Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 2014
135th Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Donald Cook (Outreach Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m.by Chair Delores Allmond, followed by the salute to the flag, and a moment of silent reflection. Delores read out the HGNNC Code of Civility. She then congratulated all of the Board election winners.

1) Public Comment: District 1 stakeholder Charlene Marshall discussed the problem that Three Ranch Estates townhome owners have had in getting the large ficus trees along Gardena Blvd. and Figueroa Street trimmed or removed because they have uplifted the sidewalks. The raised sidewalks are creating a safety hazard at the bus stop. She has e-mailed the City many times and been told that the request is "in the queue." There used to be street sweeping sign but those have been removed and the streets are no longer cleaned. She was advised to keep in touch with the Board about these issues and several Board members offered to work with her on these issues.

Rey Paduani**,** District 3 Representative and Southeast Station CPAB member, announced that Sergeant Bobo's mother died a week ago. Her funeral will be at Crenshaw Christian Church tomorrow.

2) Approval of the April 8 Board minutes: It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 12-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

3) Treasurer's report: Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the monthly expenditure report for April 2014. As of May 12, total HGNNC expenditures of the $37,000 allocated are $27,538.06, with $9,462 remaining.

(Neodros Bridgeforth entered the meeting at 7:37 p.m.)

Possibly another $7,140 in expenditures will be voted on tonight. It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 13-0-0 to accept the Treasurer's report.

3a. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has requested that Neighborhood Councils consider contributing some of their remaining funds to the Congress of Neighborhoods which will be held at City Hall on Sat. September 20. The Congress provides many useful workshops for Board members and stakeholders, with a breakfast and lunch provided. There are also opportunities to talk with Board members from other Councils to share ideas. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 6-2-1 (R. Lee and Cook voting "no"; Hawkins abstaining) to fund the Congress with $1,000.

3b. Mike Herrera, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the South Bay asked for funding for three new computers since those in the computer room of the Boys and Girls Club of the Harbor Gateway/Gardena are almost eight years old. He emphasized that the computers would be used by the high school students of the Learn for Life Charter School. The new computers would also be available for HGNNC Board and stakeholders to use for training purposes. Betty Hawkins raised the issue of the poor upkeep of the facility which is a City building leased to the Boys and Girls Club. It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Rosalie

Preston, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the expenditure of $1,500 for three new computers via a Neighborhood Purposes Grant; the computers would be for the use of the Boys and Girls Club afterschool program, the Learn for Life Charter School, and Board members and stakeholders of the HGNNC.

3c. Dexter McLeod, People for Community Improvement (PCI Marketing Director, discussed the 5th Annual Walk for Life on August 9 which the HGNNC has previously participated in. The walk begins at Helen Keller Park on Vermont Avenue and El Segundo, covers El Segundo to Athens Park, and continues on to Magic Johnson Park where a Community Festival will be held. The Walk celebrates the unity of former feuding gang members who now work in common purpose. PCI will be receiving $25,000 for the total costs of the walk and festival and asks that the HGNNC contribute a small portion for flyers, T-shirts, and refreshments—all as part of the community outreach effort. It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 9-0-0 to fund $1,000 to support this event via a Neighborhood Purposes Grant.

(Rey Paduani left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

3d. It was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 8-0-0 to fund up to $1,000 for a District 6 Clean Up Day on Sat. July 19. The costs will include printing of flyers, translation of flyer language, delivery of flyers by CIPS Marketing, refreshments and beverages, and possibly a portable toilet.

3e. The seven-year-old HGNNC laptop uses Windows Vista and does not load webpages correctly. A computer technician has suggested that the laptop is not worth upgrading. Therefore a new laptop is needed to project PowerPoint presentations and websites for HGNNC programs and trainings. It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 8-0-0 to purchase a new laptop for up to $1,000 for use with the PowerPoint projector.

3f. The HGNNC currently owns three swivel chairs and four padded-seat folding chairs. For the purposes of holding committee meetings at the Harbor Gateway Community Center, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 7-1-0 (R. Lee voting "no") to spend up to $1,000 for two folding tables and eight padded-seat folding chairs.

4) Report on the May 6 Board election: 123 Harbor Gateway North stakeholders submitted vote-by-mail applications to the City Clerk but only half were returned as voted ballots. One person received her VBM ballot two days after the May 6 Board election date. However, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment totals voter applications and so the HGNNC had 204, with 143 votes. The elected District 1 Representative Arthur Cramer does not wish to serve on the Board due to his other commitments, including a lot of travel out of the country. The newly elected District 8 Representative Michael Chiles has indicated via telephone that he has realized he cannot make a commitment at this time, so he wishes to resign. A new At-Large Representative is also needed for the Board.

(Donald Cook left the meeting at 8:25 pm.)

5) Recommendation from the Planning and Land Use Committee to adopt the CPIO recommendations of the HGNNC for the South L.A. and Southeast L.A. Community Plan updates: Although some explanations for the [Q] conditions on several parcels within Districts 6, 7, and 8 have been received, it was decided to postpone a Board vote on this issue until the Tues. May 20 Special Board meeting to more carefully discuss whether maintaining the [Q] conditions is more beneficial for the community or not. District 7 Representative Rosario Rico discussed her conversation with City Planner Alex Campbell on the "shotgun" duplex issue and he has asked for examples. These duplexes have proliferated all over South L.A. and nearly all are rentals with many managed by investor companies as Section 8 housing. One such company is Ocean Properties. It has been suggested that this issue should be brought to the attention of Councilman Joe Buscaino and the other Councilmembers.

6) Letter to Councilmembers Buscaino and Parks re: File No. 13-1493 which would allow both food and merchandise to be sold on City streets: MAAT Institute for Community Change representative Kokayi Kwa Jitahidi gave some background on this issue. Currently street vending is illegal but not regulated. He and other groups support having regulated street vending as a component of economic development. If vendors were licensed, then the revenue collected could be used to enforce the conditions set for vending sites. It was decided to refer this issue to the Planning and Land Use Committee meeting of Sat. May 17 for further discussion.

(Rosario Rico left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.)

7) Letter requesting a traffic signal for the intersection of 168th Street and Figueroa Street in District 1: District 1 stakeholders who use 168th Street to exit the neighborhood have complained that it is difficult to drive onto Figueroa Street without a traffic signal or at least four-way stop signs due to the many cars using El Antojito Restaurant and the food truck that is permanently parked there which blocks their view of oncoming traffic from the north. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 5-4-0 to support this request. (Bell, R. Lee, Fowlkes, and Thornton voted "no"; Valenzuela abstained) Planning and Land Use Chair Pamela Thornton asked that the issue be placed on the Sat. May 17 Planning and Land Use Committee agenda for further discussion before the letter is written so that some analysis of traffic patterns, number of collisions, etc. can be made.

8) Update on Rosecrans 3D Imaging Project property issues and June 7 Town Hall on property damage, ground subsidence, and active well issues: Rosalie presented a draft flyer with the confirmed speakers and topics they will cover. The Town Hall will begin with a short PowerPoint presentation to give a background on the seismic testing, ground subsidence issues, and impact of the active wells in the area. It was suggested that possibly State and Federal representatives should be invited to attend.

9) Report on the HGNNC activities and events (Bureau of Street Services HGNNC Pothole Day on April 16 and Youth Leadership Program workshops at Rosecrans Recreation Center): Youth Representative Richard Lee reported that an average of five young people have attended the first three workshops and there are eight on the roster. The program is going well though the Recreation Center has turned out to be very noisy at that time of day. If the Academy is offered again, a different location needs to be found for it.

All potholes requested to be filled on Wed. April 16 were filled, including one in the alley south of 135th Street.

10) Announcements: Joan Jacobs announced that the funding forms for District funding requests should be completed and submitted by June 1 if possible. Preparations for the 2014-2015 budget are behind schedule due to focusing on the May 6 Board election. An e-mail will go out to remind stakeholders of the funding application deadlines with forms attached.

District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson announced that there will be free boat rides on Sat. May 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Port of Los Angeles. Riders are encouraged to arrive early. She also mentioned Proposition 42 on the Tues. June 3 ballot which relates to posting requirements for public meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary