

## **Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting**

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

135<sup>th</sup> Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewlyn Fowlkes (District 5), Shirley Johnson (District 8), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Charlene Marshall (At-Large Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond. Rey Paduani led the salute to the flag and there was a brief moment of silence.

**1) Public Comment:** District 7 stakeholder Vanessa Johnson reported that the City Council has funded a study of Air B and B. Vanessa would like the HGNNC to recommend that she be appointed to the board which will make the study. She asked that this item be placed on a future agenda.

**2) Joeann Valle, Harbor City-Harbor Gateway Chamber discusses creation of a possible Harbor Gateway North commercial center:** Joeann Valle, Executive director of the Harbor City-Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce said that the Chamber is assisting small businesses which are struggling to remain viable. In the Harbor Gateway area, there is not a strong identity because Harbor Gateway North is confused with Gardena and Harbor Gateway South with Torrance and sometimes Carson. The Chamber would like to see a distinct downtown area for Harbor City, Harbor Gateway South, and Harbor Gateway North. The focus for Harbor City would be Pacific Coast Highway. She recently drove around the Harbor Gateway North area with Octaviano Rios of the Mayor's Office and Octaviano remarked that Gardena Blvd. from Vermont Avenue east to Figueroa has a lot of potential as a "downtown" focus. She said that Federal funds are available to help attract new businesses and create outdoor dining. There is the possibility of coordinating with the city of Gardena on Gardena Blvd. enhancements. Meanwhile the Harbor City-Harbor Gateway Chamber is creating a 501c3 organization to be able to apply for economic development grants. Some Board members remarked on the G13 presence in the Gardena Blvd. area. Joeann said that new business development might help reduce the presence of the gang. This proposal is just in the beginning stages and she will keep the HGNNC informed. She hopes to see the HGNNC create an Ad Hoc Committee in about six months' time to work with the Chamber on developing this proposal.

**3) Approval of the August 12 Board minutes:** Joan Jacobs moved, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded, and it was passed 10-0-0 to approve the August 12 Board minutes as corrected.

**4) Treasurer's report on expenditures to date and August monthly report:** Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the seven expenditures made during the month of August from the allocated funds of \$37,000. The total expenditures for August total \$3,071.47. An additional \$249.73 has been encumbered to date, leaving a balance of \$28,922.55. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 10-0-0 to approve the Financial Expenditure Report for August 2014.

**4a. Vote on \$1,000 as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to support the Positive Results Corporation 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Teen Summit on Dating Violence, Sex Trafficking and Bully**

**Prevention on November 15 at Cal State Dominguez Hills:** Kandee Lewis, Executive Director of the Positive Results Corporation, said that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summit last year had 900 attendees, with 110 from the Harbor Gateway North area. Each year has seen a dramatic increase in attendees. There will be workshops for young women, young men, adults, the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered) community, bullying prevention (including cyber bullying), financial literacy, self-esteem, and dating awareness. Those attending usually range from 10 to 98. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the opening session begins at 9:30 a.m. The \$1,000 requested from the HGNNC will be used for security and also some of the refreshments, which will include a continental breakfast and boxed lunch. The whole event is free to attendees. The total cost will be at least \$15,000, with Kaiser Permanente, Verizon, and as some of the major sponsors. The HGNNC can also have a table for outreach purposes. The HGNNC name will be on the flyer and listed in the program booklet. And there will be a link to the HGNNC website from the Positive Results Corp. website. Rosalie Preston moved, Richard Lee seconded, and it was passed 10-0-0 to approve \$1,000 as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to support the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Teen Summit.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)  
(Neodros Bridgeforth left the room at 8:11 p.m.)

**4b. Vote on \$1,300 to support the Oct. 11 Board Retreat at the Holiday inn-Torrance:** At the August 12 Board meeting, the HGNNC Board voted for the necessity of holding the annual Board retreat just outside the HGNNC boundaries at the Holiday-Inn Torrance. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Llewlyn Fowlkes, and passed 8-0-0 to allocate up to \$1,300 to cover the costs of holding the October 11 Board Retreat at the Holiday Inn-Torrance for approximately 22 to 25 Board members and stakeholders.

(Neodros Bridgeforth returned to the meeting at 8:19 p.m.)

**4c. Vote on \$350 to upgrade office computer to Windows 7 and add more memory via Alltech of Lomita:** It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Llewlyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 to approve spending \$350 to upgrade the HGNNC office computer.

**4d. Vote on \$200 to update the HGNNC website via Moore Business Results:** The HGNNC website needs two Drupal software updates, an update to the Board name and generic e-mail linkages, and some other updates to content on the website. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 9-0-0 to allocate up to \$200 to make these updates via Moore Business Results.

**4e. Vote on \$800 to purchase a new laptop for public presentations:** The old HP laptop battery is depleted and the Windows Vista software does not allow for loading websites correctly. The laptop has been used in the past to link to the PowerPoint projector for public presentations at General Membership meetings and Committee meetings and also for Board trainings. It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Llewlyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 to purchase a new laptop and also a USB connector for up to \$800.

**4f. Vote on \$37.51 to reimburse Board Member Richard Lee for refreshments for four sessions of the Youth Leadership program:** Board Member Richard Lee expended funds for refreshments for the May Leadership Academy programs held at the Rosecrans Recreation Center. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 9-0-0 to approve reimbursement of those refreshment costs which total \$37.51.

**5) Support for PLU Committee recommendation on 23 small-lot houses at 15812 S.**

**Vermont Avenue:** The Planning and Land Use Committee held a meeting on September 6 at which developer Steve Stapakis and his architect Dave Parker presented a revised design for the proposed 23 small-lot houses for 15812 S. Vermont Avenue. The Committee voted 6-1-1 to support the proposal with the condition that the project have 1) a Homeowner's Association, 2) strong CC&Rs (conditions, covenants, and restrictions), and 3) a landscaping plan which will ensure that the new homes and landscaping are maintained to a high standard and that the units remain mostly occupied by homeowners rather than becoming rental properties. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 9-0-0 to support the PLU Committee recommendation.

**6) Appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to plan the Sat. October 11 Board Retreat:** Rosalie Preston moved, Llewlyn Fowlkes seconded, and it was passed 9-0-0 to appoint Vanessa Johnson, Joan Jacobs, and Betty Hawkins to this committee to plan the October 11 Board Retreat.

**7) Report on Planning and Land Use issues (upcoming public hearings on fracking ordinances, 7-Eleven, low-income housing):** In the absence of PLU Chair Pamela Thornton, Rosalie Preston reported that it is expected that the ordinances supported by the HGNNC to restrict fracking within City boundaries will be coming before the appropriate City Council committees and then the full City Council within the next month. The PLU Committee is planning to have a number of stakeholders attend these meetings to show support. The representative for the 7-Eleven which is proposing to locate at the southeast corner of Imperial Highway and Avalon attended the August 16 PLU Committee meeting and received a lot of input from Committee members and stakeholders of the area. Because the LAPD Southeast Division is opposed to having alcoholic beverage sales at this location, the representative said that they would be asking for no alcoholic beverage sales but instead for 24-hour operation with appropriate security features. The location presents some major traffic issues, especially after school, due to the Jack Skirball Charter School located just south of the proposed site on Avalon and also the bus stop on Avalon near the entrance to the strip mall parking lot. The project is still not finalized and the conditional use permit application has not been filed. The PLU Committee will invite the low-income housing developer to its Sat. October 3 meeting to hear more details of this two-phase project at 127<sup>th</sup> Street.

**8) Report on the August 16 Budget Day at City Hall:** HGNNC Budget Representatives Joan Jacobs and Charlene Marshall reported on this year's Budget Day. The Mayor's Deputy Rick Cole discussed performance budgeting which has the goal of focusing on achieving results. There was discussion of a possible bond issue to provide funding to repair City sidewalks. Meanwhile 40% of City streets have a D or F rating. After the main session, each area met in smaller groups to come up with their area's priorities for City spending. Joan Jacobs stressed that the HGNNC area needs more funds for clean up of alleys and illegal dumping and repair of sidewalks.

**9) Report on the NC Presidents' meeting on June 30:** Chair Delores Allmond said that some of the topics of discussion at the meeting with Councilman Buscaino were the proposed Board of Neighborhood Commissioners sexual harassment and bullying policy and training for Neighborhood Councils. She has also learned that on September 10, the Transportation Committee will discuss a motion proposed by Councilman Buscaino which would prohibit large truck traffic on 135<sup>th</sup> Street from Estrella to Vermont Avenue so as to protect the children and parents crossing the street to the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School.

**10) Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of September 3:** Lu Watson reported that City Attorney Sonja Dawson will soon return to the Southeast Division as the Neighborhood Prosecutor. The Neighborhood Prosecutor can handle nuisance abatement issues, illegal dumping, homeless encampments, and other issues that require the coordination of the City Attorney, LAPD, and other City agencies.

**11) Announcements:** District 3 Representative Rey Paduani reported on the Sat. September 6 signature gathering along 149<sup>th</sup> Street in District 3 whose purpose was to alert stakeholders to the telephone numbers to call to report dust and noise violations from California Waste Services when they occur.

Treasurer Joan Jacobs reported that she has talked with Councilman Buscaino's office and the HGNNC request to have \$2, in 2013-2014 funds restored to pay four 2013-2014 bills will be brought to City Council along with similar requests from some City departments whose remaining funds were also swept near the end-of-year deadline

Emily Saenz, the Community Liaison for the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School said that the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School will be holding its first Annual Harvest Health and Safety Fair on Saturday October 25.

There will be a Community Open House on Sat. September 13 from 1-5 p.m. at the enterprise Park Gymnasium to answer questions about the environmental investigation and cleanup related to the former Athens Tank Farm which impacted the former Ujima Village apartments. Some HGNNC stakeholders have received the meeting announcement.

The Congress of Neighborhoods will be held on Sat. September 20 from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at City Hall. All Board members and stakeholders are invited to attend this free training event which includes a free breakfast and lunch.

People for Community Improvement will be holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner on Sat. November 8 from 4-8 p.m. at the Athens Park Gym, 12603 S. Broadway. The dinner is free for veterans, active duty members, law enforcement, and their spouses.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary