

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2010
135th Elementary School Library

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

The Meeting was called to order by Rosalie Preston (Chairperson) at 7:08 p.m.

1) Public Comment: Lisette Covarrubias, Project Coordinator from the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment, introduced herself. She is one of six project coordinators remaining. She said there is a help line available to all Councils (213) 485-1360, but no longer is a project coordinator assigned to each Council.

Councilwoman Janice Hahn responded to the Council's letter regarding the proposal for a \$7.00 parking pass fee, saying that she has not yet made a decision on this issue but will keep the Council's concerns in mind.

There was a District 7 stakeholder e-mail inquiry regarding the need for left turn signals at the intersection of Imperial Highway and Hoover, due to frequent traffic accidents in the intersection. Senior Lead Officers Armando Ramirez and Robert Martinez have been made aware of this issue and they will be monitoring the situation.

Betty Hawkins, District 4 Representative, reminded the Board that the \$1,000 voted for the District 4 planter project will be asked for sometime in the new year after other funds for the planters have been raised.

2) Approval of the October 12 and October 16 Board minutes: Dolores Allmond moved, Marvin Bell seconded, and it was carried 9-0 to approve the October 12 Board minutes as corrected.

(Leo Youngblood arrived at 7:25 pm)

Leo Youngblood moved, Gloria Christmas seconded, and the minutes of the October 16 Special Board meeting were approved 9-0.

Leo Youngblood announced that District 7 Representative Paris Miller has been hospitalized. A moment of silence and prayer was observed for his recovery.

3) Treasurer's Report: Page 1 documented the purchase card from September 22 through October 22, 2010; page 2, the expenditures from July 1 through November 8, which showed that \$8,000 of the \$49,000 has been expended; and page 3 was the approved budget for 2010-2011. Rosalie noted that Ricoh, owner of the HGNNC copy machine, has suddenly mailed bills with charges for each copy made since January 2010. The Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment will be consulted about this as it was assumed a certain amount of copies per month were included in the lease agreement. It was moved by Leo Youngblood, seconded by Ray Paduani, and carried 9-0 to approve the Treasurer's Report.

(Eva Cooper arrived at 7:35 pm.)

Delores Allmond moved, Gloria Christmas seconded, and it was carried 10-0 to approve up to \$250 for holiday decorations in District 4 from Outreach 200EVE in the budget.

(Joan Jacobs arrived at 7:48 pm.)

Leo Youngblood moved, Llewyn Fowlkes seconded, and it was carried 11-0 to approve up to \$300 for holiday decorations in District 5 from Outreach 200EVE in the budget.

Justin Brimmer, Community Advocate for Councilwoman Hahn, was unable to attend the Board meeting but had e-mailed clarification on the \$350 promised as support for programs at Rosecrans Recreation Center. The money has to be donated to a local non-profit and then the non-profit will donate the money to the Center before the holidays.

(Kandee Lewis arrived at 7:53 pm.)

4) Proposal for additional community garden area from 120th to 121st between Avalon to Stanford. Glen Duke, of L.A. Community Garden Council: Glen Duke explained that the L.A. Community Garden Council is a coalition of the L.A. Conservation Corps, L.S. Neighborhood Land Trust, University of California Cooperative Extension, Common Ground Trust for Public Land, Verde Coalition, and the National Park Service. Approximately 70 community gardens are growing in Los Angeles County, serving 3,900 families. Community gardens help to build neighborhood self-reliance, and reduce poverty, mitigate global warming, and benefit the LA River and Ballona Creek watersheds. Community gardens

are a special type of park: they are open to all who apply, but they are self-maintained and self-policed by the membership. Unlike most parks, community gardens occupy three categories of land: private land with short-term leases, public land with short-term leases, and garden-owned land.

Several vacant, developable lots are currently leased for community gardens. The maintenance costs of vacant lots can be high, while leasing the land for a community garden until it is needed for development benefits everyone.

The proposed new garden will be “rented” from the DWP at no charge. It will accommodate 30 families and be managed by the gardeners themselves. Water and insurance costs are about \$15 a month. A meeting is held the 2nd Sunday of odd-numbered months for sign-ups. There will be a bilingual flyer and a public information meeting to help obtain gardeners. The proposed garden already has the approval of Justin Brimmer from Councilwoman Hahn’s office and SLO Officer Robert Martinez.

Leo Youngblood moved, Ray Paduani seconded, and the motion was carried 12-0 to support adding a community garden from 120th to 121st Street between Avalon to Stanford.

5) Proposed removal of Recording Secretary: Discussion was held whether Recording Secretary Cornita Pitchford, having missed four consecutive meetings without calling in a reason, should be removed from the Board. Article VIII D2 of the Bylaws covering removal of a Board member was read by Chairperson Preston. Copies of e-mailed opinions from the City Attorney and Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment were also presented, as well as an e-mailed message from the Recording Secretary expressing her regret for not having communicated sooner and saying that a family member’s illness was the reason. She said she could resume attendance at the December 14 Board meeting.

After discussion as to whether removal should occur at this meeting or wait to further evaluate the situation at the December Board meeting, it was moved by Llewyn Fowlkes, seconded by Joan Jacobs, and carried to table the vote until the December 14 Board meeting. The motion was carried with 6 ayes, 5 nays, and 1 abstention.

LAPD Report: Senior Lead Officer Ramirez reported no major crime in the area, but there has been more than one incident of stolen cars at Redondo Beach Blvd. and Orchard Avenue in District 2. Further, there are reports of two individuals who appear to represent an alarm company approaching residents in neighborhoods. Shortly thereafter, burglaries have been reported. Officer Ramirez reminded those present that during the holiday season it is important to be mindful of the jewelry you choose to wear and be aware of your surroundings.

6) Report on planning issues, including Harbor Area Planning Commission presentation on draft Citywide design guidelines on Oct. 19 and South L.A. Planning Commission on Nov. 2, Sober Living Homes Ordinance, and extension of CRA Watts Corridors Project to District 6: Rosalie and three members of the HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee attended the October 19th Harbor Area Planning Commission meeting which discussed the draft Citywide design guidelines. Objectives of the guideline are to give developers guidance in the design of their projects and while not mandatory, are a good first step towards improving the appearance and livability of the City.

Neodros Bridgeforth and Rosalie Preston attended the November 4 hearing on the Sober Living Homes ordinance before the City’s Planning Commission at City Hall. The new ordinance places restrictions on group homes of 7 or more, but 6 or less are not impacted because State law mandates that such group homes must be accommodated in residential neighborhoods. There have been problems with 7 or more group living quarters in Granada Hills and this has prompted Councilman Grieg Smith to ask the Planning Department to come up with some regulations. There was a lot of comment from both Neighborhood Councils (who generally support the ordinance) and those operating or living in such facilities. Representatives of sober living homes and also the mental health community pointed out that having all residents listed under one lease conflicts with Federal law. There was also concern from a family living near California State University Northridge about their ability to continue to rent rooms in their home to students. The ordinance will again be discussed in early February. Leo Youngblood noted that the proposed ordinance would seem not to have an impact on HGNNC at this time.

Watts Corridor Project (extension of current Watts Corridors Project area to include Figueroa between Imperial Highway and 110th Street). It turned out that Charlotte Brimmer could not speak at the Oct. 26th HGNNC General Membership meeting due to illness, but no one from the CRA called the HGNNC to explain that. Rosalie and Neodros met the assistant project manager, Aaron Ledet, at the November 4 hearing and he promised to maintain better communication. After seeing the presentation by CRA at the hearing, Neodros and Rosalie learned that some of the goals of the project are to better utilize under-utilized parcels of land, attract new businesses, remediate contaminated land; create much needed open space, preserve existing housing while upgrading it, create affordable housing; maintain compatibility with the South Los Angeles Community Plan, and not use eminent domain except with commercial and industrial property. The preliminary agreement was approved by the Planning Commission, with Rosalie making the

public comment that the HGNNC had not been informed about its scope. The exact plan will not be ready until 2012 and the project will be in effect for 25 years

The HGNNC just received a certified letter from T-Mobile's representative with information of yet another proposed cell phone tower in the public right of way on the west side of Broadway just north of 117th Street. The above ground facility will be located across Broadway next to CalTrans property, just south of the 105 freeway. The City Planning Department and the Neighborhood Council have no say in such towers being put up on the public right of way. Leo suggested further discussion on this issue at a HGNNC Planning and Land Use Committee meeting later in November.

In regards to a possible Tony Hawks Skateboard Park in District 8, Leo Youngblood reviewed the three possible sites that he and other Board members had identified. He said that Councilwoman Hahn's staff said that the cul-de-sac at the south end of Towne Avenue just north of the 105 Freeway was the best site from the City's perspective. However, they then told the HGNNC that Watts was moving ahead with a proposal for a Tony Hawks supported skateboard park in their area and therefore the HGNNC proposal should wait. In June, Leo heard that the Watts proposal did not go forward. But in late October, Rosalie was told by the Council office that Watts' application is still moving forward. Leo thinks that Project RENEW offers the possibility of a walkway from the Greenline station to the proposed Skateboard Park. Leo wants to keep the issue as a priority and would like it on the December agenda for a new Board vote. March 15 is the next grant application deadline.

8) Mayor's Budget Representatives report: Neither of the two HGNNC representatives was able to attend as the October 16 date conflicted with the October Board retreat. The four-year outlook projects an increasing deficit (through 2014). Questions for the online survey are being prepared. Craig Goldfarb of Northwest San Pedro NC and Tom Dahlgren of the Wilmington NC were selected as the two Harbor area regional representatives. Olivia Vasquez of Harbor Gateway South is the alternate.

9) Update on HGNNC outreach events and recruitment of stakeholders: Since the Board retreat, six new stakeholders have attended or called the office, with four responding to the October 26 flyer and the others referred by Officer Martinez.

The top five goals for the year from the October 16th Special Board Meeting are as follows:

- January: Emergency Preparedness events
- Early April: Health Fair with electronic waste round-up
- Late April: Harbor Gateway cultural outreach concert
- May: District clean up days, including electronic waste
- June: Street Fair

Rey Paduani, Adrian Valenzuela, Rosalie Preston, and Eva Cooper attended the Halloween Carnival at Rosecrans Recreation Center. There were fewer children attending than last year, possibly because the event was held on the 30th and not the 31st.

The Emergency Preparedness workshops for January have still not been scheduled as it has been difficult to contact key members of the Watts NC.

Ideas for the January newsletter are needed; please call them into the office. There was some discussion of how large the newsletter should be and how to distribute it to stakeholders. Further discussion will be held at the Dec. 14 Board meeting.

10) Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of November 3: This report was tabled due to the late hour.

11) Update on the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment: The Department needs input on their goals. Please complete their online survey by November 15th

12) Announcements: Discuss the city's priorities with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on Monday, November 15 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Harbor College in the Technology Building.

Kandee Lewis has free tickets to the Clippers vs. New Orleans basketball game on November 22. Please let her know if you are interested in attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl J. Wendell – Kelly Services