

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Vice 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), 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 6:41 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 none.

3) Reports

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

b) Council District 8: There was no one present.

c) Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon said that the City Council is now meeting in person. The public may attend but must wear masks and show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. She reviewed the two types of clean ups that Sanitation provides: CARE and CARE+, the latter of which requires 72-hour notice to the homeless in encampments. She gave out the number to call for vehicles parked on a street for more than 72 hours: 1-800-ABANDON.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 6:58 p.m.)

4) Speaker: Proposal to build Tiny Home Village of 41 beds, 600 E. 116th Place in District 8: Caitlin Muldoon, CD 15 Field Deputy discussed details of the proposal, although it is Gabriela Medina from CD 15 who has the most details but was unable to attend. The Tiny Home Village will provide interim housing for those who are seniors and have been homeless and difficult to house in the Harbor Gateway North area. Supportive services and oversight of the Village will be provided by HOPCIS. The bids for building the Tiny Homes went out yesterday and the deadline is August 17. The Council File which includes this project is 20-0841-S23. It was to have been on the Homeless and Poverty Committee agenda, but that meeting was cancelled. There is no design plan yet.

District 8 stakeholder Deborah Robinson said that she would have liked to see a PowerPoint presentation of the issue with more details. She wondered if this is already a "done deal"? How will the 41 units be placed on the parking lot? The area has already seen an impact from the nearby homeless encampments along the 105 freeway near Stanford. Caitlin said that the number was picked to be able to fit on the property and that HOPCIS will be on site to oversee the residents.

Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs said that she had heard about the proposal earlier but been told that there was no funding for it. She questioned the location so close to the 116th Street Elementary School and homes. The lot does not seem to be big enough

for 41 units. Caitlin said that there will be 24-hour security on site and supportive services provided to the residents. Other Tiny Home projects are across from parks and pre-schools. No one will be allowed to camp near the site. The site was chosen as it is close to bus lines and the METRO so that the residents can walk to transportation. Drug use will not be allowed on site. She can schedule speakers with more details for future meetings.

(Jackie Jackson entered the meeting at 7:11 p.m.)

District 8 stakeholder Kim Johnson said that she lives across the street from the site. She is concerned about an increase in crime on the site. Caitlin explained that there will be wrap-around services and support 24 hours per day. However, Kim expressed concern about the site being located next to where children walk to school. Caitlin said that the units will be single-story. The exact dimensions are unknown at this time. Caitlin did not know the locations of all of the Tiny Home Villages in the City and whether any others were located in residential neighborhoods. At this time there is only one other Tiny Home Village in CD 15 which is across from Harbor College and near a pre-school. The residents will live there for an unspecified amount of time until permanent housing can be found for them. If a person is found to be unsuited to living in the Village, then CD 15's Homeless Deputy Alexis Lauro will be involved in finding them somewhere else to live.

District 8 stakeholder S. Greene expressed concern that some of the residents might be sex offenders and that they should not be living within 500 feet of the 116th Street Elementary School. She said she was concerned that nearby residents had not been informed earlier. She only knew about the issue because of the meeting flyer delivered by District 8 Representative William Yates yesterday. She is a 20-year homeowner of the area and does not think that this would happen in other neighborhoods. The neighborhood is already impacted by the widening next year of the 105 freeway. Caitlin said she would look into why there was not earlier notification.

District 8 stakeholder B.J. Oates wondered why seniors would need to use public transportation to look for jobs—is it realistic that they would be hired? She also expressed concerns that the site is next to the 105 freeway and the homeless from nearby encampments could come into the site. Caitlin said that there will be fencing around the site. Entrance will be through gates with security checks. No one who does not live there can be on site. She believes that there will also be security cameras. She is not sure if there is a listing of Tiny Home Villages throughout the City of Los Angeles. She knows some are already operating in other Council Districts.

District 5 stakeholder Eva Pace asked whether the residents would all be seniors and who selects the tenants. Caitlin said the goal is to provide housing for homeless seniors from the HGNNC area. HOPICS will be doing the outreach and knows the individuals they have been working with. People are not forced to go into the Tiny Home Village, but only if they are ready to do so. However, if it does not work out for them then their bed will be given to someone else.

District 8 stakeholder Kim Johnson asked about the timeline for the project.

District 5 stakeholder Nakiesha Scott asked if there would be pro-active resources for children in case of exposure of any kind? Will there be funding for homeowners to have access to in case of break ins or vandalism? Caitlin said that HOPICS would have access to resources and the

116th Street Elementary School has counselors on site. Caitlin will also look into whether there are relevant City services for these issues.

District 4 Representative Arvie Powell asked how the project was being funded and Caitlin said through funds from the State of California, from the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Grant Fund (HHAP). \$3,620,982 is being allocated to this project.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.)

5) Speaker: United to House LA ballot measure on the November 8 ballot, which proposes to create a large fund for housing in Los Angeles through a tax on properties which sell for over \$5 million: Lorraine Lundquist, volunteer for the campaign, said that over 100,000 signatures had been gathered and verified. The measure will be on the November 8 ballot but there is no letter for it yet. Some other Neighborhood Councils have endorsed it. The measure would require a very small tax on the sale of mega mansions which sell for over \$5 million and the funds will be used to provide more funds for housing the homeless and also to support renters to help prevent them becoming homeless. It's a one-time tax on real estate when the properties are sold in the City of Los Angeles and is expected to generate \$875 million annually. The tax will impact only 3% of property sales. Of the funds raised, 70% will go towards building and maintaining affordable housing and 30% will go to supportive services for at-risk renters. Robust oversight of the funds raised includes a paid citizens oversight committee. 160 organizations have endorsed the measure. The real estate tax applies to all types of real estate, including apartments, industrial properties, and commercial properties.

6) Brief announcements from Board members: Chair Miguel Vazquez said that the proposals by the HGNNC for Beautify LA Grants on Stanford under the 105 freeway and San Pedro under the 105 Freeway have been approved for the second phase of submittal.

8) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary