

Harbor City Neighborhood Council Stakeholders Meeting  
 Harbor City Gateway Library  
 Wednesday, 2-17-10  
 6:30pm

### Official Minutes

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Roll Call/Attendance</b>
Sherri Bliss	Excused
Esther Cepeda	Present
Greg Donnan	Present
Joyce Fredericks	Present
Tom Houston	Present
Chris Huie	Present
Eric Magee	Excused
Anto Nakkashian	Present
Wu-Ping Own	Excused
Grant Reed	Present
Olive Reed	Present
Christopher Sapien	Excused
Rick Schuler	Present

#### **Call to Order:**

Tom Houston called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

**Roll Call:** See Above. Approximately 70 stakeholders present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Grant Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2010 Stakeholder Meeting. The motion was seconded by Joyce Fredericks and unanimously approved by the Board.

**LAPD Report:** Officer Wilkins was not available to give a report; however, President Tom Houston commented that crime has been on the rise in all areas. He suggested that stakeholders keep an eye on their neighborhoods and call if any suspicious activity is witnessed. He also provided Officer Wilkins cell phone number: 310-869-2106.

**Census 2000:** Esther Cepeda reported on Census Day which is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Questionnaires will be in the mail March 14-17. Everyone is strongly advised to fill out the form quickly to avoid having a census taker pay you a visit. Tell friends and neighbors to fill out the questionnaire. The census is good for 10 years. She also commented that Neighborhood Councils have taken a beating lately as well as every other department in the city. Funding of our neighborhood council may be cut to as low as \$22,500. Rollover funds may be left alone. At least those items that are encumbered. Esther is still with the Census. They will be canvassing neighborhoods March 18 through the end of April. Volunteers who put in a 4-hour day of service get a Disney ticket.

**LA Unified:** Jacob Haik, representing LAUSD Board Member, Vladovic, reported on the following: 7 billion dollar budget now down to 5 billion. They recently voted to lay off 6,000 employees. They are also using furloughs. Jacob talked about how this affects the schools. Obama dollars received last year stopped the LAUSD from being bankrupt. They need to figure

out a solution now. They have cut their administration drastically. 45% of maintenance operations will be laid off in June. They have cut everywhere to the bone. It is for the community members to decide what ballot measures they will support.

### **Storm Property Presentation:**

Nancy with A & M Properties talked about the project on Sepulveda. The project is 500 feet back from Sepulveda. They have been doing outreach in the community. A & M properties is a local South Bay builder. He builds and then retains his projects and manages them himself. Nancy has been with the company for 20 years. She introduced Darrell Fisher who commented that he was happy to see the community interest at this meeting. This project will replace a couple of used car lots/auction houses that have been a problem in the community. He explained the difference between affordable housing and workforce housing. Affordable is subsidized by the government and that is not what they are proposing. They are proposing workforce housing that appeals to the professional, (teachers, firemen, etc). In this general area there is not a lot of brand new housing to choose from. This project will have 1 and 2 bedroom units. They do not envision very many families with children moving in. They looked at a lot of property to make this happen. Requirements for workforce housing are:

- 1) A large parcel with good access to highways and public transportation
- 2) High enough density to keep the prices down.
- 3) A project that can be built with minimum environmental impact.
- 4) Provide lots of on-site parking to avoid overflow parking into neighborhoods.

This project will be 2 buildings with 176 units each. 700 to 1000 sq ft units. 2 Parking spaces per unit. East of Mulligan center. They hope to complete the building by 2013. This building will generate Quimby funds of \$4772 per unit. (Total of \$1,679,744) Harbor Gateway South has given their approval of the project. As well as surrounding business neighbors.

Mr. Fisher answered questions from Stakeholders and Board Members which related to the following:

### **Traffic Issues:**

- They have a traffic study, 11 nearby intersections were evaluated. One would be impacted and the DOT came up with mitigation measures to reduce the impact to a level of what they call “insignificance.” Eastbound right turn only lane on Sepulveda. Right turn lane on Normandie.
- Questions about Western Avenue and the impact the project will have on the traffic there.
- Question about exit from the project onto Normandie.
- Other properties that were built in recent years were not supposed to impact the traffic but did create new problems.
- Normandie and Sepulveda gets a lot of action. More accidents in the area lately. Part of this project will possibly provide some relief with the mitigations.

### **Security Issues:**

- Stakeholder concerned about safety and spreading the police too thin.
- Problems with current property owner’s views and loss of privacy.

### **Resources:**

- Water shortage question: Jamming more people into an area for more money will create problems.

**Miscellaneous Questions and Comments:**

- Union or non-union built? They don't know.
- Green Meadows resident commented that the majority of the residents in that area are opposed to the project.
- Celina Luna from the Council office wants to meet with the project managers to discuss internal concerns and some aesthetic issues.
- Greg Donnan: Comment about Quimby funds. Reminded everyone that there are no Quimby funds for industrial if the project is not built and remains industrial.
- Tom Houston commented that it appears no one in attendance was in favor of the project and asked stakeholders what they would consider an "Acceptable Project". There was a response that a better means of exiting the project should be considered.
- Tom also commented that he feels we don't need more housing we need industries and businesses where people can go to work.
- Does it have to be this big? Zoning would allow 550. They are proposing 352.
- The local Chamber of Commerce has not taken a position regarding the project.
- More commercial is being rezoned into residential but we would like to see more commercial to create jobs.

**Council Office Report:** Celina commented on the following:

- Budget disasters: Projecting a \$400 million deficit for next year. The City Council is have daily meetings to address the issue.
- Re-opening union contracts
- 1000 employees being layed off. Some being transferred to vacancies.
- Consolidating and cutting some departments such as cultural, human services, DONE, etc.
- Furloughs for every state employee.
- Sweeping all unencumbered funds including NC's.
- Golf courses, etc, and non profits using city property will be charged rent.
- NC Funding: They are considering a more structured demand warrant system and no more cash withdrawals. Redefine what is acceptable expenditure. Next year they will bring up the possibility of a 50% cut in funding.
- Gary Delarosa has also been transferred to Community Development Department.
- Round Table Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> wed of every month, at the Harbor City Rec. Center
- Close the Harbor Division Jail. 23 officers will be back on patrol.
- Justin Houterman is no longer the Neighborhood Prosecutor and due to funding cuts will not be replaced.
- Traffic studies in full swing, improvements will be coming.
- DWP will be increasing their rates.

**Elections:** Olive Reed reported that Neighborhood Council Elections are this year in June and she encouraged everyone to get involved. There is an upcoming Informational Meeting on March 16 at Peck Park, 6:30-8:30pm where potential candidates can learn about getting elected to the Board. There is also a second meeting at Peck Park on Sat. April 3, 9:30-11:30. Harbor City is just a small community but it is important that more people get involved.

**Harbor City Friends of the Library:** Report by Leonard Duncan who began by recognizing the volunteers involved with the Friends of Library. Also thanked those community members who donate and purchase books. Thanks to everyone's support, they can carry out their mission of handling funding for things the city won't fund. They are working on getting an estimate for a

new project involving the clean up and updating of the areas of library landscaping involving gravel. They are hoping to get rid of the gravel and come up with a better idea. The librarian has gotten an estimate. The Friends of the Library meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tues of the month at Harbor City Library Meeting and will be discussing the proposal at the next meeting. In April or May they may come back to the Board and ask for funds for next year.

**DONE Report:** Rosa Arcadia has been transferred to the Community Development Department. No report this month.

**Public Comment:**

**David Green:** Announcement about an upcoming Forum. Sat 27<sup>th</sup> at Rolling Hills Prep. Special guests will be Bernard Parks and Julie Busher.

**Joe Orofice:** Thanked the board for their hard work at the Christmas Event. They were able to provide Christmas gifts for 650 children from low income families. The event was a huge success this year with nice decorations. More information about the event including pictures can be found on Joe's new website: [www.harborcitysanta.com](http://www.harborcitysanta.com)

**Announcement:** Day of Service. March 20, 2010. Harbor City Elementary School. President and 254<sup>th</sup>. Clean up day. 8am. Great community service.

**Winifred:** Thanked all those from The Pines. They have been conducting Neighborhood Watch meetings every other month and a lot of people have been coming out. She asked community members to encourage other neighborhoods to get a neighborhood watch meeting going to get to know your neighbors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith  
Admin Asst to HCNC