

Harbor City Neighborhood Council Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
 Harbor City Harbor Gateway Public Library
 Wednesday, November 19, 2014; 6:00pm

Official Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call
Eric Deklotz	Present
Kayla Domingo	Present
Greg Donnan	Present
Joyce Fredericks	Present
Brandii Grace	Present
John T. Gonzalez	Present
Wayne McGee	Present
Raymond Moser	Present
Grant Reed	Absent
Olive Reed	Present
Rohan Sourjah	Present
Hayes E. Thrower	Present
Joeann Valle	Present

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm by President Ray Moser. Quorum of 12 board members present (see list above). Approximately 25 stakeholders in attendance.
2. **Swearing in of new board member:** Postponed to next meeting.
3. **LAPD Report:** LAPD Officer Garcenila reported for Senior Lead Officer Art Ashcraft.
 - a. Lauren Halligan Neighborhood Prosecutor from the City Attorney's office reported about the 237th & Western Marijuana dispensary which is closed for now.
 - b. Crime statistics: Violent crime is at all-time low for the month of October. Vehicles continue to be broken into, 10 of the 18 reported vehicle thefts were from vehicles left unlocked. There has been an increase of thefts of tailgates from pickup trucks.
 - c. A stakeholder reported on a boat parked on Anaheim street east of Western with no vehicle attached that has been there at least 6 to 8 weeks with a flat street side tire.
 - d. A stakeholder asked for investigation into a marijuana dispensary at 253rd and Vermont.
 - e. A stakeholder had questions about the trucking business on 253rd and Frampton. There are large trucks (big rigs) parked in the red that are still not being cited. Would parking enforcement be able to respond more quickly? Stakeholder asserts that it is a life threatening hazard.
 - f. Another stakeholder asked about marijuana dispensary permits and licenses, and about commercial trucks parking on the streets from a landscaping company on 253rd street and trash at the site.
4. **Lauren Halligan, City Attorney's office** – The City Attorney's office has six attorneys responsible just for prosecuting medical marijuana dispensaries. The new Harbor Division attorney is Christian Tomlin. The dispensary at 237th and Western was at the top of the list. Officer Art Ashcraft has been working very hard on getting this site closed. Last night Officer Ashcraft served the property owner at his residence and also posted at the dispensary, a notice of pending preliminary injunction seeking civil penalties in excess of one million dollars. The criminal case was in court on Tuesday

in downtown. There is a bail review hearing on Monday. Ms. Halligan got a call that the dispensary signs are coming down and it looks like they will be closing. At a future meeting Christian Tomlin will bring a list of all the dispensaries in the Harbor area.

- 5. Council District 15:** Gabriela Medina, Field Deputy from Councilman Joe Buscaino's office provided a written report including the following:
- a. Ms. Medina stated that she will follow up with Animal Services for a representative to attend a future meeting.
 - b. Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Buscaino are in China on trade mission.
 - c. There is a work action at the Port related to employers hiring truck drivers as independent contractors instead of employees so the drivers don't receive benefits.
 - d. The Mayor has committed to paving 200 extra miles of streets annually.
 - e. The DWP turf exchange program has increased the exchange rate from \$3.00 to \$3.75 per square foot. It is still in council to expand the program to property owners whose grass is already dead due to reduced watering.
 - f. Council motions included ways to expand voter turnout including allowing vote by mail ballots that can be post marked the day of the election and have the vote count. A motion passed to consolidate municipal elections with state, county and LAUSD elections.
 - g. Council approved a bank foreclosure program ordinance which requires banks to maintain foreclosed properties. Banks can be fined up to \$1,000.00 a day. The ordinance was amended so that on notice of default the bank is required to maintain properties.
 - h. City wide events include a free night at the Aquarium of the Pacific, Tree Lighting ceremonies around the area, Holiday Harbor Boat Parade, the San Pedro Christmas Parade, and the Wilmington Christmas Parade.
- Community Projects updates:**
- i. Utility box art program and clean-ups.
 - j. The park known as the Wilmington Drain has been renamed the Harbor City Water Way Park. They are working with Recreation and Parks to see if solar lighting can be installed along the walkways. The completion date of the Water Way only is expected in August 2015.
 - k. The Council Office is meeting with Rec and Parks to discuss the complete closure of Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park during the construction period. They did not want to close the park; however, the homeless issue in particular is becoming both a safety hazard and delaying work. The contractor is notifying residents at Five Points that they will be hauling dirt as a result of the lake dredging on Saturdays from 8:00 am to 6:00 PM. The fencing is being moved all the way to the sidewalk. (There was additional Board member and stakeholder discussion of park issues at this point of the meeting).
 - l. Stakeholder question about animal issues. Referred to Nicole Wells in the CD15 office.
 - m. Joyce Fredericks commented that she is putting together a booklet on things she has learned about dealing with feral cats. She recommended SNIP LA for spay and neuter services.
 - n. Harbor Recreation Center is having a spaghetti dinner and tree lighting on December 3rd.
 - o. Board member McGee commented on the following: 1) After the cleanup of the alley between 253rd and 252nd the bags and debris were not picked up even after they called the Sanitation Department. 2) At 1036 or 1046 253rd in the alley behind the apartment building there are human feces building up. 3) On Vermont and 253rd there is a trucking company which should utilize two concave mirrors and a stop sign on the private property for the trucks to enter the public street safely.
 - p. Another stakeholder stated that the trucking company dumps oil behind the business in the alley. Olive Reed stated that they should call the Port Police regarding the trucks.

6. **Presentation:** Representative from Animal Services to discuss feral cats. Not present.
7. **Budget/Finance Committee Report** - Grant Reed, Treasurer, not present, postponed to Governors Board meeting.
8. **Reports from Meeting Representatives:**
 - a. **HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils)** Greg Donnan reported highlights:
 - i. There was a presentation by Recode LA. Recode LA is a five year process and they are at the 1.5 year mark. The City of Los Angeles City is in the process of updating zoning laws. Most attendees of the HANC were against zoning changes. Joeann Valle commented about the zoning changes related to the Sea Breeze project. There was lengthy board member and stakeholder discussion on the topic.
 - ii. Board of Neighborhood Council (BONC) wants Neighborhood Council's to form working groups and provide community impact statements to improve the Neighborhood Council system. They want to create outreach committees. Grant Reed and Olive Reed are on the BONC outreach committee.
 - iii. The City of Los Angeles is installing cell towers at fire stations including Station 85 in Harbor City. The towers are emergency services communication cell towers not cell phone towers.
 - iv. The Major's office is looking for people for the volunteer corps.
 - v. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) spoke more about funding and financial training. They want a calendar of all the events for each Neighborhood Council so that they can be aware of funding for the events in advance.
 - vi. The BONC outreach initiative will also include DONE. There was discussion of producing videos as an outreach tool.
 - vii. Budget Advocate update: Harbor City Neighborhood Council has two budget advocates. HCNC representatives have attended the meetings. However, they were not advised of the last meeting so did not attend.
 - viii. HANC was to have a meeting with the City Controller and Councilman Buscaino. The City Controller will be at Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council meeting on January 12th at Peck Park at 6:00 PM.
 - ix. The next HANC meeting is on January 7th at 6:00 PM.
 - b. **NCPAC – Rohan Sourjah – no report**
 - c. **Harbor Regional Park PAB** – Greg Donnan – They voted on renaming the Wilmington Drain to Harbor City Water Way. They have been discussing closure of the park during the construction period.
 - d. **Friends of the Library** – Grant Reed – Not report.
9. **Reports from Committee Chairs:**
 - a. **Education/Youth** – Hayes Thrower
 - i. They received a copy of the invoice from Narbonne High School for the books purchased with the HCNC grant from last year. Hayes will do further follow up.
 - ii. There is to be more follow up on the Normont Elementary School Marque issue.
 - iii. With the outreach committee they want to present to PTA's.
 - iv. Lions Club speech contest update.

- v. At the Boys & Girls Club annual fund raising event \$42,000.00 was raised for continuation of the Harbor City Boys & Girls Club.

b. **Outreach** – Brandii Grace

- i. General comments about outreach for stakeholders, if you are a resident in Harbor City you are part of State Senate District 35. There is a special election in the district on December 9th.
- ii. The City of LA is holding a Sidewalk Summit on Saturday November 22nd at 10000 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Puente Learning Center in the Mark Ridley-Thomas Auditorium to discuss sidewalk repairs needed in the city.
- iii. The Outreach Committee wants the community to be aware of what the Harbor City Neighborhood Council is doing and suggests that local stakeholder groups can come and present to the HCNC.
- iv. The next outreach committee meeting is Friday November 21st.

c. **Public Safety** – Greg Donnan

- i. American Red Cross is looking for a community relationship coordinator volunteer. This is a volunteer program called the Community Ambassador Program. They want them to serve for at least 3 years.

d. **Planning/Zoning/Land Use** – Joeann Valle

- i. There are some issues developing with the property at Lomita Blvd and Normande Avenue on the east side of street. There will be some sort of development. They are working with the developers and the county to have something that everyone will be happy with.
- ii. The property across from Harbor City Recreation Park has been sold and the current businesses are all leaving. There will be another shopping center. There are three condos going into the vacant lot across the street.
- iii. There are thirteen new condos being built on the vacant lot at 237th and Western.

e. **By Laws** – Olive Reed - No report

10. **Old Business:**

- a. **Update on Christmas Lights Contest** – This will be on the agenda for the Governing Board meeting. There are not funds specifically allocated at this time, although funds can be reallocated.
- b. **Update on status of marijuana dispensaries** – addressed previously in the meeting.
- c. **Minimum Wage Meetings** – Joeann Valle – The Chamber has had several meetings on the issue with local businesses. The proposed increase is \$11.25 in 2015, \$13.25 2016, \$15.25 2019. The Chamber also met with Councilmember Buscaino on the issue.

11. **New Business:**

- a. **Discussion of grant application procedures and the necessity of having all applications first go through the Finance Committee.**
- b. **Moser proposed a monthly paper allotment to local schools of \$100/month to compensate for budget short fall.** To be further considered in outreach committee.

- c. **Discussion of proposal for Harbor City Neighborhood Council to sponsor an artist or artists to do murals on Electric Boxes in Harbor City.** This could be used as outreach, particularly to Harbor City schools and art students.
- d. **Discussion of DONE guidelines for Harbor City Neighborhood Council second signatory and appoint new board member if necessary.** The City Attorney's office says that the treasurer and second signer cannot be in a first party relationship.
- e. **Determine a date of next Governing Board Meeting as the regularly scheduled date would fall on the day before Thanksgiving.** Motion to meet on Tuesday December 2nd. Moved by Joeann Valle, seconded by Brandii Grace. Passed with 11 Yes (Deklotz, Domingo, Donnan, Fredericks, Grace, Gonzalez, McGee, Moser, Sourjah, Thrower, Valle) 0 No, 1 Abstention (O. Reed).
- f. **Status of Harbor City Neighborhood Council Youth Board Seat** – not discussed

12. President's Report (Raymond Moser)

- a. Moser announced that Board member Rohan Sourjah was awarded the Srimerican of the year by the Sri Lanka Foundation at a ceremony at the Biltmore Hotel.
- b. Moser also announced low level teacher action at Narbonne High School on Thursday November 20th at 4:00PM.
- c. Moser read selections from African folk tales he thought were applicable to the Neighborhood Council.

13. Approval of Minutes of October 2014 Stakeholder Meeting, so moved by Thrower, seconded by Donnan, 9 Yes (Deklotz, Donnan, Fredericks, Grace, Gonzalez, McGee, Sourjah, Thrower, Valle) 0 No, 3 Abstentions (Domingo, Moser, O. Reed).

14. Public Comment on Non-Agenda item:

- a. Ann Porter representing Move to Amend wants to regulate corporations' political contributions. They have a video on YouTube.
- b. Peter Burmeister from Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council gave comments regarding marijuana dispensaries.
- c. Pat Means, Manager of Outreach and Strategic Partnership from Alta Sea, talked about the marine research facility being built in the Port of Los Angeles. She plans to regularly attend neighborhood council meetings to hear any issues or concerns of stakeholders. She recognized Gabriela Medina, Field Deputy from Councilman Joe Buscaino's office is the Grand Marshall of Holiday Afloat Parade on December 6th. Alta Sea is having its grand opening and ribbon cutting on December 4th from 3:00PM to 6:00PM at 222 w. Sixth Street in San Pedro.
- d. Mike Forsberg, business owner in Harbor City, commented that stakeholder speaking time was limited on issues he wanted to speak more on. Moser provided the process for getting items of stakeholder concern included in the agenda so more time is allotted. He also passed around a clipboard to the stakeholders during the meeting so that they could write down items of concern for the agenda of a future meeting.
- e. Bandii Grace announced that the UC system voted today to raise tuition by 25% over the next few years.
- f. Moser announced justice for Shailo Leafa, who was murdered near a hookah lounge in Harbor City. They are hoping for tips, if anyone has any information please

contact LAPD.

14. Announcements

- a. Valle announced that on Thursday December 11th the Harbor City/Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce is having a free open house and holiday mixer at the Chamber office from 5:30PM to 7:30PM.
- b. Donnan announced do not use your ATM card at Mobil, Chevron or Union 76 locations as ATM cards have been cloned.
- c. Donnan announced if you write checks to any charities make sure you know who you are writing the check to. There are people out there using this as a means to scam people.
- d. Donnan announced that there are people using Uber as an excuse to knock on doors, it's a scam and LAPD is involved.
- e. Stakeholder announced that at the collaborative high school meeting at Narbonne High School it was announced that starting in January they are will be serving breakfast in classrooms of local schools.
- f. Olive Reed announced that the Safety meeting is on Thursday November 20th at 8:30 am at Narbonne in the library.
- g. Gabriela Medina, Field Deputy from Councilman Joe Buscaino's office thanked Board member John Gonzalez for all the work he did for the Harbor Elementary School Harvest Festival.
- h. Gonzalez announced that nine people in Harbor City got full time jobs at Lassens Store in Echo Park, 17 uninsured people got signed up with Kaiser and 27 people got free checking accounts with Wells Fargo Bank all with help from Gabriela Medina, Field Deputy from Councilman Joe Buscaino's office.

15. Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:30 pm - Next Stakeholder meeting January 21, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Akerblom
for the HCNC Board