

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

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

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Pamela Thornton (Vice Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Shirley Johnson (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Organization Representative), and Richard Lee (Youth Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond. Rey Paduani led the salute to the flag and a moment of prayer.

**1) Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**2) Approval of the February 10 Board minutes:** It was moved by Rey Paduani, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 8-0-1 (Betty Hawkins abstaining) to approve the February 10 Board minutes as submitted.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:25 p.m.)

**3) Treasurer's report on expenditures to date and February monthly expenditure report:** Treasurer Joan Jacobs reviewed the six items on the February 2015 monthly expenditure report and pointed out the return of \$225.00 because the original check to Axiom for the July 22, 2014, General Membership meeting was never deposited. The total expended and committed through February 2015 is \$20,468.49. with \$16,531.51 of the \$37,000 still available.

(Shirley Johnson entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 10-0-0 (with Pamela Thornton ineligible) to approve the February 2015 monthly expenditure report.

**3a. Approval of up to \$500 to support a small business workshop:** Richard Lee reviewed the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Small Business Workshop Committee which decided to focus the workshop on existing small businesses and postpone the workshop until May or June in order to do more outreach to HGNNC small businesses. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes, and passed 10-0-0 (with Pamela Thornton ineligible) to approve up to \$500 for refreshments, possible location rental, and any needed supplies to support this workshop which will be organized by the Mayor's Office and the Economic and Workforce Development Department.

**3b. Approval of up to \$500 for refreshments, materials, and license fees for Ham radio classes:** An orientation session will be held on Thurs. March 26 at the Harbor Gateway Community Center, with Ham radio classes to follow in the coming months. Rosalie noted that the actual possible total cost for the classes could be up to \$1,000. It was moved by Marvin Bell, seconded by Rey Paduani, and passed 10-0-0 (with Pamela Thornton ineligible) to approve up to \$1,000 to cover refreshments, training materials, and license fees for HGNNC stakeholders who take Ham radio training.

**4) Presentation and possible position on raising the minimum wage, Council File 14-1371:** Vito Triglia of the Raise the Wage Coalition explained that the Coalition is composed of over 175 organizations, including non-profits, small businesses and labor groups. Since due to the current political situation workers cannot depend upon the Federal government to raise the minimum wage, various groups around the country have been working to raise it for local

jurisdictions. A raise would help workers keep up with the cost of living. There may be a vote on this issue in the Los Angeles City Council within one or two months. The Raise the Wage Coalition is proposing 1) a pathway to \$15 per hour, 2) enforcement so that wage theft is eliminated, and 3) five paid sick days per year. He noted that Los Angeles is the wage theft capital of the United States with \$3.7 million not paid to workers every day. San Francisco has local enforcement so that when workers claim their unpaid wages, 95% receive them whereas in Los Angeles that success rate is only 17%. Because the minimum wage is so low, a majority of Los Angeles residents pay over 50% of their income for housing, leaving not much else for other necessities. Raising the minimum wage also helps raise the local economy because more cash is available to spend. 650 economists have said that raising the minimum wage will not create an increase in unemployment. Board members asked who would enforce the law and how would they be paid. Vito said that the enforcement would be at the City level and the salary would come from the fines collected. In answer to a question, Vito said that wage theft is the highest in the car wash industry. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and passed 10-1-0 (with Llewyn Fowlkes voting no), to support the City Council's effort to increase the minimum wage to \$15 indexed to the cost of living, to include a comprehensive enforcement mechanism to end wage theft while protecting workers from retaliation, and to require five earned sick days as reflected in the Raise the Wage proposal.

Octaviano Rios who was also present as the Harbor Representative for the Mayor, said that the File No. 14-1371 is the Mayor's proposal which would raise the minimum wage to \$13.25 by 2017. This would raise 567,000 Los Angeles residents out of poverty. The measure is currently in Councilmember Curren Price's Economic Development Committee and four public hearings have been scheduled, with one in Watts on March 14.

**5) Discussion and vote on the proposed child care facility for 57 children at 762 W. 130<sup>th</sup> Street (District 4) in the R1-1 zone (ZA-2014-3889-CU):** Planning and Land Use Committee Chair Pamela Thornton explained that this issue came before the PLU Committee on February 7. Because there was no March PLU meeting and there was concern that the application will be heard before the Planning Department before the April 14 Board meeting, the item was put on this agenda. The proposal is to allow up to 57 children in the home at 762 W. 130<sup>th</sup> Street, which by right could be a child care facility for 14 children. Pamela explained that the PLU Committee has concern about so many children being in an R1-1 home. Wil Nieves, the applicant's representative, said that the applicant could not be present as he was opening another child care facility in Houston. He is the current owner of the Rising Stars Academy which has been located at 762 W. 131<sup>d</sup> Street for many years, a property which he has leased. He now owns the home at 762 W. 130<sup>th</sup> Street, which is next door to his grandfather's home, and is already operating it as a by-right 14-child facility. Mr. Nieves said that Rising Stars opened in 1983 with a conditional use permit for 38 children. The plan is to move the 38 children into the 762 W. 130<sup>th</sup> Street location where 14 are currently being cared for. That is a total of 52 children, so the 57 requested is only five more children to be brought to the 762 W. 130<sup>th</sup> Street location and that would not be a noticeable increase in traffic for parents dropping off their children in that area. There will never be 57 children in the facility at one time because of their differing school schedules. 57 children are allowed in the facility as it is 2,444 sq. feet and the requirement is 35 sq. feet per child. The current facility at 762 W. 131<sup>st</sup> Street is 1600 sq. ft. There is a lot of street parking available for parents' cars dropping off and picking up their children. There is also one handicapped parking space. And not all of the children will be brought by a vehicle as

some live within walking distance of the facility. The child care facility at 762 W. 131<sup>st</sup> Street will be closed because the lease is not being renewed. Pamela noted that the applicant was going to present a breakdown of how many children will be in each of the rooms of the new facility and also noted that the application says that there will be no student transportation. Mr. Nieves said that there will be no buses used but there will be a van to transport some children from their homes to the facility. Board members again asked exactly how many rooms will there be and how many bathrooms. Pamela again asked for a detailed floor plan but Mr. Nieves said that such a plan is not required before the application is approved. Pamela decided to table further discussion and a vote until the Sat. April 4 Planning and Land Use Committee meeting.

**6) Review and vote on revised 2014-2015 budget of \$39,000:** Treasurer Joan Jacobs explained that the revised budget is for a total of \$39,000 as Councilman Buscaino's office had managed to encumber the \$2,000 which DONE had swept from the HGNNC account in June 2014 while in the middle of funding various approved projects via demand warrants. She then reviewed the draft budget which the Finance Committee had approved on March 7. A number of funding proposals were received and discussed but more details are needed before the Committee can rate them and put them in priority order. Therefore there is an amount under 400 GRT "Potential grants to schools and non-profits" to cover the proposals that are approved. Another Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled later in March to further review the proposals and prioritize them. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Shirley Johnson, and passed 10-0-0 (with Pamela Thornton ineligible) to approve the revised budget of \$39,000.

**7) Discussion and possible action to select two Board or active stakeholders, one man and one woman, to attend the Neighborhood Council Civic University certificate program on April 2, April 8, and April 15. The two selected must commit to attending all three classes and work on a project to address an issue in their community:** Since Llewyn Fowlkes and Joan Jacobs are interested and willing to attend all three sessions and work on a project, it was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 11-0-0 to approve these two Board members for the Civic University. Octaviano Rios suggested that an existing HGNNC project could be used.

**8) Report on the March 4 Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting:** Rosalie reported that the April 1 HANC meeting will feature four representatives from the LAPD South Bureau, including former SE LAPD Captain Tingriedes. The three San Pedro and Harbor City Neighborhood Councils are all concerned about opening the new Harbor jail and also want to see more LAPD patrols throughout the residential neighborhoods, which is something that the HGNNC stakeholders also want to see. Grayce Liu was present and discussed the new online voting which will be used in the 2016 Neighborhood Council Board elections. About half of the HGNNC Board still need to review the Code of Conduct on the Empowerla website before April 3.

**9) Report on the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates:** Joan discussed the White Paper which the Budget Advocates have posted to their website NCBA-LA and also e-mailed to all Board members. It has five major goals and summaries of suggestions for each Department which the BA's interviewed. They are also now doing a weekly radio show. There will be Regional Budget Days soon, with possibly one in the Harbor area. If a Neighborhood Council has funds left over before June 30, the BA's suggest allocating it to both the Congress of Neighborhoods and also the Budget Advocates.

**10) Announcements:** District 3 Representative Rey Paduani reported on a meeting he attended which Betty Hawkins had organized to meet with an inspector from the Air Quality Management District to view the dust issues at California Waste Services. Betty has since been informed that a different inspector will be assigned to leave a dust collection sample on 149<sup>th</sup> Street.

Richard Lee asked that the members of the Ad Hoc Small Business Workshop Committee meet right after the Board meeting to set the next Committee meeting date.

Rosalie Preston reported that at the March 5 Executive Committee meeting, District 1 stakeholder Mark Hall gave an update on the Above Ground Facility issue next to his home. The Bureau of Engineering has been discussing an alternate location with Verizon. No formal appeal hearing date has yet been set.

Vanessa Johnson, District 7 stakeholder, reported that Burbank has outlawed manzionization.

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

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary