

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: David Matthews (Chairperson), Franz Rodriguez (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), La Juana Mitchell (Treasurer), Joan Jacobs (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Vanessa Johnson (District 7), Angela Springs (District 8), Larry Morrison (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), 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. This was followed by the roll call of Board members at which time it was determined that a quorum was not yet present. David said that the reports could be given until more Board members arrived.

3) Reports

a) 2nd District Supervisor: Field Representative Ara An said that the COVID-19 vaccine will be given out at Magic Johnson Park during the Juneteenth celebration on June 18 from 11 am to 3 pm. There will be a food giveaway on June 23 at Victoria Park in Carson. Supervisor Holly Mitchell is sponsoring a Town Hall on June 10 regarding the June 15 re-opening of the California economy and lifting of pandemic restrictions. The Town Hall will be broadcast via Facebook and Twitter. Ara thanked the HGNNC Board for their service over the past two years.

b) Ad Hoc Election Committee: Committee Chair Joan Jacobs said that as of June 2, the City Clerk had received 201 ballot requests from HGNNC stakeholders. Some have received their ballots, which were delayed in being mailed out. The deadline for registering for a ballot was 5 p.m. today. There will be a robo-call and emails to remind stakeholders to return their ballots by the June 15 deadline via the U.S. mail or official drop boxes. The City Clerk will be allowing ten days for returned ballots to reach their office. Payment for Facebook ads has been stopped as after the Candidate Forums they were not generating additional attention to the Facebook election posts. The Committee will hold its last meeting on June 30 to review the most effective methods of candidate recruitment and voter registration.

1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members: At 6:52 p.m., another roll call was taken and determining that a quorum was present, Chair David Matthews officially called the meeting to order at 6:57p.m. This was followed by the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction: Tim McOsker said that he is a life-long resident of San Pedro and a candidate for Council District 15 Councilmember.

District 1 stakeholder Fred Nichols thanked the Board, Committees, and stakeholders for their passion and service to the Neighborhood Council over the past two years. He is a long-standing property owner of two parcels on Gardena Blvd. but did not get involved until her met David Matthews. He thanked him for the many clean ups of the area and helping to find housing for the area's homeless. For those candidates who are running but are not elected, he urged them to channel their energies into serving on one of the Neighborhood Council Committees.

District 5 Representative Llewyn Fowlkes wondered who had received their ballot so far. Those who have not should call the City Clerk to check, 213-978-0444. The City Clerk will be hand-delivering ballots on June 15, where necessary.

4) Position letters

a) Letter regarding proposed 84-unit, transit oriented community (TOC) apartment building with 20 low-income units, 11630 S. Main Street (ZA-2020-7786-TOC-ZAI-SPR-HCA; ENV-2020-7787-EAF), in District 7, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee: Vice Chairperson Franz Rodriguez recommended that the item be tabled because the draft letter was not posted 72 hours in advance. Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames clarified that per the Brown Act, only the agenda must be posted 72 hours in advance. Secretary Rosalie Preston said that in any case, the letter had been posted on Saturday afternoon, before the 72-hour deadline, emailed to the Board, and sent out to the stakeholders via Constant Contact. Chairperson David Matthews said that he wished to clarify his role in regards to SoLa Impact and said that he objected to Committee members and Board members making accusations against him because of SoLa Impact's use of the HGNNC logo on their PowerPoint page listing supporters. He said that he would recuse himself from the discussion of item 4.

(David Matthews recused himself at 7:15 p.m.)

Secretary Rosalie Preston started to give background on the apartment complex but Acting Chair Franz Rodriguez muted her. Franz Rodriguez made a motion to table item 4 due to the draft letter not having been sent out 72 hours in advance and Richard Lee seconded the motion. Neighborhood Council Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames again clarified that the only 72-hour requirement under the Brown Act is for the agenda to be posted. It is a recommended best practice to post other supporting documents to the Neighborhood Council website and also screen-shared during the meeting. The draft letter is a supplemental document. District 1 stakeholder Fred Nichols said that due to the allegations regarding how SoLa Impact came to use the HGNNC logo on their PowerPoint presentation, the issue should go to the City Attorney before the letter of recommendation is discussed. Therefore the item should be tabled. Senior Lead Officer Angelo Stewart, who represents the area where the apartment building would be built, said that his name was listed on the SoLa Impact PowerPoint brochure as being a supporter of the project but that he had never given them his permission to do that. He also noted that the LAPD logo had been used without permission. He encouraged stakeholders to call him when there are issues of crime and safety in the area, using his LAPD cell phone number 213-793-0726. Secretary Rosalie Preston said that there was an issue of timeliness regarding a Board vote on the proposed apartment complex as delaying discussion and vote until possibly a July 13 Board meeting could result in the Board's comment being irrelevant to a decision by the Department of City Planning. Freddy Cupen-Ames noted that calling a Special Board meeting later in June to vote on the issue might not be possible if a quorum could not be achieved at that time. The notion to table passed 6-5(Jacobs, Johnson, Pace, Powell, and Preston)-0.

(David Matthews returned to the meeting at 7:38 p.m.)

3) Reports

Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that the turnout for the Normandale Recreation Center vaccination event on June 4 was disappointingly low. She wished all Board members good luck in the upcoming Neighborhood Council election and for the future.

Mayor's Office: Johanna Rodriguez, Harbor Area Representative for Mayor Garcetti, thanked Chair David Matthews and all of the other Board members for their efforts in providing outreach for the Normandale Recreation Center vaccination event. Eighteen people were vaccinated on June 4. As of June 15, there will be fewer restrictions related to the COVID-19 virus and more businesses will be open. Currently in the Harbor Gateway, 56% of those 16 and older are vaccinated, with 76% of those 65 and older. Those 12 years of age and older can now be vaccinated. The Los Angeles City budget for 2021-2022 has been signed by Mayor Garcetti. It is the largest in L.A. history at 11.2 billion dollars. 1.3 billion dollars comes from the American Rescue Act. The Recreation and Parks Department will be getting 140 positions restored. The City budget includes funds to pay for the utility bills of low income residents. 18 million has been allocated to Reimaging Policing initiatives, with mental health workers assigned to non-violent calls to 911. That money also includes funds for more gang reduction workers, youth programs, and Summer Night Lights programs. On June 15 the moratorium on evictions ends; the City will offer workshops for landlords and tenants to ease the transition back to the pre-pandemic laws for rental properties. District 4 Representative Arvie Powell noted that more staff are needed to answer the non-emergency LAPD line. Johanna said that there will be a Zoom meeting explaining 911 and the non-emergency number and how dispatchers refer the calls under a new pilot program

c) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Freddy Cupen=Ames said that the last day to use the Neighborhood Council bank card is June 20. Funding is not allowing encumbrances of unused funds this year but up to \$10,000 not used can be rolled over to the next fiscal year. The Department will officer Financial Officer training on June 22. There will be a series of classes to train new Board members over a period of six months. June 21 at 6:30 p.m. will cover how to prepare for a Board meeting. Each session will be recorded so it can be listened to later on. The Congress of Neighborhoods will be held on Saturday September 25, with many online workshops. The Los Angeles City Redistricting Commission now has a website set up. The lines for Council Districts and LAUSD district boundary lines will be redrawn once the new Census numbers are known. For any questions on redistricting, contact Rafael Gonzalez at Rafael.gonzalez@lacity.org. The Department of Cannabis Regulation is still offering listening sessions regarding cannabis regulations for the City of Los Angeles. Comments can be made through June 30.

5) Consent Calendar (items 5a):

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 May 11, 2021, Board minutes

It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 11-0-0 to approve Consent Calendar item 5a.

6) Treasurer's report

a) Approval of the May 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report: Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that the May 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report produced by City Clerk Funding seems to have an error in the total amount of funds remaining relating to the amounts encumbered and spent during the past fiscal year, so she asked that the Board table review and approval until the

July 13 Board meeting so that it can be corrected. It was moved by Franz Rodriguez, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 11-0-0 to table approval.

b) Approval of revised budget and adjustments for current fiscal year 2020-2021:

Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that as of the end of May, there is a balance of \$11,283 remaining. The \$3,000 allocated for Crable to provide review of the Prologis draft EIR has been applied for and will be available in the 2021-2022 budget once the draft EIR is released and Crable is able to perform the agreed upon work. In regards to the funds allocated for Election outreach, all bills have been paid except for possibly some last Facebook ads and election-related work by Wendy Moore for the HGNNC website. The amounts allocated for the April General Membership meeting flyer and delivery were moved to the election line item to cover the Shred Day/Candidate Forum flyer and delivery after the General Membership meeting was cancelled. The Neighborhood Council needs to try to reach all stakeholders and thus far the quarterly flyer delivery seems to be the most economical and effective method. The rollover amount as listed is \$8,500. However after discussion, there is another \$600 that was allocated for new branded t-shirts and facemasks but not spent, which would result in a total of \$9,110 for the rollover. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Franz Rodriguez, and passed 8-0-0 to approve the revised 2020-2021 budget with rollover amount of \$9,110, as adjusted.

c) Approval of HGNNC preliminary budget for coming fiscal year 2021-2022: The base budget will be \$2,000 plus the rollover amount from the 2020-2021 fiscal year, for a total of \$41,000. The largest allocations will be the monthly rent for the office space at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. and maintenance of the website by Moore Business Results. The preliminary budget includes an amount for a monthly copier lease from Konica, once the City of Los Angeles has finalized their new agreement. There is also an amount for translation services, above what the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment will be able to cover. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Janet Mitchell, and passed 8-0-0 to approve the preliminary budget for 2021-2022.

d) Approval of HGNNC 2021-2022 Administrative Packet as recommended by the Finance Committee: The current Board needs to approve the Administrative Packet so that the new Board will not be limited in its expenditures during the first month or so of operations. However, the new Board can approve updates to the Administrative Packet for new Financial Officers, depending on who is elected to the new Board and who is willing to fill the roles of second signer, alternative signer, and the two cardholders. Each of those positions entails additional training and responsibilities. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 8-0-0 to approve the 2021-2022 Administrative Packet.

e) Discuss contribution to Special Funds for Congress of Neighborhoods, EmpowerLA awards dinner and/or Neighborhood Council Budget Advocacy: The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment sent an email about considering contributions for the various special funds to support the Congress of Neighborhoods, EmpowerLA awards dinner, and Budget Advocates. However, the email was sent too close to the June 1 cut off date for writing checks. Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that the new Board can consider allocating funds for those purposes from the new budget.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and Larry Morrison entered the meeting at 8:40 p.m.)

f) Discuss Finance Committee recommendations to improve its efficiency and effectiveness: Treasurer La Juana Mitchell said that the Finance Committee recommends that the next Bylaws Committee consider some additional Standing Rules, including an authorized amount for an emergency expenditure that has not been specifically authorized in the adopted budget and consider rotating the bank cardholders. She also noted that those appointed to the

Finance Committee need to be Boardmembers and stakeholders who will be able to attend most of the meetings. The new Treasurer will be advising Committee on the timeline for getting approval for approved events, which involves a 60-day timeline. The Outreach Committee should have a calendar to keep track of the timeline for funding and Board awareness.

7) Announcements: On June 17, Jackie Jackson will be featured in the KPCC online program “Childcare unfiltered.”

District 7 stakeholder Barbara Tyson wondered how any HGNNC funds could remain unspent when the community had so many needs.

Out-going Community Organization Representative Larry Morrison thanked the HGNNC for his five years on the Board and remembered the late District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins.

8) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary