

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Piers Fairclough (Treasurer), Julia Esqueda-Arteaga (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Jodette Spann (District 5), Lorenzo Johnson (District 6), William Yates (District 8), and Richard Lee (Youth Advocate)

1) Call to order and roll call of Board members: Chair Miguel Vazquez called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. A quorum of Board members was not yet present.

3) Reports

a) Council District 8: There was no representative present.

b) Council District 15: District Director Gabriela Medina gave the report as Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon is out on medical leave. Council File 21-4118, the anti-camping ordinance, allows Councilmembers to designate areas near sensitive uses off-limits for tent encampments within 500 feet of those sites. First LAHSA comes out to assess the situation. After three days, the City Council votes on having the remaining homeless at the location removed and General Services puts up anti-camping signs for those locations. Eleven locations in CD 15 were designated under the first Resolution for this ordinance and more will be included in the second Resolution.

(William Yates entered the meeting at 6:49 p.m.)

Gabriela said that all are welcome to listen in to the monthly CD 15 Working Group on Homelessness meetings, held via Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month. CARE and CARE+ were taking place in Watts today. A calendar for such clean ups by the Department of Sanitation has been created with LAHSA outreach and LAPD involved. Sanford and 118th Street will be cleaned and Alondra Blvd. under the 110 freeway in two weeks. For CARE+ clean ups, the sites are posted three days in advance of when Sanitation comes out.

c) Mayor's Office: Johanna Rodriguez, Harbor Area Representative, said that the current vaccination rate for Harbor Gateway North and South is 71% which is less than the rate for those living in the cities of Gardena or Torrance. Los Angeles County is giving out in-home COVID-19 testing kits at Ted Watkins Park in Watts and Helen Keller Park. Metro has started collecting fares again on buses and trains but is charging half-off for the month of January. An accurate count of the homeless on January 26 and 27 will help determine how funding is allocated. Sign up at theycountwillyou.org and register in pairs, if at all possible. There will be delays in collecting green, blue, and black bins because the Department of Sanitation is experiencing delays due to staff shortages.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 7:08 p.m.)

1) Call to order and roll call of Board members: The meeting was officially called to order at 7:08 p.m. with a quorum of Board members present.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board’s jurisdiction:

District 2 stakeholder Carolyn Webster said that the homeless camping on the sidewalks under the 110 freeway at Alondra Blvd. make it impossible to use the sidewalks. Sanitation has come out but not all items have been cleared. She has sent many emails and photos to Council District 15 and other elected officials and agencies.

District 1 stakeholder Fred Nichols said that there are homeless camped along Estrella Avenue next to Gardena Elementary School.

District 6 stakeholder Shannon Cherry-Ezell discussed the vacant lot at Hoover and Imperial Highway where an RV recently caught fire.

District 4 stakeholder Pat M. said that some type of measures need to be taken to counteract the donuts being performed by vehicles at 140th and Menlo and also to address the car repair business on Rosecrans at Menlo Avenue which parks cars being repaired on residential streets.

d) Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District: Ara An said that Supervisor Holly Mitchell is currently focusing on COVID testing. The Department of Health Services has a pilot program to give away 500 self-testing kits at L.A. County Parks, which have already been given out. CORE and Curative operate the testing sites. Check the Supervisor’s social media for the latest information.

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames wished all attending a happy new year. If Board or Planning and Land Use Committee members have an issue with their Constant Contact accounts, they should email him to get a resolution. There are now four required trainings for Board members—ethics, funding, code of conduct, and anti-bias (ABLE). Planning and Land Use Committee members need to take Planning 101. Recordings of the three CORE training modules are also available for viewing via the DONE website. Freddy also sent the links to each Board member. Neighborhood Council Funding training on funding events will be offered on January 20 at 6 p.m. and on February for Neighborhood Purposes Grant funding. The deadline for Bylaws amendments is April 1. A new Bylaws template is available to consult. There is a new digital communications and social media policy, which was first introduced in September 2020 and has been amended several times, which will be finalized soon. It will impact how items are listed on a Neighborhood Council’s website and social media. Four new project coordinators have been hired and two more will be coming on board soon, so the Department could see some reorganization of assignments. Bylaws Committee member Fred Nichols asked if a Neighborhood Council cannot update its own Bylaws by the April 1 deadline, will DONE update it for the NC? Freddy said that only the updates made in the Administrative Code, such a voting age and community interest stakeholder definition.

4) Letter of support for pocket park at 809-813 W. 165th Place in District 1: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the letter of support for the pocket park. District 1 stakeholder Fred Nichols commented that he fully supports this proposal.

5) Outreach events

a) Report on December 18 holiday drive through event giveaway at Temple of Believers Community Church: Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs was not present to give a report.

b) Tues. January 25 General Membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom: There will be a flyer delivered so more stakeholders are aware of the two speakers—Kevin Collins from the Los

Angeles County Mental Health Department and Philbert Wong from Metro about the expansion of the 105 freeway to accommodate an extra lane in each direction to create toll lanes.

c) Homeless count – January 26 for SPA 8; January 27 for SPA 6: Volunteers are still needed to sign up for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. The building at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. will be a deployment site for the January 27 count.

6) Administrative motions

a) December 9, 2021, Special Board minutes: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 8-0-1(Johnson) to approve the minutes.

b) December 14, 2021, Board minutes: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 8-0-1(Johnson) to approve the minutes.

c) December 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 8-0-0 to approve the MER.

d) Support for up to \$1,000 to support the Black History Month event to cover a stage, sound system, supplies, and possible LAUSD permit: The details of the proposed event are not yet all worked out and Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs was not present to report. The proposal is to hold an essay contest for HGNNC young people with certificates handed out at the late February event, possibly at the Imperial/Figueroa Metro station, with possible entertainment. Treasurer Piers Fairclough expressed concern about the Event Approval Form being submitted in a timely manner, at least 30 days before the event, so that Funding would have adequate time to review the need for any additional information, permits, etc. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 8-0-0 to approve HGNNC support for the Black History Month event.

7) Board business/announcements

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: Youth Issues Chair Richard Lee reported that the Committee met on November and has assigned various HGNNC schools to Committee members. Angela Springs worked on Halloween support for the 116th Steet School. Nakiesha Scott said that she could provide pencils and paper to schools through her non-profit. The Committee will be working on other ways to support the local schools.

Planning and Land Use Vice Chair Rosalie Preston said that the Committee would be meeting on January 27 and hear from Salvimex110 Restaurant on their proposal to expand their restaurant, serve a full line of alcoholic beverages, and have live entertainment and two pool tables with daily hours open to 2 a.m. The owners of Gopuff are applying for an alcoholic beverage license from the State of California for 12408 S. Hoover Street. District 4 stakeholder Pat M. said that she lives not far from the Salvimex110 Restaurant and that they already have loud music on the weekends.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: Secretary Rosalie Preston reminded Board members that many have not completed the anti-bias (ABLE) training that is available via each Board member's Cornerstone account.

(Joedette Spann entered the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

Chair Miguel Vazquez reported that a grievance was filed against the Neighborhood Council and is under review by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment until a pending certificate of determination is issued. If the grievance is approved, the matter will be discussed. No commentary is allowed as to prevent a serial meeting. Please refer to Section 22.818, Article 3 of Chapter 28 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code for clarification on the procedure.

8) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary

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