

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
Ad hoc Environmental Justice Committee
555 West Redondo Beach Boulevard – Room 205
June 16, 2023**

Members Present:

Joan Jacobs; Arvie Powell; Nita Stonehocker; Lu Watson.

Member Not Present: Miguel Vazquez.

(1) Welcome/call to order/roll call: Joan Jacobs calls the meeting to order at 7:07pm, followed by roll call. {Quorum, established}

(2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Neighborhood Council’s jurisdiction. None.

(3) Approval of May 16, 2023, Ad hoc Environmental Justice Committee Minutes: Nita Stonehocker, moves; Arvie Powell, seconds.

{Motion passed: 4-0-0.}

(4) Update(s) on Assigned Topics, if any: None.

(5) Discussion:

(a) Timeline for when Committee to reach out to Amanda Bettinelli of DOJ: Chair, Miguel Vazquez, will be requested to contact Ms Bettinelli as to her availability for a July, 2023, meeting for consultation with her and for her input on work now in progress by this Committee. In addition, Committee members request the meeting is via Tele-Conference or via **Zoom**.

(b) Target Date for Submitting Recommendations to HGNNC Board: August, 2023, Board meeting.

(c) When to Request HGNNC Board post one of the EJC Tools on website:

Lu Watson suggests a Motion to “post” is placed on the July 11, 2023, Board Agenda for a vote; and that the “*Tool*” is the *EPA Air Quality Forecast*.

www.epa.gov/AirNow

Stakeholders will be able to click on link to monitor air quality in their own neighborhood(s). A potential “catchy” phrase to get attention offered by Members: “*Pollution, If You Care, Don’t Wait, Educate.*”

Joan Jacobs cautions about accuracy. The *Air Quality Forecast* reading depends upon how far the location (zip code/neighborhood) is from the monitoring station. It is a factor, has a bearing on the results; and the reading could be misleading.

(d) Review Partial List of Agreed Upon EJC Recommendations:

List:

(1) *Compatible/Non-Compatible Developments*; (2) *Supporting Research Topics*; (3) *Resources*; (4) *Invite Environmental presenter(s)/speaker(s)/specialist to General Meeting*. {Request no other presentations are scheduled for that Meeting}; (5) *Bylaws amended to include an additional Standing Committee: Environmental Justice Committee*; (6) *Educate/Engage Tools*; (7) “*Virtual Toxic Tour of Harbor Gateway North (EJC provide locations/addresses/photos)*”; and (8) *Flyers*, will be set forth in the EJC Report to HGNNC **as** Recommendations. {List is subject to **Update** and a **Vote**.}

{Nita Stonehocker: The suggestion to request the Board write a letter to Councilman McOsker regarding reclaimed and/or ground water is **Tabled**. The Board has scheduled a Presentation for the July General Meeting on the water issue.}

Miguel’s written Discussion input:

I. (a) Timeline: Within two months, or sooner. He is currently engaging stakeholders who are affected by a non-compatible business and will document the stakeholders’ personal experiences with this business; **(b) Target date** is in sync with that of EJC members; **(c)** Requesting a “*Tool*” is placed on **September** Board Agenda. **{Is not present for Input on Item 5(d), above.}**

II. Provide list of environmental lawyers or contacts that can help get the word out; and cite businesses that are contaminating the community.

{EJC Members: Defer/Refer this to Amanda Bettinelli.}

III. Show studies that were made by **AQMD** of the presence of silica in the air due to a nearby non-compatible business. Study will be published to the HGNNC website (QR code that redirects people to the Study from the website.)

{EJC Members: Should be included under EJC Recommendations in the category of *Educate/Engage Tools*} (Joan Jacobs might submit an additional *Tool* at later date.)

IV. Include ways on how to get involved in the neighborhood by forming a community scientists advocating and engaging stakeholders of pollution.

{EJC Members: Requires clarification.}

[In its Report to the HGNNC Board, EJC will endeavor to make its Recommendations clear/concise/understandable/coherent.]

(6) Create Flyer(s) which grabs stakeholders attention/engages/educates on environmental pollution on a personal level, etc.:

(a) Examples of flyers passed around;

(b) “Catchy” phrases offered:

(i) “If you *Care; Beware* of your *Air; Beware* of the *Air* you breathe, if you *Care*.” (Joan Jacobs)

(ii) “Warehouses pollute more than refineries.” (Miguel Vazquez)

{EJC members will continue to “work” on Flyer(s).}

(7) Name areas of interest in each District (locations/addresses/photos) to be included on the Virtual Tour:

- (i)** District 1 =
- (ii)** District 2 =
- (iii)** District 3 = (a) California Waste Services. Fine particulate (silica) observed in the air causing rashes and respiratory problems;
(b) Groundwater contamination underneath Redondo Beach Boulevard and Vermont Avenue.
- (iv)** District 4 = Oil drilling sites on Figueroa Street or abandoned/active wells that have caused problems for residents.
- (v)** District 5 = Oil drilling sites throughout of abandoned/active wells that have caused issues for District 4 and District 5 residents.
- (vi)** District 6 =
- (vii)** District 7 =
- (viii)** District 8 = Stanford Ave. at the 105 Fwy underpass which suffers from chronic illegal dumping.

{Locations offered in written Discussion submitted by Miguel Vasquez}

Arvie Powell suggests that a request is made to DOJ to determine who the legal owner(s) and/or lessees are of the vacant property located at the corner of Redondo Beach Boulevard & Vermont Avenue (747-761 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.). And further request that DOJ orders said person(s)/entity to undertake an environmental cleanup of the land in question.

Announcements:

(1) **Joan Jacobs** is in contact with an environmental justice expert who she may suggest as a presenter/speaker for one of the upcoming HGNNC meetings. An update will be provided.

(2) **Lu Watson** announces that *L.A.South Chamber of Commerce* is hosting a Juneteenth event tomorrow, Saturday, June 17, 2023, at Bilbrew Library from 3pm to 5pm.

Adjournment: 8:43pm. Next meeting: July 16, 2023, 6:30pm.

Minutes taken by **Lu Watson**, Secretary.

Ad hoc EJ Committee Mission:

{Recommendation(s) to HGNNC Board}

Engage: (Stakeholders); **Educate:** (Stakeholders); **Advocate:** (On behalf of Stakeholders to local/state/federal government); **Oppose:** (Non-Compatible developments); **Support:** (Compatible developments)}