

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Franz Rodriguez (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), John Ward (District 1), Joan Jacobs (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Jackie Jackson (District 6), Angela Springs (District 8), Elijah Thomas (Youth Representative), Janet Mitchell (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Eva Pace (At Large Representative)

1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members: In the absence of Chair David Matthews, Vice Chairperson Franz Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:40 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. Neighborhood Purposes Grant Completion Report from PESA (Parents, Educators/Teachers and Students in Action): Seymour Amster said that the grant allowed PESA to work individually with fifteen students from the HGNNC area and with five for mental health counseling. PESA also provided workshops for fifty youth from the area. One of the workshops was an online career fair. PESA has developed a closer working relationship with Gardena High School and LAUSD's Linked Learning program. In the coming year they will be expanding their services to the feeder schools for Gardena High School.

b. LA County 2nd Supervisorial District: Ara An, Field Deputy for Supervisor Holly Mitchell, introduced herself. The Supervisor's office is working on safely opening businesses in the area. Check with lacounty.gov for updates. Email her at aan@bos.lacounty.gov.

c. LAPD report: No representative was present.

d. Council District 8: No representative was present.

e. Council District 15 No representative was present.

f. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:

3) Ad Hoc Election Committee report on certified candidates for the Board election, Shred Day/Voter Registration event on April 24, and Candidate Forums on April 27 and April 29: Ad Hoc Election Committee Chair Joan Jacobs reported that Funding has given the approval to hold the Shred Day/Voter Registration event on April 24. The Committee is still working on finalizing a moderator for the Candidate Forums on April 27 and April 29. An email has been sent to the Dean of Political Science at El Camino College. The list of certified candidates will be posted on April 15 and voter registration begins April 16.

(Angela Springs entered the meeting at 7 p.m.)

Mayor's Office: Johanna Rodriguez, Harbor and Watts Area Representative, said that the Mayor's Office is working to coordinate COVID-19 vaccination sites in various neighborhoods. There was one held in Watts last week and she is working on sites for Harbor Gateway North and Harbor Gateway South. The priority is getting seniors vaccinated. Rental Assistance applications can be filed through April 30 and both renters and landlords can apply.

4) Position letters

a) Letter/Community Impact Statement on Council File 11-1705 Digital billboards in support of the City Planning Commission version B+: District 1 Representative and Planning and Land Use Committee Chair John Ward reviewed the draft letter recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee. The City Planning Commission version is more restrictive than the version which the Department of City Planning has proposed. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0-0 to approve a letter in support of version B+ and file a Community Impact Statement.

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 March 9, 2021, Board minutes

b) Approval of the April 6, 2021, Special Board minutes

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by John Ward, 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 \$21,843 is available in the 2020-2021 allocated budget of \$49,978. She noted that the biggest expenditures had been for the HGNNC website and the Facebook ads to publicize the Neighborhood Council election. The amount encumbered for office supplies has now been spent.

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

b) Vote to rescind the Neighborhood Purposes Grant to The Blind Smile in the amount of \$1,500: Treasurer La Juana Mitchell explained that after the Board approved the NPG, some needed items were requested for the proposed outreach events and these were not provided. Therefore, the funds will be returned to the HGNNC budget. It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Eva Pace, and passed 8-0-0 to approve rescinding the grant.

c) Funding transaction deadlines for the end of FY 2020-2021: May 20 is the final date for event approvals. June 1 is the last date to make check requests. June 20 is the last day to use the credit card. Of the \$7,200 in encumbered funds rolled over from the previous year's budget, \$5,200 had been spent by the end of March. For the new fiscal year beginning July 1, only \$10,000 in unspent funds can be carried over and there will be no encumbered funds.

7) Appointment of District 8 outreach event on April 17 – Neighborhood Watch sign up and information: District 8 Representative Angela Springs said that she would be hosting a table with information and sign ups for a District 8 Neighborhood Watch on Sat. April 17 from 12-3 p.m. at the Avalon Green Line station. Neighborhood Council election voter registration forms and information on voter registration will be given out. It was moved by Janet Mitchell, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 8-0-0 to approve this socially distanced outreach event.

8) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction: Fabiola Ochoa, Southern California Gas Company Community Affairs, said that April is National Safety Month. Call 811 before digging. Southern California Gas is providing grants to

restaurants with 50 or fewer employees in Los Angeles County with a deadline of April 18. Priority will go to women-owned businesses.

District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson said that due to the pandemic, the Neighborhood Council election is being conducted by vote-by-mail only, with no in-person voting.

9) Announcements: Vice Chair Franz Rodriguez said that this would be his last meeting chairing as he knew that Chair David Matthews would be present for the last two Board meetings. He expressed appreciation to the Board for his two years of service on the Board.

10) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary