

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council  
Ad Hoc Election Committee – March 31, 2021  
Held via Zoom webinar**

Present: Joan Jacobs (Chair), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Fred Nichols, Eva Pace, and Micah Silver

**1) Welcome/call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Joan Jacobs.

**4) Discussion of Candidate Forum format/moderators over two days due to number of challenged seats and number of candidates:** Athena Cormier of the League of Women Voters Torrance Area explained the format that the League uses, explaining that the event will be a Forum and not a debate. For those seats which are not opposed, the single candidate will have two minutes to introduce themselves but they will not be asked any questions. For the other candidates, each will have one and a half minutes for an introduction, then each candidate for one seat will be asked a few questions (same question to all) with thirty seconds to one minute answers, and then have brief time for a closing statement. There will be strong guidelines on behavior of the audience, though using Zoom helps with control. For the Forum, she would encourage that the camera feature be allowed so that candidates are visible while candidates for that seat is being featured. There needs to be a chat box moderator and someone to remind the audience of the Forum rules. There will possibly be fewer questions for those seats with only two candidates. Athena said that she might suggest having some District seats on each of the two nights and then the other Board seats divided. She asked that the League email address be used for the public to submit possible questions. The League will finalize which questions are asked and be the ones letting the candidates know of the Forum format and which day they will be scheduled. Athena then left the meeting to attend another Zoom meeting.

**2) General Public comment on non-agenda items:** District 2 stakeholder Fabiola Robles said that she has been involved for the past three years, is a candidate, and wanted to listen to the Committee discussion.

District 5 stakeholder Hannah Woods said she just wanted to listen in.

Mr. Jordan and Nicole Jefferson were also just interested in following the meeting.

**3) Approval of the March 24, 2021, minutes:** It was moved by Micah Silver, seconded by Eva Pace, and passed 5-0-0 to approve the minutes as submitted.

**4) Continuation of discussion of Candidate Forum format/moderator over two days due to number of challenged seats and number of candidates:** The President of the League of Women Voters Torrance Area, Pamela Thornton, was present and provided some clarification on League rules for Candidate Forums. Fred Nichols suggested that he, as an Ad Hoc Election Committee member and the only Committee member not running for a Board seat, and Amber Sheikh Ginsberg from San Pedro, who is willing to assist with the Candidate Forum, be allowed to assist with the chat function. Pamela said that the League handles that role but suggested that Fred in his role as a Committee member and Freddy Cupen-Ames from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment could work on some questions for the candidates and other possible questions would be emailed to the League directly. It was agreed that the Forum has to be expanded for two evenings. Pamela suggested that everyone attending must register for the event and then receive the Zoo information. Micah Silver suggested editing the Forum recordings so that they could be posted to the HGNNC website in segments by seat so the at stakeholders would not have to listen to the whole recording if they were only interested in knowing more about one of the District Representative seat candidates. Alternatively, the place on the recording for each seat could be

noted on the HGNNC website, if editing is not possible. It was moved by Fred Nichols, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 5-0-0 to hold the Candidate Forums over two evenings, April 27 and April 29, in event format, with the League of Women Voters Torrance Area as the moderators for both nights. It was moved by Fred Nichols, seconded by Eva Pace, and passed 4-0-1(Pace) to approve 200 as a fee for service to the League of Women Voters Torrance Area for their role as moderators for both nights.

**5) Review of draft flyer for Shred Day/Voter Registration event on April 24 and April 27**

**Candidate Forum:** The current flyer draft was shared via Zoom and the second night will be added on the Forum side. The League email will be added for stakeholders to submit questions in advance by 5 p.m. on April 23. A few other edits of the wording and design were suggested. It was moved by Fred Nichols, seconded by Eva Pace, and passed 5-0-0 to approve the suggested changes. Chair Joan Jacobs will review the edited version before it goes to the printer.

**6) Announcements:** Chair Joan Jacobs and Committee members thanked Micah for handling the social media for candidate recruitment which resulted in a doubling of the usual number of candidate filings.

Rosalie Preston said that the voter registration page needs to be set up on the HGNNC website.

**7) Setting date of next Committee meeting/Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. The next Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary