

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Julia Esqueda-Arteaga (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Jodette Spann (District 5), Joycelyn Montgomery (District 7), 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 6:35 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: District 5 stakeholders Kim and Constantin LeDuff discussed the alley to the south of 125th Street that badly needs complete repaving. They will email the HGNNC for more advice on how to get the alley on the repaving list with Bureau of Street Services.

3) Reports

a) Council District 15: Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon reported that Council File 22-0630 passed the City Council; this supports dedicating the intersection of 135th Street and Hoover Street as Betty Hawkins Square in honor of the long-time HGNNC Board member and member of the 135th Street Neighborhood Watch. She will let the HGNNC Board know of the dedication date. Council File 20-0841-S23 (Tiny Home Village at 600 E. 116th Place) was updated after the City Council approved the lease agreement with Caltrans for the site on August 5. Los Angeles Municipal Code 41.18 was amended and passed by the City Council today to make it unlawful for a person to sit, lie, or sleep, or to store, use, maintain, or place personal property within 500 feet of schools and daycare centers. For CARE and CARE+ clean ups of homeless encampments, let Caitlin know of the locations which need this. She will submit the requests and then it will take about two weeks for Sanitation to come out. Regarding the Tiny Home Village at 600 E. 116th Place, CD 15 District Director Gabriela Medina and Alexis Lauro, Assistant Homelessness Deputy, will be conducting informational meetings on the proposal with interested residents. The Tiny Home Village will be 41 units, one person per unit, with a target population of senior who have been hard-to-house. HOPICS will be the service provider.

(Elijah Thomas entered the meeting at 6:41 p.m.)

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

c) Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District: Field Deputy Ara An said that on a motion by Supervisor Hilda Solis, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors had voted to waive the requirement for U.S. citizenship in order to be hired for Los Angeles County positions. On a motion by Supervisor Holly Mitchell, the Board of Supervisors has voted to expand equitable access to L.A. County contracts. Los Angeles County is working to get more resources to the community to prevent Monkey pox cases. There will be a walk in clinic on August 10 at 8 a.m. at St. John's Community Health, 4251 Crenshaw Blvd. There will be a back-to-school supplies giveaway event on August 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 700 N. Bullis Road in Compton.

d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Council Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames was not present for the report.

4) Approval of support for Council File 22-0002-S82, which supports California SB1122 and AB2897, which would expand the territory of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to include the watershed of the Dominguez Channel, as recommended by the PLU

Committee: The draft letter was screen-shared and read out by Secretary Rosalie Preston. The state bills would add the Dominguez Channel to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and thus be a future source of funding to revitalize the Dominguez Channel, a portion of which flows through the southern section of HGNNC. It was moved by Jodette Spann, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the motion to support the Council File.

5) Approval of a comment letter and Community Impact Statement on Council File 20-0841-S23, COVID-19 Homelessness Roadmap funding recommendations for \$3.7 million Tiny Home Village with 41 beds at 600 E. 116th Place, which has been funded by the L.A. City Council:

The draft letter was screen-shared and read out. The letter expresses the HGNNC concern that the community was not consulted on the location of the Tiny Home Village, which would be located within 500 feet of the 116th Street School and also a number of homes. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Angela Springs, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the comment letter and Community Impact Statement filing.

6) Approval of letters of support for three parkway improvement projects

a) HGNNC parkway improvement along Stanford Avenue between 116th Place and 118th Street, with funding from the HGNNC Clean Streets funds and Beautify LA Grant: Chair Miguel Vazquez, as the applicant for the BeautifyLA Grant, showed an aerial view of the location and explained the proposal to plant California native plants and other drought-tolerant plants along the parkways on either side of Stanford from 116th Place to just south of the 105 Freeway. There was some discussion of how the plantings will be maintained, weeded, and watered. The plantings will beautify the parkways and help to deter illegal dumping in the area. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 13-0-0 to submit a letter of support.

(Julia Esqueda-Arteaga left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)

b) HGNNC parkway beautification along San Pedro Street between 116th Place and 118th Street, with funding from the HGNNC Clean Streets funds and Beautify LA Grant:

Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs explained that once school is back in session, she will be working with parents at the 118th Street School, and possibly also Samuel Gompers Middle School and Pathways Medical Magnet, to have parents and students design the plantings and other features to discourage illegal dumping under the 105 freeway. The plants will be low water use and easy to maintain. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 12-0-0 to submit a letter of support.

c) Vermont Avenue Parkway Project, south of 17200 S. Vermont Avenue and north of Artesia Blvd., with funding from a Beautify LA Grant and other sources and proposed by Friends of the Air, Earth and Water: Rosalie Preston, who is also the President of the Friends of the Air, Earth and Water, a small environmental non-profit, shared a photo of the existing parkway which is south of the large AT&T building and north of Artesia Blvd. The site is part of one of the major entrances to the Harbor Gateway North area. The parkway is currently filled with weeds and not maintained by the City of Los Angeles. It also includes a GTrans/Torrance Transit bus stop, which the group would like to improve with permeable paving, if adequate funding can be obtained. The beautification will consist of preparing the soil in October and then in late November planting 98 California native plants and covering the area with mulch. Students from the Environmental Charter Middle School and others will help with the planting, occasional watering, and maintenance. The group is applying to adopt the parkway under the City's Adopt-a-Median program and for the native plants will be applying for a Conze Grant

from the South Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. A small sign with a Q code will be placed on the site acknowledging the Conze grant and explaining which native plants have been used and their habitat value. Joan Jacobs suggested also including that the site is part of the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council area. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 12-0-0 to submit a letter of support.

7) Outreach events

a) Neighborhood Team Program training via Zoom beginning in August: The latest start date for the monthly Zoom classes that the Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee has been given is either August 18 or 25.

b) Report on National Night Out at LAPD Southeast Division – August 2: Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs said that she was not able to arrive until the very end due to her work schedule but she could see that it had been a successful event, with entertainment on the stage, Congressmember Maxine Waters speaking, LADWP, Sanitation, 911 operators, 311, Southern California Gas, North Harbor Gateway Chamber, and Live Yo Life having booths. The HGNNC gave out reusable bags, pens, pencils, and a resource sheet, plus the HGNNC brochure explaining what a Neighborhood Council is in English and Spanish. Chair Miguel Vazquez helped set up and Frankie Mays, Rosalie Preston, and William Yates of the Outreach/Communications Committee were present at the booth. Councilmember Joe Buscaino stopped by and all three Senior Lead Officers for HGNNC were present: Robert Martinez, Angelo Stewart, and Carmen Gutierrez.

8) Administrative motions

a) July 12, 2022 Board minutes: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes.

b) July 26, 2022, General Membership minutes: It was moved by Arvie Powell, seconded by Jodette Spann, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes.

c) July 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report: In the absence of Treasurer Piers Fairclough, Chair Miguel Vazquez shared the July 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report and reviewed the expenditures. \$623.00 was spent during July, \$1,482.75 was encumbered, and therefore of the \$32,000 allocated at the beginning of July, \$29,894.25 is remaining. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the July 2022 MER.

9) Board business/announcements:

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: PLU Committee Vice Chair Rosalie Preston announced that the August 25 Planning and Land Use Committee meeting will be cancelled. SoLA Impact is proposing another apartment development on Main Street at Imperial Highway with 121 apartments, 60 parking spaces, and only 12 very low income units. The site at 110-112 W. Imperial Highway is where the 7-Eleven with gas station was going to be built, but the PLU Committee has not heard what happened to that project, which the City had approved. SoLA Impact will most likely discuss their new project at the October 27 Planning and Land Use Committee meeting.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: Secretary Rosalie Preston announced that L.A. REPAIR (Reforms for Equity and Public Acknowledgement of Institutional Racism) will include a participatory budget process to determine how \$8.5 million for nine REPAIR Zones will be allocated. Harbor Gateway North is included in the Wilmington/Harbor Gateway Zone.

10) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.