

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Room 185

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Keith Pitts (Treasurer), Laivern Frerichs (District 1), Nita Stonehocker (District 2), Dave Trejo (District 3), Arvie Powell (District 4), Marvin Bell (District 6), Barbara Tyson-Frazier (District 7), Oscar Ruiz (District 8), Frankie Mays (Community Organization), Jackie Jackson (Youth Advocate), Elijah Thomas (Youth Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At-Large)

1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call: In the absence of Chairperson Miguel Vazquez, Vice Chairperson Joan Jacobs called the meeting to order and welcomed those present at 7:10 p.m. The roll call determined that a quorum was present.

2) General public comment on non-agenda items that are within the Neighborhood Council's subject matter jurisdiction: Several District 1 stakeholders from the Merit Tract were present to express concern that a known individual had been released from jail and was again riding his bicycle throughout the neighborhood checking out homes. He previously had committed a number of burglaries and break ins. Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez's contact information was given to them.

(Oscar Ruiz entered the meeting at 7:17 p.m.)

4) Administrative motions

a) Approval of the December 12, 2023, Board minutes: It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Barbara Tyson-Frazier, and passed 10-0-2 (Pitts,Kusunoki) to approve the minutes.

b) Approval of the December 2023 Monthly Expenditure Report: This item was tabled until February 13 because the Monthly Expenditure Report could not be generated due to lack of review of one credit card expenditure

c) Approval of granting \$3,500 as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to Reading Partners program at Figueroa Street Elementary School: Shelley Agostini, Development Manager for Reading Partners, gave some background on the literacy tutoring program which they provide at a number of Title 1 LAUSD schools. They were founded as a non-profit in 1999 and have programs across the country. For LAUSD, they worked with 650 students at 15 different schools in 2023. They started working with Figueroa Street School this past year for students who are two grade-levels behind in their reading ability. The tutoring sessions are 45 minutes each, twice a week. Most of the students are tutored via a laptop by trained volunteers, many of whom are college students. Some are tutored in person if that option works better for them. Reading Partners has developed its own curriculum based on California state standards. The donations to fund the program come from a wide variety of sources.

(Arvie Powell entered the meeting at 7:26 p.m.)

83% of tutees met their goals after participating in the program. Americorps members serve as site coordinators. There is a paid Executive Director, Program Director, and Program Manager. There were some questions about the total cost of the program. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Nita Stonehocker, and passed 13-0-0 to table a vote on funding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant until the February 13 Board meeting.

(Elijah Thomas arrived at 7:35 p.m.)

d) Approval of spending up to \$200 for a large retractable HGNNC banner for outreach events: The four small banners which the HGNNC currently has do not open well and two are damaged. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the expenditure, with the Board being sent a mock up of the graphic design before the final printing.

5) Discussion and possible action to authorize the use of teleconferencing for Neighborhood Council meetings, including Board meetings and Committee meetings, in accordance with the rules established by Senate Bill 411 and the subsequent motion passed by the City Council on November 1, 2023. The special teleconferencing rules available to Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils are necessary because, in our experience, meetings held via teleconferencing have allowed for better attendance by stakeholders and the ability to record such meetings for later review by stakeholders: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 14-0-0 (a two-thirds majority of the full Board), to approve holding HGNNC meetings via teleconferencing (Zoom). The current plan is to hold all Board and Committee meetings via Zoom and continue the quarterly General Membership meetings in person and then re-evaluate later in the year.

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

3) Reports

a) CD 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez said that the Council District had sponsored eight different Winter Wonderlands around CD 15, including the first one on November 30 along Gardena Blvd. On January 5, the Council Office observed One/Five Day by highlighting cultural assets in each of the five neighborhoods. For Harbor Gateway that was the Athens on the Hill Neighborhood. CD 15 helped to remove a large tree limb that blew down at 116th Street and Avalon due to high winds. He reminded everyone to use 311 and then to email him at nicholas.i.chavez@lacity.org if the request is not completed, giving him the service request number. He is working on getting the many street light in the northern part of District 4 working again. He said that he had been contacted by Align Care which is providing low cost veterinarian services and pet care and has a grant to provide services in zip cod 90061. He will send the contact to the HGNNC.

b) LAPD: No one was present.

c) Mayor's Office: Harbor and Watts Area Representative Jocelyn Dominguez said that Mayor Bass has now been in office for one year. 21,000 people who had no shelter have been moved inside during that period, with 1,900 of those part of the Inside Safe program. There are 9,000 units of affordable housing in the pipeline. In August, 1,000 applications were received by LAPD, the most in a long time. There were 1,000 more requests for service via 311 than last year. Interviews for the new General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment are coming up.

d) Los Angeles County Supervisor 2nd District: Ray Cruz, the new Deputy for Constituent Engagement for the Harbor Gateway area, introduced himself and said that he had been on the job for three months. He previously was City Manager for Rolling Hills and then Santa Fe Springs. The closest office for the Harbor Gateway is the West Carson Community Office at 20101 Hamilton Avenue-Suite 170, near Alpine Village. The community can arrange to use the space. To learn more about the County's rent relief programs, go to lacountyrentrelief.com. This program serves the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and ends January 12. Supervisor Mitchell has two staff members assigned to work on homeless issues. There will be a jazz concert held at Southwest College in July. Contact Ray at rcruz@lacounty.gov

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Octaviano Rios, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, was not present as he had a conflicting meeting.

(Keith Pitts left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.)

6) Position letter - Improved methods of communication between the HGNNC and the Southeast Division of LAPD, including with Senior Lead Officers and other sections of the Police Department, with a goal of improved and more effective delivery of needed services within the HGNNC area: In response to complaints from stakeholders about lack of ability to

contact Senior Lead Officers and be linked to needed LAPD services, it was moved by Barbara Tyson-Frazier, seconded by Oscar Ruiz, and passed 11-0-0 to approve the position letter and send to the Yvonne Ortiz and Rachel Rodriguez, the two Southeast LAPD Division Captains, LAPD Chief Michel Moore, the three Senior Lead Officers (Robert Martinez, Tyson Hamaoka, and Carmen Gutierrez), Mayor Karen Bass, Councilmember Tim McOsler, and others.

7) Appointments

a) One or more Homelessness Liaisons to participate in upcoming Neighborhood Council Homelessness Liaison meetings as organized by the Department of Neighborhood

Empowerment: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Jackie Jackson, and passed 11-0-0 to appoint Salim Mhunzi, Oscar Ruiz, Victor Williams, and Hannah Woods as the HGNNC Liaisons.

b) One Board member to serve as a panelist on a Regional Grievance Panel: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Nita Stonehocker, and passed 11-0-0 to appoint Joan Jacobs as the HGNNC panelist to serve on any Regional Grievance Panel.

8) Board business/announcements

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: In the absence of Planning and Land Use Committee Chair Keith Pitts, Vice Chair Rosalie Preston said that the Planning and Land Use Committee will meet on Thurs. January 25 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, with a presentation

b) Brief announcements from Board members: The annual Homeless Count will take place on January 24 for the Harbor Gateway North area Districts 1 through 5, with the Enclave, 970 W. 190th Street, as the deployment site, and on January 25 for Districts 6 through 8 at the Watts Labor Community Action Committee, 10950 S. Central Avenue.

Youth Advocate Jackie Jackson announced that Youth Representative Elijah Thomas has been accepted at sixteen out of the seventeen colleges he applied to and has chosen to attend Howard University this fall. His ultimate goal is to become a physician.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary