

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Keith Pitts (District 1), Julia Esqueda-Arteaga (District 2), Arvie Powell (District 4), Jodette Spann (District 5), 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 6:40 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 2 stakeholder Nita Stonehocker asked about the status of the proposed Prologis warehouse at the corner of Vermont Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd.

District 6 stakeholder Erin commented on the trash along the railroad tracks south of 116th Street from Vermont Avenue to Hoover Street. She is also concerned about the RVs on 120th Street near Hoover.

Jodi Moreno, Storage Operations Manager of Nova Storage in District 4, said that there are four RVs parked along side their business on 132nd Street west of Figueroa Street, with people living inside them. They have been doing monthly clean ups and have security on site, but the presence of the RVs and homeless is scaring away their customers. As a solution, she would like to have the curbs along 132nd Street painted red.

District 8 stakeholder Al Spencer discussed the issues along Central Avenue south of 118th Street and the 105 freeway exit where there is a lot of trash and issues with the flower sellers on the sidewalks. From 118th to 119th RVs are parked along Central Avenue. Also there is irregular street sweeping on 118th Drive and when it is done, the streets along the curbs are not properly cleaned. He is interested in getting speed humps on his block.

District 3 stakeholder Martha Cerda wanted to know who to contact about the Rosecrans Farms community garden supervisor which runs from 149th Street to 146th Street west of Denver Avenue.

Vice Chairperson Joan Jacobs advised stakeholders to also have their neighbors call 311 about issues to create more attention for their resolution.

District 7 stakeholder Jessye Stafford noted that there is continual illegal dumping along Main Street under the 105 freeway. Also RVs are moving from one street to another in the area.

(Angela Springs entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)

District 8 stakeholder Oscar Ruiz asked for the status of clean up of the homeless encampment south of the 105 freeway and north of the Belvue Presbyterian Church.

3) Reports

a) Council District 8: No one was present.

b) Council District 15: Newly elected Councilmember Tim McOsker introduced himself and also the new Field Deputy for the Harbor Gateway area, Nicholas Chavez, who will be attending the monthly HGNNC Board meetings. Councilmember McOsker serves Watts, Harbor Gateway, Harbor City, Wilmington, and San Pedro. He has been focusing on the homelessness issue since Mayor Bass declared a state of emergency for this issue and has been focused on homeless encampments and motor homes parked along the major streets. He plans to be very focused on constituent issues. His new District Director is Erika Velazquez, who will oversee the five Field Deputies. Erika previously worked for Janice Hahn when Councilmember and also recently in her role as County Supervisor. Use 311 to request street sweeping, illegal dumping, sidewalk repair, tree trimming, and other City services. The Councilmember has been appointed Chair of the City Council Personnel, Audits, and Housing Committee, Vice Chair of the Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee, a member of the Energy and Environment Committee (which oversees Sanitation and LADWP) and a member of the Budget Committee and the Public Safety Committee (which oversees the Police and Fire Departments). Field

Deputy Chavez said that besides being the new Harbor Gateway field Deputy, he lives in the Harbor Gateway North area. He can be reached by email: nicholas.i.chavez@lacity.org

District 5 stakeholder Nakiesha Scott asked how she can have her grievance against the Neighborhood Council addressed. Councilmember McOsker said that grievances are handled by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and if there has been a problem to send him documentation so he can follow up. Ms. Scott also asked how we can make sure that all ballots that will be cast in the spring Neighborhood Council election will be counted because they were not all counted in the 2021 election.

Kridikel Truthbey said there have been issues with housing and transparency in Council District 15. She hopes that now there will be opportunities for other housing providers to receive contracts and noted there is still racial discrimination in housing.

District 7 stakeholder Jessye Stafford wondered what the new strategies would be for addressing illegal dumping. Councilmember McOsker said that his office has started discussing use of cameras in chronic dumping areas, plus an increase in the fines for those who are prosecuted.

District 7 stakeholder Janet Mitchell said that there is a need to address the issue of the loitering around the bus benches on Vermont Avenue just north of Gardena Blvd. The loiterers have been drinking and intimidating other bus riders waiting at that location. Does LAPD patrol along Gardena Blvd. to cite people who are creating public nuisances?

A District 4 stakeholder said that the auto repair shop on Menlo Avenue just north of Rosecrans Avenue uses Menlo Avenue to test drive the vehicles after they have repaired them.

A stakeholder asked about creation of an LAPD substation in the Figueroa Street/157th Street area. Councilmember McOsker said he would follow up with LAPD about that.

District 2 stakeholder Nita Stonehocker said that the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count will be counting in our area tomorrow night and volunteers are still needed.

District 7 stakeholder Jessye Stafford said that when stop signs are installed, a lot of vehicles do not stop at them and more enforcement is needed.

4) Speaker – Amanda Bettinelli, Assistant US Attorney and Environmental Justice Coordinator for the Central District, discusses her office’s work on air pollution, water quality, soil contamination, illegal dumping, lead contamination, and industrial waste and how to file complaints on violations:

Ms. Bettinelli introduced herself and said that she has worked for fifteen years as a prosecutor. The Harbor Gateway area has issues of environmental justice due to the juxtaposition of industries and transportation corridors. Before his election, Councilmember McOsker was on a tour with her of the Alameda Corridor in July 2022, which has the same sorts of issues. She said that there is a City initiative to address illegal dumping, which she knows is rampant in the Harbor Gateway North area. However, it is very under-resourced. Illegal dumping can lead to public health concerns, as the trash can then attract lots of rats. Another area which she previously worked on to clean up is the Compton Creek area in Watts. For that area she worked with Khalil Rasheed, the Los Angeles City Attorney assigned to address illegal dumping. She asked that a list of the illegal dumping sites be sent to her, as when there is evidence, a Federal case can be brought. There is also the State Department of Toxic Substances Control, which can be utilized. Having cameras for the illegal dumping areas has been found to be effective as a way of providing evidence for prosecution. The Neighborhood Council also needs law enforcement to work on the illegal dumping issue.

District 7 stakeholder Janet Mitchell said that 116th Place west of San Pedro Street has been the site of a lot of illegal dumping and also more recently a number of burned vehicles which contributes to the air pollution impacting residents of that block and the students who walk to the nearby schools. The lights under the 105 freeway have never replaced, even after many calls to 311. Ms. Bettinelli said she can work with the Department of Public Works and the Senior Lead Officer to get the lighting restored.

District 2 stakeholder Nita Stonehocker said that a warehouse is proposed for Vermont Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd. when air quality in the area is already bad. Ms. Bettinelli suggested forming an

Environmental Justice Council or Committee to identify the top four environmental justice issues in the area and also conduct a tour of toxic sites.

District 7 stakeholder Jessye Stafford said that Main Street under the 105 freeway also needs the lights replaced.

District 3 stakeholder Erica Payne said that the Draft EIR for the warehouse at Vermont Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd. stated that the closest house to the warehouse site was on Orchard Avenue, whereas her home on Menlo Avenue is actually the closest to the site. She said that it is not appropriate to put a warehouse at that location.

District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson pointed out that the proposed warehouse site at Vermont Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd. is surrounded by sensitive uses, such as homes, a school, and Rosecrans Recreation Center.

5) Administrative motions

a) Approval of \$529.51 to Minuteman Press for January 24, 2023, General Membership meeting flyer printing: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 7-0-0 to approve this expenditure.

b) Approval of \$1,575.00 to Walking Man for January 24, 2023, General Membership meeting flyer delivery: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 7-0-0 to approve this expenditure.

6) Brief announcements from Board members – Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, Wed. January 25 at 8 pm and Thurs. January 26 at 8 pm:

Outreach/Communications Representative Angela Springs said that the Neighborhood Council is co-sponsoring a Black History Month event on Sat. February 25 at 11 a.m. at the Rosecrans Recreation Center. Refreshments will be served. Flyers advertising the event will be given out to each District Representative.

7) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary