

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Special Board Meeting

Saturday, August 26, 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), Barbara Tyson-Frazier (District 7), Oscar Ruiz (District 8), Frankie Mays (Community Organization Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At-large Representative)

**1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Miguel Vazquez at 10:13 a.m. A roll call determined that a quorum of the Board was present.

**2) Ice breaker/getting to know Board members:** Board members and others present (stakeholders and Gibson Nyambura from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment) discussed some of their background and strengths, especially as it relates to being able to help carry out goals of the Neighborhood Council.

**4) A sample beautification project - Westwood Greenway Project (Charles Allen Miller):** Charles Miller said that he serves on the Board of the Palms Neighborhood Council. He then presented background on the Westwood Greenway project, which extends on either side of Metro's E (Exposition Line) between Overland and Westwood Blvd. Planning for the project began fifteen years ago when the E Line route was first proposed for the former Red Car line right-of-way. It is a transit-oriented project and encompasses a large area of habitat restoration and also water infiltration and cleaning. California native plants have been used to help create habitat and because they are low water use and low maintenance. Charles explained that California is one of only five Mediterranean climate zones in the world and a biodiversity hotspot. Of the five, California's is the only one with low-nitrogen soil, which means that California native plants do not require the use of added nitrogen to grow. The creation of habitat is important, as 90% of native pollinators have already been lost. Using non-native plants in medians and other public plantings does not serve to re-generate the eco-system, while using native plants offers an opportunity for residents to experience the presence of songbirds, butterflies, and other native insects. Native songbirds require caterpillars when young and native caterpillars feed on native plants. California native plants use six times less water than non-native plants (or "exotics"). Use of fertilizer for grass and non-native plants contributes to water pollution. Native plants do not need fertilizer. Also the use of native plants results in less green waste as they require less pruning and mowing of lawns. 150 years ago all of the trees in the area were native; now only 3% are. A coalition was formed to support the project, with funding from LA City's Proposition O and California Proposition 84. The E Line was constructed in 2015 and the native plants were planted in 2021. Maintenance of the plants and area is done by LA Sanitation, Department of Public Works, LADOT, Caltrans, LAUSD, LA County Sanitation, StreetsLA, and Metro.

For HGNNC beautification projects, if a median is at least six feet wide, consider planting coast live oak trees. Plan for three years of supplemental watering and install a water outlet in the median. Trees will require five gallons of water twice a month for the first year and then once a month watering in their second year. Plan for weeding to be done in spring, after the rains have stopped. For any questions or advice, email [charlesallenmiller@gmail.com](mailto:charlesallenmiller@gmail.com)

**3) Goals and activities for the 2023-2024 fiscal year:** Board members and stakeholders listed possible key priorities and activities and then voted. The final list for further action was as follows:

**Goals/Priorities**

Beautification

Creation of more green spaces throughout HGNNC

Median plantings (Rosecrans Avenue in District 4, Vermont Avenue in District 5/6, Hoover Street in District 4)

Long-term solutions for illegal dumping

Responsible community development/community oriented development

Increasing stakeholder participation

Advocacy of funding of traffic calming measures on 135<sup>th</sup> Street at Hoover in District 4

Advocacy of funding of a traffic signal at Rosecrans/Menlo Avenue in District 4

Support for a Coffee with a Cop event

Finding a method for tracking stakeholder issues and notification of status on HGNNC website or other methods

Finding ways for stakeholders who are active on community issues/311 reporting to be recognized

**5) How to best engage/activate HGNNC stakeholders on key issues (Alicia Rivera, Communities for a Better Environment):** Alicia Rivera was unable to attend due to a last-minute exposure to COVID.

**6) Next steps:** Progress on priority goals will be discussed at future Board meetings and discussed in the Constant Contact newsletter.

**7) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Neighborhood Council's subject matter jurisdiction:** There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.