

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2012
135th Street Elementary School Auditorium
801 135th Street, Gardena, CA

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson); Delores Allmond (Vice Chairperson); Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary); Joan Jacobs (Treasurer); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Ray Paduani (District 3); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5); Marvin Bell (District 6); Gloria Christmas (District 8); Deborah Lee (Community Org. Rep.); Kandee Lewis (Youth Representative); Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative)..

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson).

1) **Public comment:** Carmen Gutierrez, interim LAPD Senior Lead Officer replacing SLO Armando Ramirez, gave a report of recent car thefts between midnight and 6.a.m. in the area of Imperial Blvd. south to Gardena Blvd. SLO Gutierrez can be reached at (213) 793-0727.

Lu Watson announced that Los Angeles City is redrawing the City Council boundary lines. The Redistricting Commission will meet tomorrow night at City Hall. She said that it appears that the HGNNC will remain within Council District 15. Council District 8 had a slight decrease in population and may have some parts of the northern areas of Council District 15 added to it.

2) **Approval of the December 13, 2011, Board minutes:** Gloria Christmas moved, Marvin Bell seconded and it was passed 9-0 that the minutes from the December 13, 2011 Board Meeting be approved as presented.

1) **Public comment (cont.)** Eric Anderson of the LAFD gave a year-end report saying there were 38,000 emergencies (increase of 2%) of which 84% were medical; 547 paramedic patients a day (200,000 for the year); 8,100 structure fires (slight decrease); 5% decrease in fire-related injuries. Only 18 civilians died in a city of 4 million and is the lowest fatality rate for any city. One firefighter, Glen Allen, died. Numbers are 50% below national average in fire fatalities and fire losses. The phone contact for Fire Station #79 on Vermont Avenue at 182nd Street is (310) 548-7579. For the area north of 135th Street, the Fire Station is #64 near the Southeast Police Station and the phone contact is (213) 485-6264.

(Eva Cooper arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

4) **Recommendations of the Planning and Land Use Committee on the Environmental Charter Middle School at 812 W. 165th Place in District 1 (CPC-2011-2498):** Neodros Bridgeforth reported that the Planning and Land Use Committee had voted at the January meeting to support the application for the environmental charter middle school, with four conditions. Lu Watson read the minutes from that meeting. The conditions requested are for a one-year plan approval, staggered hours for drop off of students, if needed; remote parking to be established for parent meeting and special events; and that any conditions run with the land. Marvin Bell moved and Rey Paduani seconded that the HGNNC support the proposal with the four conditions. The motion passed with 10 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

(Joan Jacobs arrives at 7:42 p.m.)

3) **Treasurer's Report:** Page 1 is the p-card statement of December 21, 2011; page 2 is the Expenditures summary from July 1, 2011, to January 6, 2012. A balance of \$20,216 remains (\$6,000 + already encumbered); page 3 is the Expenditure Details for the month of December 2011; and page 4 is the Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, approved July 12, 2011. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and it was passed 11-0 that the Treasurer's report be approved as presented. Rosalie Preston, Chairperson, briefly discussed the need for ideas for use of remaining funds. Richard Lee suggested having a contest for reporting the largest pot holes or badly cracked sidewalks which the HGNNC could then help to repair under the City's _____ program.

5) **Report on plans of other Harbor area Neighborhood Councils for Board elections in 2012.** Rosalie reminded the Board that they had voted to postpone the 2012 Board elections to 2014 and had submitted this to the City Clerk. She said that most other Harbor area Neighborhood Councils are planning some type of "selection" process, possibly for this spring. The City Council has now voted to hand over the authority for 2012 elections to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). However, it is still unclear exactly when these 2012 Board elections will be scheduled and what type of process will be used. DONE has said that NC's may be able to opt out of 2012 Board elections, if they choose.

6) **Further discussion of the proposal for a Skateboard Park and its location.** Tori Kjer of the Trust for Public Lands has e-mailed saying that the 119th and Avalon property looks promising for a possible skateboard park and that she will talk to the Recreation and Parks Department about this location. Gloria Christmas wondered if the church next door to this location would object. Rosalie said that Recreation and Parks talks to all neighbors of possible pocket parks before proceeding.

1) **Public Comment (cont.)** Joan Jacobs reported on the many meetings of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates. The Mayor's Budget survey is scheduled to go online on January 15th and all Board members are strongly encouraged to take the budget survey. Joan will email everyone to announce the online availability. The deadline to complete the survey is February 17th. Joan will be tabulating results as part of her responsibilities for the Budget Advocates.

7) **Report on planning issues, including 81 senior affordable units in the C2-1 zone at 16304 S. Vermont Avenue (site of Pacifica Swap Meet), 3 stories plus parking area at grade for 43 vehicles.** Rosalie reported that she, Neodros, and Ramon met at 16304 S. Vermont Avenue with Cary Brazeman. Cary lives in the mid-city area west of La Brea, is active with Mid City West Community Council, and has worked on modifying an SB 1818 project next to his home. The State law SB1818 overrides many of the City's planning and land use restrictions. Mark Phillips, the property owner, is working with an affordable housing group to build the 81 one-bedroom apartments with only 43 parking spaces. The Planning and Land Use Committee will meet on this issue later in January or early February. At the request of the HGNNC, there will also be a public hearing on Tues. February 21 at 6 p.m. at the Constituent Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue.

(Kandee Lewis arrived at 8:20 p.m.)

8) **Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of January 4:** At the next Harbor Alliance (HANC) meeting on Wednesday, February 1, newly elected Councilman Joe Buscaino will attend. Each Neighborhood Council is asked to present their three (3) top issues.. HANC members will provide a potluck meal to welcome the new Councilman. The location is in the Kaiser Conference Center on Normandie south of Pacific Coast Highway.

Rosalie will present the three priorities from the HGNNC Board retreat of Oct. 15: 1) attractive projects that stakeholders want and need; 2) emergency preparedness workshops; 3) community improvement, i.e., sidewalk repairs, more street trees, speed humps in front of Rosecrans Park. For the near future, Rosalie suggested creating prioritized lists of needed repairs/improvements for each of the eight HGNNC Districts. These can then be presented to the new Councilman for follow-up. Ray suggests the area of McDonald's at Rosecrans and Vermont needs attention. Lou Watson reminded that Janice Hahn had said 100 trees would be trimmed. Neodros named an empty lot full of trash and discarded furniture on 120th Street at 254 E. 120th Street (south side). Stanford and 116th Place was named as another problem area for the same reasons. It is a dumping ground and there is the 116th Street school close by.

9) **Update on HGNNC events (Emergency Preparedness training and other outreach events).** CERT training is currently being held at Normandale Recreation Center on Mondays at 6 p.m. until mid-February. CERT training will be held at Fire Station #64 beginning later in March. A letter will go out to all of the known HGNNC churches suggesting a joint outreach event.

10) **Announcements:** The 20th Empowerment Congress will be held at the USC Bovard Auditorium on January 14. There will be a continental breakfast and also a free luncheon. Vendors will be present with services. Registration encouraged at www.empowermentcongress.org or (213) 346-3246. (Sponsor Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas)

Kandee Lewis announced that her Youth Leadership program is beginning again - the Leadership Academy through the Sheriff's Department for 13 – 17 year old youth. The classes are 10-weeks and there will be focus on college information, in addition to the regular subject matter. (Century Sheriff Station at Imperial and Alameda).

Tues. January 24 is the HGNNC General Membership Meeting where the 10-year anniversary of the Harbor Gateway North NC will be recognized and celebrated.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl J. Wendell, (Kelly Services)