

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Keith Pitts (District 1), Julia Esqueda-Arteaga (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Jodette Spann (District 5), Lorenzo Johnson (District 6), 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 6:33 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: There was no public comment.

3) Reports

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

b) Council District 15: There was no representative present.

c) Mayor's Office: There was no representative present.

d) Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District: Ara An discussed the Guaranteed Income program, known as Breathe LA. The deadline for applying is April 13. Los Angeles County has a Youth Advisory Council and is seeking applicants. There are still many COVID-19 vaccination sites around the County of Los Angeles. Those 60 and older are eligible for a second booster. This is Black Maternal Health Week.

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames said that City Council President Nury Martinez has just announced that in-person City Council meetings will resume on May 4. However, Neighborhood Council meetings will remain virtual until the hybrid method of meeting, which is being tested out, is fine-tuned. Outreach for the 2023 Board elections starts now. Freddy will be working with Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs and the Outreach/Communications Committee between March and June to go over details. Trainings on how to file Community Impact Statements, CORE trainings for Board members, and guidelines for holding Candidate Forums are posted to the DONE website. The Congress of Neighborhoods will be held on Sat. September 24 virtually. The last date to submit a request to fund a Neighborhood Purposes Grant is April 22; final date for event approvals is May 20; June 1 is the last date to submit a payment request via check; June 20 is the last day to use the bank card.

(Lorenzo Johnson entered the meeting at 6:42 p.m.)

4) Discussion and possible support of the Healthy Street LA Initiative: Joan Jacobs, HGNNC Sustainability Liaison, read out the draft of the proposed HGNNC letter of support. Michael Schneider of Streets LA discussed the proposed ballot measure and said that the reason for proposing it is the lack of action by the City of Los Angeles on the Mobility Plan 2035. The local economy loses \$19 billion a year due to traffic gridlock. A pedestrian is killed in Los Angeles once every three days. 50% of all trips are three miles or less, with 66% five miles or less. Air quality in Los Angeles is the worst in the country. Only 3% of the proposals in the Mobility Plan have been implemented since it was approved seven years ago.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 6:55 p.m. due to technical difficulties)

The proposal is that when a street is repaired, it is then restriped per the Plan for better crosswalks and bike lanes. Twenty other Neighborhood Councils have approved the proposal so far, with a goal of having at least half of the 99 Neighborhood Councils in support. If the City Council does not adopt a plan to implement the proposal to move the Mobility Plan forward, then the Healthy Streets LA Initiative would go on the November ballot. 65,000 signatures are needed by May 25. The Initiative is being funded by the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, Todd Wexman, Yuval Bar-Zemer, and Aaron Sosnick. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 10-0-1(Powell) to approve the letter of support.

(Angela Springs entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.)

5) Comment letter on demolition/new construction timeline for Shell gas station, 854 W. El Segundo Blvd., in District 4: The draft letter was screen-shared and read aloud. District 4 Representative Arvie Powell commented that because the demolition work was started but not completed early last year, the location is unsightly and attracts graffiti and vandalism, plus there are now no lights on the property. She has been trying to find out what is causing the delay and when work will resume, without result. It was moved by Arvie Powell, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the letter.

6) Approval for Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council working with Random Lengths News to present a Council District 15 Candidate Forum in early May via Zoom:

Rosalie Preston, Secretary and HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) Representative, explained that she had proposed to HANC at their February 2 meeting that HANC sponsor a Council District 15 Candidate Forum because this is the first time in ten years that the seat has been an open seat. Everyone thought this was a good idea and asked Rosalie to organize it. An email was sent to the HANC list for helpers but no one responded. At the February 8 HGNNC Board meeting where the Forum was first mentioned, several HGNNC Board members volunteered to help.

(Elijah Thomas entered the meeting at 7:55 p.m.)

Meanwhile, Rosalie learned that *Random Lengths News* was planning to do its own Candidate Forum and the publisher James Preston Allen suggested working together on the Forum. Since some HANC members do not have a good working relationship with Allen but it was felt important to have Neighborhood Council involvement with the Forum, the current proposal is for HGNNC to be listed as a partner for the event to be held via Zoom. Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs asked how the event would be advertised and expressed the opinion that just using email and a robo-call to HGNNC stakeholders was not adequate and that a flyer should be delivered door-to-door as well, for maximum community engagement. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 10-2(Pitts, Springs)-1(Kusunoki) to approve HGNNC working with Random Lengths News to present the Council District 15 Candidate Forum on Sat. May 7 at 2 p.m. via Zoom.

(Angela Springs left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.)

7) Outreach events

a) Tues. April 26 General Membership meeting: The meeting will have a speaker from Metro on the Vermont Avenue Transit Corridor and also a speaker from Sanitation on what goes into the blue, green, and black bins, the new organic recycling program, and plans to better address illegal dumping. A flyer about the meeting will be delivered to the 10,000 households.

b) Tabling at elementary schools for Cinco de Mayo events: Outreach/Communications Chair was not present to discuss this proposal.

8) Administrative motions

a) March 8, 2022 Board minutes: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes.

(Angela Springs returned to the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

b) March 2022 Monthly Expenditures Report: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

(Lorenzo Johnson left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.)

c) Approval of up to \$500 for outreach items for elementary school outreach tabling: It was moved by Angela Springs, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the proposal.

9) Board business/announcements:

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: There were none.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: Chair Miguel Vazquez announced that the Beautify LA Grant application period is now open and closes on May 4 at 5 p.m.

10) Adjournment: There will be a short Special Board meeting held on April 14 to consider funding for flyer printing and delivery to the 10,000 HGNNC households for better awareness of the CD 15 election and four candidates running to fill the seat. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary