

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (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), William Yates (District 8), 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 6:36 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: Kim Leduff, District 5 stakeholder, said that for a year she and her husband have been reporting the issue of the alley located between 124th and 25th Streets at Vermont Avenue having major potholes and even sinking areas in places, with only a few potholes filled but the entirety of the alley issues not addressed. They are also concerned with the speeding on Vermont Avenue and would like to see safer crosswalks with flashing lights for pedestrians crossing Vermont Avenue to Helen Keller Park.

Joseph P. Lopez, resident of Wilmington and a State Ambassador from WestCal Academy, which develops career paths for college students in partnership with industry mentors, said that they will have a booth at AltaSea on Sat. May 21 from 1-3 p.m.

(Arvie Powell arrived at 6:44 p.m.)

3) Reports

a) Senior Lead Officer Angelo Stewart: Officer Stewart patrols the area of Districts 7 and 8. He summarized the recent crimes that have taken place in those areas, including carrying a concealed weapon (four guns and 5 magazines), victim beaten and stabbed while walking down the street, a fentanyl death, a dui after crashing the vehicle, robbery at the Metro station at Figueroa Street and 115th, a stabbing while walking from the 7 Eleven at Imperial and Avalon, and two RVs near the homeless encampment at 117th and Main Street were set on fire. Officer Stewart also said that the LAPD catalytic converter etching event at Ascension Church on April 30 saw 86 converters etched. It is possible that after May 15 RVs parked along the streets will be able to be impounded. Officer Stewart can be reached at (213) 793-0726.

b) Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon explained how to find the agendas for City Council meetings and to log onto viewing them through the City Clerk's website. The City Council is meeting in person again; to attend in person you must have your proof of COVID-19 vaccinations and wear a mask or have proof of a recent negative test. The satellite offices for Council District 15 will re-open on May 16. However, be sure to schedule your visit so that not too many people are visiting at any one time. After May 15, RVs used as dwelling can be towed, but there is limited space in the yards where they are taken, decontaminated, and dismantled, so the removal process will be slow. The moratorium on non-payment of back rent has been renewed, though Councilmember Buscaino voted no on this issue. The newest updates to the proposed new Harbor Gateway Community Plan will be out in the next week or so and stakeholders should make public comment. For 311 requests that are not completed, email Diana Gonzalez and copy Caitlin Muldoon for follow up.

(William Yates entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)

Vandalism to street lights takes a while to repair as the City installs additional layers of protection to prevent a repeat of the copper wiring theft.

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

d) Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District: Ara An had a conflict and was unable to be present.

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames is on vacation this week.

f) Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils: Rosalie Preston reported on the May 4 meeting highlights. LADWP is offering grants of from \$100,000 to \$500,000 to non-profits with at least three years of service for mitigation programs, as part of their Community Emission Reduction Grants Program. DONE General Manager Raquel Beltran announced that while the City Council has started meeting in person again, all City Departments will continue to operate virtually until the City Attorney's office has worked out the new format. On May 18 the City Council begins its review of the Mayor's proposed 2022-2023 budget. DONE has asked for funding for a position to work on conflict resolution within Neighborhood Councils plus additional Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates, and an Executive Assistant for the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. The NC Virtual Governance Working Group is meeting to come up with recommendations on how to hold hybrid meetings. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners has finalized the new Code of Conduct.

Sheryl Akerblom, Coastal San Pedro NC, who has been serving as the unpaid HANC Secretary, said that she was resigning. She has been offering her personal Zoom account for the HANC meetings. She has also been creating the agendas and sending out information to the HANC email list. A few of the HANC NCs have supported the cost of the HANC website via voted donations. Melanie Labrecque of Northwest San Pedro NC offered to assist Sheryl and asked for others to offer assistance to share the work. The Regional Alliances operate independently of the City.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

4) Approval of an updated comment letter on the Harbor Gateway Community Plan, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee: The draft letter recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee was screen-shared. It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Rosalie Preston and passed 14-0-0 to approve the comment letter.

5) Outreach Committee appointment: Rosalie Preston had expressed interest via email in being appointed to the Outreach Committee. It was moved by Angela Springs, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 14-0-0 to appoint Rosalie Preston to the Committee.

6) Outreach events

a) May 7 Council District 15 Candidate Forum via Zoom: 110 were present and the recording link is posted to the HGNNC website. A number of stakeholders said that they had had trouble logging on to the Forum.

b) National Night Out at LAPD Southeast Division – August 2: The HGNNC will have a booth at the event.

(Jackie Jackson entered the meeting at 7:39 p.m.)

7) Administrative motions

a) April 12, 2022 Board minutes: It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 15-0-0 to approve the minutes.

b) April 14 Special Board minutes: It was moved by Jodette Spann, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 12-0-3(Fairclough, Pitts, Springs) to approve the minutes.

c) April 26 General Membership meeting minutes: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Angela Springs, and passed 15-0-0 to approve the minutes.

d) April 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report: Treasurer Piers Fairclough reviewed the expenditures for the month and noted that the office rent and costs for updating the HGNNC website were the biggest expenditures. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 14-0-0 to approve the MER for April 2022.

e) Treasurer's Report on 2022-2023 budget: Piers reviewed the expenditures to date, which show that \$5,600 is left from the 2021-2022 budget allocated to the HGNNC. He expects \$3,500 to \$4,000 to be included in the money allowed to roll-over for the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget. He pointed out that the office rent will total about half of the \$35,000 allocation for next year. The HGNNC is exploring changing webmasters to cut costs. Youth Advocate Richard Lee suggested allocating funds in next year's budget so that all Board members could have name tags secured by magnets, as were provided about four or five years ago for use when at outreach events.

8) Board business/announcements:

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: There were none.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: Chair Miguel Vazquez said that there will be another Council District 15 Candidate Forum held in Watts in person and also via Zoom on Thurs. May 12 from 5-7 p.m.

Miguel announced that the Beautify LA Grant application period has been extended to June 10. Two applications from the HGNNC have been acknowledged, one to beautify Stanford under the 105 freeway from 116th Place to just south of the freeway and one for San Pedro under the 105 freeway, plus north to 116th Place and just south of the freeway.

9) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary