

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Room 185

Present: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Keith Pitts (Treasurer), Nita Stonehocker (District 2), Dave Trejo (District 3), Arvie Powell (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Barbara Tyson-Frazier (District 7), Frankie Mays (Community Organization Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At-large Representative)

1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call: At 7:11 p.m., there was not yet a quorum of Board members but Chairperson Miguel Vazquez welcomed attendees and asked that Monica Hall, Battalion Chief for Battalion 6 begin her report on behalf of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

3) Reports

Los Angeles City Fire Department: Monica Hall, Battalion Chief for Battalion 6, which includes Fire Station 79 at 18030 S. Vermont Avenue, introduced Matt Mitchell, also from Battalion 6. She said that the Fire Department wants stakeholders to let them know how they can protect the community. She discussed home smoke detectors and how the batteries should be changed once a year, with a test of their operation every month by pressing a broom handle on the test button. If a battery begins chirping, then the battery power is low and definitely needs replacement. For carbon monoxide detectors, replace the whole unit when the battery is used up. The non-profit MySafeLA is available to canvas neighborhoods to test and install home smoke detectors. The Fire Department has a Brush Clearance Unit which can be contacted at 1-800-994-4444. Chief Hall gave some tips for coping with very high temperatures. One stakeholder brought up the issue of bus stops in the City of Los Angeles with no shade structures for those waiting for buses.

a) Supervisor Holly Mitchell: No one was present.

b) CD 8: No one was present. Field Deputy Laura Garcia will be at the August 8 Board meeting.

c) CD 15: No one was present.

d) LAPD: No one was present.

1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call: At 7:47 p.m., Chairperson Miguel Vazquez called the meeting to order, roll call was taken, and it was determined that a quorum of the Board was present.

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

Council's subject matter jurisdiction: Moises "Jun" Aglipay, Field Representative for 65th District Assemblymember Mike Gipson, announced that Caltrans will sponsor a Dump Day event at the Harbor Gateway Transit Center, 731 W. 182nd Street in August.

District 4 stakeholder Luisa Gratz discussed the issues she is experiencing due to the impact of oil drilling/fracking from the Garner well on 126th Street. She has had oil come up in her bathroom sink, sinking of her home's foundation, and has spent over \$60,000 to shore up her home. She has lost four neighbors to what she believes is the impact of air pollution from the nearby 110 Harbor freeway. Three of her dogs have died of cancer in the last ten years. Her 90-day air filters only last about two weeks. The area needs trees planted to help absorb the fine particulate matter. She also said that the lot at Vermont Avenue/Redondo Beach Blvd. should not have a warehouse built there but rather it should be green space and with community services.

District 4 stakeholder Patty Monarrez asked that the Neighborhood Council put on an upcoming agenda a request to plant trees in the concrete medians along Rosecrans Avenue.

District 6 stakeholder discussed the issue of the illegally placed collection bins.
(Barbara Tyson-Frazier left the meeting at 8:17 p.m.)

District 1 stakeholder Maria Oropeza discussed the two trucks that are always parked on the west side of Menlo Avenue, south of Gardena Blvd., which make it difficult to turn right from Gardena Blvd.

3) Reports

Mayor Karen Bass: Jocelyn Dominguez, Mayor's representative for the Harbor area, said that the Mayor has been accelerating the process for affordable housing to be built. Twenty-two new projects have been approved since January. \$7.8 million has been allocated in the 2023-2024 City budget for substance abuse treatment. Inside Safe has seen 1,400 people get some type of shelter. 54 of those were housed from the encampment at Hoover and 115th.

6) Committee appointments

a) Finance Committee: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 10-0-0 to appoint

b) Homeless Issues: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 10-0-0 to appoint Victor Williams to the Homeless Issues Committee. He had submitted an emailed request to be appointed, but the email was not noticed until after the July 11 Committee appointments had been made.

c) Youth Issues: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 10-0-0 to appoint Victor Williams to the Youth Issues Committee.

7) Board business/announcements

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: The Planning and Land Use Committee will meet on July 27 at 6:30 p.m.

The Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee will be meeting August 11 at 6:30 p.m. with Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda Bettinelli present virtually.

(Keith Pitts left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.)

b) Brief announcements from Board members: On July 13 four new RVs showed up on the west side of Central Avenue near 118th Street and were reported to the Homeless Access Center at the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC), who sent out an outreach worker, while District 8 Representative Oscar Ruiz contacted Senior Lead Officer Tyson Hamaoka about the possibility of painting the curbs red and posting "no parking" signs. Chair Miguel Vazquez asked the Board for a list of problem RV locations within the HGNNC.

3) Reports

c) CD 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez reported that funding has been secured for a Clean 15 Team to provide additional resources for cleaning up illegal dumping and trash throughout the Council District. The Team is led by Jocelyn Barrera.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary