

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 8, 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), Arvie Powell (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), Elijah Thomas (Youth Representative), Janet Mitchell (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Eva Pace (At Large Representative)

1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members: Chair David Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. The Board rollcall was read out to verify a quorum. Llewyn Fowlkes led the pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence.

2) Reports

a. LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez was unable to attend the meeting due to urgent LAPD business.

b. Council District 15: Caitlin Muldoon was unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor's Office: Harbor Representative Johanna Rodriguez reported that L.A. County, L.A. City, and the state of California all issued new orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic for the next three weeks. Bars and restaurants are now closed, except for take out services. The Harbor Gateway area has had 1,669 cases and 18 deaths. She urged Neighborhood Council members to lead by example and have no in-person gatherings except with one's immediate family. The Mayor's Office has created a one-time \$800 stipend to support out-of-work restaurant employees, using a \$5 million grant. The application period began December 7 and closes December 11 at midnight. Go to corona-virus.la/SERVE or call 311 for more information.

(Joan Jacobs and Richard Lee entered the meeting at 7:00 p.m.)

All City Departments are being asked to make cuts to their budgets, unless the Federal government provides more funding assistance. Free corona virus testing is being offered at 103rd and Compton in Watts. Free testing will be offered in Wilmington on December 10-12 and next week in San Pedro. Chair David Matthews added that testing is also provided Monday through Friday at Gardena Elementary School and Thursday at the Dae Hueng Korean Presbyterian Church.

David Matthews said he would set up an informal meeting via Zoom so that the Council District 15 report and LAPD report could be given and stakeholders questions answered.

c. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Octaviano Rios reminded the Board that the HGNNC Election Day is Tuesday June 15, which will be the last day to drop off the vote by mail ballots. Candidate filing begins February 13 and ends March 30. Stakeholders can apply for their vote by mail ballots between April 16 to June 8. There will be a candidate information session on December 12. Lanee Basulto is the Election Administrator for the HGNNC. He reminded Board members to keep up with the required trainings (ethics, code of conduct, and funding). He noted that the City Clerk holds Funding training on a regular basis. December 11 and December 15 are the last two days for the required training for members of the Planning and Land Use Committee. The Digital Media Policy for Neighborhood Councils is still in draft form. There will be a December 16 information session about the policy which would help regulate what can be posted on Neighborhood Council websites and social media accounts. Each City Department is cutting at least 3% from its 2020-2021 budget. For DONE, this means two positions, so the total staff will be reduced to 33. The Mayor will introduce his 2021-2022 budget on April 20, with a final vote by the City Council in May. The latest amended Bylaws for the HGNNC reflect the City's adopted language on the minimum age for voting and serving on a Neighborhood Council Board and also the revised Community Interest Stakeholder definition. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners will be meeting again on December 21 at 6 p.m.

d. Aging Liaison – October 29 meeting: Eva Pace reported that the focus of Aging resources is supporting people during the COVID-19 pandemic. All Senior Centers are currently closed

but support is being provided to seniors via telephone and delivery of 16,000 meals. Transportation of seniors is still being provided by van but only two per van at this time. Seniors needing services can either call 311 or 213-482-7252.

3) Discussion of chronic community issues, including abandoned vehicles, RVs, and illegal dumping: Chair David Matthews reported that there are 643 abandoned vehicles on the streets of Harbor Gateway North; 99 were removed in the last month. There are three to six new stripped vehicles on the streets. District 4 stakeholders are concerned about the auto repair business on Rosecrans just west of Menlo Avenue which parks the vehicles to be repaired on the residential streets. Parking enforcement has not been ticketing vehicles still parked on streets which are posted for street sweeping since October. There is a loud party house near Rosecrans and Menlo where a six foot speaker is placed on the public sidewalk. Abandoned vehicles that are thought to be stolen should be reported via their VIN and those should be removed immediately. District 4 stakeholders also indicated that they are interested in applying for permit parking in their neighborhood and also getting the many lifted sidewalks repaired.

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

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 November 10, 2020, Board minutes**

b) **Approval of the December 1, 2020, Special Board minutes**

It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 17-0-0 to approve the Consent Calendar.

5) Outreach presentation—Janet Mitchell, Outreach/Communications Representative: There will be a community holiday fete on Sat. December 19 at the Avalon Green Line station with food baskets, toys, and warm clothing. In January there will be a proposal to install cameras at key locations to address illegal dumping issues. From February to June 15, there will be activities to help advertise the Board elections.

6) Treasurer's report

a) **Approval of the November 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report:** Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that \$35,837 is left in the 2020-2021 allocated budget of \$49,273. There is \$9,300 currently allocated for HGNNC outreach events and \$6,500 allocated for the Board election. La Juana has been working with Jeff Brill on getting a refund for the ATT invoices back to July 1 when the Neighborhood Council moved out of the office on Gardena Blvd. and stopped using the telephone line and dsl and fax service.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.)

It was moved by John Ward, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 7-0-1 (Paduani) to approve the November 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report.

(David Matthews and Rosalie Preston recused themselves at 8:12 p.m.)

b) **Approval of up to \$100 to run an ad on the LinkedIn page of the Association of Environmental Professionals for the purpose of recruiting a qualified expert to review the draft EIR for the proposed Prologis warehouse at 15116-15216 S. Vermont Avenue; 747-861 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. (ENV-2017-1015-EIR), in District 3:** PLU Committee Chair John Ward said that there is one possible consultant which the Planning and Land Use Committee could use to help review the draft EIR when it is ready for public comment, but the PLU Committee would like to see one or two other people's resumes. It was recommended to seek consultants from the Association of Environmental Professionals, but to place an ad with

them may cost \$100. The ad would run for thirty days. It was moved by John Ward, seconded by La Juana Mitchell, and passed 4-1 (Jacobs)-2 (Paduani, Springs) to approve \$100 for the ad. It was then moved by Franz Rodriguez, seconded by John Ward, and passed 4-1 (Jacobs)-2 (Paduani, Springs) to approve moving this amount from the Committee refreshments line item.

(David Matthews and Rosalie Preston returned to the meeting at 8:40)

(Rey Paduani, Jackie Jackson, Angela Springs, and Elijah Thomas left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.)

7) Comment letter

a) HGNNC position letter on the proposed 7-Eleven store/gas station, 110 W. Imperial Highway, (ZA-2020-3944-CU-CPIOA; ENV-2020-3945-EAF) in District 7, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee: PLU Committee Chair John Ward thanked La Juana Mitchell for drafting the letter. He noted that PLU Committee member John Nichol had asked that the dissenting viewpoint be reflected in the letter and this is something that John Ward would like to see in all future position letters. The project is a convenience store with a gas station. No alcoholic beverages will be sold there, but there will be 24-hour operation. The applicant representative Adan Madrid met with the PLU Committee three times and also with Council District 15 and the LAPD, all to gain input on the project. It was moved by John Ward and seconded by Janet Mitchell to approve the letter as recommended by the PLU Committee. Under discussion, Board members and stakeholders presented their pro and con views of the project. The vote was 4(Rodriguez, L. Mitchell, Ward, J. Mitchell)-6 (Preston, Jacobs, Fowlkes, Johnson, Morrison, Pace)-0(Powell), so the motion failed.

8) Verification of the list of Planning and Land Use Committee members for submittal to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for tracking of mandatory training: It was moved by John Ward, seconded by Franz Rodrigue, and passed 11-0-0 to submit the following names of the Planning and Land Use Committee members to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Laurel Casey, Ivan Cotton, Senita Craigen, Helen Greene, Vanessa Johnson, Harry Kim, La Juana Mitchell, Fred Nichols, John Nichols, Rosalie Preston, Rey Quiroz, Janeshia Robinson, John Ward, and Luetta Watson

9) Status update on new HGNNC office: Chair David Matthews said that the contract for the new office lease at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. is in its final stages. It may be possible to move into the office in January, ahead of the contract finalization, if the Board agrees to start paying the monthly lease amount in January. Board consensus was that that was the best next action, so as not to lose the use of the office.

10) General public comment on non-agenda items: There was no public comment.

11) Announcements: There were no announcements.

12) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary