

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Held via Zoom webinar

Present: Joan Jacobs (Vice Chair), 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)

Absent: Miguel Vazquez (Chairperson), Barbara Tyson-Frazier (District 7)

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 7:05 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.

(Arvie Powell entered the meeting at 7:09 p.m.)

3) Reports

a) LAPD: No Senior Lead Officer was able to attend as they have been assigned to the Palisades fire staging area.

b) Council District 15: Field Deputy Nicholas Chavez said that Councilmember Tim McOsker wants to reassure stakeholders of CD 15 that although many police and firefighters have been re-assigned to assist with the Palisades fire and its aftermath, there are still adequate numbers of public safety staff assigned to our area. For those who want to donate to help those impacted by the fires, the Councilmember has a list of those accepting donations on the Council District website. Be aware of which organizations seeking donations are reputable. The Department of Sanitation has begun removing debris from the Palisades fire and Urban Forestry has been clearing away downed and burned trees. The CD 15 Clean Team has been focusing on cleaning up under the freeway overpasses, with some cleaning up of weeds along Imperial Highway (Wadsworth to Stanford). The City parkway on Vermont Avenue north of Rosecrans Avenue will also be cleared of weeds and along Hoover Street in District 4. Caltrans has been cleaning up along the 110 freeway from Carson Street to Imperial Highway. Metro/Caltrans has a beautification project that will impact the I-110 at the 91 freeway interchange and also at the 105 interchange. The proposal is to pave some areas that are currently unpaved to make Caltrans vehicle access easier, plus planting new drought-tolerant plants which will help counter illegal dumping. They welcome input on the plant palette and will be hosting a community meeting via Zoom on Wed. February 5 at 6 p.m. Nicholas noted that there have been a number of fires set along the 110 freeway, including at Alondra Blvd. and Redondo Beach Blvd., and these are related to homeless encampments. There are encampments at Broadway and 117th Street and in a nearby alley. Nicholas is working with la-hop and Senior Lead Officer Tyson Hamaoka on setting up a clean up. The homeless encampment in the alley south of 129th Street should be cleared by January 15. Service providers have been reaching out to those in the encampment. There has also been outreach to those living in vehicles along the south side of Imperial Highway. To reach Exodus to provide a non-police response, call 1-877-275-5273. This number can be used for noise complaints, drug use, loitering, and cars that are doing wheelies or street racing. Due to the fires, the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count has been postponed until later in February. In regard to the increase in graffiti along Gardena Blvd. and nearby, GAP has been busy painting it out. In regards to the auto repair business at 762 W. Gardena Blvd.

across from the Boys and Girls Club, Nicholas has been working with the owner on the issue of the business parking vehicles being worked on on nearby streets and on the illegal removal of the two street trees on the Menlo Avenue side of the business.

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

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

e) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Helena Doub, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate for Harbor Gateway North, noted that this is a difficult time for the City of Los Angeles. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has sent out links to resources for those impacted by the fires. Candidate filing for the Neighborhood Council Board election closed on January 6. DONE met with the Board of Public Works on some of the issues which City residents have been raising with their Neighborhood Councils, including the many street lights which are out. Stakeholders can email the Board of Public Works directly when it takes a long time for repairs. The statistics on reports can be found on the Open Data portal, though it has not been recently updated. Public Works will be hosting Town Halls in various Council Districts to hear concerns regarding street lighting, sidewalks, road paving, etc.

f) HGNNX Board election candidates; voter registration event on Sat. February 1: Candidate filing closed on January 6. There are four contested seats and three seats with no candidates. The tentative date for the Candidate Forum is either Wed. February 12 or Thurs. February 13 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Voter registration for vote-by-mail ballots begins on January 24. There will be a ballot drop box, but the location is not known yet. Otherwise there will be postage-paid envelopes to mail back the ballots via U.S. mail.

g) Updates on 2024-2025 Board goals/priorities: Rosecrans Avenue medians planting with trees (Joan Jacobs and Dave Trejo)—no updates. Coffee with a Cop--Frankie Mays said that due to the LAPD assisting with the Palisades fire recovery, the event will possibly be scheduled sometime later in February and held at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. Increasing stakeholder engagement via van tour of HGNNC (Jackie Jackson and Dave Trejo)—this project is on hold. Dave noted that 6th to 8th graders at the Environmental Charter Middle School will be identifying issues to advocate for at a January 31 meeting. Cultural event involving youth—Finesse Simmons and those students assisting her have started contacting possibly beauty supply businesses and those who offer beauty services. Eva Cooper-Pace noted that she has a box of crocheted hair she can donate for the event. CD 15 will not start planning the event until later in February. Farmers' Markets—Majenni Nixon said that there are no updates. Updating website—Rosalie Preston said that the resource links for fire victims which the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment provided have been posted to the HGNNC website. She will be suggesting some design improvements, such as subject tabs across the top of the website based on the websites of two other Neighborhood Councils.

4) Revised appointment of Homeless Liaisons: Three of the previously appointed Homeless Liaisons who were voted on at the January 9 Board meeting have resigned. District 5 stakeholder Hannah Woods will remain, and the proposal is to appoint Board members Marvin Bell and Barbara Tyson-Frazier to join Ms. Woods in being the three officially appointed liaisons. The responsibility of the Liaisons is to attend the bi-monthly meetings set up by DONE, which are held by Zoom, and to report back to the Board. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Eva Cooper Pace and passed 13 (Bell, Cooper Pace, Frerichs, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Nixon, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo)-0-1 (Simmons) to appoint Hannah Woods, Marvin Bell, and Barbara Tyson-Frazier as the Homeless Liaisons.

5) Approval of revisions to the HGNNC Standing Rules: District 5 stakeholder and Bylaws Committee member Luetta Watson objected to the Board approving the draft Standing Rules as she wanted all items to be reviewed and discussed by the Bylaws Committee. It was moved by

Marvin Bell, seconded by Eva Cooper Pace, and passed 11 (Cooper Pace, Frerichs, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Nixon, Powell, Ruiz, Simmons, Stonehocker,)-3 (Bell, Preston, Trejo)-0 to table the item and refer to the Bylaws Committee.

6) Consideration of support for Council File 24-0602 (Synthetic grass/Health and Environmental Risks): The draft letter was screen-shared. It has been found that artificial grass has a life span, cannot be recycled and so ends up in landfills, can become extremely hot in the summer so that contact with it can cause burns, and does not save on water as it requires washing down. LADWP no longer pays for artificial grass to replace lawns as part of its efforts to reduce water use in outdoor landscaping. The Council File supporting studies on phasing out artificial turf in public and private spaces has already been passed by the City Council, but the HGNNC can consider adding its support, as many other Neighborhood Councils have done. It was moved by Majenni Nixon, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 14 (Bell, Cooper Pace, Frerichs, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Nixon, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Simmons, Stonehocker, Trejo)-0-0 to support the Council File and file a Community Impact Statement.

7) Report on City Attorney communication regarding Board member absences and possible removal: This item was removed from the agenda on the advice of the City Attorney's office.

8) Administrative motions

a) Approval of the December 10, 2024, Board minutes: It was moved by Majenni Nixon, seconded by Frankie Mays, and passed 14 (Bell, Cooper Pace, Frerichs, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Nixon, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Simmons, Stonehocker, Trejo)-0-0 to approve the minutes as corrected. The Board members who were listed as "absent (excused)" will just be listed as "absent."

b) Approval of the December 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report: Treasurer Majenni Nixon screen-shared and summarized the expenditures for December. \$23,203.10 remains in the HGNNC Funding account. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Arvie Powell, and passed 13 (Bell, Cooper Pace, Frerichs, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Nixon, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo)-0-0, with Simmons ineligible due to age, to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report.

c) Approval of up to \$100 for additional Homeless Count refreshments on January 23: Rosalie Preston explained that LAHSA is providing gift cards for \$50 worth of refreshments for potentially 50 volunteers at the deployment site at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. for the Harbor Gateway area. However, just in case more water and snacks are needed at the last minute, the additional funds would be authorized. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Nita Stonehocker, and passed 13 (Bell, Cooper Pace, Frerichs, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Nixon, Powell, Preston, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo)-0-0, with Simmons ineligible due to age, to approve the expenditure.

d) Approval of a Board Reimbursement of \$43.80 to Rosalie Preston for 250 paper bags from Etsy for Winter Wonderland at Normandale Recreation Center on December 20, 2024: Rosalie explained that the bank card was rejected when she tried to order the bags online and the card could not be unblocked in time for the bags to be received before the event, so she used a personal credit card. It was moved by Frankie Mays, seconded by Majenni Nixon, and passed 12 (Bell, Cooper Pace, Frerichs, Jackson, Jacobs, Kusunoki, Mays, Nixon, Powell, Ruiz, Stonehocker, Trejo)-0-1(Preston), with Simmons ineligible due to age, to approve the Board reimbursement.

9) Board business/announcements

a) Reports from Committees: The Planning and Land Use Committee will meet on January 23, with updates on the proposed Prologis warehouse and California Waste Services permit review on the agenda.

b) Brief announcements from Board members: The Tues. January 28 General Membership meeting was to have been held at the 135th Street School with Neighborhood Housing Services explaining the types of services they offer. However, possibly the meeting will be moved to a virtual meeting due to disruptions due to the fires. Many City Departments are not responding to requests to speak and possibly the school will not be open on that date. A last-minute decision will be made by Thursday January 16 as the meeting flyer needs to go to the printer on January 17.

The Mayor's Day of Service on Sat. January 25 will be postponed. This initiative is something that Mayor Karen Bass announced at the 25-year anniversary celebration of Neighborhood Councils on December 13 at City Hall. The plan is to hold a monthly clean up day at sites around the City of Los Angeles, with participants from many Neighborhood Councils and community groups.

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count has been postponed until later in February, due to the impact of the Palisades, Eaton, and other fires.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Secretary