordinator Saira Cooper reminded stakeholders that candidate filing for the 2019 Board election begins on February 23 and ends on March 26. On the first three Saturdays of December, pop-up outreach events will be held at Ralphs, the Gateway Crossroads Shopping Center, and at both the Charity Mission Church holiday parade and Magic Johnson Park to let stakeholders know about the Neighborhood Council and upcoming Board election. The One Community Fair had to be cancelled for October 27 and will be rescheduled for late February.

Octaviano Rios, Neighborhood Advocate from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, said that the election schedule for the Harbor Area has been posted. The HGNNC Board election will be held on Sat. June 8. He encouraged stakeholders to think about running for one of the seventeen Board seats. Board members are volunteers (not paid). The purpose of the Neighborhood Council is to hold City Hall accountable and make sure the area receives needed resources. There are now 99 Neighborhood Councils throughout the City of Los Angeles.

7) **Consideration of temporary appointment for District 1 Representative:** District 1 stakeholder David Matthews said that he was interested in being appointed temporarily, until the end of the Board term. He said that he had moved to the area three years ago and was concerned about the amount of illegal dumping in his neighborhood. He has seen a need to organize and work together and to share information about available City services. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0-0 to temporarily appoint David Matthews as the District 1 Representative.

8) **Appointment of (2) Budget Advocates:** This item was tabled and will be placed on the December 11 Board agenda to fill one Budget Representative position.

9) **Reports**

- a) **Budget Representative:** Budget Representative Dr. Princess Sykes said that she would have a report ready for the December 11 Board meeting.
- b) **Ad Hoc Homeless Issues:** The Committee is working on a list of food resources within and near the HGNNC area. They are trying to identify a suitable non-profit to coordinate donations of backpacks and toiletries to homeless children enrolled in the five HGNNC elementary schools. The Committee will be encouraging stakeholders to sign up for the January 23 homeless count. A Safe Parking LA site will be set up in the HGNNC area at 14000 S. Figueroa Street sometime in 2019. Similar Safe Parking programs have been operating successfully in Santa Barbara and San Diego.
- c) **Ad Hoc Quality of Life/Public Safety:** The Committee held its first meeting on October 17 at Fire Station 64 and reviewed issues related to illegal dumping and service delivery. The next meeting will be Mon. December 3 at Fire Station 64.
- d) **Youth activities:** Youth Representative Richard Lee said that Council District 15 has confirmed that they will provide a bus for the November 30 City Hall field trip for Gardena Elementary School fifth graders.
- e) **Outreach:** Saira Cooper said that the One Community Fair has been rescheduled on Sat. February 23 at the 135th Street School from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be a number of City Departments represented at booths, elected officials, health information, and a talent

showcase in honor of Black History Month, as well as Board election information and assistance for those filing to run as candidates.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.)

- f) **Harbor Alliance meeting of November 7:** HANC Representative Lu Watson reported that there will upcoming workshops on proposed CEQA updates. LADWP is hiring in a number of different categories. The Wilmington Neighborhood Council submitted a resolution encouraging the transition to zero emission electric vehicles and the HGNNC is encouraged to submit a similar resolution.

10) Consent calendar (items 10a through 10b)

Consent calendar items are considered to be not controversial and will be treated as one agenda item. The Consent Calendar will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the item is removed from the Consent Calendar, in which event the item will be considered as time allows on the regular agenda.

a) Approval of the October 9, 2018, Board minutes

b) Approval of the October Monthly Expenditure Report

It was moved by Eva Cooper-Pace, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 11-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar items 10a and 10b.

10) **Announcements:** District 7 Representative Janet Mitchell announced that Sat. December 15 the Charity Mission Church, 200 W. Imperial Highway, will hold its community parade with toy giveaway and food baskets. A Corvette Club and fancy choppers will be in the parade. The Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council will participate in the parade and Bell by Bell will have a practice tryout at the event.

The HGNNC received a handmade Thanksgiving card and request for contribution from the South Bay Youth Clubs.

The Sense.LA workshop will be held on Sat. November 17 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd.

In honor of the Winter Solstice, a Bell by Bell event will be held on Fri. December 21 from 4:30 to 8 pm along Gardena Blvd. A conductor will lead the ringing of color-coordinated bells. The HGNNC will partner with the City of Gardena and the event will be held on both sides of Vermont Avenue.

12) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary