

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Piers Fairclough (Treasurer), Keith Pitts (District 1), Julia Esqueda-Arteaga, (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Arvie Powell (District 4), Jodette Spann (District 5), Joycelyn Montgomery (District 7), Jackie Jackson (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), Angela Springs (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At Large Representative)

1) Welcome/introductions/roll call of Board members: In the absence of Chair David Matthews, Vice Chairperson Joan Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. This was followed by the roll call of Board members which established that a quorum was present.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction: District 3 stakeholder Erica Payne said that the drainage channel between her home and the park has not been cleaned out since the park was relandscaped. There are also more homeless people living along the railroad tracks next to her back wall.

A District 6 stakeholder commented on the increased homeless living on Caltrans property along Grand Street north of Imperial Highway. Some have even started camping in the driveway of her property.

(Richard Lee and Joycelyn Montgomery entered the meeting at 6:40 p.m.)

3) Reports

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

b) Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that she has emailed the Chair David Matthews a schedule of City Council meeting dates. The City Council has voted that proof of vaccination at indoor events will be enforced starting November 29 for those 18 and older. There is a new ordinance on the collection bins for donated items which are placed on the public right-of-way. The ordinance sets regulations and fines. CARE and CARE Plus clean ups resumed September 7. Each of the major areas of Council District 15 will see the clean ups about every five weeks. The North Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce will help with clean ups in the HGNNC area in between times. The Redistricting Commission wants to hear more from Harbor Gateway North. Normandale Recreation Center will host a movie on November 15. Winter Wonderland will be back on Gardena Blvd. on December 10 in partnership with the North Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce. For vehicles which have not been moved for 72 hours, use 1-800-ABANDON. If the vehicle has been stripped, call LAPD. For homeless encampments, report via the la-hop website and then have Council District 15 follow up. For human waste on sidewalks, call Sanitation at 1-800-774-9794. The service can be requested 24 hours a day. District 3 Representative Rey Paduani said that the weeds in the parkway along the south side of Rosecrans need clearing. Caitlin said that she is working with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and that half of the median has been weeded.

(Angela Springs entered the meeting at 6:50 p.m.)

District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson noted that the Sidewalk Repair ordinance was adopted on July 1. She wondered if Council District 15 has created a priority list of sidewalks for repair throughout CD 15. Caitlin said they did not. District 7 stakeholder Janet Mitchell discussed the

need for further attention to the homeless encampments and trash along 116th Place west of San Pedro Street. There are a number of stripped vehicles and the rats are out of control. The street lights are all out along the block because the homeless have tapped into the electricity in the light poles. Caitlin said that the City would be coming back to work on the issue again. The RVs cannot be removed until the waste tanks are drained. Council District 15 is working with Caltrans on this issue.

Her email is caitlin.muldoon@lacity.org and her telephone is 323-568-2083.

Mayor's Office: Johanna Rodriguez, Watts and Harbor Area Deputy, said that there will be one more meeting of the Los Angeles City Redistricting Commission to discuss the draft maps of the City Council Districts. Emergency rental assistance is available through the State of California. The City has given them their list of applicants. Funds will run out by December 31. The City of Los Angeles is offering the Big Leap program to help lift Angelenos out of poverty with \$2,000 a month. Applicants must have an annual income below the Federal poverty line, have at least one dependent child, and live within City boundaries. The application period opens October 29 and closes on November 7. Johanna reminded everyone that there is still a COVID-19 pandemic going on. The vaccination rate for the Harbor Gateway is 69% while in Torrance it is 82%.

c) Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District: The foul odor from the Dominguez Channel is also impacting those living in the southern part of the HGNNC area. Information about reimbursement for air filters and other emergency support can be found at lacounty.gov/emergency/ The odor seems to be caused by decaying vegetation in the bottom of the Channel. Report the odor to the South Coast Air Quality Management District at 1-800-CUT-SMOG. Supervisor Holly Mitchell has supported Metro offering free transit to students from kindergarten through community college.

d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Freddy Cupen-Ames said that the legislature had passed AB 361, which updates how to hold open government meetings virtually per the Brown Act. A revised agenda template has been sent out to Neighborhood Councils. The law is effective until January 1, 2024. There will be two more feedback sessions on the revised Code of Conduct policy. Cornerstone training portal information updates were sent out to each Board member. CORE training Module 2 will be held on October 28 at 6:30 p.m. Module training will be held on November 30 at 6:30 p.m. Any changes to the Bylaws need to be submitted by April 1. The comment period on the Digital Media Policy is coming to a close and then the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners will hold their final discussion. The new City Council District maps are being finalized by the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission.

e) Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils: HGNNC HANC Representative Keith Pitts reported that the LADWP is encouraging a reduction in water usage by 15%. 200 Block leaders are needed for the Cool Blocks program.

f) Civic U: The three Board members who attended summarized what they had learned. District 4 Representative Arvie Powell said that there was an overview of the structure of the Los Angeles City Council, Mayor's Office, and various City Departments and a comparison to the structure of the city of New York. There was advice on how to communicate with the City Departments—be persistent and develop relationships with key Department staff. There was also some history on how Neighborhood Councils were established and the role that Mark Ridley-Thomas played in first creating the Empowerment Congresses in his Council District 8

that served as a model. Mayor Eric Garcetti gave insights on how to engage stakeholders and advocate on their behalf. District 5 Representative Jodette Spann said that the workshops emphasized that the New York Mayor is much more powerful compared to the Mayor of Los Angeles. Mark Ridley-Thomas said that he had found that it was a lot easier to accomplish things in the County of Los Angeles than when he had first served on the Los Angeles City Council. Some issues, such as homelessness, need to be handled at the Federal level. Community Organization Representative Jackie Jackson said that she had learned that Neighborhood Councils do have power to make changes.

4) Review and possible adoption of a comment letter on the Harbor Gateway Community Plan Policy Document, on a recommendation from the Planning and Land Use Committee: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames read out the draft letter, which was also screen-shared. The Harbor Gateway Community Plan covers the HGNNC Districts 1 through 5. District 6 is part of the South Los Angeles Community Plan while Districts 7 and 8 are part of the Southeast Los Angeles Community Plan. Those latter two plans were updated about six years ago. The letter included recommending support for a Metro rail line down Vermont Avenue from 120th to the Harbor Gateway Transit Center. Vice Chair Joan Jacobs expressed concern that this would create additional noise from the train operations. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the comment letter.

5) Update on the fall Board Retreat, with discussion of new date and agenda topics: After so many Special Board meetings during the month of September, it was felt that holding the Board Retreat in October did not allow enough time for developing an agenda and speakers. Vice Chair Joan Jacobs suggested that Board members email her, Jodette Spann, and Angela Springs as to preferred dates and topics. The date will probably be sometime in January.

(Rey Paduani left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.)

6) HGNNC participation in the 2022 LAHSA Homeless Count with sponsorship of a deployment site: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 12-0-0 to approve support for HGNNC sponsorship of a deployment site for the Homeless Count in January 2022.

7) Administrative motions

a) September 14, 2021, Board minutes: It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

b) September 21, 2021, Special Board/Town Hall minutes: It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Joycelyn Montgomery, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

c) September 23, 2021, Special Board minutes: It was moved by Arvie Powell, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 8:56 p.m.)

d) September 29, 2021, Special Board minutes: It was moved by Angela Springs, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

e) September 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

f) Approval of a Personal Services Agreement with Moore Business Associates for website/social media outreach services: Concern was expressed over the costs for the website

updates. However, if a new vendor is found, the HGNNC can change with a month's notice given. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Piers Fairclough, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the Personal Services Agreement.

8) Announcements: There are vacancies on the Homeless Issues Committee, the Outreach/Communications Committee, the Planning and Land Use Committee, and the Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee. The District 6 Representative DThomas Israel has resigned, so there is a vacancy for that position. If there are candidates, then those vacancies will be filled at the November 9 Board meeting.

Secretary Rosalie Preston said that the Board business cards for new Board members should be ready later next week. She reminded the Board that the cards are to be used for Board business only.

The next board meeting will be Tues. November 9. There will be a General Membership meeting on Tues. October 26.

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

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary