

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 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), William Yates (District 8), Jackie Jackson (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Advocate), and Craig Kusunoki (At-large Representative)

The meeting began at 6:39 p.m. with the Reports, as a quorum of Board members was not yet present.

### 3) Reports

**a) Council District 15:** Harbor Gateway Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez was not able to be present due to a family emergency. He had asked Miguel Vazquez to thank the HGNNC stakeholders for attending the March 11 Town Hall presented by Councilmember Tim McOsker where a lot of community concerns were expressed.

**b) Mayor's Office:** Joycelyn Dominguez said that Mayor Bass' Inside Safe initiative has reached out to eleven sites around the City, with over 500 individuals being housed and 20 of those in permanent housing. Inside Safe is targeting large encampments where individuals are in crisis. 115<sup>th</sup> and Hoover was the site of an Inside Safe encampment clean up where 54 individuals were moved into housing. For any issues with the homeless email Joycelyn and also Nicholas Chavez. Last week was MyLA311 week, with March 11 being 311 Day. New tenant protections have been put into place. Landlords must provide legal reasons for proposed evictions and an eviction cannot occur unless the rent is more than a market rate rent. There are relocation funds and assistance for those who owe ten months of back rent and are being evicted for that reason. Joycelyn was asked if the Mayor's office is aware that many of the RVs parked on public streets are being rented to the homeless and she said that they are aware of the situation.

**1) Call to order and roll call of Board members:** At 6:54 p.m. Chair Miguel Vazquez determined that a quorum of Board members was present and roll call was conducted, which verified the quorum.

**2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Board's jurisdiction:** There was none.

### 3) Reports

**c) Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2<sup>nd</sup> District:** Ara An said that she will now be representing Gardena, Hawthorne, and other areas, with Robert Jackson assigned to the Harbor Gateway North area. April Johnson will cover the Harbor Gateway South area. Robert introduced himself and said that he will also cover the Watts, Willowbrook, and West Athens areas. There is \$54 million in Equity Opportunity Grants under the American Rescue Plan available for those small businesses who were impacted by COVID, with a May 20 deadline to apply: <https://eog.smallbiz.org> LA County is now covering the costs of doula services to assist with births. The Board of Supervisors has voted to have an independent third-party review of the Los Angeles County budget process and expansion of the Board of Supervisors, which would

include allowing virtual public comment to continue. L.A. County's Fair Chance Hiring Program is seeking 200 business who have at least five employees and which will consider hiring those formerly incarcerated. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is investigating the sharp increase in natural gas prices. Supervisor Mitchell's Racial Justice Learning Exchange discussions are continuing, with the next one March 21 from 4-7 p.m. with the topic "Pride in Place." District 4 Representative Arvie Powell asked about follow up from an email she sent Ara and Robert regarding trash and tumbleweeds around the fencing perimeter of the Phillips 66 facility, 13707 S. Broadway, just to the east of her area, which is creating a potential fire hazard. She contacted the Phillips 66 community relations person but has not seen any action taken.

**d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Neighborhood Council Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames encouraged the HGNNC to advertise their Neighborhood Council election so that many stakeholders come out to vote on April 1. He is also working with his assigned Neighborhood Councils to secure in-person meeting locations for April, something the HGNNC has already done. He noted that Raquel Beltran, the former General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, has left and now Vanessa Serrano is the interim General Manager.

**4) Appointment of up to nine members of the Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee, with no more than four Board members:** Three Board members and two stakeholders had expressed interest via email in being on the committee. No one else asked to be appointed at the meeting. Therefore, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 11-0-0 to appoint Joan Jacobs, Arvie Powell, Miguel Vazquez, Nita Stonehocker, and Lu Watson to the Committee.

**5) Approval of \$400 as payment for two Zoom licenses for the Neighborhood Council for the next 12 months:** The HGNNC Zoom license will expire at the end of March. Up to this point it has been paid for by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, but now each Neighborhood Council must pay for their own license. The HGNNC is not yet ready to hold hybrid meetings so that stakeholders can attend via Zoom, but expects to be able to do so later this year. As of March 29, all Board members and Committee members will be required to meet in person. SB 411, which would amend the Brown Act to allow Neighborhood Council Boards and Committees to meet via teleconferencing (Zoom) is still in Committee. It would be helpful to have two licenses so that another Board member could assist the Chair in setting up meetings and hosting them; currently seven Neighborhood Councils have two Zoom licenses. Freddy Cupen-Ames pointed out that he can be an alternate host, if available. A motion was made to approve the two Zoom licenses but then withdrawn after some discussion. Instead Joan Jacobs made the motion, Arvie Powell seconded the motion, and it was passed 9-0-0 to approve payment for one Zoom license for the next 12 months at a cost of \$200.

**6) Approval of Board and Committee meeting formats after March 29: in-person only, in person/teleconferencing for the public, or in-person/teleconferencing for Board and public:** Freddy Cupen-Ames reviewed the possible options for meetings after March 29 per AB 2449: 1) teleconferencing (Zoom) with the Board in person and stakeholders in person or virtual, 2) in-person only, with some Board members allowed attendance at a few meetings virtually for just cause reasons, or 3) in-person only. To hold meetings with teleconferencing for stakeholders requires the proper equipment, which the HGNNC does not have in place yet. These would include a laptop, camera, speakers, mic, and wi fi access with adequate bandwidth. If there is a technical disruption of the teleconferenced meeting, then the meeting must stop until the disruption issue is resolved. The same would apply to a disruptive individual. The various options were reviewed at the February 23 and February 25 DONE workshops and the recordings

are now posted on the EmpowerLA website. Freddy noted that DONE cannot assist with figuring out the technology needed and how to set it up, so a Neighborhood Council might need to hire a vendor to help with that. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0-0 to hold the HGNNC Board and Committee meetings in person until such time as the technical aspects of offering teleconferencing for stakeholders is worked out.

#### **7) Outreach events:**

**a) 2023 Board election – in person voting on April 1:** Voting at Home Assembly Church, 13515 S. Figueroa Street, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A free shred van will be on site from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**b) Report on February 25 Black History Month program at Rosecrans Recreation Center:** In spite of heavy rain, there was good attendance for the program which featured poetry reading, song, a fashion show, and the honoring of retiring Senior Lead Officer Angela Stewart for his 31 years of service to LAPD. The City’s Reparations Advisory Commission had a table and also had information about L.A. REPAIR. Councilmember Tim McOsker and his wife Connie stopped by, as well as CD 15 Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez.

**c) Neighborhood Team Program online – monthly classes continue (April 6):** The Zoom classes are continuing once a month. Once the classes conclude, the Neighborhood Council may organize a mock drill to test out readiness for a major disaster and a response block-by-block. The NTP also offers mock drills and other training at locations around the City.

#### **8) Administrative motions**

**a) February 14, 2023, Board minutes:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the minutes.

**b) February 2023 Monthly Expenditure Report:** Treasurer Piers Fairclough was not present. Secretary Rosalie Preston screen-shared the Report, which showed It was moved by Jodette Spann, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the January 2023 MER.

**c) Consideration of up to \$500 to support a Health Fair at Home Assembly Church on April 1:** Barbara Tyson-Frazier, Chair of the Homeless Issues Committee, said that she would like to have a health fair set up at the Home Assembly Church on the day of the HGNNC in-person voting for the Board election as a way to attract more voters, specifically the homeless and work on building relationships with outside service agencies serving the homeless. She has contacted Kedren. The Red Cross has said they can set up a table. Angela Springs is working on getting a letter of support from Home Assembly Church, which must be submitted with the Funding Request. Chair Miguel Vazquez was asked if he had contacted UCLA for their homeless health services van, but he said that he had not been given enough advance notice as they require at least one to two months to schedule. Barbara said that the funds would be used for refreshments and flyers. Rosalie pointed out that a detailed budget had not been prepared yet, the letter agreeing to use of Home Assembly had not been received, and that the City Clerk Funding asks for at least thirty day notice to review proposed events. Also, with the shred van already committed and the need to have adequate parking for voters coming to the voting site, there really would not be room for a health fair set up at that site on that date. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 11-0-0 to table a vote on the issue so that a date in May or June could be considered.

(Jodette Spann left the meeting at 8:37 p.m.)

**d) Consideration of \$200 to support hot dogs, chips, beverages, and fruit snacks for children attending the Spring Egg Hunt from 11 am to 2 pm at Rosecrans Recreation Center on Sat. April 1:** It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 8-0-0 to support refreshments for the Spring Egg Hunt at Rosecrans Recreation Center.

**8) Board business/announcements:**

**a) Reports from Committee Chairs:** There were no reports.

**b) Brief announcements from Board members:** District 4 Representative Arvie Powell said that LADOT has approved installation of a traffic signal on Rosecrans Blvd. at Menlo Avenue, though funding still needs to be secured.

Secretary Rosalie Preston said that the HGNNC City budget recommendation letter will be on the April 11 Board agenda and to start sending in items to include in it.

Chair Miguel Vazquez reported that U.S. Attorney Amanda Bettinelli has emailed that in response to the HGNNC letter to her on major illegal dumping sites, the City will be doing phased clean ups of these locations. She also asked for a list of sites in the Council District 8 area of the HGNNC District 6.

**9) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary