

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 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), Joycelyn Montgomery (District 7), William Yates (District 8), Jackie Jackson (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), Angela Springs (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At-Large Representative)

1) Call to order and roll call of Board members: Chair Miguel Vazquez called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. A quorum of Board members was not yet present.

3) Reports

a) LAPD: There was no one present to make a report.

b) Council District 8: Council Aide Laura Garcia, said that she has been in the position for six months, working for Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. She worked with Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez to get red curbs painted along the south side of the 600 block of W. 115th Street and “no parking” signs. So now there are no more RVs parked on that block. This took a number of months and the calls from vocal residents. The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count is coming up--now postponed until February 24 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The Council District 8 Field Office at 8475 S. Vermont Avenue is a deployment site. Volunteers will be staying inside their cars to do the count. Though the Re-imagine funds, Council District 8 has been able to fund six people from various local non-profits to help with clean up of illegal dumping sites.

District 7 Stakeholders living along 116th Place west of San Pedro Street asked how they can get the RVs removed from their block. Laura Garcia recommended being vocal and working with their Senior Lead Officer.

District 8 stakeholder Diana Guss said that she lives near 118th Street and Central Avenue and the flower sellers along Central Avenue block the view of drivers coming out of the neighborhood. Laura Garcia suggested contacting Bureau of Street Services to see if the seller has a permit. Youth Issues Advocate Richard Lee who lives in District 8 pointed out that the canopy used by the vendors sometimes extends into the street. District 8 Representative William Yates said that he has had other complaints about the same issue and is also working on it.

c) Council District 15: No one was present to make a report.

1) Call to order and roll call of Board members: The meeting was officially called to order at 7:12 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 7 stakeholder Janet Mitchell said that there will be a clean up along San Pedro Street under the 105 freeway on Sat. January 26 from 9 a.m. It’s been two weeks since a big pile of dirt was dumped there, reported, but still not removed.

District 7 stakeholder Pablo Saucedo Jr. also commented on the continuing illegal duping under the 105 freeway on San Pedro Street and asks that lighting be installed/repared to help with the situation.

5) Speaker: Metro (Philbert Wong) explains the possible impact of the new 105 Century Freeway Metro Express Transit Project on those living north and south of the freeway—will there be more eminent domain to widen the freeway for the toll lanes? The new toll lanes will be created between the 405 Freeway and Studebaker Road. It will be completed in two segments. Segment One will cover from the 405 Freeway and Central Avenue. Segment Two will cover from Central Avenue to Studebaker Road. The Final EIR came out in 2021 and can be viewed at metro.net/105expresslanes. The goal is to improve trip reliability, traffic times, and traffic flow and manageability along this freeway corridor. Four Alternatives were evaluated (1-do nothing, 2-existing HOV lane into a toll lane, and 3-adding an extra lane in each direction) and Alternative 3 was chosen. An extra lane in each direction will be added, but since each new toll lane will be reduced in width from 12 feet to 11 feet and because there is still sufficient Caltrans right-of-way in place, no homes will need to be taken. The freeway will be widened from six to seventeen feet. New sound walls will be constructed and existing sound walls will be reconstructed. The new design will reduce sound levels by 7 decibels or more. There is also a proposal to build a linear park above the 105 Freeway from Central Avenue to Compton Blvd., known as the 105 Willowbrook Beautification Proposal, at a cost of \$676 million. \$175 million would come from Measure M funds and \$150 million from the California Transportation Commission. The remaining funds would come from the sale of bonds. The design of Segment One is in progress; design of Segment Two will start this summer. Construction of Segment One will begin in 2024 and be completed in early 2028. Closer to when construction begins, there will be notice of the hours of construction and more outreach. Stakeholders expressed concern that the construction process would cause the rat population to come into the residential areas. Metro will be providing updates to the Neighborhood Council and other questions can be emailed to wongp@metro.net

4) Speaker: Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (Kevin Collins) discusses the workshops they offer on mental health issues/stigma: Kevin identified himself as a Community Health Worker for the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health. The Mental Health Promoters program provides information and promotes programs and workshops about mental health and the stigma of mental health. The program is based on the community promoters model which is used in other countries and provides a bridge between the community and the Department of Mental Health and its services to underserved communities. Presentations can be made in schools, child care centers, churches, etc. There should be five or more for a presentation. Many topics can be covered, including the impact of COVID-19 on mental health. Use 1-800-854-7771 for the mental health hotline, including for those who feel suicidal or feel they may do harm to others.

6) Administrative motions

a) Approval of \$484.02 to Minuteman Press for printing of 10,000 January 25, 2022, General Membership meeting flyers: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

b) Approval of \$1,575 to Walking Man for delivery of 10,000 January 25, 2022, General Membership meeting flyers: Secretary Rosalie Preston explained that the other vendor used for

many years, CIPS Marketing, no longer is able to deliver the HGNNC flyers to due staffing issues and the small number of flyers involved. The only other known vendor, Walking Man, has raised their prices due to inflation and need to pay the staff more. There was discussion of trying to find volunteers to deliver the flyers, something which may be discussed in the Outreach/Communications Committee. It was moved by Jodette Spann, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

7) Brief announcements from Board members: District 4 Representative Arvie Powell announced that a long-time District 4 stakeholder Archie Bush had recently passed away. He was active with the 135th Street Neighborhood Watch for many years and also worked with the HGNNC. His service will be February 18 at 11 a.m. at St. Andrews Missionary Baptist Church.

8) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. with a moment of silence in memory of Archie Bush.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary