

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Piers Fairclough (Treasurer), Keith Pitts (District 1), Julia Esqueda-Arteaga (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Jodette Spann (District 5), Lorenzo Johnson (District 6), Joycelyn Montgomery (District 7), Jackie Jackson, Community Organization), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), Elijah Thomas (Youth Representative), Angela Springs (Outreach/Communication), and Craig Kusunoki (At Large Representative)

1) Call to order and roll call of Board members: Chair Miguel Vazquez called the Board meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Roll call determined that a quorum of Board members was present.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction: Gopuff Government Affairs Analyst Bilegt Baatar said that their digital delivery service has a hyper-local approach. He said that he wanted to clarify that the Gopuff location proposed for 12804 S. Hoover Street is not a cannabis store, a convenience store, or a liquor store. Gopuff is still preparing its application for the Department of City Planning and will be giving an update at a future Planning and Land Use Committee meeting.

Fatima Iqbal-Zubair said that she is a candidate for the new Assembly District 65 and is listening in to get to know stakeholder issues.

3) Reports

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

b) Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that Monday is her day for working from home. Best to email her at Caitlin.muldoon@lacity.org but can call in to the Watts Field Office 323-568-2083 Tuesday through Friday. She reported on various Council Files, including 22-0040 which would report on ways to help low-income residents build and upgrade Accessory Dwelling Units. 22-0038 would report on ways to expand the City's first-time homebuyer program. 21-1465 would direct the LAPD to report back on crimes occurring within the corridors where RVs are parked along the streets. 22-0090 would fund the Mayor's Office Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) for unarmed alternatives to policing with pilot programs in GRYP zones most acutely affected by the recent surge of gun violence. A Travelodge at 18606 S. Normandie Avenue in Harbor Gateway South is being converted to a Project Homekey residence with 40 units for the formerly homeless. Monthly meetings are being held by Zoom on this project. For chronic illegal dumping locations, Sanitation Department is providing CARE two days every week, CARES + on two days, and around the Bridge Home locations on the other day. Gardena Blvd./Denver Avenue, and Estrella are one of the locations on the regular clean up list.

(Angela Springs entered the meeting at 6:46 p.m.)

In answer to a question on how a location can be added to the list, Caitlin said to send photos and dates to document the problem.

(Lorenzo Johnson entered the meeting at 6:52 p.m.)

c) Mayor's Office: Johanna Rodriguez, Harbor Area Representative for Mayor Garcetti, said that the deadline for filing for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program is March 31 via housingiskey.com. There is also assistance for those behind with their utility payments because of COVID-19 disruptions to employment. Summer Night Lights is hiring for pool clerks, lifeguards, programming coordinators. Johanna reminded us that we are still in a pandemic. Harbor Gateway, North and South, have a vaccination rate of 74%, while the rate for Gardena is 82.4% and for Torrance is 87%. There will be a vaccination van at a site in Harbor Gateway on March 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

d) Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District: Ara An discussed the requirements for wearing masks indoors and on public transportation. She urged caution in using testing sites and to verify that they are not fraudulent.

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames said that the EmpowerLA CORE training Zoom recordings are posted on the website. There will be a Town Hall on March 31 from 6-9 p.m. on writing and filing Community Impact Statements, sponsored by DONE and the Budget Tribunes. Neighborhood Council elections will be held in the spring of 2023. Freddy will be scheduling meetings with the Outreach Chair and Committee. The last date for submitting Neighborhood Purposes Grant funding requests is April . April 1 is the deadline for submitting Bylaws Amendments.

(Jackie Jackson entered the meeting at 7:36 p.m.)

4) Presentation regarding the Neighborhood Team Program and possible support for HGNNC participation: Chin Thammasaengsri, South Bureau CERT Coordinator, said that the program encourages more people to participate in preparing for disasters in their neighborhoods, such as earthquakes, fires, floods, or other emergency situations. In-person CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training classes will be returning. RYLAN, the Map Your Neighborhood Program, was set up by the City's Emergency Management Department. LAPD works with Neighborhood Watch programs. The Neighborhood Team Program combines all three elements (CERT, RYLAN, and Neighborhood Watch) to support blocks and neighborhoods in crafting their own emergency response plan with continuous guidance and support for prospective team leaders. South Carthay Neighborhood Team is the oldest operating Neighborhood Team, having been established 30 years ago. Area exercises are set up for every quarter. Some of the other active NTPs are West Adams, Leimert Park, Point Fermin, Palms, Mar Vista, Alma Park, Venice, and Coastal San Pedro. Classes are posted to the YouTube channel: <https://videos.ntp-la.org> More advanced aspects of the program are identifying staging areas where the neighborhood team can meet up after the disaster to conduct damage assessment and coordinate aid. Some neighborhoods purchase supplies which are stored on private property. There are monthly pop up exercises and anyone is welcome to attend the trainings in other neighborhoods. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 13-0-0 to approve supporting HGNNC participation in the Neighborhood Team Program.

(Joycelyn Montgomery left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.)

5) Committee appointment – Planning and Land Use Committee: Two candidates for appointment had emailed their interest. Maj Nixon and Nakiesha Scott each gave their background. Several Board members asked questions of the two. It was then moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 8-5(Jackson, Kusunoki, Pitts, Springs, Thomas)-0 to appoint Maj Nixon to the Planning and Land Use Committee.

(Lorenzo Johnson and Elijah Thomas left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.)

6) Review and approval of proposed Bylaws updates: Nakiesha Scott, Chair of the HGNNC Bylaws Committee, said that her understanding of the vote of the Bylaws Committee at its February 1 meeting was that no changes would be made. However HGNNC Chair Miguel Vazquez clarified that when the recording is listened to, the motion was for the Committee to keep the Bylaws of November 25, 2020, except for where there is a conflict with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment template. Nakiesha asked what was the purpose of the Bylaws Committee if the Committee recommendations are not considered. Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames read out from Article XIII Amendments of the HGNNC Bylaws which states that "Any Board member may propose an amendment to these Bylaws by requesting that the Secretary place the item on the agenda," which had been done. He also noted that the Article requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present to approve Bylaws amendments, with no fewer than eleven (11) Board members voting. He said that having a Committee review allows for more discussion in the Committee. Bylaws Committee member Lu Watson said that the Committee had agreed to make some updates per the Bylaws template. Bylaws Committee Secretary said that the draft of the proposed Bylaws amendments had been presented to the Bylaws Committee twice by herself, as the Committee Secretary, but discussion of the proposal had not been allowed at the Committee meetings. Committee member Lu Watson had assisted with clarifying the proposed draft. Nakiesha Scott said that Rosalie had emailed the draft to her but she did not have a discussion at the Committee meetings because of other issues. Angela Springs made a motion to table the item because

she did not think there had been enough time to review the proposed amendments. There was no second for tabling the item.

(Angela Springs left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.)

The proposed amendments were screen-shared and Rosalie read out the proposed updates and explained why they would be helpful to have included in the HGNNC Bylaws. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the Bylaws amendments. However, as eleven of seventeen Board members must approve them per current Bylaws, the amendments could not be submitted to DONE for approval. There was discussion of holding a Special Bylaws Committee meeting to review the proposed amendments and then a Special Board meeting for another vote.

7) Outreach events

a) Black History Month event on Sat. February 19 at Temple of Believers Community Church, 11721 S. Avalon Blvd. with vaccination van: Twenty people received vaccinations or booster shots at the event, which included entertainment.

b) Homeless count – February 23 for SPA 8; January 24 for SPA 6: No data was available for participation in this year's homeless count.

8) Administrative motions

a) February 8, 2022 Board minutes: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the minutes.

b) February 8, 2022, Special Board minutes: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the minutes.

c) February 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the February 2022 MER.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 9:03 p.m.)

d) Approval of \$84.89 to Studio Effects for the Harvest Blessings event banner: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

e) Treasurer's report on expenditures to date: Treasurer Piers Fairclough said that it was unlikely that the HGNNC would have more than \$10,000 to roll over after June 30 as the monthly rent for the office and the expenses for maintaining the HGNNC website are so high. There is still some funding left in the Outreach line item and also for Neighborhood Purposes Grants. There are also \$4,600 in the separate Clean Streets account. Piers said that he has not received an update on the lease for the office, which to date has never been signed by the City of Los Angeles. He asked Freddy Cupen-Ames to assist in seeing that the lease is finally signed and assistance in looking for a cheaper office and meeting site location.

9) Board business/announcements:

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: There were none.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: There were none.

10) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary