

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting of July 8, 2008**

Present: Adrian White (Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Gloria Christmas (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Mattie Menser (District 7), Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith Based Representative), and Eva Cooper (Youth Representative)

Chair Adrian White called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

1) Public Comment: Planning and Land Use Co-Chair Lu Watson said that the Committee had met at 6 p.m. and discussed the letters which will be sent to Councilwoman Hahn, the Planning Department, and others prior to the Zoning hearing on the proposed 7-Eleven store at 700 W. Imperial Highway. When the presentation on the Zoning hearing is made by the Community Coalition, a woman from the Baldwin Hills area will also attend to explain how 24-hour operation of a 7-Eleven in their area has impacted the community.

Rosalie Preston announced that Lowe's plans to open at 661 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. (where Home Depot had formerly planned to open a new store). Their lobbying firm has contacted the Redondo/Alondra Neighborhood, of which she is the Coordinator, to set up a meeting with that District 2 group. They may also want to address the HGNNC as a whole. The HGNNC has received copies of their proposal.

Rey Paduani (District 3) discussed the need for lot cleaning in his District and also graffiti removal from a garage door located in a locked alley near the McDonald's at 850 W. Rosecrans.

Betty Hawkins (District 4) said that it had been a year since a request was made for resurfacing streets in District 4 but that recently, work has begun on El Segundo Blvd., 130th Street, 131st Street, and 134th Street.

2) Approval of the June 10 Board minutes: The minutes were approved as corrected. Motion: Christmas Second: Bridgeforth Vote:10-0

3) Treasurer's Report: The Neighborhood Council Monthly Funding Report for July 1 does not have the June demand warrants posted yet. Therefore, the remaining account balance of \$103,081.32 which is shown is actually well below \$100,000 because the demand warrant for the chorus risers for the 135th Street School was \$7,794 and at least three other demand warrants were paid before the June 13 cut off. A summary of current expenditures for July showing \$1,411.44 spent to date was also provided. It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth and passed 10-0 to approve the treasurer's report.

There was further discussion of the two outstanding bills from the February 26 Black History Month program. On May 13, the Board voted to deny payment because the details of the expenditures had not been discussed with either the Board or the treasurer. DONE has since advised the Board that it is their decision to make but that most likely payment should be made since the services were provided. It was moved by Betty Hawkins, seconded by Mattie Menser and approved 10-0 to approve the bill for Char's Catering Service (Charvon Tolson) in the amount of \$215.58 for 24 additional dinners and to Sylph (Regina Hainsworth) for programs, colored flyers, meal tickets, banners, and posters in the amount of \$250.19 as long as proper documentation is provided as required by DONE.

It was moved by Gloria Christmas, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth and approved 10-0 to spend up to \$140 for seventeen acrylic name holders for the Board members, so that these can be displayed in front of Board members during the monthly meetings.

4) Presentation on proposed church at 13515 S. Figueroa Street: Armen Ross, Executive Vice President of Grumpy Old Men, discussed his client the Home Assembly Church, which has bought the

industrial zoned property at 13515 S. Figueroa Street. The Zoning Administrator has not yet set a hearing date on this matter, but the church has met with Reginald Zachery and Frank Hong of Councilwoman Janice Hahn's office and they are in support of the project. They will also be meeting with Reverend Leonard Jackson, the Mayor's Faith-Based representative and also with the 135th Street Neighborhood Watch (District 4 of the HGNNC). They plan to be part of the business community in the area and to join the Harbor City/Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce. He introduced Eddie Hodges, who is working on the remodeling plans for the building, Reverend Marvin Jackson, the lobbyist for the church, and Tracy Willis.

The church has been located at 3200 W. Adams Blvd. for many years, was founded in 1906, is part of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, and currently is led by Pastor Vanessa Ussery. They would like to expand their congregation from its current 300 members. They are a church which tries to provide services beyond its walls. Some of the programs which they currently provide and would continue to provide in the Harbor Gateway are credit management, end of life preparation, building healthy marriages, providing free, healthy meals, outreach to youth, and an annual health fair.

The church plans to have outreach to the Spanish-speaking and Korean communities. They expect the mitigated negative declaration to be ready in August, to have their Zoning Administration hearing in September and to begin the remodeling process for opening later in 2009. The parking lot will have 100 parking spaces, which is in excess of what is required for the 400 seats in the church. They are eager to become active participants in the HGNNC and would welcome a letter of support from the HGNNC. Faith-Based Representative Neodros Bridgeforth said that she would keep them informed of the HGNNC Board's decision.

5) Further discussion of Board retreat: Board members presented their ideas for topics for this special Saturday meeting and possible dates. The location would either have to be a school, the Harbor Gateway Community Center, or a church within the HGNNC boundaries. The Board would also like to work with other Neighborhood Councils to coordinate a training meeting.

6) Amendments to the Brown Act regarding posted agendas: Rosalie Preston handed out copies of the letter from City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo to DONE informing Neighborhood Councils of a recent amendment to the Brown Act that takes effect on July 1, 2008, and relates to materials additional to the agenda which Board members may be sent for review prior to their Board meetings. Now such additional materials should be made available on the website, with information on how the public may obtain copies in advance of the meeting.

7) Discussion of August 26 Asian/Pacific Islander program details: At this point, a Hawaiian dance group has been scheduled to attend, the HGNNC is looking for a Korean dance group, and the food may include dishes from several Asian cultures.

8) Finalization of agenda for July 22 General Membership meeting: Possible speakers for the meeting were discussed and Betty Hawkins, District 4 Representative, volunteered to organize the light refreshments.

9) Announcements: Ray Washington, stakeholder from District 4, gave out a flyer which encourages the recycling of cell phones at his home. He said that he donates the money from this recycling effort to the Grandparents and Books program of the Los Angeles Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston