

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 13, 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), Marvin Bell (District 6), Barbara Tyson-Frazier (District 7), 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 7:01 p.m. The roll call determined that a quorum of 9 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

b) LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Robert Martinez, who represents the 18A97 basic car area which covers Artesia to Imperial Highway and Vermont Avenue to Figueroa Street, said that he had been working on a lot of homeless encampment clean up efforts with Council District 15. This morning he worked on a clean up of trash on Figueroa Street near the Edge O'Town motel. There is currently no room for RVs in the lots that dismantle them, but ten poorly cared for dogs were removed from the location by Animal Services.

(Arvie Powell and Oscar Ruiz entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)

Officer Martinez attended a business meeting for the businesses along Figueroa Street and Broadway with 30 in attendance. The focus was the copper wire and other metal thefts from the businesses. Working with Union Pacific railroad, another clean up of homeless encampments along the Southern Pacific railroad tracks south of Rosecrans Recreation Center was made recently. He has also been working on the vendor issue at 17200 S. Vermont Avenue, the large AT&T building, as the flower seller had a van parked on the street which has been impounded and also was blocking the driveway which prevented AT&T vehicles from entering. There are still regular reports of graffiti on the buildings near Environmental Charter Middle School near Gardena Blvd. He has asked the LAPD Gang Unit to work on the issue but they are very understaffed. He is aware of issues in the 700 block of 132nd Street where a house has been left vacant after a death. Let the LAPD know about vacant homes before they become targets for squatters to move in. There have been some vehicle thefts from the 18A97 patrol area. Southeast LAPD Senior Lead Officers are forming a task force in the middle of each week to work on key issues in one of their patrol areas. For the illegal dumping and homeless encampment issues along the Union Pacific railroad, Officer Martinez has talked with the Captain of the Union Pacific Police Department.

(Barbara Tyson-Frazier and Nita Stonehocker entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.)

a) CD 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez said that Summer Night Lights at Rosecrans Recreation Center has had some great programs and been well attended. He thanked the HGNNC for staffing a table at National Night Out at Southeast LAPD on August 6. Stakeholders can sign up for the Council District 15 newsletter at www.cd15.lacity.gov He has been attending meetings of two relatively newly formed neighborhood groups with good attendance, the Merit Tract and the 116th Place Block Club. He has been in touch with the developer of 1134 E. 120th Street, where Taco Pete's formerly operated, after some of the nearby L.A. County Willowbrook residents complained about the graffiti on the vacated buildings and people living in them. The

old buildings will now be demolished and a three-story, 50-unit apartment building will be constructed. He will send the developer contact information so that the Planning and Land Use Committee can set up a presentation. There was a clean up along the Union Pacific tracks south of the Rosecrans Recreation Center, but some of the homeless have returned. For school safety, Gardena Elementary School has one crossing guard and so does the 135th Street School. The 116th Street School now has four crossing guards. Southeast LAPD has unarmed crisis response for mental health and psychological support, which can be accessed through using 1-877-275-5273 and asking for the “non-emergency dispatch” option. The non-profit operating the response is Exodus Recovery and Safe Landing. The Mayor’s CIRCLE program is an unarmed model of crisis response and is being used at the LAPD Harbor Division. It is more focused on the homeless. The CD 15 Clean Team has been very active in the Harbor Gateway North area, including on 168th Street at Estrella, Broadway under the 105 freeway, Main under the 105 freeway, and 117th and the 105 freeway. They have also cleaned up the area around Hoover and 117th Street near the Union Pacific tracks. The Clean Team also handles weed abatement, including in some alleys. They will be cleaning up the sidewalk area on the east side of Vermont Avenue from Redondo Beach Blvd. to the Union Pacific railroad tracks. Clean Team staff are George Palacios and Yocelyn Barrera. They partner with the California Conservation Corps, GAP, and Coalition for Responsible Community Development to get the clean up work done. There is a new Council File 24-0890 which addresses the delays in hiring new police officers and civilian employees of the LAPD by moving their hiring process from the City’s Personnel Department to the LAPD. After the City Council raised the salaries for new officers, 1,200 applications were received. District 6 Representative Marvin Bell pointed out that the lights are out on Hoover Street under the 105 freeway and one of the train barriers remains down, blocking traffic on one lane of Figueroa Street near 117th Street.

c) Mayor’s Office: Jocelyn Dominguez reported that Mayor Karen Bass returned from Paris yesterday with the Olympic flag. Los Angeles will be hosting the 2028 Olympics and there will be support for small businesses to help them be prepared to be hired. There will be monthly meetings to provide assistance. She asked that the Neighborhood Council put the link on its website. There is a City Safe Passage program for students, with 450 slow zones and 250 speed humps near schools. Mayor Bass chairs the Homeless Task Force of the Conference of Mayors. They have been lobbying Congress for some rule changes for veterans so that they can receive both their veterans benefits and housing benefits. The Mayor’s monthly update will be revamped in September. In October there will be a summit for small businesses. The Mayor’s Crisis Response Teams will be providing trained volunteers to respond to a crisis, such as a shooting, and be able to direct those impacted to resources.

d) Los Angeles County Supervisor 2nd District: Ara An. Deputy Constituent Engagement, reported that the August 3 Parks after Dark event in Magic Johnson Park was very successful. More than 1,000 people attended, over 50 laptops were given away, and 300 backpacks. On August 15 there will be the third annual Lennox Night at the Park from 6-9 p.m., with 40 resource vendors. The Board of Supervisors voted on July 23 to place a Los Angeles County Governance and Ethics Reform measure on the November 5 ballot, which would include increasing the number of L.A. County Supervisors from five to nine. Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Holly Mitchell also asked that the cost of increasing the number of Supervisors be included in the ballot information. For instances of hate graffiti or speech, such as the anti-black graffiti on a Culver city elementary school, contact LA vs. Hate to report online at <https://www.lavshate.org/> or call 211. This is the one-year anniversary of Pathway Home. 700 people have been provided interim housing through the program and 450 RVs have been removed countywide. There was another earthquake on August 12. Use www.readylacounty.gov as guidance for getting prepared for all types of emergency situations.

To contact Ara, email her at aan@bos.lacounty.gov or call her at 213-974-2222. To sign up for Supervisor Mitchell's newsletter go to Mitchell.lacounty.gov

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Helena Doub, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate for Harbor Gateway North, said that she will bring Department "swag" for Board members at the August 24 Board Retreat. There is a new version of the required ethics training for Board members in Cornerstone, which is more streamlined. There is a Council File in Committee, 24-, which would require that every Neighborhood Council Board have a youth representative seat to encourage more youth participation and also that every Neighborhood Council require term-limits for Board members. Boards can vote on a Bylaws amendment that would allow self-affirmation for voters in the 2025 Board elections, which will be vote-by-mail only. On August 29 there will be another virtual meeting of the appointed Homeless Liaisons. The Los Angeles Times has created Shape Your LA which includes detailed information on who your Neighborhood Council is and Council member. The EmpowerLA Perceptions and Insights survey can still be taken; only 17% of Board members have taken so far. The survey will help the Department create priorities. The Congress of Neighborhoods is September 28 at City Hall.

4) Consideration of changing stakeholder verification method in the HGNNC Bylaws Article X Section 4 from "documentation" to "self affirmation" for the 2025 Board election, which will have a vote-by-mail option only and no in-person voting: Secretary Rosalie Preston gave some background on the issue. Allowing "self affirmation" can result in stakeholders who work for companies or represent business interests voting in large numbers while "documentation" requires that voters in Neighborhood Council elections must submit copies of their photo id through the mail or attach to an online application which many feel uncomfortable doing. In 2023 those stakeholders had the option of showing up in person at the polling place and showing their photo id to a City Clerk staff member (or other required documentation). Stakeholder Luetta Watson asked the Board to refer the matter to the Bylaws Committee for further discussion and a recommendation. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 11-1(Trejo)-0 to table the discussion and vote until the September 10 Board meeting.

5) Committee appointments

a) Finance Committee-Majenni Nixon: It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 12-0-0 to appoint Majenni Nixon to the Finance Committee.

6) Administrative motions

a) Approval of the July 9, 2024, Board minutes: It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Majenni Nixon, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

b) Approval of the July 23, 2024, General Membership minutes: It was moved by Majenni Nixon, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

c) Approval of the July 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report: Treasurer Majenni Nixon screen-shared and reviewed the expenditures during July. The net available is \$28,986.33. She also mentioned that the exact amount of roll over funds has been sent to the HGNNC and that \$10,065.94 will be added into a revised 2024-2025 budget. It was moved by Rosalie Preston Nixon, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

d) Approval of allocating \$76.09 for Insight Investments April 2024 invoice RT00648498 from 2024-2025 fiscal year funds: This invoice was not sent out to the Neighborhood Council during the last fiscal year so the City Clerk indicated that a vote has to be made to include paying it from the current fiscal year funds. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Majenni Nixon, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the expenditure.

7) Position letters

a) Approval of a revised comment letter on the Rexford Industrial warehouse/office building at 400-422 W. Rosecrans Avenue (LA County case number RPPL2023001916) and 14400 S. Figueroa Street (LA City), as recommended by the HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee: The Planning and Land Use Committee made a few final edits to the comment letter at their July 25 meeting. Josh Gertler, Brian Garcia, and Jon Meyer of Rexford Industrial were present at the Board meeting, but there were no further questions for them. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Majenni Nixon, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the final version of the comment letter.

b) Support for Indirect Source Rule 2306 air pollution reduction at rail yards, as recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee: Rosalie Preston explained that the South Coast AQMD has already approved the Indirect Source Rule at their August 2 meeting, in a unanimous vote. However, the HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee wanted to formalize the Neighborhood Council's support for this Rule, since two Union Pacific rail lines go through the HGNNC area. One travels up Vermont Avenue and crosses to the south of the Rosecrans Recreation Center. The other crosses south of the 105 freeway and travels east through HGNNC Districts 6 and 7 and then up to Watts where the two lines converge and travel along Long Beach Blvd., ending in the East Los Angeles rail yard. The ISR requires that railroads using designated rail yards, including the East Los Angeles rail yard, transition their locomotives, heavy-duty vehicles, and cargo handline equipment to zero emissions technology to reduce air pollution in the southern California area. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Nita Stonehocker, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the comment letter supporting ISR 2306.

8) Board business/announcements

a) Reports from Committee Chairs: The Planning and Land Use Committee has learned that the Final EIR for the proposed Prologis warehouse at Vermont Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd. is being prepared. The Outreach/Communications Committee has started planning for the 2025 Board election. Candidate filing begins November 22.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: The annual Board Retreat will be held on Saturday August 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Room 115.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary