

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council
General Membership Meeting of August 28, 2007**

Present: Adrian White (Chair), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Corresponding Secretary), Gloria Christmas (Treasurer), Ray Johnson (District 1), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Reynaldo Paduani (District 3), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Mattie Menser (District 7), Meodros Bridgeforth (Faith-Based Representative), and Dr. Peter Rivera (Community Organization Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Chairman Adrian White.

1) Neodros Bridgeforth moved, Dr. Peter Rivera seconded, and it was approved (10-0) to accept the minutes of the July 24 General Membership meeting as corrected.

LAPD Report: Senior Lead Officer Armando Ramirez reported that most of Southeast Division's recent efforts have focused on the eastern part of the Division and this has helped to reduce the crime rate there. In the HGNNC area, the major crimes have related to traffic issues with illegal motorized cycles and go-karts being driven by children and teens. LAPD is working with apartment building managers to stress their responsibility for proper management of the properties as a way to reduce crime taking place on their properties. He introduced the new Senior Lead Officer for the Watts area, Rich Suviate, who will fill in for SLO Ramirez when he is unavailable. SLO Ramirez's cell phone number is (213) 793-0727.

2) **Treasurer's Report:** Gloria Christmas reported that the only invoice she has received so far is for tonight's flyers in the amount of \$303.10 for 3500 two-sided flyers from West Coast Office Supply. Copies of the approved budget for 2007-2008 were available for stakeholders. Betty Hawkins, the preceding treasurer, gave some background on the funding and record keeping for the HGNNC and emphasized the careful procedures which must be followed when making expenditures. As an example, she said that if someone going to an event needs to be reimbursed for a tip not recorded on a receipt, then It was suggested by a stakeholder that written guidelines be created to explain how to access funds for neighborhood improvements or other beneficial projects. Ray Johnson moved and Joan Jacobs seconded approval of the treasurer's report and the motion passed 10-0.

3) **Election Committee Report:** In the absence of Allan Rascon, chair of the Election Committee, Mark Lewis, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, reported on the June 28 election results. One stakeholder challenged some of the procedures, the matter was referred to the Human Relations Commission, and they found the challenge did not have merit. Therefore, the newly elected Board is in effect and present tonight. The current Board can determine when the official swearing in ceremony will be held, with acknowledgement of the former Board. He reviewed the basics of the Brown Act for public meetings, with the requirement of detailed agendas and posting of agendas 72 hours before any meeting of the Board or of Committee meetings when a stakeholder is

part of the committee. There are three vacant seats on the Board which need to be filled by Board appointment at the next General Membership meeting on September 25. Neighborhood Council equipment in the possession of former Board members must be returned and the HGNNC can write a letter so stating. Mark Lewis will be attending future meetings of the HGNNC both as a stakeholder living within our boundaries and as a DONE staff member who can share ideas and procedures for being an effective body. Rose Ibanez, who is on vacation, will be the new project coordinator for the HGNNC.

4) Consideration of the Board taking a position on the DWP rate increase as recommended by the DWP Oversight Commission of the Neighborhood Councils: Because no one currently on the Board had attended the meeting of August 25 and there was insufficient information, this item was tabled until a future meeting. Rosalie Preston made the motion, Gloria Christmas seconded the motion and it passed 10-0.

5) Health Fair Committee Report: The Health Fair of September 1 was pushed forward to September 15 by the committee chaired by BJ Mynatt which met on August 8 at Rosecrans Recreation Center. BJ Mynatt is currently out of town due to deaths in her family. It is uncertain how many commitments from health providers have been made so far. Dr. Rivera pointed out that September 15 will see a lot of Mexican Independence Day festivities elsewhere. Anthony Gordon, Director of Rosecrans Recreation Center, thinks that postponement until October is feasible. Joan Jacobs moved and Gloria Christmas seconded the motion to make a final decision on a date at the next committee meeting which Chair Adrian White will convene as soon as possible and announce via official posting. The motion passed 10-0.

6) Office Assistant Committee: A committee is needed to write up the duties and determine the hiring procedures for the Office Assistant, whose salary is included in the 2007-2008 budget. AppleOne is the actual hiring agency which would be used. Mark Lewis, DONE, advised that the office assistant could not be a Board member or a relative of a Board member. Joan Jacobs moved, Gloria Christmas seconded, and the motion passed 10-0 to form such a committee with Rosalie Preston, Neodros Bridgeforth, and Joan Jacobs on the committee.

7) Report on the August 18 Planning Forum with Gail Goldberg: Due to the time, Dr. Rivera moved and Joan Jacobs seconded tabling this report. It was passed 10-0.

8) Report from attendees to the Neighborhood USA Conference in Baton Rouge: Due to the time, Dr. Rivera moved and Joan Jacobs seconded tabling this report. It was passed 10-0.

9) Public Comment: Frank Voit said that he has three people who have expressed interest in a new series of Ham Radio classes and three more are needed. The classes will be held Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-12 for fourteen sessions at the Harbor Gateway Community Center. Three others volunteered to take the classes and Frank will set the date to begin and notify the participants.

10) **Announcements:** Habitat for Humanity is seeking a series of houses on one block needing major repairs. Robert F. Kennedy Institute will help obtain volunteers for this project which would ideally take place in the HGNNC. Let Dr. Rivera know of appropriate locations by the last week of October.

A Town Hall meeting on the WesPac jet fuel pipeline project will take place at the Rowley Park in Gardena on Fri. August 31 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is sponsored by Assemblyman Curren Price.

The Community Beautification Grants for the City of Los Angeles for 2007-2008 are now available, with applications due October 16. Neighborhoods within the HGNNC are encouraged to apply.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston