

Harbor City Neighborhood Council Stakeholders Meeting  
 Harbor City Library  
 Wednesday, 1-19-11  
 6:30pm

### Official Minutes

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Roll Call/Attendance</b>
Jennifer Corral	Present
Esther Cepeda	Present
Joyce Fredericks	Present
Greg Donnan	Present
Tom Houston	Present
Janet Mercer	Present
Raymond Moser	Present
Anto Nakkashian	Present
Wu-Ping Own	Excused
Grant Reed	Present
Olive Reed	Present
Christopher Sapien	Present
Steven Rutherford	Present

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

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

**Roll Call:** See Above. Approximately 25 stakeholders present.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 17, 2010 stakeholder minutes were tabled until the next meeting. They will be reviewed for errors, revised and brought forth for approval at the January Governing Board Meeting.

**LAPD Report:** Officer Wilkins reported recent crime statistics. He also showed year end comparisons on crime for 2009 and 2010. Overall, statistics show that crime in 2010 is lower than 2009. He commented on two burglaries in Green Meadows and then concluded that 90% of the people being apprehended for crimes in Harbor City is directly due to community members reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods.

**District 15 Report:** Celina Luna from Councilwoman Janice Hahn's office reported on the following:

**Harbor City Pines Community Renaming:** The City Council passed the renaming request and the "Pines" area of Harbor City has officially been named Harbor Pines.

**New General Manager at the Department of Water and Power:** Ron Nichols was confirmed as the DWP's sixth general manager in four years after pledging to try to restore public trust in the utility. He is a veteran energy-industry consultant and had been managing director of Seattle-based Navigant Consulting Inc.

**Harbor City Town Hall Meeting:** Celina announced an upcoming Harbor City Town Hall Meeting tentatively scheduled for February 24, 2011 at 6pm at the Harbor City Library. Community members will have an opportunity to discuss pending issues with the Council office as well as representatives from city departments.

**Idling Trucks near Normont Elementary School:** The Council Office is working with LAUSD and DOT to resolve the issue of idling trucks near Normont Elementary School. The company owning the trucks has grown beyond its capacity for that location. LAUSD will install a drop off valet system in front of the school and the City will install signage with more restrictive parking regulations on the school perimeter.

**Illegal Vendors:** The Council Office has requested a special Street Use Investigation Task Force in the Harbor Area during the next 45 days to cite illegal vending activities in Harbor City, San Pedro and Wilmington. They will collaborate with Los Angeles County Department of Health to issue citations and seize materials. Community members can contact the Council Office to report any illegal vending activities.

**NFL Stadium at Los Angeles Convention Center:** The Los Angeles City Council's Trade, Commerce and Tourism Committee, which is chaired by Janice Hahn, has moved to launch a formal working group and independent financial analysis to review AEG Inc.'s plans to construct an NFL stadium next to the LA Convention Center. The study will examine the economic impacts and possible benefits such a stadium would bring to Los Angeles.

**Operation Pothole:** 1,256 Potholes were repaired in Council District 15 on the weekend of January 8-9 and 16,118 potholes were repaired citywide. Call 311 to report additional potholes that need attention.

**Presentation of Certificate:** Celina presented Joyce Fredericks with a beautiful certificate welcoming her new grandchild.

**Question about USS IOWA:** In response to a question from a stakeholder, Celina commented that the Navy is in the process of deciding between our Port of Los Angeles and Vallejo for the berthing place of the USS IOWA.

**Presentation by the Los Angeles Fire Department Station 85:** After introducing his staff, Captain Albert Valle, the Captain of Fire Station 85 talked about budget cuts which have made fire stations closures and cut backs necessary around the City of Los Angeles. Capt. Valle commented that the HCNC Board has expressed interest in donating something to the fire station. He had all 36 members of the station decide on a wish list and they decided that the best donation would be something the Fire Department and the community can enjoy such as a projector or screen for disaster preparedness workshops etc.

A stakeholder wanted to know more about the modifications in effect due to the budget cuts. Capt. Valle responded that their engine company was closed for 3 days this week. Such closures are rotated around Wilmington and San Pedro Fire Stations as well. It has saved over 80 million dollars in 16 months. Harbor City still has coverage. Capt. Valle explained the difference between an engine company and a truck company. He also talked about the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force at Harbor City's Fire Station 85. The staff has specialized training. The public is welcome to review their contingency plans at the fire station.

There was also a question about fire hydrants and who maintains them. The response was that the hydrants are tested annually by the Fire Department but the actual painting of the hydrants is done by the DWP.

Joyce Fredericks asked if the Fire Department can utilize their ladder to take down shoes hanging over electrical wires? Capt. Valle provided the station's phone number 310-548-7585 where community members can call if they want to report such issues. The Fire Department staff enjoys having the community visit the station and is happy to give tours.

Joyce Fredericks then presented the Captain with a framed certificate from the Harbor City Neighborhood Council and the stakeholders.

**Harbor Pines Neighborhood Request for Funding for Neighborhood Signs:** Celina Luna explained that Councilwoman Hahn asked for this item to be put on our agenda. The Councilwoman felt that a funding request of this nature is why the City gives neighborhood councils money. She feels it is of benefit to the entire community. The cost is \$1600 for all three signs. **Janet Mercer made a motion that the Harbor City Neighborhood Council pay \$1600 for all three signs for Harbor Pines. The motion was seconded by Esther Cepeda Hatch.** The following comments were made during discussion:

- The sign should be a decorative sign and the \$1600 should be put towards such a sign. The sign should benefit all of Harbor City and not just one community.
- The residents of Harbor Pines should work for their signs.
- Board Member Esther Cepeda-Hatch commented that the funding given to the neighborhood councils belongs to the stakeholders. The Pines are part of that area. We should be cooperative and work together to empower the entire community. She feels this is a great opportunity to empower the community and that it is a simple request from the Councilwoman.
- We should discuss this with the Council office.
- We are one community and if the City pays for signs anywhere why not that neighborhood. Whatever neighborhood needs a sign put up a sign.
- With the City budget the way it is, every community needs to work together to be more self sufficient. The Board should say to The Pines that it will match whatever they raise.
- Board Member Grant Reed moved that the motion be amended to offer a matching fund option up to the full price of the signs. The motion to amend was seconded by Janet Mercer. The Board voted and the motion to amend failed with only 4 yes votes and 7 no votes.
- This is for the benefit of the entire city, we should fund the signs.
- Board Member Olive Reed commented that Narbonne High School only gets a sniffer dog (drug detection dogs) once or twice a year. We have a request for funding a sniffer dog at Narbonne. Olive feels the children are more important than a sign. (Funds required for a sniffer dog is \$8,000).
- One stakeholder suggested that the Board delay the vote.
- Board Member Ray Moser: When the request for the Harbor Pines renaming was brought before the Board, it was stressed that supporting the renaming would not cost the neighborhood council anything. He is not happy that now we are asked to pay.
- Michael Cooley commented that this is a simple issue of a yes or no vote and deciding not the pay for the signs will not be held against the Board.

- Board Member Chris Sapien commented that he is a fiscal conservative and feels that this is a special interest. He would like to see the money for the signs raised by other means. He does not think the Council office should be requesting money.

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Roll Call Vote</b>
Jennifer Corral	No
Esther Cepeda	Yes
Joyce Fredericks	No
Greg Donnan	No
Tom Houston	No
Janet Mercer	Yes
Raymond Moser	No
Anto Nakkashian	No
Grant Reed	No
Olive Reed	No
Christopher Sapien	No
Steven Rutherford	No

After the discussion, the Board had a roll call vote (see above). The motion failed with 10 no votes and 2 yes votes.

#### **Public comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

**Reginald Chun:** Commented that due to budget cuts, the San Pedro Criminal Branch Court is closing and the operations will be moved. By March, if you are a victim of a DUI, battery or vandalism, etc., you will have to go to the Airport or Metropolitan (downtown LA) courts. Mr. Chun feels that it affects the community in a negative way.

**Joann Lewis:** Commented that motorcycle traffic is very heavy on Saturdays and Sunday coming down President Avenue from Anaheim to Narbonne. These riders are heading to the motorcycle shops on PCH. This area is President Avenue is where the kids travel and cars continue to run the stop signs. She would like to investigate the possibility of getting speed bumps put in. (Tom Houston explained the process of getting speed bumps and how budget cuts in the city makes it unlikely that this will be possible).

**Lauren from Green Meadows:** Would like to see if the days the library is closed can be adjusted. She understands the need for cutting hours but closing on Mondays is an issue that impacts the school kids. She would like to know if the closure days can be changed. (Leonard Duncan commented that he understands it is an inconvenience but he doesn't think there is a chance to change it.)

**Winifred Dray:** Complaint about the street sweeper coming down the middle of the street due to cars parked at the curbs. She would like to know if signs could be posted like the ones in other neighborhoods announcing street sweeping days. She also asked why the meetings were no longer being held at the Kaiser Conference Center location. (Olive Reed explained that Kaiser does not allow any politicking on their property and candidates running for political office often attend meetings to announce their candidacies). Winifred also asked if more effort could be made to utilize the microphones during the meetings.

**Miscellaneous comments:** One stakeholder thanked the HCNC for getting the suckers and tree needles on the pine trees cleaned up (median on Western Avenue).

In light of the recent problems in Gardena, stakeholders Darrel and Dorothy were thanked for their work with the safe passage program which keeps the school children safe.

**Committee Reports and Miscellaneous Comments from Board Members:**

- Olive Reed complimented the restaurant inside the ice rink for having great food.
- Greg Donnan commented that the Department of Rec and Parks presented Joyce Fredericks with an award for her work on the Park Advisory Board.
- Esther Cepeda-Hatch announced that the 93<sup>rd</sup> Neighborhood Council was certified at a recent Certification hearing. It will be called the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council. She commented that low performing neighborhood councils will be looked at for possible de-certification.
- **Board of Neighborhood Commissioners:** Esther commented that the commission will be holding meetings in the Harbor area twice this year. They will be in the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council area on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and in the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council area on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Esther is now sitting on a committee for setting new policy.
- Olive Reed attended the HANC meeting and Bon Wan Kim was in attendance. He got an earful about what the NC's thought about the elections. They expect the NC's to pay at least \$5,000 towards the next election. Greg Donnan also commented that some NC's actually wanted the City Clerk to be involved.
- There will be a USS IOWA Meeting with the Harbor Commissioners tomorrow. This is a million dollar EIR. The community is urged to attend.
- **Education Committee:** Ray Moser commented on \$1,000 scholarships being awarded to high school seniors through [www.TZUCHI.org](http://www.TZUCHI.org). They gave over 100 scholarships last year and need more people to apply for the scholarships.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith  
Admin Asst to HCNC