

Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils
Meeting Notes - April 3, 2013
Kaiser Permanente Conference Center
Grant Reed, Harbor City NC, Chair

Attendees: Central San Pedro NC – Linda Alexander, Allyson Vought, Carrie Scoville, Coastal San Pedro – Bob Gelfand, Northwest San Pedro NC – Diana Nave, Harbor Gateway North NC – Rosalie Preston, Lu Watson, Harbor Gateway South NC – Miguel Cordova, Harbor City NC – Grant Reed, Greg Donnan, Steven Rutherford

Other – Amber Meshack (DONE), Doug Epperhart (BONC), Fred Quintana, Field Representative for Dr. Richard Vladovic, LAUSD Board Member for District 7

Welcome and Introductions

Fred Quintana, introduced himself. He is the Field Representative for Richard Vladovic and is visiting groups to let them know that their local schools have projects which need funding. He will be providing a list of such projects, including murals. He will also let schools know how to approach Neighborhood Councils and other groups to ask for funding. A number of HANC NC's have Board members who think that the LAUSD already has enough funding to help out their schools and that outside funds are not really needed or else that schools can hold their own fundraisers.

Update of General Plan –Claire Bowin, City Planner, Policy Planning and Historic Resources Division, introduced herself and also Lys Mendez. The City Planning Department is currently working on updating the Mobility Element, the Housing Element, and the new Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan Framework. Except for the Housing Element, the City's General Plan hasn't been updated in 15 years. The Mobility Element was last updated in 1999 and will comply with the California Complete Streets Act of 2008 which requires that roadways are designed to safely accommodate all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, children, older people, and disabled people, as well as motorists. The Mobility Element update is a three-year process, which has been ongoing for the last year and a half. This plan will set City policy until the year 2035. The City of Los Angeles covers 400 square miles and includes nearly four million people. Road congestion is a huge problem. Many residents now say that they want to be able to walk to do their routine errands and utilize mass transit if they feel safe doing so. "Safety First" is one of the six goals of the Mobility Element, with the others being "World Class Infrastructure," "Access for all Angelenos," "Informed Choices," "Clean Environment and Healthy Communities," and "Smart Investments." The Mobility Element is now in the environmental analysis phase, as required under CEQA. There will be two scoping meetings with short presentations, one on Tues. April 16 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Valley and one on Mon. April 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in downtown Los Angeles. Comments can also be presented electronically: my.la@lacity.org HANC members suggested having more scoping meetings around the City and/or including some sites with remote access viewing. The comment period ends May 6.

In response to comments about the current bicycle routes, especially in San Pedro, Claire pointed out that the Bicycle Plan was adopted several years ago and there was a lot of input at that time. For the Mobility Element, the Planning Department is now hearing about the need for transportation nodes to include bicycle amenities and for transportation-enhanced networks and more bus routes with rapid buses. They have looked at areas to enhance bus reliability, such as bus-only lanes (Wilshire Blvd. is one example). They are looking at allowing for two possible scenarios: more aggressive (pre-paid boarding and dedicated bus-only lanes) and less aggressive (bus-only lane used just during peak traffic hours). She welcomes input on bike routes from bike riders. The proposal is for a bicycle backbone approach, using major arterial roads with bike lanes. However, these may not feel safe and comfortable for all riders. Some routes will go through neighborhood streets to be safer. Some other concerns expressed were using smaller-sized buses, re-instating a bus from San Pedro to downtown L.A., building

light rail down the Harbor Freeway using the current FasTrak lanes, and making sure bus routes have good connectivity.

The Housing Element was updated in 2008, but is being slightly updated now to get in synch with the State's 8-year cycle for the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). This update is due to the State of California on May 1. Input has been mostly from affordable housing developers and the business community. Matthew Glesne is the contact for this Element: matthew.glesne@lacity.org

Lys Mendez explained that the Health and Wellness Chapter aims to make Los Angeles a healthier place to live, work and play by making it easier for people to walk and bike, reduce injuries, improve access to healthy food, and minimize the effects of climate change. This Chapter is currently in the issues identification phase. A first draft of the Chapter will be ready by fall 2013 and then policies will be developed to help implement the vision and guidelines. There will be a strong focus on equity, to assist those areas which face the most challenges to health. HANC members asked why the fast food ordinance does not cover Council District 15 and also pointed out that health encompasses access to adequate medical services (including transportation), full-service grocery stores, air pollution from large truck traffic on freeways and near residential areas, from trains, and from ships in the Port. There are currently inadequate green buffers between industrial uses and residential uses. Enforcement is a critical component for any clean air action plan. Lys can be reached at lys.mendez@lacity.org

LAFD Community Resources – Hector Hernandez

Was unable to attend.

DONE Update – Amber Meshack, Project Coordinator, reported that Neighborhood Council checking accounts have been approved by the City Council for use in the new fiscal year. Fewer than 20 Neighborhood Councils are now delinquent in their quarterly p-card reports after the April 1 deadline. The proposed new Economic Development Department has a Council File and hearings are ongoing. The Mural Ordinance is another issue that Neighborhood Councils may be interested in commenting on via submission of a Community Impact Statement; murals will now be allowed on the exterior of residences. Additional Board Development training has been scheduled, including on Sat, April 27 from 8 am to 12 noon at the Constituent Service Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue. This training will cover the City Clerk's File Management system and how to file a Community Impact Statement. The Department is encouraging the submission of stories about "local heroes" which can be presented to City decision-makers to demonstrate the positive impact which Neighborhood Councils are making on their communities. Any leftover funds for 2013-2014 can be encumbered for the fall Congress of Neighborhoods. Neighborhood Council elections are planned for spring 2014 with DONE and the City Clerk overseeing them. However, the funding situation for these elections is unknown until the Mayor's budget is presented on April 8 and then the final budget voted on by the City Council. Amber can be reached on her direct line at (213) 978-1749 or via e-mail at amber.meshack@lacity.org

BONC Update – Doug Epperhart, Commissioner

BONC's next meeting will discuss replacing the Brown Act requirements with a Sunshine ordinance. Comments on the posting requirements are needed and also on the factual basis stakeholder by May 20.

Speed Humps (Council File 13-0191) – Rosalie Preston, Harbor Gateway North

Rosalie happened to notice this item on a Transportation Committee agenda for February 13, 2013. LADOT is recommending that the Council and Mayor ban the installation of new and replacement or existing speed humps in order to eliminate negative impacts on emergency response times. After the Council adopted the citywide speed hump program in 1994 to reduce traffic speeds in select residential areas, more than 3,700 speed humps were constructed at 1,450 locations. The program was discontinued in 2009 due to budget reductions. LADOT recommends that if the City Council decides to continue to allow new speed humps as a traffic management method, then requestors must fund all costs, including public outreach, project coordination, traffic studies, engineering design, construction, inspections, and administrative services. The item will be discussed again in mid-May.

Proposed Economic Development Department (Council File 08-3050) – Rosalie Preston, Harbor Gateway North

DONE set up a Town Hall meeting on March 21 for the City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana and the Chief Legislative Analyst Jerry Miller to present information about the proposed new Economic Development Department and related non-profit to Neighborhood Councils. Rosalie and two others from Harbor Gateway North attended. The new Department would be created with City staff transferred from other City Departments. Overall, the creation of the new Department seems to be a good idea so that all functions related to job creation and economic development reside in one Department. However, a number of concerns were expressed about the non-profit which does not yet exist and which would amass the funding and make the decisions on development city-wide. How would residents weigh in on projects, how would new development happen equitably across the city, and what structures would be in place to reduce the likelihood for corruption and cronyism? Santana and Miller said all of this would be addressed in the Request for Proposal for the new non-profit which will be ready in April. NC's also were concerned about the haste in creating the new Department, which does not allow adequate time for careful evaluation of it. Doug pointed out that the proposal calls for the sale of "surplus" City properties by the non-profit. Diana said that she understood that some of the Community Development Department's funds would be transferred to the new Department. Workforce Development functions would all go to the new Department. Harbor Gateway North has taken a position of opposition to this proposal and other NC's were encouraged to discuss it at upcoming meetings and take positions, even though the proposal is on a fast-track.

Proposition C – Carrie Scoville, Central San Pedro

Carrie pointed out that four measures will be on the Tues. May 21 City ballot, including three relating to medical marijuana. Proposition C is a referendum which instructs Congress to overturn the Citizens United decision of the Supreme Court which allows corporations to be considered as people for the purposes of campaign donations. Bill Nuttel (bnuttel@ca.rr.com) is available to speak to groups about this Proposition.

Sharing: Issues, Concerns, Questions & Announcements

On Mon. April 29 Councilman Joe Buscaino is scheduled to again meet with Neighborhood Council Presidents or their representative. Location details have not yet been announced.

Carrie announced that on Thurs. April 4 Port of Los Angeles staff will present an evaluation of the PCAC to the Harbor Commission.

Rosalie announced that Harbor Gateway North is hosting its fifth biennial Health Fair on Sat. April 13 at the 118th Street School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wed May 1

- Harbor Gateway North to Chair
- Agenda items?
 - Scavenging of recyclables