

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Room 185

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Piers Fairclough (Treasurer), Arvie Powell (District 4), Jodette Spann (District 5), Jackie Jackson (Community Organization Representative), Angela Springs (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At-large Representative)

In the absence of Chairperson Miguel Vazquez, Vice Chairperson Joan Jacobs opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m., beginning 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 noted that the two Harbor Gateway Recreation Centers, Rosecrans and Normandale, held Spring Egg Hunts for their communities. March 25 was California Clean Up Day, with one clean up taking place at the Boys and Girls Club at 802 W. Gardena Blvd. and participation by the Environmental Charter Middle School and many community volunteers. He noted that The Enclave, 190th Street, has four restaurants to try out. Vermont Avenue between 131st to 135th Streets will be resurfaced on April 14, to be followed by resurfacing of 120th Street between Hoover to Vermont Avenue. Council File 23-0278 (funding for Harbor Gateway freeway underpass lighting) has been approved by the Public Works Committee and will be voted on by the City Council on April 12. Senior Lead Officers have been working on homeless encampment issues. The Mayor's Office will be recommending that more funds be added to the City budget for clean ups of illegal dumping. Sidewalks are being repaired using funds that were mandated by the lawsuit. He clarified that twenty-five sidewalks will be repaired in CD 15 this year, which means just five in the Harbor Gateway area. The need for sidewalk repair is determined by a grading system to determine the priority order. In regards to street sweeping, there are many vacancies in Street Services, so no additional routes are being added.

b) Mayor's Office: Joycelyn Dominguez was not present but had emailed her report.

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

LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Tyson Hamaoka introduced himself as the successor to Senior Lead Officer Angelo Stewart, who has retired after 31 years of service. He has been an LAPD officer for twenty years, based at the Southeast Division for eighteen years, and a Senior Lead Officer for ten years. He covers HGNNC Districts 7 and 8. He noted that there has been a lot of theft from vehicles and theft of vehicles which is related to the nearby homeless encampments along Stanford and Avalon. He has been working with Caltrans on the homeless encampments. There have been thefts from individuals along Imperial Highway between Stanford and Central Avenue in the 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. range. His LAPD cell number is 213-793-0726 (can text) and email is 36892@lapd.online. He works closely with Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez.

d) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Freddy Cupen-Ames said that the Congress of Neighborhoods will be held on September 23 at City Hall, with lunch and dinner provided. Suggestions for workshops should be made now and volunteers for the planning committee are welcome. Neighborhood Councils can help support the Congress by voting on contributions. The cost will be \$25,000 to cover the meals for

attendees. Learn more at neighborhoodcongress.la Region 12 Board elections are now completed, with the final results to be released on April 14 or possibly April 16.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Neighborhood

Council's subject matter jurisdiction: Jennifer Williams, candidate for State Senate District 35 introduced herself. The current State Senator Steven Bradford will be termed out. Jennifer lives in the Westmont area of unincorporated Los Angeles County, west of Vermont Avenue. She is a CPA and worked for Price-Waterhouse for eight years. As a child she lived in the Ujima Village, which was built over a former Exxon-Mobil tank farm. The key focus of her campaign is transparency, equity, and accountability. More about her campaign platform can be found at www.jennifer4senate.com

Andrew Arias, Phillips 66 liaison, said that the Phillips 66 tank farm at Broadway borders Compton and Harbor Gateway North. Recently notices on gasoline pipeline safety were mailed to nearby residents. He would like to speak at greater length to stakeholders on pipeline safety, possibly at the April 25 General Membership meeting.

6) Outreach events:

a) Report on 2023 Board election – vote by mail and in-person voting totals, unofficial results: The unofficial results have been posted on the City Clerk website. There was good turnout at in-person voting on April 1. The City Clerk said that 59 vote by mail ballots were sent to stakeholders. Final results will be posted April 14. For the tie for the District 8 Representative, the City Clerk will set up a meeting of the two candidates, who will then draw straws to break the tie.

b) Neighborhood Team Program online – monthly classes continue via Zoom on May 4: The next class via Zoom is May 4. For the April 6 class, a number of people had trouble logging onto the meeting. Rosalie will follow up with Chin Thammasaengsri to see if an easier method of access can be set up. The previous classes are supposed to be posted on the Neighborhood Team Program website.

c) Tues. April 25 General Membership meeting at the 135th Street School Auditorium: This will be the first in-person meeting in three years. 311 will be there in person or possibly via Zoom. The Neighborhood Prosecutor Todd Tristan has been invited, but probably will not be able to be present. Phillips 66 will discuss pipeline safety.

8) Board business/announcements:

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: As Vice Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee, Rosalie Preston reported that the Committee will be having L.A. County Housing and Weingart Center discussing the change over of the Searock Inn, 14032 S. Vermont Avenue, into the Weingart Willows as a Project Homekey at the Thurs. May 25 Planning and Land Use Committee meeting. The Committee meeting will be held at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. in Room 185. Flyers will be taken to the residents near the site.

Lu Watson, Secretary of the recently formed Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee, reported that they had held their first meeting via Zoom to create goals and areas for research. They will meet again, in person, on Friday April 21.

Nita Stonehocker, member of the Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee, said that the South Coast AQMD will be holding a meeting via Zoom on the indirect source rule regarding

b) Brief announcements from Board members: In the absence of Chair Miguel Vazquez who was at work, Rosalie Preston read out his report. Miguel has been working with LADWP liaison Michael Ventre on the RVs parked on LADWP property on the E. 600 block of 118th Street, next to the community garden since early February. Mr. Ventre has let Miguel know that LADWP Real Estate is now working with their security services to remove the RVs.

Assistant US Attorney- Environmental Justice Coordinator Amanda Bettinelli has asked Miguel for a progress report on keeping the chronic illegal dumping sites under the freeway underpasses cleaned up. These were listed in the February 16, 2023, HGNNC letter to her and Councilmember Tim McOsker.

The permit for the Beautify Stanford Avenue parkway project is undergoing a final three-week review. After the final approval, Miguel will let everyone know the planting date, which should be in early May.

Freddy Cupen-Ames reported that a key hearing on SB411 will be held in Sacramento on April 19. Neighborhood Council Board members and stakeholders can file public comment in support of this bill, which would allow Neighborhood Councils to meet via Zoom, through tomorrow via the comment portal. Otherwise, there can be call ins during public comment on April 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary