

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: David Matthews (Chair), Franz Rodriguez (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), Joan Jacobs (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Jackie Jackson (District 6), 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. Llewyn Fowlkes led the pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence.

2) Reports

a. LAPD: No officer as available to attend.

b. Council District 8: Albizael del Valle, Deputy District Director for Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, reported that GAP and a Clean Team have been working to keep the homeless encampment area at Vermont Avenue and 115th Street cleaned up. A lot of illegal dumping happens at that site and the Council office is working with the property owner who has hired a crew to help with clean ups and to repair the fencing and add a metal gate that cannot be cut open. Outreach workers are offering housing to the homeless in former motels. A temporary Business Improvement District for Vermont Avenue has been created to help cover the costs of the clean ups, including at the U-Haul site, 11020 S. Vermont Avenue.

c. Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that the Athens No. 1 Street Lighting District improvements and assessments had been approved by the City Council (CF 20-0900-S73) for 149th and Vermont, Gardena Blvd. and Menlo Avenue, Laconia Blvd and Hoover, and 120th and Broadway. The lot at 512 W. Laconia (at Figueroa Street) where many RVs of the homeless have been parked will be cleaned up in cooperation with the property owner and then secured so that the same issues do not recur. One of the residents has been renting out spaces to other people, though he is not the property owner. CD 15 has been working on this issue since last June and was able to have CF 21-0104 passed to declare the property a public nuisance. The Councilmember has requested a plan to address gang-related violence in regions most impacted including data analysis, asset mapping, request for a cross-regional approach. There are many vaccination sites open now for those who are 65 and older. Speed hump applications are not being taken due to budget cuts. Caitlin has noted that a lot of 311 requests for illegal dumping are being closed out before being picked up. In those cases, email her your service request number and photos and she will follow up. Also continue to follow up with Caitlin on abandoned vehicles that are not removed.

d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Octaviano Rios said that due to budget cuts and staff vacancies, the Department had had to rearrange assignments for the NEAs and he introduced Freddy Cupen-Ames, who will now work with the HGNNC. Freddy said that he knows it is tough to lose an NEA who has worked with your Council for a while. Like all of the NEAs now, Freddy will be covering Neighborhood Councils over many regions. He has worked for the Department for two years and previously worked as a housing navigator for the homeless. Before that he worked for the City of Beverly Hills with their rent stabilization program. And before that he worked for Controller Ron Galperin on the community engagement team. Mac users should be sure to download the 5.5.5 update for Zoom for best results. He said that the Department will cover the costs for translation of meetings and documents for Board and Committee meetings. The City of Los Angeles has created a fiscal tracker for how COVID-19 funds have been spent. Note September 25 as the Congress of Neighborhoods workshop, which will again take place virtually. Candidate filing for the HGNNC Board election opens on February 13 and closes on March 30. The Department has a license so that Board members can take online training in Robert's Rules of Order. He also noted that the Department had paid for a license for Canva for each Neighborhood Council to make it easier to create election digital media

graphics and flyers. He urged Board members to complete all of the three required trainings. Neighborhood Councils cannot hold in-person events until the Mayor issues the order that it is safe to do so again.

3) Report from the Ad Hoc Election Committee on candidate recruitment for the Board election, with Board members discussing their experiences serving on the Board: Ad Hoc Election Committee Chair Joan Jacobs said that information about the Board election is on the HGNNC website home page, with a link for candidates to sign up there beginning on Saturday. The Candidate Forum will be held on Tuesday April 26 as the main part of the General Membership meeting. The candidate recruitment large postcard will be going out next week via the U.S. Postal Service's Every Door Direct Mail so that it will be put into the mailbox of each household. The Board term is two years.

(Elijah Thomas entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

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 January 12, 2021, Board minutes**

b) **Approval of the January 26, 2021, General Membership meeting minutes**

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar items 4a and 4b.

(David Matthews and Rosalie Preston recused themselves at 7:45 p.m.)

5) Approval of hiring a consultant as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee, to assist with the HGNNC review of the draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Prologis warehouse: In the absence of the Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee John Ward, Vice Chair Franz Rodriguez reported that after considering the resumes of three possible consultants for review of the draft Environmental Report for the proposed Prologis warehouse, the Planning and Land Use Committee had recommended hiring Crable and Associates as the best candidate to assist the Committee in drafting the HGNNC comment letter. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by La Juana Mitchell, and passed to approve the hiring of Crable and Associates for the DEIR review.

(David Matthews and Rosalie Preston returned to the meeting at 7:53 p.m.)

6) Treasurer's report

a) **Approval of the January 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report:** Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that \$32,804.75 is left in the 2020-2021 allocated budget of \$49,978, which includes funds reimbursed by DONE for meeting translation costs.

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 7-0-0 to approve the January 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report.

b) **Approval of \$516.40 – Minuteman Press for printing 10,000 General Membership meeting flyers:** It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 7-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

c) **Approval of \$995 – CIPS Marketing for delivery of 10,000 General Membership meeting flyers:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 7-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

d) **Approval of Outreach Committee funding request of \$600 for HGNNC-branded t-shirts and face masks:** Outreach Representative Janet Mitchell said it had been a while since the HGNNC had ordered t-shirts for Board and Committee members to use for outreach events and that they would help advertise the Council's presence, especially during a Board election year. The branded masks will also be a form of advertising. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 7-0-0 to approve this expenditure.

e) **Approval of \$1,500 as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant for The Blind Smile for three homeless outreach events in the HGNNC Districts 1,6, and 7:** Rosie Taylor, President of the Blind Smile, was not present to make the presentation. Outreach Representative Janet Mitchell said that the purpose of the

Neighborhood Purposes Grant was to be able to partner with the Blind Smile and HOPICS and the St. Joseph Center on three outreach events to the homeless. Sanitary items and other supplies would be given to the homeless while social service agencies offered assistance with housing and other needs. Janet said that she has partnered with Rosie Taylor on other events, including the holiday event at the Metro Green Line station at Avalon Boulevard in December 2020. It was moved by Franz Rodriguez, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 7-0-0 to approve the funding for the Neighborhood Purposes Grant.

f) Approval of a revised budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year: Treasurer La Juana Mitchell explained that the revised budget included funding to cover the t-shirts/face masks and the Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the Blind Smile from HGNNC event funds. 1,200 was moved from the Office relation line item as it was not needed and the HGNNC is now moved into the new office at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. That money will help pay for the costs of Moore Business Results for maintenance and updating of the HGNNC website. Her bills have been higher as for the virtual meetings the supporting documents need to be posted to the website and there have been additional agendas to post and the recordings of meetings. There will be no expenditure on a new copy machine until the City of Los Angeles begins the new lease agreement with Konica, which may not be until the new fiscal year. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Franz Rodriguez, and passed to 7-0-0 to approve the revised budget.

(Elijah Thomas left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.)

7) Revised 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: Vice Chairperson Franz Rodriguez said that as the draft letter had not been posted to the HGNNC website until today, the item should be tabled. Rosalie Preston said that the draft had been included in the Constant Contact email to stakeholders and to the Board. It was moved by Franz Rodriguez, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 10-1(Preston)-0 to table item 7 until the March 9 Board meeting.

8) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction: At-Large Representative Eva Pace commented that Board members and stakeholders should be allowed to ask questions without comment on why the question is being asked.

9) Announcements: District 2 Representative Joan Jacobs said that she had earned that if feral cats are creating a nuisance, then Animal Services can remove them.

Youth Advocate Richard Lee asked if other areas have experienced seeing coyotes as District 8 has. Mail is being stolen from other cities and being dumped in the District 6 area.

10) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary