

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 12, 2012
135th Street Elementary School Auditorium
801 135th Street, Gardena, CA

Present: Rosalie Preston (Chairperson), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Ramon Montoya (District 1), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Gloria Christmas (District 8), Deborah Lee (Community Org. Rep.), and Eva Cooper (At-Large Representative).

The Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson).

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

2) **Acceptance of a resignation and appointment of additional members to the Ad Hoc Election Committee:** Rosalie informed the Board that Eula Leichman, who had been appointed to the Ad Hoc Election Committee at the last Board meeting, has had to resign due to other personal commitments. Lois Hill District 3 stakeholder is willing to be appointed. It was moved by Joan Jacobs to remove Eula Leichman from the Ad Hoc Election Committee. The motion was seconded by Rey Paduani and passed 9-0. It was then moved by Joan Jacobs to appoint Lois Hill to the Ad Hoc Election Committee. The motion was seconded by Gloria Christmas and passed 9-0.

3) **Acceptance of two resignations and appointment of new members to the Outreach Committee:** Kande Lewis has submitted her resignation from the Outreach Committee, due to her summer work schedule. Rosalie said that Eva Cooper has given a verbal resignation. Llewyn Fowlkes moved that the Board accept the resignations of Kande Lewis and Eva Cooper from the Outreach Committee. Rey Paduani seconded the motion and it passed 9-0.

(Eva Cooper arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

Eva presented her resignation from the Outreach Committee in writing. Joan Jacobs expressed an interest in serving on the Outreach Committee. Current members are Marvin Bell (Chairperson), Paris Miller, and Adrian White. Rosalie says Donald Cook, District 8 stakeholder and on the Board of the Rhema Church, is interested. Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and it was passed 10-0 to add Joan Jacobs and Donald Cook to the Outreach Committee. This is an important Committee, especially in regards to the October 20 Board election, and more stakeholders are needed to serve on it.

4) **Approval of the Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet as recommended by the Ad Hoc Election Committee:** A draft of the Worksheet was distributed. Lois Hill has offered to Chair this Committee and so gave a report on the draft. Six (6) hours are allotted for the election process, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The election will be held in the Auditorium of the 135th Street School, with a paid Poll Manager to set up the voting booths and procedures for voting in accordance with Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment guidelines. As a way to encourage voter turnout, instead of requiring voters to show a driver's license or other stakeholder identification, it was agreed to select "self-affirmation," as utilized in previous HGNNC elections. Stakeholders will fill out a form and declare under penalty of perjury that they are legitimate stakeholders. The option to vote-by-mail was declined due to concern that not enough people would vote in that manner and the cost is \$500 for that option.

Discussion ensued with some Board members and one District 5 stakeholder strongly opposed to having self-affirmation for stakeholders who vote. Rosalie said that although the HGNNC bylaws states in Article X, Section 4 "Method of Verifying Stakeholder Status" that "Voters will verify their Stakeholder status by providing acceptable documentation," the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment has said that the Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet will over-ride the bylaws. She also said that DONE strongly encourages Neighborhood Councils to use self-affirmation rather than requiring voter identification as a way to have a strong turnout on October 20. She also pointed out that all Ad Hoc Election Committee members supported using self-affirmation for the same reason. Lois continued with the Committee report. The minimum age to vote is 18. There will be a \$5,000 budget for election outreach and the goal is 22 candidates running for the seventeen Board seats, with a goal of 325 stakeholders voting. Between now and the Board election, DONE recommends having 15 minutes for an election update on each agenda. Candidates can begin filing on August 21st. DONE has created a separate Elections Division office at the Van Nuys City Hall and is using independent

contractors to staff that office and for the eleven Independent Election Administrators. There will also be a paid poll manager, chosen from the City Clerk's list, and a paid poll assistant. Harbor Gateway North NC needs to supply at least six volunteers to assist at the polling place, with perhaps some Election-day volunteers coming from neighboring Councils. Refreshments for poll workers will be needed. After review of the suggested means of advertising for candidates and for voters on October 20, including sharing advertising with other NC's such as Watts and Empowerment Southeast Area who have their election on the same day, it was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Eva Cooper, and passed 8 in favor, 2 opposed, and 0 abstaining to approve the Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet as recommended by the Ad Hoc Election Committee

5) **Recommendation of the Planning and Land Use Committee on a letter to Councilman Buscaino asking for an analysis by the City Planning Dept. of down-zoning the north side of 120th Street between Vermont Avenue and Avalon Blvd.**: Lu Watson read out the PLU recommendation which was unanimously approved by committee members regarding a written request for an analysis of the north side of 120th Street between Vermont Avenue and Central Avenue (rather than just to Avalon Blvd.) being down zoned from the current RD2-1 zone back to R1-1 and R2-1 as it was before the change in the 1980's, which no one was notified of.. Most of the current properties along that street conform to the previous zoning, with single family homes and one or two-story apartment buildings. Llewyn Fowlkes moved to accept the recommendation to write the letter, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded the motion, and it passed with 10 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

6) **Approval of the May 8, 2012 Board Minutes:** Ramon Montoya moved to approve the May 8, 2012 minutes as submitted, Neodros Bridgeforth seconded the motion, and it passed 10-0.

7) **Treasurer's Report:** Page 1 of the Report is the purchase card statement of May 21, 2012. Total activity for the month was \$1,827.36; page 2 and 2a show total expenditures (as known) from July 1, 2011, to June 12, 2012, with \$33,811.96 having been spent of the \$40,500 allocated; page 3 itemizes the expenditures for May 2012; and, page 4 is the approved budget for fiscal year 2011-2012. Rey Paduani moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Eva Cooper seconded the motion, and it passed 10-0.

Eva Cooper moved to allocate \$100 to pay for independent water testing of a sample from a household in District 8 which had experienced dark-colored water which burned the skin when showering. Llewyn Fowlkes seconded the motion, and it passed 10-1.

8) **Approval of the draft of the 2012-2013 Harbor Gateway North budget:** The City Council approved \$37,000 for each Neighborhood Council for fiscal year 2012-13. \$3,542 has been encumbered from 2011-2012 funds and will be rolled over to cover election outreach. Therefore, the total budget will be \$40,542. Neodros Bridgeforth moved to adopt the draft budget for 2012-2013 as prepared by the Finance Committee. Llewyn Fowlkes seconded the motion. Motion passed 10 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

9) **Update on planning issues, including the May 24 determination on the Edge O' Town Motel, 503 W. Athens Blvd. (DIR 2005-0541) (RV) (PA3); Recommendation Report and June 14 hearing on 17236 S. Hoover Street (CPC-2009-3580-GPA-ZC), proposed zone change to RD6-1 for 24 small-lot homes; and June 15 meeting on parking and traffic issues of the Gateway Crossroads Center:** In regards to the Edge O' Town Motel, the hearing officer recommended that the current security conditions be reduced and that licensed security officer be present from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., with a security officer "on call" for the other hours. The owner had asked for a five-year time before review of the conditions as opposed to the previous two years, because the City's costs for such reviews have increased significantly, but the hearing officer left it at a two-year period.

The Planning Commission hearing on the proposed zone change in the Merit Tract to allow 24 small-lot homes is on Thursday, June 14, and residents have arranged to carpool to the hearing at City Hall. Alison Becker, Economic Development and Planning Deputy for Councilman Joe Buscaino, has contacted the developer to ask that the hearing be postponed for two months so that the Council office can have time to work with the residents and developer on a better proposal and some community benefits. However, the City Planning Commission responded that such a postponement must occur at the hearing and therefore the residents should attend.

A meeting will be held on Friday, June 15 at the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd. at 9:30 a.m. regarding traffic and parking issues created by the Gateway Crossroads Center retail and UEI College. The new traffic lights and crosswalks on Redondo Beach Blvd. at the northern part of Orchard have finally been installed. A

suggestion was made to install a “no turn on red” sign when exiting from the north from the 110 Harbor Freeway at Redondo Beach Blvd.

Leo Youngblood has brought to the Board’s attention by telephone message that a discussion of possible uses for 705 W. El Segundo Blvd. property be on the agenda for a July Planning Committee meeting and the July 10 Board meeting. Mike Amidi, owner of the property, has contacted Leo about this.

10) **Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of June 6:** Martin Outdoor Media is installing the new dark green bus benches throughout the City and is willing to allow Neighborhood Councils to advertise on them, if available, at no charge, except for \$35 as the cost of printing each bus bench ad. This could be another method of advertising the October 20 HGNNC Board election.

11) **Update on HGNNC events (October 20 Board election procedures):** National Night Out will be held on Tues. August 7 at Southeast Station and the HGNNC will have a booth there. The Officer Appreciation Luncheon in District 4 will be held on Mon. August 20. Board Elections will be held on Sat. October 20 in the Auditorium of the 135th Street School.

12) **Announcements:** A DWP meeting on the proposed increase in rates will be held June 14 from 6-8 p.m. at the Harbor City Branch Library, 24000 S. Western Avenue.

The new 110 Harbor Freeway Toll Lanes will be opening this fall and at that time, even cars with more than one occupant must have a transponder to use those lanes without being given a fine.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl J. Wendell
(Kelly Services)