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## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: David Matthews (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), John Ward (District 1), Joan Jacobs (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Arvie Powell (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Vanessa Johnson (District 7), Angela Springs (District 8), Larry Morrison (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), Elijah Thomas (Youth Representative), and Eva Pace (At Large Representative)

**1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members:** Chair David Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. This was followed by the roll call of Board members, pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence.

### 2) Reports

**a) 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor:** Field Representative Ara An said that Supervisor Holy Mitchell has been in office for 100 days now. Recently 16,000 households were served via a food drive for Veterans. 500,000 have been vaccinated for COVID-19 in Culver City. They are working on hosting a vaccination site at the Harbor Gateway Transit Center. Supervisor Mitchell co-authored the motion to return Bruce's Beach in Manhattan Beach to the Bruce family.

**b) Ad Hoc Election Committee:** Committee Chair Joan Jacobs said that the Committee is now encouraging registration for the vote by mail effort. \$1,984 is left in the election budget. (Angela Springs, Llewyn Fowlkes, and Elijah Thomas entered the meeting at 6:50 p.m.)

**c) Youth Advocate:** Richard Lee said that he will be contacting Gardena Elementary School, 116<sup>th</sup> Street School, Figueroa Street School, 135<sup>th</sup> Street School, 118<sup>th</sup> Street School, Skirball Middle School, and Environmental Charter Middle School, as well as University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy on Imperial Highway in the "orphan" area and also Peary Middle School in the City of Gardena. He attended a staff meeting on May 7 at the 116<sup>th</sup> Street School where he encouraged participation in voting in the Board election. He is also discussing the Neighborhood Purposes Grant process with the schools.

(Larry Morrison entered the meeting at 6:55 p.m.)

**d) District Representatives:** District 1 Representative John Ward said that there had been a number of clean ups in the area thanks to David Matthews. A beautification project along Gardena Blvd. is one of the possible projects that can be voted on for the re-allocated LAPD funding. Merit Tract residents have been working getting the former Caltrans property rezoned to R40.

District 2 Representative Joan Jacobs said that there are two areas near the 110 Harbor Freeway with illegal dumping issues and homeless encampments. Residents still would like to see a traffic signal installed at 157<sup>th</sup> Street at Vermont Avenue, with the barricade removed there.

District 3 Representative Rey Paduani said that a neighbor had their catalytic converter stolen.

District 4 Representative Arvie Powell said that there are a lot of RVs parked along 135<sup>th</sup> Street on the east side of the 110 freeway. There is continued dumping in the alleys and "no dumping" signs are needed. Powerful fireworks have been going off. The Shell gas station at Vermont Avenue and El Segundo is being demolished. The Department of Building and Safety is monitoring the demolition and is aware of a change in ownership for the property.

District 5 Representative - no report.

District 6 Representative – no report

District 7 Representative Vanessa Johnson said that she has been working with Council District 15 and the Department of Building and Safety on a house on her street where the owner has been hoarding and stripping vehicles on site. The LAPD towed away seven vehicles from that site and told her there is another “chop shop” further down the street. She also suggested creating a buffer of trees and plantings in the median of Imperial Highway between Main Street and San Pedro to help with traffic safety and to help with beautification of the area. Recently a car traveling west went over the dividing line and into the side of a house in the 100 east block of Main Street.

District 8 Representative Angela Springs said that thirty people signed up at the April 17 event in District 8 at the Green Line station and she plans to schedule a Neighborhood Watch meeting for the area. She thanked those who have been cleaning up Stanford under the 105 freeway, with the orange cones along each side helping to discourage illegal dumping. There is illegal dumping going on behind the mini-mart at 119<sup>th</sup> Street and San Pedro.

**e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames said that May 20 is the last day to request event approval. June 1 is the last day to request a payment by check. June 20 is the last day to use the bank cards. The Administrative Packet is due by June 30. The new Board can amend the packet and adjust the submitted budget. Up to \$10,000 of unspent funds can be rolled over to use in the next fiscal year. Mayor Garcetti gave his State of the City speech on April 20. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment met with the Budget and Finance Committee on May 3 to discuss the Department’s budget proposal. For new Boards, there will be a six-month period of onboarding. One of the topics will be conflict of interest. If there is a conflict of interest on a matter on the Board’s agenda, that item may need to be tabled or else the Board members with the conflict of interest need to recuse themselves after stating their reason for their recusal. The Mayor signed a Directive to expand affordable housing on April 16 which will help to address homelessness. Board members are needed to serve on the Regional Grievance Panels. Planning 101 training will soon be available via Cornerstone. All members of the Planning and Land Use Committee are required to take the class and all Board members are encouraged to do so. There will be Funding trainings sessions held in May and June for Treasurers, Second Signers, and Cardholders. The Department of Cannabis Regulation is holding SPARK workshops to seek stakeholder comment and input on local cannabis regulations. The Department of Cannabis Regulation will notify Neighborhood Councils of new retail cannabis applications. Each application will have a Council File so that the Neighborhood Council can file a Community Impact Statement. The Congress of Neighborhoods has a survey to suggest the types of workshops needed for the September 25 event. There will be a naturalization virtual fair—sign up before May 24 sponsored by CARECEN (Central American Resource Center).

District 4 Representative Arvie Powell said that there was not enough notice given on the proposed Duke Brothers LLC retail cannabis application. Cupen-Ames shared his screen to show the home page for the Department of Cannabis Regulation and how to check on the proposals for licensing.

**f) Clean Streets funds:** Outreach/Communications Representative Janet Mitchell was not present. Chair David Matthews said that bids for the Harbor Gateway North proposal for cameras at key illegal dumping locations are still coming in.

(Rey Paduani left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

**3) Discussion of possible methods to address HGNNC issues**

**a) Safety issues for the Rosecrans Recreation Center, including more substantial fencing on the south side of the park:** Chair David Matthews said that the chain link fence on the south side of the park is constantly being cut through by the homeless seeking a faster way to access the public toilets. He suggested the need for stronger steel fencing that could not be cut through. A steel fence with something thorny like bougainvillea planted outside it would be the best solution.

**b) Traffic calming methods for 135<sup>th</sup> Street between Figueroa Street and Vermont Avenue:** The 2018 letter which the HGNNC sent to the Department of Transportation regarding the need for traffic calming measures along 135<sup>th</sup> Street was reviewed. No response or action has been taken since that time. Possibly a task force should be formed with the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School, Department of Transportation, the LAPD, the HGNNC, and neighbors.

#### **4) Position letters**

**a) Letter requesting more effective measures for addressing illegal dumping in the HGNNC and throughout the City of Los Angeles:** The draft letter recommending various measures to reduce illegal dumping was reviewed. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 12-0-0.

#### **5) Consent Calendar (items 5a and 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 April 13, 2021, Board minutes**

**b) Approval of the May4, 2021, Special Board minutes**

It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Vanessa Johnson, and passed 11-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar items 5a and 5b.

#### **6) Treasurer's report**

**a) Approval of the April 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report:** Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that \$19,360 is available in the 2020-2021 allocated budget of \$49,978.

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Eva Pace, and passed 8-0-0 to approve the April 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report.

**b) Approval of payment to OnSolve in the amount of \$700 for 5,000 robo-call credits:** It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 8-0-0 to approve this expenditure.

**c) Approval of \$662.82 to Minuteman Press for printing of 10,000 Shred Day/Candidate Forum flyers:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 8-0-0 to approve this expenditure.

**d) Approval of \$895 to CIPS/ACI for delivery of Shred Day/Candidate Forum flyers:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 8-0-0 to approve this expenditure.

**e) Review of preliminary HGNNC budget for coming fiscal year 2021-2022:** Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said it looked like the HGNNC would have \$10,000 left to roll over and add to next year's funds, which are expected to be \$32,000. The monthly office lease is the biggest expenditure in the budget, along with the cost of updating the HGNNC website.

**f) Funding transaction deadlines for the end of FY 2020-2021:** La Juana Mitchell reviewed the funding deadlines which Freddy Cupen-Ames had already mentioned in his report.

**7) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction:** Community Organization Representative Larry Mitchell said that he is planning an event to show appreciation for having served on the HGNNC Board for four and a half years.

**8) Announcements:** District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson mentioned that Athens on the Hill has proposed a round about project for their neighborhood as a traffic calming measure and it is one of the proposals to be voted on for the Council District 15 funding from the reallocated LAPD funds.

**9) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary