

Harbor City Neighborhood Council Stakeholders Meeting
 Kaiser Conference Center
 Wednesday, 6-16-10
 6:30pm

Official Minutes

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

Call to Order:

Tom Houston called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Roll Call: See Above. Approximately 27 stakeholders present.

Approval of Minutes: Grant Reed made a motion to approve the May 19, 2010 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Greg Donnan and the board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes.

LAPD Report: Officer Wilkins was present and talked about the Narbonne High School graduation ceremony and the traffic problems that it will create. A lot more children will be around the community now that school is out and the LAPD expects an increase in crime. He urged stakeholders to lock all doors and windows even when leaving home for only a few minutes and valuables should not be left in cars. He stressed the importance of being “vigilant” and informing neighbors to lock up their properties. Green Meadows had 2 burglaries, but 3 males were arrested and the burglaries have now stopped. They are now out on bail. Officer Wilkins commented that if you see someone in a neighbor’s yard and you don’t think they belong there, call 911. Board Member Ping Own had a question about parking restrictions at the new Panda Express.

Councilwoman Hahn’s Office: Celina Luna provided a written report which included information on the following:

- Narbonne High School City Hall Day
- Election Results

- Thanked all outgoing board members and asked new members to become compliant with Ethics Training. Tom Houston asked if Janice Hahn could come to next month's meeting to install the new board members.
- Street Surfacing
- No Oversize Vehicle Parking District
- New President at Harbor College – Marvin Martinez
- Day Laborer Site: City of Redondo Beach has a law that you cannot solicit for day laborers on public streets. The 9th District court said they are now able to enforce the law that they haven't been able to enforce.

Letter regarding the LA City Council's Boycott of Arizona: There was an extensive discussion on the issue of the City Council's decision to boycott Arizona. Highlights from the discussion included:

- Esther Cepeda asked how we, as a Board, could discuss the boycott issue without addressing the law itself. She was reminded that the discussion was to address only whether the City of LA should have called for a boycott of Arizona.
- Grant Reed read from the minutes to refresh everyone on the wording of the motion that was passed by the HCNC Board at the April 2010 meeting as follows: **“Grant Reed made a Motion that the Harbor City Neighborhood Council draft a letter to all members of the City Council expressing displeasure with the City Council for getting involved in something they should not be involved in. The specific wording of the letter to be decided at the Governing Board meeting.”** He clarified that he is “upset that our City Council wasted time and effort.” A stakeholder followed with a comment that it is none of our (California's) business.”
- One stakeholder commented that she was not happy with the City Council, but was also not happy that this discussion was taking up so much time at our Neighborhood Council meeting. Another stakeholder agreed stating that she is more interested in what is happening in Harbor City. She further commented that the LA City Council made their decision and the HCNC needs to get on now with the business of the Harbor City Neighborhood Council. Yet another stakeholder stated that it is up to the neighborhood council to let the City Council know what the stakeholders feel.
- Board Member Ping Own 100% agrees that as a board we should deal with Harbor City. The problem is every time we try to get something done, we cannot get it done. The City Council should concentrate on our quality of life issues in this city. The City Council should not deal with federal issues.
- Olive Reed commented that we are here to listen to the stakeholders and they wanted this Board to write a letter to the City Council stating their displeasure. Olive stressed that the neighborhood council should get back to dealing with what we want done in Harbor City.
- Ken Melendez: Read the HCNC's mission statement. Disagrees that we should not discuss issues related to other states. Boycotts raise awareness.
- One stakeholder commented that the Day Laborers support the city council in this move.
- Another stakeholder commented that more time is wasted deciding what to boycott and what not to boycott.
- Stakeholder comment: This discussion came up because we as a city are tired of being ignored by the City Council. Not just this issue, but issues in general. The letter in question should state that we are tired of the city doing the opposite of what they should do.

- Board Member Esther Cepeda feels that “whether you agree or disagree, the best role for this NC is to concentrate on community events, outreach, and things that promote Harbor City and the quality of life here. She doesn’t feel that this NC or NC’s in general will benefit from such a letter being written. It sets a bad precedent to have NC’s get involved in something they should not get involved with.
- Board Member Grant Reed reminded everyone that he originally wanted everyone to write an individual letter about their displeasure.
- Board Member Olive Reed commented that it doesn’t matter whether she is for or against the boycott. Her idea of this NC is that we are the communicators with the City Council for our stakeholders. Our stakeholders in that meeting requested that they wanted a letter. The boycott is a done deal, but the City Council needs to know that their stakeholders are not happy with their decision. This is a free country and we need to speak up. We have to listen to what our stakeholders say. We should just be talking about the letter. That’s all. We need more people to come to the meetings. If this issue brings out more people then that is a start.
- New Board Member Steve Rutherford thinks the City council stepped out of their bounds and we need to tell them that we feel this way.
- Stakeholder: Previous boycotts were not City Council boycotts.
- Stakeholder: Asked that the Board make a formal motion so we can have a discussion and vote. **Greg Donnan made a motion that the HCNC write a letter to the city council and discuss the contents of the letter tonight, expressing that the stakeholders present at the 5/19/10 meeting unanimously wanted to express their displeasure in having the City Council get involved in a boycott of Arizona. The motion was seconded by Ping Own.** The discussion continued:
- Cecilia Moreno, stakeholder and board member of the Wilmington Neighborhood Council commented that the voices of all the stakeholders were not being heard and that there were many stakeholders in Harbor City who supported the City Council’s position. She felt there were so many issues that the neighborhood councils have input on and in her opinion it is so “alienating” for this council to discuss this particular issue. Her initial comments were misunderstood by another stakeholder who thought Cecilia was suggesting that the HCNC was racist. She clarified that she was in no way suggesting that. Several board members commented on how the HCNC is very supportive of all their stakeholders no matter what their ethnic origins. Ping commented that those stakeholders who attended the Governing Board meeting in support of the City Council were asked to come back but they were not in attendance at this meeting.
- Board Member Chris Sapien gave his opinion that it is the duty of the neighborhood council to advise the City Council as to what best suits our constituents. He stated that there are going to be economic consequences to the City of LA due to the City Council’s decision to make this boycott against Arizona’s anti-immigration law which mirrors the federal law. He further stated that paid politicians made this decision without the input of any neighborhood councils. Our issue is about them overstepping their boundaries of service to the city of Los Angeles as a whole.
- There were opposing opinions as to whether an individual letter should be written by a stakeholder or whether the HCNC should write a letter as a neighborhood council. There was a comment that the City Council acted on the boycott as a council and therefore the HCNC has every right to respond as a neighborhood council.

- A roll call vote was held as follows on the above motion: Esther Cepeda voted no; Joyce Fredericks voted yes; Greg Donnan voted yes; Tom Houston voted yes; Wu-Ping Own voted yes; Grant Reed abstained; Olive Reed voted yes; and Christopher Sapien voted yes. The motion passed.
- Greg Donnan read an outline he had written with possible wording for the letter. It was commented that the actual motion passed by the Board should be placed at the beginning of the letter. After additional discussion the following wording was suggested:

The letter should begin with the motion that was passed and then have the following wording: On May 12, 2010 in a 13-1 vote, the Los Angeles City Council approved sanctions against the State of Arizona by the City of Los Angeles. This letter is written on behalf of the stakeholders present at the 5/19/10 meeting of the HCNC who unanimously requested that a letter be written to the City Council opposing the LA City Council's decision to establish an economic boycott against the state of Arizona. We urge the Los Angeles City council to be concerned with its own problems and focus on such issues as a massive budget deficit, layoffs, department realignments, streets, sidewalks, reduced hours at parks and libraries, rogue city employees, etc. Sincerely, Harbor City Neighborhood Council.

Greg Donnan made a motion to approve the letter as written above, seconded by Olive Reed. The motion passed with 6 yes votes, 1 no vote (Ester Cepeda asked to be on the record with her "no" vote). 20 stakeholders present approved the wording of the letter and 3 opposed the letter.

- Greg Donnan thanked those board members present and absent for their hard work. He thanked everyone for attending including the representatives from the Councilwoman's office.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Stakeholder: Comments about vacant properties around Bell Porte and Anaheim that are neglected and dirty. This stakeholder asked about getting a large dumpster and having it cleaned up. She asked if it should be at the expense of the property owner? She is ashamed about that part of Harbor City. She would also like to see more picking up of trash. She feels we need to work on beautifying the city. Celina Luna responded that they have reported that problem property including inadequate fencing. If the property owner does not respond and clean up, the city will come in and do the cleanup and then bill the property owners. Stakeholders were reminded that they can call Celina, the Council Office or visit the city website to report these types of problems.

Stakeholder: Subscribes to LA Times and once a month gets the LA Magazine which she enjoys. She has not received it this month and she found out that the LA Times is not going to deliver to Harbor City any longer. She is not happy about this but was told that you can call the Times and they will mail it to you.

Upcoming Event: Olive Reed commented that the Board is not planning to have the downhill race (Grand Prix) this year because of funding cuts. There is an event that will take place in Harbor City on August 21st from 10am-4pm. This event is being started by the businesses on PCH. Olive feels it

would be helpful if we as a Board and as a community could support this. She would like to have this as an agenda at the next Board Meeting and possibly consider some type of funding towards the event. The next meeting to discuss the upcoming event is being held June 22nd at 11am in the conference room at California Harley Davidson. One stakeholder who works with the Day Laborer site commented that he would like the day laborers to get involved. Olive also mentioned that we need more welcoming signs on the borders of Harbor City.

Toy Collection: A stakeholder commented on the Christmas Event at Joe Orifice's House and the need for donations of new toys for children in the community who attend the event.

Chris Sapien: Commented that last weekend came home and found 2 neighbors had chopped down mature trees. He would like to remind the stakeholders that Harbor City has less than 10% canopy coverage which makes it the city with the least coverage in the entire city of LA. He urged homeowners to look into the Million Tree Program.

BONC (Board of Neighborhood Commissioners): Esther reported that they meet this coming Monday at City Hall June 21st 11:30am, room 1060. Then on July 6th they are at the Wilmington Senior Center. Issues are setting policy, by-laws, definition of stakeholders. Input is appreciated. The July 6th meeting is at 6pm at 1371 Eubank, Wilmington.

Elections: The four new board members were introduced: Jennifer Corral, Ray Moser, Janet Mercer and Steve Rutherford.

Communications: The new Harbor City Neighborhood Council website will be launched in the next few days.

Education: We have some stakeholders that are very dedicated to help make sure the kids from Narbonne have safe passage home from school. Olive would like to see more stakeholders getting involved.

Friends of the Library: Leonard Duncan thanked all who have donated books, bought books and re-donated books. He commented that the librarians are constantly changing. The landscaping is completed and looks great. There is no more annoying gravel. Leonard also thanked the HCNC for their support.

Community Roundtable: No report.

Outreach: We are getting more people at the meetings. In the future we are going to place new banners in strategic spots. We will have signs along Western to indicate that the HCNC is responsible for having the median strip cleaned. We hope to establish an outreach committee.

Treasurer: Funds are currently frozen until July 1st.

Community Safety: It was commented that typically there is an increase in juvenile crime when school is out so stakeholders need to be more vigilant in their neighborhoods.

Emergency Preparedness: An earthquake is inevitable, be prepared! Ping commented on an earthquake website at www.HCEC.org

HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils): There have been a lot of conversations concerning what is going on in the budget process. At the last meeting they talked about NC funding and how we are going to get it. HANC took the position that LA gives money, it is put in an NC account to use at the discretion of the HCNC. They also talked about the displeasure over the election process. The Harbor Alliance is a very energetic group and a lot gets done. They meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at Kaiser Conference Center. 6:30pm.

Harbor Regional Park: They are presently in the permit process but good things are coming to Ken Malloy! Joyce commented that there were very few board members in attendance at the last meeting. They heard speakers on the subject of Prop O and they got a great look at what is being planned. The project will begin by dredging the lake to remove problem areas. It will help the water re-circulate. It will be torn up for a while but eventually will be greatly improved. LAPD are still working on the south end problems and the undesirable element. They are doing a great job. Park meetings are held at the Kaiser Conference Center on the 2nd Tues of every month at 6:30pm. There will soon be a new Park Director.

Neighborhood Cleanups: No longer going on but you can call every week for a large item pickup. Call 3-1-1.

Planning/Zoning/Land Use: Nothing to report. All projects are in limbo at this time.

Port Community Advisory Committee (PCAC): Grant Reed reported that the meeting was an example of “democracy at work.” There were no action items. On June 3rd he attended a very interesting meeting. The commissioners and the PCAC have previously had trouble agreeing on issues but at this meeting they broke the ice and started to communicate. Last night they had a quorum, 20 out of 36. Previous meetings have not had a quorum so no actions could be voted on.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith
Admin Asst to HCNC