

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Franz Rodriguez (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), John Ward (District 1), Joan Jacobs (District 2), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Jackie Jackson (District 6), Vanessa Johnson (District 7), Angela Springs (District 8), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), and Eva Cooper-Pace (At Large Representative)

1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members: In the absence of Chair David Matthews and after determination that a quorum was present, Vice Chairperson Franz Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. He asked Llewyn Fowlkes to lead the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items: District 3 Stakeholder Erica Payne said that during the past several weeks a homeless man who lives along the Union Pacific railroad tracks to the south of her home has thrown large rocks at her home, with two hitting and breaking her windows. He also becomes very loud, shouting and yelling and on one occasion chased after her daughter in the Rosecrans Park area next to her home with a metal stick.

District 5 stakeholder Gary Avery said that he supports the construction of a roundabout at 126th Street and Ainsworth to help control the cars doing donuts in that very wide area.

3) Reports:

a) LAPD report: Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez, Basic Car 18A97, said that during the COVID-19 Stay at Home, there have been very few crimes overall. From April 5 to the present, there have been only two reported burglaries. However, there have been eleven thefts from vehicles, especially in the Athens on the Hill and Gardena Blvd. areas, mainly from vehicles parked on the street. There have also been six grand theft auto in the Alondra Blvd./Ainsworth area. The LAPD is working with the Los Angeles City Attorney on two major homeless encampments, including one along the west side of Figueroa Street at 126th Street. LAPD is still working on the illegal marijuana clinics at 844 W. Gardena Blvd. and 16302 S. Vermont Avenue. In regards to the homeless man in Rosecrans Park which Erica Payne referred to, LAPD will work with the Park Ranger when the man is in the Park. When he is on the railroad tracks, enforcement must come from Union Pacific and they have limited staff.

b) Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that Council File 20-0416 allows Neighborhood Councils to hold meetings via virtual webinar and allows encumbered funds to roll over to the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget. For an update on COVID-19, Johanna Rodriguez, the Harbor Area Representative for Mayor Garcetti, will hold a video conference on Fri. May 15 from 4-4:15 p.m. in English and at 2 p.m. on May 14 in Spanish. The link for all current COVID-19 information is coronavirus.la To report homeless issues, use MyLA311 and also LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) via la-hop No comprehensive clean ups of camps are being done right now so that the homeless are not displaced. Abandoned vehicles are not being towed right now because there is relaxed enforcement of posted "no parking" signs during the time that most people are not going to work. The Harbor Gateway South area now has a homeless shelter. For the 126th Street/Menlo Avenue roundabout, the designs are complete but there is no date yet for construction. It will be a pilot project funded by LADOT. Council District 15 consulted with the residents living near the intersection and has a record of all reports on the issues impacting that intersection. LADOT performed a traffic study and the roundabout was their solution. In answer to a question about why the approach to the corona virus pandemic is so strict and is impacting the economy, Caitlin said that there are daily conversations between Mayor Garcetti and Governor Newsom to evaluate the situation and provide a balance between human health and economic health.

c) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Council Advocate Octaviano Rios thanked the Board for preparing and carrying out their first Zoom Board meeting. The HGNNC is one of the first Neighborhood Councils to hold a meeting in this format. He noted that DONE Director of Outreach and Communications Thomas Soong was also present and that Chair David Matthews was not able to be present tonight related to personal issues. Octaviano is in frequent touch with him. The City

Clerk's office has given out the deadlines for funding: May 20 is the last day to request an event, June 1 is the last day to write a check, and June 20 is the last day to use the bank card. Neighborhood Councils will be allowed to rollover up to 20,000 per Council File 20-0416. The Mayor's budget proposal (CF 20-0600) calls for cuts to all Departments. The Department has received the proposed updates to the HGNNC Bylaws and is reviewing them. Then the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners will review and approve them because of the change in the Youth Representative seat. When that item is on their agenda, the HGNNC will be notified. Each Board member should be receiving the HGNNC monthly profile from DONE via email. If you are not receiving them, let Octaviano know: Octaviano.rios@lacity.org. He then highlighted the EVG (EmpowermentLA Virtual Governance) page on the DONE website which has tips on participating in a Zoom meeting, sample agenda language, and meeting scripts. Treasurer La Juana Mitchell asked that clarification be made as to what "Encumbered" funds means in regards to the eligible funds for rollover.

d) District Representatives reports on stakeholder issues/COVID-9 needs: District 1 Representative John Ward said that calls have been made regarding abandoned vehicles and people living in their cars. He misses having David Matthews making so many calls for clean up and has noticed a difference in how fast areas are cleaned up. He is impressed with the Grab and Go site at the Boys and Girls Club on Gardena Blvd. which offers Monday through Friday lunches, family gift cards for Vons on Fridays, and art supplies for kids.

District 2 Representative Joan Jacobs said that she plans to create and leave a flyer on front porches regarding how to minimize mosquito outbreaks and include her contact information.

District 3 Representative Rey Paduani was unable to dial in for tonight's meeting.

District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins was unable to call in.

District 5 Representative Llewyn Fowlkes said that he, Eva Cooper-Pace, and Luetta Watson met with the LAPD to discuss issues relating to the proposed roundabout at 126th and Ainsworth/Menlo.

District 6 Representative Jackie Jackson said that she has been working with her neighbors and has developed rapport during the Stay at Home period and hopes that this continues after more normal times return. She has noticed that the homeless encampments are being kept clean.

District 7 Representative Vanessa Johnson said that she had no report.

District 8 Representative Angela Springs said that she has been checking on her neighbors to be sure they are safe. The construction of duplexes has continued during the Stay at Home period and their construction has created a lot of dust.

Youth Advocate Richard Lee said that as the schools are still closed he had little to report. He has noticed that the 16th Street School has been offering Grab and Go Meals several times a week.

At Large Representative Eva Coop-Pace said she had nothing to report.

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 March 10, 2020, Board minutes

b) Approval of the March 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report

c) Approval of the April 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 7-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar items 4a through 4c.

5) Treasurer's report: revised 2020-2021 budget approval: Treasurer La Juana Mitchell reported that the HGNNC account has \$18,267.73, as the end of April with an additional \$2,140 encumbered. Hopefully all remaining funds on June 30 would be rolled over to the 2020-2021 budget. She has proposed some revisions to the Administrative section of the budget as costs for the Konica copy machine have gone up as have the monthly charges for the HGNNC website as Moore Business /results is posting more information regarding COVID-19 updates. The costs for the CERT classes last fall ended up being less than budgeted so that money has been moved into Outreach. It was moved by La Juana Mitchell, seconded by John Ward, and passed 7-0-0 to approve the revised 2019-2020 budget.

6) Discussion of HGNNC office relation and location of HGNNC Board and General membership meetings: Vice Chairperson Franz Rodriguez said that Council District 15 District Director Gabriela Medina has asked that the Ad Hoc Office Relocation Committee hold a second meeting regarding a new location for the HGNNC office. The A Hoc Committee members are Richard Lee, La Juana Mitchell, Franz Rodriguez, and Angela Springs. The meeting will be set up via Zoom to discuss the possible options.

7) Discussion of an Open Streets Resolution for the HGNNC area, with possible approval of letter to Councilmember Buscaino: Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reported that Michael Schneider of Mid-City West Neighborhood Council, a representative of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, had contacted the former HGNNC Sustainability Liaison Wendy Talaro and that Wendy, Rosalie, and Michael held a telephone call so that Michael could explain how Del Rey Neighborhood Council has proposed an Open Streets initiative which would allow for some residential streets to be narrowed via a line of orange cones so that walkers and bikers can use part of the street paving for exercise and protection from vehicle traffic. The initiative would last through the Stay at Home orders as a way to ensure that those walking and biking can safely keep a six foot distance. The Sustainability Alliance suggests that Neighborhood Councils across the City propose areas for the experiment and ask their Councilmember for support. Rosalie has talked with some of the District Representatives who think that even with cones, walking or biking along residential streets would be too dangerous due to speeding vehicles. District 2 Representative Joan Jacobs said that there is a proposed route in District 2 (157th Street west to Ainsworth north, 155th east, Menlo Avenue north, 154th Street east, and south on Bonsallo to 157th Street.) After a brief discussion, it was decided to postpone further discussion until the June 9 Board meeting.

8) Announcements: At Large Representative Eva Cooper-Pace said that she is working on a proposal for the LAUSD to hold a drive in graduation ceremony at a location such as Dodger Stadium so that LAUSD high school students can have a more memorable graduation ceremony. She is seeking support to encourage the LAUSD to take action on the proposal. They have said that such a ceremony cannot happen just for one high school but has to be offered to all of the District's high schools.

9) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary