

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: David Matthews (Chair), Franz Rodriguez (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), John Ward (District 1), Joan Jacobs (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Jackie Jackson (District 6), Vanessa Johnson (District 7), Angela Springs (District 8), Larry Morrison (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), Janet Mitchell (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At Large Representative)

1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members: After determining that a quorum was present, Chair David Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. He reviewed the ground rules for the online meeting and asked Llewyn Fowlkes to lead the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items: District 1 Stakeholder Fred Nichols urged that the Neighborhood Council continue to hold their meetings via Zoom through December in the interest of the health of older stakeholders.

3) Reports:

a) Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that Mayor Eric Garcetti had appointed Rushmore Cervantes as the new General Manager of the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department. The Mayor's proposed budget was adopted, though it is expected that it will be adjusted frequently during the coming fiscal year. Vacant lots that are not kept up will be added to the ACE program (nuisance abatement) to encourage the property owners to develop housing or other positive uses on them. There have been 178 cases and 6 deaths from COVID-19 in the Harbor Gateway area. Everyone who has gone outside their home is encouraged to get a free test. Use MyLA311 for service requests. Council District 15 has created a list of chronic homeless encampments so that as soon as Sanitation starts doing more regular clean ups, those sites will be cleaned up regularly. If you see cars that are being stripped of parts, call 1-800-ABANDONED or 818-374-4823 for vehicles blocking a driveway. The MYLA31 app now allows reporting of illegal collection bins and emptying of L.A. City large trash cans placed on sidewalks.

Johanna Rodriguez, Harbor Representative for Mayor Garcetti, said that we are living through unprecedented times, with the COVID-19 health crisis, social unrest sparked by the death of George Floyd, and the economic crisis. The Mayor instituted a curfew during the protests as a way to prevent fires and looting. The curfew is now lifted and the National Guard has left. Use BuildLA@lacity.org to access free assessment of the structural soundness of a business that was attacked during the recent civil unrest and for free dumpsters to remove debris. Council District 15 had several peaceful protests, including in San Pedro and Watts. 45,000 people live in the Harbor Gateway area but only 2,175 have been tested for the COVID-19 virus. The Mayor has proposed taking \$150,000,000 from the LAPD budget, which will be discussed at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting on June 15 at 2 p.m.

b) Mayor's Office: status of 2020 Census responses in the Harbor Gateway North area and how to increase the percentages: Ara Gerpheide of the Mayor's Office said that originally the Census forms were due by July 1 but now the new date is October 31. For those who haven't completed their forms, which can be submitted via U.S. mail, online, or over the telephone,

follow up will take place during August through October. You can volunteer to help with phone-banking to encourage more responses at bit.ly/censusphonebank/ Neighborhood Councils can help out by taking door hangars within their neighborhood, putting up posters, leaving flyers in various locations, using social media, or holding a virtual Town Hall on the Census and how important completion is for the ability of the City of Los Angeles to receive Federal funds for services. Contact her supervisor alfonso.ruiz@lacity.org or ara.an@lacity.org

c) **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Neighborhood Council Advocate Octaviano Rios noted that this was the HGNNC's second meeting via Zoom. He welcomed back Chair David Matthews from his personal leave. He noted that at their May 28 meeting, the Health, Education, Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts, and River Committee approved two changes to policies impacting Neighborhood Councils. One is that the definition of a Community Interest Stakeholder has changed and now says that this type of stakeholder is an individual who is a member of or participant in a community organization that meets the following requirements: the organization must have continuously maintained a physical street address within the boundaries of the NC for not less than one year, and the organization must perform ongoing and verifiable activities and operations that confer some benefit on the community within the boundaries of the NC. The other change is that the minimum age for voting in a Neighborhood Council Board election is 16 and to run for a seat on the Board it is 18. The first virtual ethics training class was held and others will be scheduled. Sessions on outreach were held via Zoom as a way to encourage more effective outreach. The City Clerk Funding deadlines are approaching for the cut off of use of the credit cards and use of checks. Neighborhood Councils can file Community Impact Statements on various aspects of the City's budget by using Council File 20-0600.

4) Consent Calendar (items 4a through 4c:

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 May 12, 2020, Board minutes**

b) **Approval of the May 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report**

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 15-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar items 4a and 4b.

5) Treasurer's report

a) **Recommended encumbrances for rollover of 2019-2020 funds in excess of \$10,000:**

Treasurer La Juana Mitchell projected the proposed encumbrances from the 2019-2020 budget which have not been spent (Moore Business Results for the HGNNC website, ATT for office telephone, fax, and dsl service, USPS for the Post Office box, and Office Depot for office supplies, which total \$5,967. Another \$10,000 that has not been spent will automatically rollover. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 15-0-0 to make the encumbrances and authorize the Treasurer to submit.

b) **Approval of HGNNC card holders, second signer, and alternate signer:** It was moved by John Ward and seconded by Franz Rodriguez to appoint David Matthews as the primary cardholder, Janet Mitchell as the secondary cardholder, Joan Jacobs as the secondary signer, and Franz Rodriguez as the alternate signer. After discussion as to whether there should be a different method of appointing cardholders and signers, the motion was voted on and defeated 4(David Matthews, Franz Rodriguez, John Ward, Rey Paduani)-8-3 (Betty Hawkins, Angela Springs, Larry Morrison). The approval will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

c) Approval of the preliminary 2020-2021 budget: Treasurer La Juana Mitchell reviewed the preliminary budget for 2020-2021. It will total \$47,967, which includes a basic allocation of \$32,000 from the City and the rolled over money. She stressed that the various line item amounts in the budget will change over the coming months as proposed projects are proposed and approved by the Board. A budget needs to be on file so that the HGNNC can access all of its funds as of July 1 and not be limited to just a total of \$330. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 15-0-0 to approve the preliminary budget as proposed.

6) Update on new HGNNC office/meeting space location, with a possible recommendation to proceed with a contract: Ad Hoc Office Relocation Committee member La Juana Mitchell reported that currently the Committee was considering three possible spaces for the HGNNC office: one on 182nd Street of 87 square feet which could only be used for an office as it is outside the HGNNC boundaries, the Home Assembly Church which is waiting to present a proposal to their Board, and Council District 15's office and storage area in Watts. There is currently no date set for the move, however, in case a move is necessary in July, it was moved by La Juana Mitchell, seconded by Franz Rodriguez, and passed to spend up to \$500 from current fiscal year funds and up to \$500 from 2020-2021 fiscal year funds for costs to relocate the HGNNC office and/or put supplies into storage, depending on the need.

7) Discussion of proposed cuts to the LAPD budget: A letter from District 1 stakeholder Fred Nichols was read out which commented that the Southeast LAPD has done an exceptional job of improving the quality of life over the past two years, has good relations with HGNNC stakeholders, and that any proposed cuts to the LAPD budget should be balanced decisions that consider the safety and welfare of all stakeholders, with cuts thoughtfully made. Rosalie Preston suggested a more nuanced letter which listed areas for LAPD funding which the HGNNC has advocated for in its City budget letters over the past several years, such as more Senior Lead Officers per patrol area, more regular patrols via vehicle, on foot, or bicycle within neighborhoods, better response time after burglaries so that those wishing to make reports don't have to wait three to six hours or more, and improvement to the LAPD online reporting system. Vanessa Johnson said that the proposed cuts to the LAPD budget were minimal, and that more work needs to be done on training officers. Janet Mitchell said that a cut to the LAPD budget sends a message that the HGNNC does not support the LAPD and that there have been recent murders and increased gang activity in District 7 so the police are needed. Richard Lee pointed out that the Mayor's proposed cut amounts to only 5% of the total police budget. District 1 stakeholder Micah Silver said that he would like to see funds directed to the sources of crime and the proposed funding cuts would address that. It was moved by Franz Rodriguez, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 11-3(Preston, Hawkins, Lee)-2(Springs, Morrison) to adopt the wording from Fred Nichols letter as the HGNNC position.

8) Announcements: Outreach/Communications Representative Janet Mitchell said that Charles R. Drew University next to the M.L. King Jr. Community Hospital is offering free COVID-19 testing every day between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at their mobile testing site. Those interested can call 211 to make an appointment.

9) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 p.m.