

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

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), 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 6:38 p.m. He pointed out that this was the first meeting of the new year and wished everyone happy new year. 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.

**c. Council District 8:** Albizael del Valle, Deputy District Director for Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, said that Council District 8 is using a HOPICS outreach team to reach out to the homeless encampments to get people housed, including the Vermont Avenue and 115<sup>th</sup> Street encampment which HOPICS is visiting weekly. There is also a lot of illegal dumping on the nearby private property and the Building and Safety Department has cited the property owner for not cleaning it up. Two HHH housing projects have opened in CD 8, including 40 units of supportive housing. There is also a new Navigation Center at Manchester and Hoover, which provides storage for belongings of the homeless and also laundry and shower facilities; it is operated by HOPICS. Another HHH project is being constructed from shipping containers just north of the HGNNC area on Imperial Highway at Broadway, on the triangular piece of land. A new 7-Eleven will be opening on Figueroa Street at Century Blvd. and CD 8 has found them to be a great community partner. South Bureau of LAPD is monitoring the human trafficking which goes on in the motels along Figueroa Street and has increased during the pandemic. Cameras have been installed to help identify those soliciting prostitutes.

A District 6 stakeholder pointed out that there is a homeless encampment next to the U-Haul at 11020 S. Vermont Avenue. Another stakeholder pointed out that the fencing along the Caltrans property on the north side of the 105 Freeway at 115<sup>th</sup> and Hoover needs to be repaired. The homeless are using power from the Caltrans lighting. Another location of a homeless encampment is along Grand at 111<sup>th</sup> Place next to the 110 freeway. The Caltrans fences have also been cut there. "No Parking" signs and red curbs are needed in that area.

**b. Council District 15:** Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that Councilmember Joe Buscaino had recommended that some of the funds reallocated from the LAPD budget be used to renovate the Boys and Girls Club at 802 W. Gardena Blvd. but the Mayor had vetoed the City Council's recommendations for use of those funds. CD 15 is working with the property owner of 512 W. Laconia to use a private company to remove the homeless tents and vehicles by the end of February. The City Council has authorized the use of CARE Plus cleanups of three large homeless encampments in Wilmington, Harbor City, and San Pedro in CD 15 only.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)

Stakeholders asked about getting cameras at 11<sup>th</sup> Place and San Pedro because of all of the illegal dumping. District 6 Representative Jackie Jackson said that there is a group of volunteers working to keep the 115<sup>th</sup> Street and Hoover area next to the 105 freeway clear of trash. Once they have filled a large black trash bag, they put the bags into their personal black trash bins. They have also worked to pick up trash around the Jim Dandy's at 11328 S. Vermont Avenue.

**d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Octaviano Rios wished everyone a fantastic 2021. He said that filing for the seventeen HGNNC Board seats opens on February 13 and closed on March 30. Stakeholders who wish to vote in the election will need to

request their ballot which will come with a pre-paid envelope in which to return it. There will be a drop box for returning ballots on June 15. Mailed in ballots must reach the City Clerk's office by June 18. The new Board will be seated on July 1. There will be a series of candidate workshops, including one on January 16 from 9 to 11 a.m. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has funds to cover the cost of Neighborhood Council translation services for Board and Committee meetings. Request through NC Support. The Department has paid for an online course on parliamentary procedure which any Board member can access. Each Neighborhood Council has been provided a free Canva account to use to create flyers, brochure, and social media graphics using templates. He reminded Board members of the need to complete the three required trainings and to keep them up-to-date for ethics, code of conduct, and funding. For those Board members having trouble problems being credited with the funding training they have taken, contact Octaviano.

**3) Review and approve ratification of the newly amended HGNNC Bylaws to conform with the new Community Interest Stakeholder Ordinance and Uniform Age Ordinance:** Chair David Matthews read out the wording of the two changes. District 1 stakeholder Fred Nichols expressed concern over the new Community Interest Stakeholder language in reference to non-profits, but Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Octaviano Rios explained that the language is now part of every Neighborhood Councils Bylaws after approval by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioner and the City Council after a long process of review. It was moved by Eva Cooper, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 9-1(J. Mitchell)-5(Fowlkes, Matthews, Paduani, Rodriguez, Ward)

4) Department of Cultural Affairs funds available for public arts projects within the HGNNC area- Ayndrea Wilson, Executive Director of California Artist Coalition of Los Angeles: The Department of Cultural Affairs has public funds created when developers apply for projects that can be used for public art within the HGNNC area. These funds have been collected in a Trust account over the past seven to eight years and can be used for murals, art on utility boxes, and artist-designed banners, which are some of the most common projects. The Neighborhood Council can suggest commercial corridors where public art can be created. Murals require permission from the property owner. City-owned buildings require permission from the Department of General Services. Boardmembers can email her about their proposal and then the City Council office has to write a letter to the Dept. of Cultural Affairs requesting the funds and outlining the proposal, timeline, detailed budget, and a detailed maintenance plan. Ayndrea's organization provides the insurance for the project. She will email photos of utility box art and street banners which other Neighborhood Councils have supported. For street banners, the first year cost for the permit from Bureau of Street Lighting is covered, but thereafter, the cost is \$400 for ten street banners. Sometimes a Councilmember will waive the permit fee. Chair David Matthews pointed out that a mural painted on the exterior of a business along Figueroa Street has been graffiti-free for the past six months. District 1 stakeholder Micah Silver suggested one side of the ATT building at 17200 S. Vermont Avenue as a potential mural site. There is a maximum of \$25,000 per art project.

**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 December 8, 2020, Board minutes**

b) **Approval of the December 14, 2020, Special Board minutes**

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 12-0-1 (Paduani) to approve the Consent Calendar.

**6) Treasurer's report**

a) **Approval of the December 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report:** Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that \$33, 495 is left in the 2020-2021 allocated budget of \$49,978, which includes funds reimbursed by DONE for meeting translation costs. There is a potential credit from ATT Calnet for the telephone, fax,

and dsl service that has not been used for the past six months since moving out of the 802 W. Gardena Blvd. office. The new office rent will be \$1,300 per month.

It was moved by Franz Rodriguez, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the December 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report.

**b) Approval of a Board Election budget of \$8,198:** La Juana Mitchell said that the Finance Committee had approved the Board Election budget and would move \$500 that was allocated to General Membership meeting refreshments and \$900 for miscellaneous event expenses, plus \$300 from the reimbursed translation funds to add to the originally allocated \$6,500 for the Board election. Ad Hoc Election Committee Chair Joan Jacobs said that the largest part of the Election budget is allocated for candidate recruitment outreach, as the more candidates there are, the more voters can be encouraged to sign up to vote for their neighbors. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Eva Pace, and passed 6-2(J. Mitchell, Rodriguez)-0

**c) Approval of the revised HGNNC budget with adjustments to cover additional needed for the Election budget:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 7-1(Rodriguez)-0 to approve the revised budget.

#### **7) Outreach Committee:**

**a). \$300 to support 105 Century Freeway Block Club meetings beginning February 26:** Outreach/Communications Committee Chair Janet Mitchell said that the proposed event would be a drive by event with Senior Lead Officer Angelo Stewart present to help organize a new block club.

(Franz Rodriguez left the meeting at 9:08 p.m.)

Board members asked for details of what the money would be spent on and Janet said she would submit a detailed budget to Funding along with the Event Approval form. She said that at a past Board Retreat, the previous Treasurer Joan Jacobs had said that the HGNNC could provide funds for start up of a new Block Club. Treasurer La Juana Mitchell noted that Funding will require an address for the proposed event. It was moved by Franz Rodriguez, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 5-2(Jacobs, L. Mitchell)-0 to support the event, with the understanding that the necessary details would be provided to Funding.

**b) \$3,000 from Clean Streets funds to support installation of cameras in Districts 4, 7 and 8 to deter illegal dumping, as a pilot project:** Janet Mitchell said the proposal for use of the HGNNC allocated Clean Streets funds would be to have ADT or similar company install and monitor cameras at key spots where a lot of illegal dumping takes place. Council District 15 and LA Sanitation will be involved in determining the locations and details. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 7-0-0 to support allocating \$3,000 of the awarded Clean Streets funds to this pilot project.

#### **8) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction:**

Community Organization Representative Larry Morrison said that he applauds Officer Eugene Goodman who helped protect U.S. Senators from the rioters in the Capitol building on January 6.

District 7 stakeholder Barbara Tyson said that when the Neighborhood Council has funds that are allocated for events, they should be used.

**9) Announcements:** Chair David Matthews announced that Joeann Valle, the Executive Director of the LA Gateway Chamber of Commerce, died on

Youth Advocate Richard Lee announced that former Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge died on January 7.

**10) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary