

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: David Matthews (Chair), Franz Rodriguez (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), Joan Ward (District 1), Joan Jacobs (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), 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 6:20 p.m. District 5 representative Llewyn Fowlkes led the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items: Chair David Matthews explained how to press *9 if calling via telephone or use the “raise hand” symbol if online to indicate a wish to make a general public comment. He asked stakeholders to keep their comments to two minutes. Sharon Williams, Equity Coordinator for South District of the Los Angeles Unified School District, said that the 116th Street School, 118th Street School, Figueroa Street School, and 135th Street School could all use donations of school supplies from the HGNNC as a lot of other organizations who normally donate the supplies are not able to afford to do so this year. Classes begin on August 20 in the virtual format. Administrators will be on site at each. school.

District 6 stakeholder Andre Myers noted that there is a homeless encampment on the U-Haul site at 11020 S. Vermont Avenue, prostitution along Figueroa Street, speeding on Hoover from 108th Street south, and said that a number of alleys need gates and locks.

District Representative Betty Hawkins said that there has been an increase in traffic using 135th Street and speeding, including some cars that race down the street side by side.

Chair David Matthews said that Council District 8 is working on cleaning up the 115th Street/Vermont Avenue encampment on the former Caltrans property while LAHSA is providing COVID-19 testing.

Julien Antelin, Director of Innovation for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, said that due to Departmental staffing cuts he will be working with the Harbor Area and West Area as Director of the Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates, such as Octaviano Rio, as well as his regular duties.

District 2 Representative Joan Jacobs reported that when she was delivering flyers in her District she learned that the homeless have been coming over the locked gates of the apartments in the 700 block of Redondo Beach Blvd.

(Larry Morrison entered the meeting at 6:41 p.m.)

3) Discussion of the Neighborhood Council Board’s role in assisting stakeholders vs. advocating for stakeholders—is there a difference? Octaviano Rios, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, said that the Department works in partnership with all ninety-nine Neighborhood Councils and works with the City Clerk on funding and the N.C. elections. In advocating for their stakeholders, there is an element of case management for Neighborhood Councils, but it is not the only role. Neighborhood Councils convene meetings, listen to stakeholders, and convey those issues to City Hall as their form of advocacy. Neighborhood Councils are advisory to City Hall. It is City Hall’s role to provide City services. The Neighborhood Council is not responsible for replacing

the services which City Hall should provide. District 1 Representative John Ward pointed out that the Neighborhood Council faces so many major issues, such as illegal dumping, homelessness, gangs, graffiti, sidewalk repair, and tree trimming, so that if all of those needs for service are referred to Council District 15 staff, they are then overwhelmed. He noted that Chair David Matthews does so much to help fill the gap, with an example being when David made a lot of calls after the July 28 General Membership meeting and the homeless encampment at Vermont Avenue and 115th Street was cleaned up within two days. Octaviano said that Board members can make sure that stakeholders know about using 311 and other key telephone numbers and how to report their service needs themselves. Neighborhood Councils were created to make City Hall aware of stakeholder needs. District 7 stakeholder Vanessa Johnson said that David's work on cleaning up illegal dumping in District 7 had helped a lot as the City had cut back on the frequency of service response during the pandemic. District 2 Representative Joan Jacobs wondered if a stakeholder calls and there is no response, then what should be recommended? Octaviano suggested that perhaps the message needs to be stated differently, with a letter from the HGNNC to the appropriate City Department. Then if there is no response, Council District 15 can be contacted.

(Eva Cooper-Pace entered the meeting at 7:22 p.m.)

Regarding illegal activities at an auto repair business, Octaviano suggested contacting the Building and Safety Department and checking with the Office of Finance to make sure the business has a current business permit. The Los Angeles County Health Department can be contacted for the illegal vending of food.

District 7 Representative Vanessa Johnson suggested sending a letter to the Bureau of Sanitation highlighting the need for weekly removal of the illegal dumping from the worst sites in the HGNNC.

District stakeholder Fred Nichols asked if a stakeholder brings an issue to the Neighborhood Council, is there a duty to respond? Octaviano Rios said that the Neighborhood Councils are advisory to the City and should explain the use of 311 to the stakeholder. Major problem issues of the Neighborhood Council area could be highlighted in a letter from the Neighborhood Council.

4) Discussion of using Clean Streets LA award funds for clean ups in Districts 7 and 8:

Chair David Matthews said that the HGNNC has \$4,600 in special funds via two Clean Streets LA Challenge awards from Public Works. The funds have to be awarded to non-profits for the purpose of clean ups or neighborhood beautification. Eastside Riders and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps are two possible groups that could provide short-term clean up services. Another non-profit is Chrysalis, which the HGNNC has used in the past. Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that the organizations need to complete the NPG form as soon as possible and email to her so that the Finance Committee can review them and have the issue back on the September 8 Board agenda. Community Organization Representative Larry Morrison said that the underlying issues of the illegal dumping need to be addressed as the funds can be spent on clean ups and two days later the situation will be the same. District 8 Representative Angela Springs said that the funding would be better spent on a longer-term solution such as video cameras to catch the violators. District 2 Representative Joan Jacobs said that one of the issues is that the City does not enforce ordinances against illegal dumping. District 7 Representative Vanessa Johnson said that the City is not helping to solve the problem as taking items to the dump costs money and the illegal dumpers save by dumping in the HGNNC area. Treasurer La Juana Mitchell suggested funding a study on more effective deterrence and enforcement.

(Franz Rodriguez entered the meeting at 8:00 p.m.)

5) Consent Calendar (items 5a through 5b):

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 July 14, 2020, Board minutes**

b) **Approval of the July 28 General Membership minutes**

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 14-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar items 5a and 5b.

6) Treasurer's report

a) **Approval of revised budget for FY2020-2021 of \$49,273 including rollover of \$10,000 and Encumbrances of \$7,273. Encumbrances must be used in FY2020-2021 for specific vendors and amounts approved by NC Funding:**

Treasurer La Juana Mitchell reviewed the revised budget. For the new fiscal year, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has allocated \$32,000 to each Neighborhood Council. In addition, each Council could rollover \$10,000 left from the previous fiscal year automatically and also encumber other unspent funds, which for the HGNNC amounts to another \$7,273. Therefore, the total amount available to the HGNNC in FY 2020-2021 will be \$49,273. She reviewed the July expenditures and explained that a lot of older bills were paid to Insight Investments for the Konica copier when the lease was cancelled after the HGNNC office items were put into storage. Insight Investments had been in dispute with the City of Los Angeles over the charges. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 14-0-1(Matthews) to approve the revised budget as presented.

(Janet Mitchell and Larry Morrison left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.)

b) **Approval of Outreach expenditures:** Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that the Finance
1. Minuteman Press - \$512.89 for printing 10,000 July 28 General Membership meeting flyers: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 12-0-1(Matthews) to approve the expenditure.

2. ACI Media Group - \$995 for delivery of 10,000 July 28 General Membership meeting flyers: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

3. One Call Now - \$713.95 for purchase of 5,000 call credits for Outreach robo-calls: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 12-0-1 (Matthews) to approve the expenditure.

c) **Review/discussion of Outreach funds for events:** Treasurer La Juana Mitchell reminded the Board that for the time being, no in-person outreach events can be planned as Funding will not approve them. The HGNNC has \$5,000 budgeted for such events and other Neighborhood Councils have come up with ideas for virtual outreach events so the HGNNC should consider something similar.

7) Position letters

a) **Approval of filing a Community Impact Statement in opposition to CF-20-0002-S107 (City Council support for SB 1120, which would remove local review of subdivisions for duplexes on R1 single-family zoned lots and make them "by right"), as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee:** The draft letter was reviewed. This Council File directly contradicts CF-20-0002-S101 which the HGNNC supported last month. It was moved by John Ward, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 12-0-1(Hawkins).

b) Approval of a letter requesting the City Council place interim control measures on the R2 Zones in Districts 7 and 8 for the over-sized duplexes, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee: It was moved by John Ward, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 9-1(Rodriguez)—3(Hawkins, Matthews, Ward).

c) Approval of a letter for CF-20-092, requesting that \$1.5 million of the funds removed from the LAPD budget be redirected to support for social services and cultural initiatives in the HGNNC area, as recommended by the Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee: It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 8-1(Rodriguez)-4(Cooper-Pace, Hawkins, Matthews, Ward).

8) Announcements: District 1 Representative John Ward said he'd like to thank Treasurer La Juana Mitchell for her very detailed financial reports and all of her efforts on behalf of the Neighborhood Council.

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

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary