

Harbor Gateway North General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

135th Street School, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: David Matthews (Chair), Franz Rodriguez, (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), John Ward (District 1), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Jackie Jackson (District 6), Larry Morrison (Community Organization Representative), Janet Mitchell (Outreach), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At-Large)

1) Welcome/Introductions: Chair David Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence in honor of Park Ranger Albert Torres, long-time Department of Recreation and Parks employee.

2) Code of Conduct Board review and signatures: Chair David Matthews led a review of the Code of Conduct policy adopted by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners on 2018. Various Board members read sections from Attachment A and then each of those present signed and dated a copy affirming that they had read the policy.

3) Reports

a) LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Angelo Stewart, who covers Districts 7 and 8, reported that in his reporting area, a lot of trucks have been stolen, also stolen license plates, and continued illegal dumping under the 105 freeway at Stanford, San Pedro, and Main Streets. In the whole of the Southeast LAPD Division, there is only one legal marijuana dispensary, which is Stone Age on Rosecrans Avenue. All of the others are operating illegally. SE Narcotics officers have closed 20 illegal dispensaries, but closed dispensaries re-open under new names or new ones open and there are now 19. During the closure procedure, 45 people were arrested and guns and marijuana confiscated.

Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez, who covers Districts 1 through 5, reported that there has been a big increase in grand theft auto in his area, especially for Toyotas and Nissans. License plates are being stolen for their registration tags. There is a one-way screw that can be used to secure your license plate. Catalytic converters are also being stolen and sold to body shops. There are continuing issues with the RVs of the homeless parked along Figueroa Street and Vermont Avenue. A removal task force that coordinated with CD 15 was present last week but the process is a slow one as the waste inside the RVs has to be removed first and a heavy duty tow truck must tow the RV away. The task force works with LAHSA outreach teams to offer housing for those living in the RVs.

The new Southeast Division Neighborhood Prosecutor Todd Tristan was introduced. He replaces Sonja Dawson who retired. Todd said that he welcomes emails about quality of life issues that he can address: todd.tristan@lacity.org

b) Council District 15: Caitlin Muldoon, Field Deputy for Harbor Gateway and Harbor City, reported that 16220 S. Vermont Avenue is a temporarily legal cannabis dispensary and is applying to become legal. There is an increase in fines for illegal dumping. The LADWP and Recreation and Parks Department are jointly working on creating water bottle filling stations in City parks, with the goal of 200 by 2035. An ordinance was passed that allows City-owned buildings which have not been seismically retro-fitted to be used as temporary homeless shelters. Coffee with a Cop will take place on Friday October 25 at 190th and Normandie from 10:30 to 12 noon. All-way stop signs are being installed at 138th and Ainsworth and 140th and Ainsworth. No overnight parking signs are being installed on 140th Street just west of Figueroa Street where many RVs currently park. The application period is open again for handicapped parking blue curbs. Use MyLA311 for everything except abandoned vehicles. For abandoned vehicles call 1-800-ABANDON. Please report all incidents of crime and City service needs as this creates statistics which help determine City service allocation. To

report homeless individuals, use the la-hop-org website. Dumpsters are available for neighborhood cleanups. Request them via Caitlin Muldoon at caitlin.muldoon@lacity.org They will be delivered on a Friday and picked up on Monday.

c) District Representatives updates: District 1 Representative John Ward introduced himself. He said there is now street sweeping along Gardena Blvd. and events being organized along Gardena Blvd. Contact him via district1@harbortownnorth.org

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins said that she is always working on issues in her area. She asked that residents get to know their neighbors and their patterns and be aware of unusual people or activities on your block.

(Vanessa Johnson entered the meeting at 7:56 p.m.)

District 7 Representative Vanessa Johnson said that keeping her area clean is a priority. She uses the MyLA311 app on her phone to take photos and report illegal dumping.

District 5 Representative Llewyn Fowlkes reported that his neighborhood had a CERT presentation on September 18 and had a donation bin removed from El Segundo and Hoover, after working with CD 15. Their neighborhood has been letting residents know about the new L.A. County Voting Centers, which will be implemented in March 2020 to replace voting at local precincts.

District 6 Representative Jackie Jackson said that she has started a walking club which encourages exercise but also serves to inform her about local issues that need attention, such as missing street lights and RVs parked along streets.

4) Speakers: Franz Rodriguez moved, Janet Mitchell seconded, and it was passed 9-0-1 (Johnson) to move 4d to the top of the list of speakers at the request of Teresa Batson, City Planner.

d) Harbor Gateway Community Plan update: City Planner Teresa Batson discussed the update to the Harbor Gateway Community Plan. If your city address says “Gardena” but you have a bill from LADWP and are represented by Councilmember Joe Buscaino, you live within the City of Los Angeles known as Harbor Gateway. There are 35 Community Plan areas within the City of Los Angeles. The Harbor Gateway Plan has not been updated since 1995. The Plan says where things can be built, such as housing or industrial buildings. The EIR (Environmental Impact Report) for the Harbor Gateway Community Plan is being combined with the one for the Wilmington/Harbor City Community Plan. The updating process began in July 2018. Teresa Batson met with the Planning and Land Use Committee on October 5 to update the Committee on the latest proposals for change. She gave out a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to those Board members who were not present. This draft concept map with proposed changes is available on the Harbor Gateway Community Plan website. Mayor Garcetti has issued a directive that all Community Plans will be updated within the next six years. The Community Plans form the Land Use Element of the City’s General Plan. Each City is mandated by the state of California to update their General Plan every ten years. The Community Plan has several elements: the policy document, the land use map with zones, and an Environmental Impact Report. In meetings with the Harbor Gateway community certain challenges emerged and will be addressed by the updated Plan: the impact of industrial uses next to residential zones, brown fields, oil uses, and truck traffic. The proposal is to maintain the Harbor Gateway’s single family (R1) neighborhoods while promoting housing growth around the transit center at Vermont Avenue and 182nd Street. Teresa then said she would move to the school library to answer individual questions.

a) RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood) – how to prepare your family and neighborhood for major emergencies: Jon Brown of the Emergency Management Department explained that his Department coordinates the response and assists residents after a major disaster. They offer training in RYLAN, Ready Your LA Neighborhood, which encourages blocks or neighborhoods to meet to make a plan for responding to a disaster, prepare emergency kits, and stay informed. Their presentation is Map Your Neighborhood and takes about 90 minutes to discuss how to get to know your neighbors, provides a video with pauses for discussion of what neighbors plan to do. The Emergency

Management Department can provide printed invitations for the session coordinator to send out. They can also tailor the talk to condominium associations and apartments. Contact him or Jillian de la Vela to set up a presentation.

Johanna Rodriguez, Mayor's Office for Watts and the Harbor Area, recommended installing the ShakeAlertLA early warning app on your cell phone. It will give you a sixty second alert of a coming earthquake of 4.5 or stronger in the greater Los Angeles region.

b) CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes start Wed. October 30: Chin Thammasaengsri is a volunteer for CERT, Community Emergency Response Team, and coordinates volunteer activities for Battalions 18, 13, and 6 of the Los Angeles Fire Department-South Bureau. The HGNNC is sponsoring CERT classes at the 135th Street School beginning October 30. The CERT program originated in Los Angeles in 1985 and has been replicated across the country. Chin demonstrated how to shut off a gas valve outside a home and explained when to do so. He also demonstrated how to properly use a fire extinguisher. These will also be reviewed during the series of seven classes.

c) Demonstration of a sample GO bag and a solar-heated stove: Community Organization Representative Larry Morrison demonstrated a back up battery that can be used to provide three days of electricity for necessities such as lights, a radio, computer, CPAB, refrigeration, etc.

District 6 Representative Jackie Jackson showed the GO bag she created for her grandson, which is a small backpack filled with dried foods and other essentials for children.

Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston held up a Kenwood amateur radio as a sample of those which the HGNNC can loan out to stakeholders who pass the FCC test for amateur radio and participate in monthly call ins. The HGNNC has a number of licensed ham radio operators and is seeking more to be able to use the radio waves for communication during times when cell towers are not functioning due to lack of power.

5) Appointment of Betty Hawkins to the Ad Hoc Board Retreat Committee, due to resignation of Committee member Joan Jacobs: Eva Cooper-Pace made the motion to appoint Betty Hawkins to the Ad Hoc Board Retreat Committee, Jackie Jackson seconded the motion, and it was passed 10-0-0

6) General Board Members comment on any topic, issue or need: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Franz Rodriguez, and passed 10-0-0 to table this item due to the time.

7) General Public Comment on non-agenda items: District 2 stakeholder Vince Stackpole asked how to request speed humps for Hoover Street north of Alondra Blvd.

District 6 stakeholder Stephanie Rockwell pointed out that there is a homeless encampment on the southeast corner of Hoover and Imperial Highway where a church once was located.

Ad Hoc Youth Committee Chair Richard Lee said that he has signed up to be a volunteer at five of the HGNNC elementary schools. He also noted that Gardena Elementary School is having a Career Day on the afternoon of October 28 and he will represent the HGNNC at a booth there.

8) Announcements: Outreach Representative Janet Mitchell said that the HGNNC is sponsoring a Cancer Awareness event at Ralphs, 11922 S. Vermont Avenue on Sat. October 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. She also said that she can connect youth groups and schools with bus trips to visit UCLA to encourage young people to attend college.

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