

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Keith Pitts (District 1), Julia Esqueda-Arteaga (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Lorenzo Johnson (District 6), Jackie Jackson (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), Elijah Thomas (Youth Representative), 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 6:38 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) Council District 15: There was no representative present.

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

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

d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Council Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames reminded everyone that Board election season is here. Candidate filing for Region 12 has opened and will close on January 17. He will be meeting one-on-one with the Election Committee and will provide a link to the election timeline. He will also provide a link to legislative reports from City Council.

(Elijah Thomas entered the meeting at 6:52 p.m.)

The HGNNC will have vote by mail and also in-person voting held on Saturday April 1.

4) Approval of having The Mail Room provide website services, agenda posting, social media, and email blasts for a cost not to exceed \$240 a month, as recommended by the

Outreach/Communications Committee: Kristina Smith of The Mail Room said that she provides website services for many other Neighborhood Councils. She has now partnered with Aaron DeVandry who is very experienced with WordPress. The monthly flat cost would be \$200. The additional \$40 monthly cost would apply if HGNNC changes from InMotion Hosting to web hosting in the cloud. Rosalie Preston said that three estimates for website maintenance were reviewed, including the current website provider Moore Business Results, and The Mail Room's costs were definitely the lowest while the websites they have created look good and are very functional. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 8-0-0 to approve having the Mail Room provide the HGNNC website services, social media postings, and email blasts for no more than \$240 a month.

5) Presentation by Enrich LA, which builds organic schoolyard gardens and provides Garden Rangers to teach students how to grow fruits and vegetables, healthy eating and the environment, regarding their proposal to create a schoolyard garden at the 118th Street School: Catrina Estrada of Enrich LA discussed the work of the non-profit, which started in 2011 and installs school gardens or renovates existing school gardens. She is working with the 118th Street School to find \$9,000 to create a garden on the campus. The school will raise \$6,900 and the rest will be raised by Enrich LA through grants. Enrich LA is currently working on gardens and the Garden Ranger program at 80 schools. Enrich LA will ask the HGNNC to fund the Garden Ranger program at the 118th Street School at a cost of \$1,150, which covers materials for the monthly garden-related educational programs for the students from September to May. As the Executive Director, Catrina Estrada evaluates each school for the best garden site. The community can possibly be involved with the garden construction and volunteer days once the gardens are established. The students harvest the vegetables, Enrich LA helps to prepare the salads, etc. and the families can take home the leftovers. Some schools are able to host mini farmers' markets.

6) Outreach events

a) **2023 Board election candidate filing begins December 2 – January 17:** Most Board members did not receive the postcard in the first week of December, though it was delivered to all four Post Offices by Minuteman Press. It has been received in the Merit Tract of District 1, north of 135th Street in District 4, and just north of the 105 freeway in District 6.

b) **HGNNC booth at new CD 5 Councilmember Tim McOsker's community swearing in at the Wilmington Waterfront Park:** Keith Pitts reported that he set up the HGNNC booth, with Angela Springs, Rosalie Preston, Jackie Jackson, and Richard Lee also participating. The swearing in ceremony was impressive and included performances by the Banning High School band. The event also provided a great opportunity to meet those from other Neighborhood Councils.

7) Administrative motions

a) **November 8, 2022, Board minutes:** It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the minutes.

b) **November 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report:** In the absence of Treasurer Piers Fairclough, Chair Miguel Vazquez reviewed the expenses during November. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 8-0-0 to approve the November 2022 MER.

(Angela Springs entered the meeting at 7:28 p.m.)

8) Board business/announcements:

a) **Reports from Committee Chairs:** Outreach/Communications Committee Chair Angela Springs said that the Committee is planning a Black History Month program in the Rosecrans Recreation Center gymnasium in February with a talent show and refreshments. She will be meeting with the new Recreation Center Director Wesley King on January 4. Approval of the event will be on the January 10 Board agenda.

b) **Brief announcements from Board members:** District 4 Representative Arvie Powell said that the lifted street area of the left-hand turn onto 135th Street going south on Vermont Avenue has been repaired by the County of Los Angeles after the City of Gardena contacted them about the issue.

At-Large Representative Craig Kusunoki announced that the Vermont Avenue Parkway north of Artesia Blvd. got planted with 98 native plants with a lot of help from students of the Environmental Charter Middle School on December 10.

Chair Miguel Vazquez said that there will be a Christmas parade along Imperial Highway from Charity Mission Church to Gompers Middle School, with newly elected Councilmember Tim McOsker as the Grand Marshall on Saturday December 17. HGNNC will staff a booth in the gymnasium after the parade.

Miguel thanked District 4 Representative Arvie Powell, former CD 15 Field Deputy Caitlin Muldoon, and Harbor Area DOT engineer Quan Tran for supporting plans to prepare traffic mitigation measures for the intersection of 135th Street and Hoover, the Betty Hawkins Square.

Miguel announced that Harbor Gateway South will be supporting a Winter Wonderland event on December 9 at the Harbor Gateway South Boys and Girls Club.

9) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary