

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 9, 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), Finesse Simmons (Youth 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 7:10 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: District 6 stakeholder Judith Terrell said that she needs City of Los Angeles assistance in cleaning up the trash in the alley, which is in front of her neighbor's garage and is a potential fire hazard.

3) Reports

b) LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez said that homicides are down by 14% while robberies and burglaries are up.

(Laivern Frerichs and Eva Cooper Pace entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)

Several vehicles have been stolen from the Harbor Gateway North area. There was a shooting near Rosecrans Recreation Center, with the victim being a G13 member. Summer Night Lights are ongoing at Rosecrans Recreation Center on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. LAPD will be working with Southern Pacific and homeless agency support services to remove the encampments along the railroad tracks south of Rosecrans Recreation Center. There was a Care+ clean up of 16 motor homes on 130th and 132nd, the cul de sacs west of Figueroa Street. Many of the motor homes were not suitable for habitation. The residents were offered services. The LAPD Senior Lead Officers are now spending a lot of their time assisting with such removals. The City Attorney and LAPD are working with the owner of the Edge O'Town Motel so that a better fence is placed around the motel property and so that the many old RVs parked along both sides of Figueroa Street at that location are removed. Officer Martinez has also been working to remove the white, male homeless man named Mike Larsen who has been creating a cardboard housing unit on Alondra Blvd. under the 110 freeway. On 135th Street and Hoover, he has been working on removing a male Hispanic homeless person. WSS and Farmer Boys have reported a lot of thefts of their property recently. The Merit Tract will hold another neighborhood watch meeting on July 16 at 6 p.m. at 168th and Orchard. The supervisor of the Senior Lead Officers at Southeast Division was present, Sgt. Jeff Spangler, and said to email him about any issues with LAPD services: 35036@lapd.online

a) CD 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez said that Summer Night Lights was being held at Rosecrans Recreation Center Thursday through Saturday nights. Council District 15 has been working to get the homeless within the Council area into housing. Progress has been made in removing the homeless RVs from the 130th Street and 132nd Street cul de sacs. Council District 15 held its Juneteenth event in the Athens on the Hill neighborhood on June 15. Councilmember Tim McOsker attended and was pleased with the turnout. He plans to hold another event in the same neighborhood next year. He urged stakeholders to keep using 311 to report the need for City services, such as homeless encampments, street lights that are out, dead animals that need removing from the public area, etc. Using 311 helps to create data and track problem locations.

311 can be accessed by telephone, internet, or cell phone app. Copper wire theft is still a big cause of street lights being out and there is a long waiting time for repair.

(Frankie Mays entered the meeting at 7:32 p.m.)

The Council District 15 Clean Team works on recurrent illegal dumping sites under the freeways and to clean up alleys. For homeless issues, call 311 but also report online using la-hop:

<https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop/> He thanked the HGNNC for submitting their letter requesting funding to help properly close up idle oil wells in the HGNNC area. He is hopeful that some of the Federal money coming to the state of California can be used in the HGNNC area. The Council District 15 Field office at the Enclave, 190th Street, should be open in early August, with an ice cream social as part of the grand opening. Stakeholders can sign up for the CD 15 newsletter at <https://cd15.lacity.org>

c) Mayor's Office: No one was present.

d) Los Angeles County Supervisor 2nd District: Ara An said that the staff member previously assigned to report to the HGNNC, Ray Cruz, is now working for LAHSA. On Sat. August 3 at Magic Johnson Park from 6 to 10 p.m. there will be a Park after Dark event with giveaways of bicycles and helmets and a raffle. There may also be backpacks for giveaway. Supervisor Holly Mitchell held a Juneteenth event in Carson on June 14. On July 29 in Culver City she will hold a book discussion of ___ as one of the monthly racial justice learning exchange programs. LA County Supervisors are proposing a November ballot measure to expand the Board of Supervisors from five to nine seats, with an elected CAO, and ethics. Los Angeles County is opening a number of cooling centers during the heat wave.

(Marvin Bell entered the meeting at 7:48 p.m.)

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Helena Doub, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate for Harbor Gateway North, said that the new General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Carmen Chang, will be holding regional listening sessions with Neighborhood Council Board members. There is a Perceptions and Insight survey that Neighborhood Council Board members are being asked to fill out. The Neighborhood Council election season will start this fall. The Bylaws updates have been completed. This time, voting by stakeholders will only be by mail—no in person locations for voting. Outreach Committees need to start planning their election outreach. The annual Congress of Neighborhoods will be held September 28 at City Hall. She thanked all of the Board members who have taken their required trainings and noted that failure to take the Code of Conduct training via Cornerstone will lead to first a suspension from the Board and then removal, per the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

4) Acceptance of the resignation of Elijah Thomas as Youth Representative and appointment of a new Youth Representative to fill the remaining term of office until June 30, 2025:

Finesse Simmons said that she was interested in being becoming the new Youth Representative. She has lived in District 6 of the HGNNC most of her life, since she was two years old. She attends Iovine and Young Center and Integrated Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship Magnet on the Audubon Middle School campus. She has participated in UCLA's math program and performing arts. Her goals are to see that more effort is put into removal of illegal dumping and trash removal, to create more cleanliness and safety for the community. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0-0 to appoint Finesse Simmons as the new Youth Representative on the Board.

5) Committee appointments

a) Outreach/Communications Committee-Frankie Mays: It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 12-0-0 to appoint Frankie Mays to the Committee.

b) Planning and Land Use Committee-Rebecca Rodriguez: Rebecca Rodriguez said that she lives in HGNNC District 4 and is interested in development and sustainability issues in the neighborhood. She has worked in schools in underserved communities and currently works at a school which is impacted by air pollution from industrial manufacturing. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0-0 to appoint Rebecca Rodriguez to the Planning and Land Use Committee. She understands that she needs to take the Code of Conduct training and Planning 101 to be part of the Committee.

6) Administrative motions

a) Approval of the June 4, 2024, Special Board minutes: It was moved by Eva Cooper Pace, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 11-0-1 (Frerichs) to approve the minutes as presented.

b) Approval of the May 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report: It was moved by Nita Stonehocker, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

c) Approval of the June 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report: The report was screen-shared and reviewed. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

d) Approval of allocating \$500 as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the Los Angeles Police Foundation for support of National Night Out on August 6 at LAPD Southeast Division: The funds will be used to purchase backpacks to be given out to children who attend the event and the HGNNC contribution will be acknowledged. The HGNNC will staff a table at the event from 2-5 p.m. It was moved by Frankie Mays, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0-0 to support the Neighborhood Purposes Grant.

e) Approval of increasing monthly rent for office 205 to \$690 per month: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the new monthly rent charge for the HGNNC office.

f) Approval of allocating up to \$325 for a retractable banner with Silver Step base: Rosalie Preston explained that the Board had voted for a retractable banner in the last fiscal year but a retractable banner with a Silver Step base would be more stable when placed next to the HGNNC booth for outreach events in windy conditions. The HGNNC will look for the lowest priced company from which to order the banner and base. It was moved by Nita Stonehocker, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the banner purchase.

g) Approval of holding a Board Retreat in August 2024 and allocating up to \$800 for the meeting location and refreshments: The Board Retreat will be similar in format to the one held last year and most likely held at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. with catered box lunches. Vice Chair Joan Jacobs pointed out that a date needs to be set soon as August is coming right up. Rosalie said that the Executive Committee would arrange the details. It was moved by Frankie Mays, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 11-0-1 (Trejo) to approve the expenditure.

7) Position letters

a) Approval of a revised comment letter on Rexford Industrial warehouse/office building at 14400 S. Figueroa Street (LA City) and 400-422 W. Rosecrans Avenue (LA County case number RPPL2023001916, with a recommendation from the Planning and Land Use Committee: The draft letter recommended by the HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee was shared, but after comment from Planning and Land Use Committee member Luetta Watson about some additional language relating to environmental justice concerns, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Majenni Nixon, and passed 12-0-0 to table the item and refer it back to the Planning and Land Use Committee.

b) Approval of a comment letter on VMSCANN Inc. on their City of Los Angeles license application for cannabis retail at 11500 S. Vermont Avenue, DCR Record No. LA-R-24-310065-ANN (Council District 8; HGNNC District 6): The draft letter recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee was screen-shared. The City of Los Angeles license application was actually approved on June 6, so the comment letter relates to the process of notification to the Neighborhood Council and impacted stakeholders, with suggestions for future improvements to the notification process so that there is adequate time for comment before the community meeting is held. License renewal will occur again next June. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve sending the comment letter.

8) Board business/announcements

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: The Outreach/Communications Committee will be holding its first meeting of the Board term on July 18 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: The July 23 General Membership meeting will feature speakers from Bureau of Street Services and also possibly Caltrans. The location is still to be determined, but will be in person.

District 8 Representative Oscar Ruiz attended the June 19 meeting of the 116th Place Block Club which was held in the driveway of one resident's home and had a very large turnout. Many street lights are out in the District 8 area. Oscar has noticed a better quality of Caltrans fencing being used in the Watts area and will get a photo of it so that the HGNNC can ask for Caltrans to use it in some of the HGNNC areas next to the freeways.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary