

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

135th Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Rosario Rico (District 7), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Charlene Marshall (At-Large Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond. After the salute to the flag and a moment of silence, Delores read out the Code of Civility.

1) Public Comment: Joseph Martinez, District Director for LAUSD Board President Dr. Richard Vladovic, said that HGNNC Board and stakeholders can call on him for education or school-related issues.

Art Cramer, District 1 stakeholder, again raised the issue of large truck parking along Figueroa Street next to residential homes. He has asked to have signs saying no 18-wheelers because of the health issues from their air pollution but instead the DOT has installed “No Stopping” signs and he has received a \$100 ticket for parking outside his own home. He feels victimized by DOT putting up the wrong signs and also not consulting with the Neighborhood Council first.

2) Council District 15 report: Daisy Ybarra, Field Deputy for the Harbor Gateway area, both north and south, discussed the new signs for the 135th Street that will prohibit trucks over 6,000 lb. from using 135th Street past Orchard Avenue. This will improve the safety of children at the 135th Street School. There are still some issues with the 135th Street School valet parking. In the area that says “loading only” for buses, parents are parking their cars and blocking the buses from parking there. There has been a request for a walking path along Hoover Street from Rosecrans to 135th Street with grass or artificial turf. The property belongs to Caltrans. District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins expressed a concern that dog walkers would not pick up after their dogs while walking along such a path. Sat. October 25 is the 1st Annual Harvest Festival Resource and Health Awareness Community Fair at the 135th Street School from 10 am to 2 pm. HGNNC is one of the sponsors along with Councilman Buscaino. Two bicycles will be raffled off. Another area of valet parking for the 135th Street School will be established along 134th Street. District 7 Representative Rosario Rico raised the issue of illegal dumping under the 105 Freeway overpass at Main Street. Daisy said that the Sanitation Department has only one bulky item truck for the whole of the 15th Council District. There is finally a new Senior Lead Officer for car 18A97: Carmen Gutierrez. At-Large Representative Charlene Marshall raised the issue of the very large ficus trees planted in the parkway along Figueroa Street and Gardena Blvd. around the Three Ranch Estate condominium complex. They have lifted the sidewalks around their roots, making walking dangerous. Daisy said that Councilman Buscaino is providing a 50-50 program out of his officeholder funds so that he can fund the tree removal if the residents replace the sidewalk. She suggested calling Nicole Wells about that program.

(Charlene Marshall left the room at 7:52 p.m.)

3) Approval of the August 12 Board minutes: It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Rosario Rico, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the minutes as corrected (in item 11 Announcements,

second paragraph, the correct amount that Joan Jacobs referred to of 2014-2014 fund to be encumbered is \$2,146.71). Chair Delores Allmond voted to maintain the quorum
(Charlene Marshall returned to the meeting at 7:55 p.m.)

4) Treasurer's report on expenditures to date and September monthly report, including new form for funding outreach events: Treasurer Joan Jacobs explained the error made for the total expenditures in the August 2014 Monthly Expenditure Report and then reviewed the September 2014 Monthly Expenditure Report which showed just one expenditure of \$76.29. Joan has been unable to access the HGNNC Union Bank account to see details of our expenditures but should be able to do so before the next Board meeting. The uncommitted amount left of the allocated \$37,000 is \$30,441.71 as of the end of September. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 9-0-0 to approve the Treasurer's report.

Joan then gave out a sample of the new Neighborhood Council Event Approval Form which must be completed and submitted to the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment a month before every planned event.

4a. Support for up to \$3,000 for Sat. November 8 Emergency Preparedness outreach event, including 10,000 flyers, flyer delivery, small bags for materials, and lunch for 50 block leaders: Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair Deborah Lee reviewed the planned outreach event. The Committee met on September 29 and came up with the proposed budget for the two-sided flyers and delivery, possible small brown paper bags to put the materials in to be left with each household, use of the 135th Street School for two hours for lunch, and the Subway boxed lunches and water. It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed to allocated up to \$3,000 for this event which supports one of the five major goals of the HGNNC for the fiscal year.

(Deborah Lee left the meeting at 8:22 p.m.)

4b. Support for up to \$400 for Sat. October 25 Health and Safety Fair at the 135th Street School, to provide hotdogs, buns, and chips: It was move by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 9-0-0 to spend up to \$400 for this event. Chair Delores Allmond voted to maintain the quorum.

5) Report on the new Willowbrook Community Garden at 120th Street and Avalon: At-Large Representative Charlene Marshall reported on this new community garden which is overseen by the Community Garden Council with support from Wells Fargo Bank. The dedication ceremony was held on Sat. October 11 with representatives from the Department of Water and Power and the County of Los Angeles present. There were two years of planning before the garden was ready to rent out the 80 raised plots. Willowbrook area residents have priority for renting the plots, with an annual cost of \$60. There is a Garden Master to give advice. Charlene is now the secretary of the Willowbrook Community Gardens Board and will keep us updated on the gardens' progress.

6) Recommendation from the Planning and Land Use committee to oppose the proposed affordable housing project for disabled and veterans, 536-548 W. 127th Street and 535-611 W. El Segundo Blvd. (DIR-2014-2371-DB-SPR) in District 5: The Planning and Land Use Committee heard from the representative of Meta Housing, Mee Semcken, on details of the proposed two-phase affordable housing project, which would provide housing for the disabled and veterans and their families. While a worthy project, the Committee voted to oppose the project because it would be located on the east side of the 110 Harbor Freeway and be subject to freeway air pollution and north of El Segundo Blvd. which is a route traveled by heavy trucks which generate air pollution, would be built over land which has been polluted by a number of

old oil wells, is an area distant from schools for children to walk to, has no nearby amenities, is not situated close to public transportation except for one bus stop on El Segundo, would be within the territory of two known youth gangs, and would not support the goal of inclusionary housing where those of low-income are placed in regular apartment units which are subsidized. District 5 stakeholder Lu Watson asked that the possibility of the WesPac jet fuel pipeline running under El Segundo just to the south of the proposed affordable project also be included in the letter. Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston expressed support for the project in spite of the drawbacks of the site because affordable housing with support staff on site is so needed. She noted a telephone call from a stakeholder who had seen the agenda and was upset about the proposed opposition to a project that would provide housing for veterans. It was moved by Betty Hawkins, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 7-2-0 to oppose this project. (Rosalie Preston and Rosario Rico voted no.) Chair Delores Allmond voted to maintain the quorum.

7) Letter requesting night-time lighting for the Rosecrans Recreation Center walking path and basketball court: District 3 Representative Rey Paduani reported on the Rosecrans Recreation Center Community meeting which was held on Wed. October 8. The three main issues which were discussed by those present were the lack of lighting for the walking path through the park, the lack of lighting for the basketball court, and the lack of lighting for the southeast corner of the park which is where beer drinking, pot smoking, and other undesirable activities take place. It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 9-0-0 to approve sending a letter to Serena Fiss-Ward, Harbor District Recreation Supervisor, and Council District 15 about these issues.

(Richard Lee entered the meeting at 8:47 p.m.)

8) Letter to City officials requesting improved upkeep and repairs of the inside and outside of the Harbor Gateway Community Center: There have been a number of complaints about the standards of cleanliness and maintenance of the Harbor Gateway Community Center, which is leased to the Boys and Girls Club of the South Bay by the City of Los Angeles. It was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Rosalie Preston, and passed 9-0-0 to approve sending a letter to Councilman Buscaino asking for improved maintenance.

(Richard Lee left the meeting at 8:52 p.m.)

9) Follow-up from October 11 Board Retreat: This item was tabled until the November 11 Board meeting.

(Charlene Marshall left the meeting at 9 p.m.)

10) Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of October 1: The new Economic Development and Planning Director for Council District 15, David A. Roberts, was introduced and reviewed his background which is in economic development for Councilmembers Mark Ridley-Thomas and Bernard Parks. There was a motion to have each Neighborhood Council commit \$1,500 of its funds yearly to help fund City-wide advertising of Neighborhood Councils. The Harbor Area Neighborhood Councils are interested in creating videos about Neighborhood Council activities which could be used to promote more involvement by stakeholders.

11) Announcements: Rosecrans Recreation Center will hold its Halloween Spooktacular on Fri. October 31 from 5-8 p.m. and invites Board members to attend and judge the costume contest.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary