

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Held via Zoom webinar

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), Eva Cooper Pace (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Oscar Ruiz (District 8), Frankie Mays (Community Organization), Jackie Jackson (Youth Advocate), Elijah Thomas (Youth Advocate), Will Yates (Outreach/Communications Representative), and Craig Kusunoki (At Large Representative)

1) Welcome/call to order/Board roll call: In the absence of Chairperson Miguel Vazquez, Vice Chairperson Joan Jacobs called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: There was none.

(Eva Cooper-Pace entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.)

4) Administrative motions

a) Approval of the February 13, 2024, Board minutes: It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 11-0-1 (Kusunoki) to approve the minutes with typos corrected.

(Elijah Thomas entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m.)

b) Approval of the February 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report: Treasurer Keith Pitts went over the various expenditures. The net amount available after all expenditures to date and encumbered funds is \$18,463.78. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

(Will Yates entered the meeting at 7:11 p.m.)

c) Approval of up to \$350 to support the April clean up day in District 7: Some concern was expressed because details for the proposed clean up day were not yet worked out. Secretary Rosalie Preston explained that once District 7 Representative Barbara Tyson-Frazier was back in town at the end of the week, the date would be set and an itemized budget for the refreshments would be worked out so that the Event Approval form could be submitted thirty days before the event. Funding will not accept a funding application without a detailed budget. The Neighborhood Council can print flyers and volunteers can deliver them around the clean up site, which will probably focus on San Pedro Street under and around the 105 freeway. Flyers can also be left at the 118th Street School. Council District 15 Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez said that his office can coordinate the delivery of dumpsters and tools for the clean up. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 9-0-1 (Powell) to approve the expenditure.

3) Reports

b) LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez said that there has been an upsurge in G13 graffiti around Gardena Blvd. recently. Two Gang Impact Team officers have been assigned to the area. There was a homicide on March 3 at the El Diamante Sports Bar, 12002 S. Figueroa Street, of a man with South Los gang affiliation. Then on March a homeless man wearing a green t-shirt was shot and killed at 15100 S. Vermont Avenue as he was mistakenly thought to be a G13 gang member. LAPD will have extra patrols in the area, as a result.

(Jackie Jackson entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)

LAPD and Sanitation have coordinated on cleaning up the trash on the 130th and 132nd Street cul de sacs to the west of Figueroa Street. The RVs which have been parked on both blocks will be removed. Officer Martinez worked with Council District 8 and now the three RVs which had been parked on the south side of Imperial Highway to the east of Hoover Street have been removed. John Ross, who has been living in an abandoned house in the Merit Tract (where his deceased mother previously lived) was charged with battery of a U.S. Postal worker and is now in custody. The assault may be considered a Federal crime and therefore involved a longer sentence. He had also been reported for trespassing on other people's property. Senior Lead Officers from Council Districts 15 and 8 have been working together on clean ups of encampments and RVs. He is working on making contact with the homeless man living in the alley south of the 700 W. block of 132nd Street. On Tuesday March 19 from 6-9 p.m. there will be a Public Safety Town Hall held at the Gardena City Hall, which will include Gardena police, LAPD, Sheriffs deputies, and the Highway Patrol.

c) Mayor's Office: Jocelyn Dominguez, the Mayor's Representative for the Watts and Harbor areas, said that the Mayor's Office had coordinated an Inside Safe update for Harbor Gateway North stakeholders on February 22 regarding the encampment removal at Hoover Street around the 105 freeway. This area is still clear, but information was given out on how to report if any homeless people return. She thanked the Board members who had attended, including District 6 Representative Marvin Bell. This week is designated 311 Week and there is a friendly competition among the fifteen Councilmembers for which District reports the most 311 calls. If the Neighborhood Council has organizations or schools who are interested in 311 training, Jocelyn will arrange for those. Choi was sworn in on March 1 as the Acting Chief of the LAPD. He is the first Korean American to lead a police department in the United States. LAPD had 300 applicants for positions last month. Mayor Bass led a delegation to Sacramento that led to \$300 million to reimburse the City for pandemic-related expenses. Jocelyn said that Mayor Bass and Governor Newsom also have an agreement to keep freeway underpasses and areas near freeways cleared. The City of Los Angeles handles the clean ups and then receives reimbursement from Caltrans. Mayor Bass, City Councilmembers Krekorian, Parks, and Yaroslavsky, and other civic leaders traveled to Paris to meet the Mayor of Paris to discuss how they are preparing for this summer's Olympic and Paralympic games there and received tips on how Los Angeles can be prepared for its own Summer Olympics in 2028. After a question about the lights still being out under the 105 freeway at Main Street, Jocelyn Chavez said that technically it should be Caltrans responsibility but to work with CD 15 on the issue. Senior Lead Officer Tyson Hamaoka said that in the past year, Caltrans has said that it is the City's responsibility and so now Council District 15 is working on getting the lights back on.

d) Los Angeles County Supervisor 2nd District: No one was present.

a) CD 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez said that repairing the lighting on Main Street under the 105 freeway has been delayed because so many lights throughout the City of Los Angeles have been damaged by copper wire theft vandalism. Various alternative means of powering the lighting are being tried out, including solar panels. The Harbor Gateway Community Plan update was considered by the City Planning Commission, which voted to approve it. It now goes to the City Council's PLUM Committee, possibly around June. Other thefts of metal objects in the City are the metal covers for sewer and utility openings and metal plates used to cover holes during major work on repairing the roads. Use 311 to report street repairs that are needed and obstructions, such as a fallen tree that recently happened at Main Street and 118th Street. Councilmember McOsker got funding in the City budget for the Clean 15 Team and they regularly address the common illegal dumping sites. 117th Street from Main to Spring Street was recently resurfaced and will now have its speed humps put in. 118th Place from San Pedro to Main Street was resurfaced. Bureau of Street Services is opening the speed hump application on

March 21. Eligible streets must be residential, one lane in each direction, and with a 30 miles or less speed limit. The organizer must obtain a certain number of signatures from others on the block in order to apply. Nicholas will find out which schools in the HGNNC area are on the list for speed humps in front of their campuses, something that the City Council voted on last year. The Port of LA has opened grant applications for eligible 501c3s, which must have a nexus to the Port. Applications are due on May 6 and there will be an application workshop on April 10.

e) Phillips 66-Marine Terminal and Wharf Improvement Project – Berths 148-151: Lola Owolabi, Environmental Team Lead for Phillips 66, discussed the project which brings the Terminal in compliance with regulations of the State of California Lands Commission, regulations which apply to all marine terminals in the State. The new concrete Berths will replace the existing timber wharf at Berths 150-151 in compliance with Marine Oil Terminal Engineering and Maintenance Standards (MOTEMS). Operations will not be expanded. Final approval must come from the Board Commissioners of the Port of Los Angeles. The Draft EIR will be released in April with a 45 day public comment period. The Final EIR should be released in the third quarter of 2024. Fuels from the Phillips 66 terminal will be transported through existing pipelines. District 4 Representative Arvie Powell noted that Phillips 66 needs to keep the area on the periphery of their property at 135th Street and Broad way free of weeds and trash, as a safety measure, and noted that the Union 76 plant nearby keeps their property and periphery well-maintained. Mary Perez, Senior Advisor -Field Communications for Phillips 66, said she would look into the matter.

f) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Octaviano Rios said that recent training on the Brown Act had been provided via Zoom for Neighborhood Council Presidents/Chairs and that the recording would be available on the DONE website. There will be a Women’s Leadership event at City Hall on March 28. Each Neighborhood Council should appoint and register their Homelessness Liaisons. Any Bylaws Amendments need to be submitted by April 1.

5) Approval of a revised 2023-2024 fiscal year budget: The modifications to the line items were reviewed. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Eva Pace, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the revised budget.

6) Position letters

a) Approval of a letter on HGNNC priorities for the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget: Some additions to the draft letter were mentioned. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Keith Pitts, and passed 13-0-0 to approve the edited letter.

(Marvin Bell left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.)

b) Approval of a letter to Caltrans on prioritizing assistance with homeless encampments along the 105 Century freeway: The draft letter was read out. It was moved by Keith Pitts, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve sending the letter. Nicholas Chavez reminded the Board to report any requests for homeless services or other Caltrans issues via their online Customer Service Request.

7) Committee appointments

a) Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Nita Stonehocker, and passed 12-0-0 to approve appointing Board member Rosalie Preston to the Committee.

8) Board business/announcements

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

b) Brief announcements from Board members: Neighborhood Council Budget Day will be held at City Hall on June 15.

Secretary Rosalie Preston said that the HGNNC is working with Council District 15 and Mayor Karen Bass's office on setting up a business breakfast for later in April or May, primarily focused on the businesses along the Figueroa Street Corridor from 149th Street to El Segundo Blvd.

3) Reports

b) LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Tyson Hamaoka reported that there were six reportable crimes over the past month along Imperial Highway. Over the past three weeks the Southeast LAPD Task Force has removed ten encampments, with 40 people offered housing, 20 referred to services, 107 parking citations, 40 vehicles impounded, 45 requests for service answered, 2 Coffee with a Cop events held, 1 Walk with a Cop event, and 2 handguns confiscated.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary