

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 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), Ramon Montoya (District 1); Adrian Valenzuela (District 2); Betty Hawkins (District 4); Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5); Gloria Christmas (District 8); Deborah Lee (Community Org. Rep.); and Leo Youngblood (At-Large Representative).

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson).

1) **Public comment:** Brother Kokayi Kwa Jitahidi announced that on Saturday, May 12 the South Los Angeles People's Convention and Candidate's Forum will be held at the Maya Angelou Community High School, 300 East 53rd Street, Los Angeles 90011 (53rd and San Pedro). Two hundred people attended last year at USC's Galen Center. There will be speakers, workshops, and Mayoral and City Council candidates, State assembly, State senate, L.A. City Council, and District Attorney candidates. The purpose is to re-engage the community and to that end, there will be many workshops, including on public education, jobs, housing, re-entry/prison policy, immigration, and possible tax initiatives. The convention is free and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and programs run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Website: www.southlapower.org for more information, or call (424) 240-8510. Neighborhood Councils who would like to be supporters or sponsors are welcome to do so.

2) **Recommendation of the Planning and Land Use Committee on 12920 S. Figueroa Street (ZA 2012-189-ZV), an application for livestock slaughter in the M2 zone:** Two Planning and Land Use Committee meetings have been held on the proposed application for livestock slaughter at 12920 S. Figueroa Street. The owner, Mr. Tran, seeks to expand from the current small-scale, non-commercial slaughter of poultry to include livestock (calves, sheep, goats, pigs). This business does not cater to restaurants but only to individuals. At the April 3 Planning and Land Use Committee meeting, there were 3 votes in favor of supporting his request application and 3 votes against, so no recommendation could be made to the Board. At the March 15 meeting of the 135th Street Neighborhood Watch (District 4), Mr. Tran was present to explain how the livestock slaughter would occur. Of eleven people present at that meeting, six voted to support the application, with two opposed and others wanting to visit the market before expressing an opinion. Since then, several more District 4 stakeholders have called Watch Captain Catherine Walker to say that after viewing the facility, they now support adding the livestock slaughter. Leo Youngblood moved that the HGNNC support a zone variance so that livestock slaughter can take place. Llewyn Fowlkes seconded the motion. Discussion ensued including questions of the owner as to whether he intended to hire workers from within the community, to which he answered affirmatively. There were questions about animal waste parts disposal. Mr. Tran says the waste is collected in sanitized barrels, put into a freezer, and then the barrels are collected twice a day by a disposal company and taken to rendering plants in Vernon. Leo Youngblood pointed out that an inspector from the California Department of Food and Agriculture inspects at least twice weekly and employees of the business are trained to spot any signs of animal disease. Further, the ability to use a custom slaughterhouse discourages people from slaughtering in their own backyards as some members of various ethnic groups currently do so now. The nearest homes in District 4 are at least a quarter mile away and on the other side of the 110 Harbor Freeway. Farmer Tran's Market is located in the industrial zone along Figueroa, with a portable toilet rental company nearby and horse stables to the east of the market. The motion was put to a vote and passed 7 in favor, 3 against and 0 abstentions. A letter will be written to reflect the Board's decision to support the application.

Further discussion ensued about locations and funding for a possible skateboard park. The City of Gardena has built one in Rowley Park for \$250,000 with some assistance from Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. The HGNNC favors the property south of the Rhema Church at the northeast corner of 119th and Avalon, but the Trust for Public Land has visited the area and thinks that the park and ride on Avalon, north of the Green Line, would be the best spot if agreement of CalTrans and the MTA can be worked out. Don Cook, Board member of the church, said they would support a skateboard park or mini park, and also are interested in starting a farmers' market in the church parking lot or nearby. Rhema Church would also like to either paint murals on the north side of their building to discourage graffiti or possibly plant vines to cover the wall.

3) **Recommendation of the Planning and Land Use Committee on the Project Renew Community Plan Implementation Overlay (CPIO) districts for Imperial Highway between Clovis Avenue and Vermont Avenue, 114th Street between Belhaven and Wadsworth Avenue, 120th Street between Central Avenue and Vermont Avenue, Avalon Blvd. between Lanzit Avenue and 120th Street, Main Street between 111th Street and 120th Street, Broadway between 111th Street and 121st Street, Figueroa Street between 111th Street and 120th Street, and Vermont Avenue between 111th Street and 120th Street** There has been a lawsuit filed by L.A. Neighbors United regarding the legality of the City implementing overlay districts before Community Plans are updated. HGNNC's Planning and Land Use Committee met on April 3 and reviewed the proposed overlay districts proposed for the areas around the three Green Line stations located in the northern part of the Neighborhood Council area. Retired City Planner Dick Platkin was present to advise the Committee. He pointed out that it is a State of California requirement that each City's General Plan be kept up-to-date. The City of L.A.'s General Plan has not been updated in 20 years and is based on 1990 Census data. Leo Youngblood moved and Llewyn Fowlkes seconded the motion to support the recommendation of the Planning and Land Use Committee to write the City Planning Commission and Councilman Joe Buscaino, Councilman Bernard Parks, and Councilwoman Jan Perry expressing the opinion that implementation of the proposed Project RENEW overlay districts is premature until the General Plan Framework Element and the South Los Angeles and Southeast Los Angeles Community Plans are updated. The City Planning Department is sending people to the HGNNC General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 24 to address the Project RENEW issues. Particular concern was expressed about the impact to 120th Street (mostly single family homes and one or two story apartments) and no public transportation from Vermont to Avalon having taller, larger apartment buildings built to increase population density, as is the goal of such transportation-oriented districts. Project RENEW also calls for fewer parking spaces in the new developments, to discourage car ownership and driving. The motion was put to a vote and passed with 10 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

(Leo Youngblood left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.)

4) **Appointment of new members to the Planning and Land Use Committee:** Because Thomasina Curry was not present, Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and the motion passed 9-0 to postpone the appointment of Thomasina Curry, District 6 stakeholder, to the Committee.

5) **Approval of the March 13 Board minutes:** Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Gloria Christmas seconded, and it was passed 9-0 to approve the March 13 Board minutes as corrected.

(Ramon Montoya left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.)

6) **Treasurer's report and approval of up to \$300 for lunches for Sat. May 12 clean up Day in District 4; \$3,200 for 35 District 4 Neighborhood Watch pole signs, \$5,000 for new vinyl blinds for the Harbor Gateway Community Center:** Page 1 of the Treasurer's report was the p-card statement of February 21 (no p-card use in March) with two Visa transactions for a total amount of \$456.46. Pages 2-3 was the expenditures summary from July 1, 2011 to April 9. Total known expenditures come to \$26,744.91 with \$13,755 remaining. Page 4 listed possible final major expenditures for the fiscal year 2011-2012; and ideas for the upcoming 2012-2013 HGNNC budget. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and the Treasurer's report was approved 9-0. (Rosalie Preston voted in order to maintain a quorum.)

Joan Jacobs moved, Adrian Valenzuela seconded, and it was passed 9-0 to approve up to \$300 for lunches for the May 12 cleanup day volunteers in District 4.

There was a prior approval for Neighborhood Watch pole signs in District 4. Now that the full assessment of the locations has been made, the funding needed is much higher as this area is twice as big as most of the other HGNNC neighborhoods. - \$3,200. Joan Jacobs moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and it was passed 9-0 to spend up to \$3,200 for 35 Neighborhood Watch pole signs for District 4.

Discussion ensued about further expenditures for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. HGNNC would like to replace the blinds on the windows of the Harbor Gateway Community Center with new vinyl blinds because the existing aluminum blinds are ten years old and many have been bent over the years. One estimate has been received so far but two more need to be arranged. This may not happen before the May 16 deadline for demand warrants. If so, then the blinds could be purchased in early July and the money encumbered to be used for outreach publicity for the fall Neighborhood Council election. Rosalie investigated whether the City Department of General Services could replace the blinds and was told that they would not fund them but the HGNNC could use the contractor which the City uses to replace blinds in other City buildings. Gloria Christmas made the motion to allocate up to \$5,000 for the new vinyl blinds and Joan Jacobs seconded the motion which passed 9-0.

7) **L.A. City budget survey and Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates** Joan Jacobs reported on the Mayor's budget survey: where 4,400 responses were received (not even 1% of the population of L.A.). Out of 16 people on the HGNNC Board, 10 responded. The highest advocacy was for reducing the general administrative and support expenditures of the City. If anyone has an opinion on the survey, tell Joan and the other Budget Advocates.

8) **Support for renewal of the DWP MOU with Neighborhood Councils:** One of the early successes of the Neighborhood Councils was negotiating an MOU with the Department of Water and Power for notification and input on proposed rate increases, infrastructure projects, and other activities of the Department that impact City residents. That MOU expires in April and each Neighborhood Council needs to pass a motion to support extending the MOU. DWP also asks that one person on the Board (or possibly a stakeholder) be appointed to interact with the DWP liaison. The HGNNC currently has no one as an official representative, though Rosalie has been the one to communicate with our assigned DWP liaison, Jeff Childers. Gloria Christmas made the motion to support the renewal of the Neighborhood Council MOU with the DWP, listing Rosalie Preston as the authorized contact person, and this was seconded by Joan Jacobs. The motion passed 9-0.

9) **Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of April 4:** Two Board of Public Works Commissioners were present to discuss the new bus benches and other areas which the Board oversees. The Mayor's budget comes out on April 20 and it is expected that each Neighborhood Council's budget will be affected as well as DONE staffing. The City Council has voted to return oversight of Neighborhood Council elections to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for 2012. DONE has hired Stephen Box and Jerry Kvasnika to coordinate election or selection procedures and outreach with the 95 Neighborhood Councils. Each Council needs to appoint three stakeholders to an Elections Committee. The HGNNC Outreach Committee also needs three to five new members as this Committee will help recruit the candidates and help to advertise the election to stakeholders. The three San Pedro Neighborhood Councils are all having selections beginning in May and June. HGNNC's preference is to have an election in the fall, rather than the more informal selection process, which may be slightly less expensive. If the selection process is used, then bylaws language has to be changed. For an election administered by DONE, existing HGNNC bylaws language is adequate. The biggest cost for either method is the outreach cost. Most Neighborhood Councils will hold their elections from September to November of 2012.

10) **Update on HGNNC events (Letter to HGNNC churches; fall N.C. election / selection)** Neodros Bridgeforth and Rosalie Preston prepared and mailed out a letter to 22 churches located within the HGNNC boundaries. So far, only Belvue Presbyterian Church and the Rhema Church have responded.

(Adrian Valenzuela and Delores Allmond left the meeting at 9:11 p.m.)

11) **Announcements:** DONE is holding two upcoming trainings on elections and outreach: Thursday, April 19th at the 135th Street School and on Saturday, April 28 at Peck Park in San Pedro.

DONE is hosting an open house with dinner and a workshop on Monday, April 30 at their new City Hall offices, 200 N. Spring Street, Ste. 2005 (20th Floor.) The workshop is "Advocacy that Works, Outreach that Connects, Elections that Empower" RSVP by April 23rd.

CERT training is scheduled on 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 6/4, and 6/11 in San Pedro. Call Firefighter Jarvis "Bubba" Willis at (818) 756-9674, for more information if you are interested in the training.

People for Community Improvement (PCI) extends an invitation to attend the Athens/Willowbrook Community Task Force Meeting on Wednesday, April 11 at 10:00 a.m. at 13008 S. Figueroa Street. Phone: (323) 303-3339; Web: www.pcicenter.org.

The Southeast Clergy Council have partnered with other community organizations to walk and talk to the community (particularly the homeless and prostitutes and drug dealers) along Figueroa Street about services to help them find housing and jobs and treatment services. The walk will take place on Wed. May 30 from 6:30 a.m. beginning at the Mark Twain Branch Library, 9621 S. Figueroa. A number of pastors, deacons, and LAPD officers will participate and the general community is invited to join in. For more information, contact Officer Dawson Hill at (213) 972-7965; or email him at 39599@lapd.lacity.org.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl J. Wendell (Kelly Services)