

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Secretary), Majenni Nixon (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), Will Yates (Outreach 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 7:03 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.

3) Reports

a) CD 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez said that if you are not receiving the weekly CD 15 emails, you can go to the website CD15.lacity.gov for more information. He urged those living in HGNNC Districts 1-5 to continue sending in comments and suggestions on the Harbor Gateway Community Plan to CD 15 Planning Director Pamela Thornton at pamela.thornton@lacity.org, himself at nicholas.i.chavez@lacity.org, and the City Planner assigned to coordinate the update, Christopher Pina at christopher.pina@lacity.org. The Vincent Thomas Bridge linking San Pedro to Long Beach is going to have a new road deck installed. Caltrans is overseeing the EIR, with various proposals and timelines. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the options and give their opinion. The closures will impact traffic on the 110, 105, and 710 freeways. Pacific Coast Highway and Sepulveda will become alternate routes during the closures. He encouraged calls and online reporting to 311 to help create the data that determines which areas get the fastest service responses. The Clean 15 Team has been busy and now nearly all of the freeway underpasses have been cleaned up since last month. In response to Councilmember Tim McOsker's Council File 23-0278 to create more lighting for the underpasses to discourage illegal dumping there is no a pilot project on Stanford Avenue under the 105 freeway with colored lighting and cameras. The Councilmember did fight to keep funding for this proposal in the 2024-2025 City budget. The City budget has a deficit as revenues are down due to less international travel, fewer property transactions, and raises for the LAPD and civilian employees. There was a 20% vacancy rate last year and now many vacant positions have been cut. Stakeholders can listen in to the budget discussion on Wed. May 15 at 1 p.m. via Zoom. The Councilmember wants stakeholders to know that he will work to provide resources and that some critical vacant positions will be filled so that proper City services can be carried out. A clean up of the RVs along Figueroa Street south of 120th Street near the Edge O' Town Motel will take place in the next week. The owner of the former Caltrans lot in the Merit Tract, 17236 S. Hover Street, has received a notice to clean up the property. In regards to the homeless encampment on the south side of the 105 freeway behind the homes on 117th Street west of Figueroa Street, Nicholas will reach out to the Mayor's office as that area comes under the Inside Safe clean up that was done on February 28, 2023. Regarding the RV on Laconia Blvd., Nicholas has talked with the RV dweller who has family living in a nearby apartment building. LAHSA has talked with him, also.

b) LAPD: Due to having to be present for an illegal dumping/homeless encampment removal earlier in the day, neither Senior Lead Officer was able to be attend the meeting.

c) Mayor's Office: Watts/Harbor Manager of Community Engagement Jocelyn Dominguez reported that Mayor Bass was in Wilmington on April 11 for an Inside Safe encampment removal where 40 people were moved inside. The Mayor was also at the Port of Los Angeles to launch Amazon's fleet of electric trucks which will serve the port area. Carmen Chang has been appointed new General Manager for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. The Mayor hosted the first Shadow Day for foster youth at City Hall. The Mayor has released her proposed budget, with a link in the May newsletter (which is included in the HGNNC Constant Contact e-newsletter). The goal for the 2024-2025 budget is to be able to continue the work of the past year. There is now a tab on the Mayor's website for sharing your opinions: https://cityoflaprod.service-now.com/css?id=css_myr_int&hcway=comment

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

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Octaviano Rios noted that as Jocelyn Dominguez had mentioned earlier, Carmen Chang is the new General Manager for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. He reminded the Board that there are now five required trainings, including the revised Code of Conduct. The due date is Monday June 3. All Committee members who are not Board members must read and sign the Code of Conduct and file a copy with the Neighborhood Council. For Board members who do not remember their Cornerstone log in and password, contact Octaviano Rios at octaviano.rios@lacity.org May 20 is the last date to submit an event request; June 1 is the last date to request a check payment; June 20 is the last day to use the bank card. EmpowerLA has hired two new Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates: Vincent Autiero and Helena Doub. One of them will be assigned as the new HGNNC NEA.

(Will Yates left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

4) Acceptance of the resignation of Keith Pitts as Treasurer and appointment of Majenni Nixon as HGNNC Treasurer to fill the remaining term of office: Due to being evicted from his long-term apartment by the new owners and having to move out of the HGNNC area, Treasurer Keith Pitts regretfully had to resign as Treasurer on May 2. Majenni Nixon said that she has been a District1 stakeholder for several years, serves as Secretary on the Planning and Land Use Committee, recently started a new job with a commercial real estate company, handles her own personal finances and files her own income taxes, uses 311 frequently, and is interested in being more involved with the Neighborhood Council. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Eva Cooper Pace and passed 12-0-0 to accept the resignation of Keith Pitts and appoint Majenni Nixon to fill out his term as Treasurer, which ends on June 30, 2025.

5) Administrative motions

a) Approval of the April 9, 2024, Board minutes: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

b) Approval of the April 23, 2024, General Membership minutes: It was moved by Jackie Jackson, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 11-0-1 (Stonehocker) to approve the minutes as presented.

c) Approval of the April 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report: Secretary Rosalie Preston shared her screen and reviewed the various expenditures for April. The net amount available after all expenditures to date and encumbered funds is \$13,187.40. She pointed out that the Neighborhood Council will only be able to roll over up to \$10,000. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

d) Approval of allocating \$500 for the September 28 Congress of Neighborhoods: The funds will help to cover the expenses of holding the Congress of Neighborhoods at City Hall on September 28, including breakfast and lunch and other costs for using the facility. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 9-0-0.

e) Approval of allocating \$1,000 as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to GAP (Gang Alternative Program) for graffiti removal within the HGNNC boundaries: It was moved by Frankie Mays, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

6) Position letters

a) Approval of a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File 23-0002-S110 (Institutional Investors/Residential Housing—AB 2230 Bennett): This measure was discussed in a recent NCPlanCheck meeting as something that the City Attorney supports as one of the measures to help reduce the cost of housing in the City. Many corporations and investors have purchased single-family homes and apartment buildings in the City since the Great Recession and artificially raised the cost for renters. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Eva Cooper Pace, and passed 13-0-0 to support the Council File.

b) Approval of a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File 23-0002-S106 (SB 1128 Children Sexual Exploitation Prevention-Figueroa Corridor): This is another Council File which the City Attorney supports as a method to help reduce the sexual exploitation of young people along the Figueroa Corridor, a section of which lies within HGNNC boundaries. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Eva Cooper Pace, and passed 13-0-0.

c) Approval of support for Council File 22-0231 (Temporary Limit for all trucking-related uses in the Wilmington/Harbor City Community Plan area): This Council File, introduced by Councilmember Tim McOsker, would extend the interim controls which were placed on areas of Wilmington and Harbor City. Permanent measures will be included in the updated Wilmington/Harbor City Community Plan. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Laivern Frerichs, and passed 13-0-0 to support this Council File.

7) Board business/announcements

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: There were none.

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

Report on the May 4 District 7 Clean Up Day: The focus was on San Pedro Street under the 105 freeway, with the HGNNC providing support for sandwiches and bottled water, plus coffee and Danish for the morning. Bi-lingual flyers were dropped off at the 118th Street School for every student to take home. Photos from the event appeared in Councilmember Tim McOsker's weekly newsletter. The Council office arranged for two dumpsters and the clean up tools and plastic bags.

District 8 light installation on Wadsworth cul de sac: After a District 8 stakeholder who had attended the April 23 General Membership meeting noted that lighting was very poor on the cul de sac, the HGNNC contacted the LADWP liaison and Nicholas Chavez about putting a light on an LADWP pole and that was accomplished within days.

c) Changing the date of June Board meeting to June 4 or 18 or other date due to vacations: After discussion, the date of Tuesday June 4 was selected as the next Board meeting, with the originally scheduled June 11 meeting being cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary