

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), 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), William Yates (District 8), 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 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:

District 1 stakeholder Lois Saito reported that her next door neighbor was out walking and tripped on a lifted sidewalk at 17217 S. Hoover Street, hit her head on a nearby low block wall, and later died of her injuries. She asked that the Neighborhood Council send condolences. District 1 Representative Keith Pitts and At-Large Representative Craig Kusunoki will be working on reporting similar lifted sidewalks that need repair. Many seniors walk in the Merit Tract neighborhood and have to walk in the street to avoid the lifted sidewalks.

District 1 stakeholder Ronald Robinson said that he also wanted to comment on the sidewalk issue as this is not the first person to trip and fall in the neighborhood.

District 1 stakeholder Chrissy Lovett said that she lives near Lois Saito and the late Mrs. Cooper home. She said that there are so many badly cracked and lifted sidewalks and they also impact children who are riding scooters and bicycles.

3) Reports

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

b) Mayor's Office: Jocelyn Dominguez, Harbor and Watts Area Representative, discussed the Lease Up LA program which is looking for property owners who are looking to fill vacant units with rent-ready tenants. Hire LA Youth is an on-going program that provides both virtual and in-person jobs for those 14 to 24. Apply at hirelayouth.com HACLA is accepting applications for the Section 8 lottery from October 17 to October 30 at 6 p.m. The applications must be submitted online, with public libraries and other agencies available to assist with the application. The speed hump applications closed, with 25 applications from CD 15 accepted. Jocelyn will try to find out which streets are on the list.

c) Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District: There was no representative present.

d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Council Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames said that the City Clerk will open the candidate filing portal for Region 11 on November 2.

(Lorenzo Johnson arrived at 6:44 p.m.)

If Neighborhood councils are considering taking a position on ballot measures, follow the Department's guidelines. The September 24 Congress of Neighborhoods recording is now available online.

(Angela Springs arrived at 6:50 p.m.)

4) Approval of 2023 election budget as recommended by the Outreach/Communications Committee:

The proposed budget totaling \$6,809 was screen-shared and reviewed.

(Jackie Jackson arrived at 6:54 p.m.)

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 12-0-0.

5) Approval of the HGNNC Planning Vision statement, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee:

The draft Planning Vision was screen-shared and reviewed. Rosalie Preston gave some background on the Vision statement, saying it is based on one presented at PlanCheckNCLA by the Sustainability Alliance. The purpose of the Vision statement is to have it ready to present to the next councilmember for CD 15 and also to developers proposing new projects, as well as being useful as a checklist for reviewing proposed projects. Rosalie suggested adding in a section recommending buffer zones between industrial and residential uses as in reviewing the new Harbor Gateway Community Plan proposals and current land use, there are a number of industrial uses next to residential that need buffer zones created in the future. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 14-0-0 to adopt the HGNNC Planning Vision statement, with the amendment on industrial uses and buffer zones.

6) Approval of HGNNC comment letter on the South LA Community Plan CPIO Amendment, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee:

The comment letter was screen-shared and reviewed. Rosalie Preston explained that the proposed changes are hard to interpret from the maps provided on the Department of City Planning website. She attended the public hearing but was still not clear if some of the proposals to retain affordable housing units in new buildings after a demolition will apply to the whole of the South LA Community Plan area or just to sections around the USC area. The City Planner assigned to the Amendment was emailed but never responded to questions. The comment letter reinforces the HGNNC position during the initial update to the South LA Community Plan on preserving the R1 neighborhoods of District 6 and not having overly intensive development on the Ralphs lot, 11922 S. Vermont Avenue in the future, as well as preserving affordable units of housing. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 14-0-0 to approve the comment letter on the South LA Community Plan CPIO.

7) Outreach events

a) Possible Harvest Blessing turkey giveaway in November: Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs said that the HGNNC would not organize a turkey giveaway this year, but instead focus on the Board election.

b) 2023 Board election candidate filing begins December 2 – January 17: Harbor Gateway South NC and others in the Harbor area have expressed an interest in working together on election outreach.

8) Administrative motions

a) September 13, 2022, Board minutes: It was moved by Jodette Spann, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 14-0-0 to approve the minutes.

b) September 20, 2022, Special Board minutes: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Angela Springs, and passed 14-0-0 to approve the minutes.

c) September 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report: In the absence of Treasurer Piers Fairclough, Chair Miguel Vazquez screen-shared the Monthly Expenditure Report and reviewed the two expenditures for the past month. He also went over the working budget that Piers had sent to the Executive Board. The roll-over funds from the 2021-2022 fiscal year have still not been added to this year's budget, creating a \$700 deficit. The lease for the smaller, cheaper office has still not been finalized, so the HGNNC will be paying the extra amount for at least five

months of the fiscal year, which had not been anticipated. It was moved by Angela Spring, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

8) Board business/announcements:

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: Kridikel Truthbey, member of the Homeless Issues Committee, commented that the Committee needs to be more active in addressing the issues of the unhoused. She also commented that attacks on Committee members should not be allowed and that the Committee needs to operate in a more professional way.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: District 1 Representative Keith Pitts said that in the same manner that Neighborhood Council Board members have trainings and standards that they must adhere to, the members of the City Council should be held to those same standards. Nury Martinez, Gil Cedillo, and Kevin de Leon should be censured or resign due to their offensive remarks from October 2021 that were recently made public. Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames said that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment had sent out a listing of the Council Files introduced by the City Council this morning and that Neighborhood Councils are encouraged to consider and take positions on them. It was then decided to hold a Special Board meeting on October 13 to vote on some of the relevant Council Files.

District 4 Representative Arvie Powell asked how the death of Mrs. Cooper in the Merit Tract, due to the uplifted sidewalk, would be addressed. District 1 Representative Keith Pitts said that he and At Large Representative Craig Kusunoki would be gathering information and refer back to the Board so that a comment letter can be written.

District 5 stakeholder Alex Jimenez was not able to be present during General Public Comment and asked to speak about the September 25 street stakeholder at 120th Street and Hoover which created a disturbance of the peace lasting forty minutes, when the LAPD finally arrived. He is hoping he can get a copy of the 911 call log from the date of the street takeover to understand what caused the delay in response. There is also a neighbor playing very loud music and never any response when the 1-877-ASK-LAPD number is called.

Chair Miguel Vazquez said that there will be a General Membership meeting via Zoom on Tuesday October 25.

9) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary