

**Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils
Meeting Notes – October 2, 2013
Kaiser Permanente Conference Center
Grant Reed, HarborCity NC, Chair**

Attendees: Central San Pedro NC – Linda Alexander, Coastal San Pedro – Dave Behar, Harbor City – Grant Reed and Olive Reed, Harbor Gateway North NC – Rosalie Preston, Lu Watson, and Joan Jacobs, Harbor Gateway South NC – Candido Miranda, and Northwest San Pedro NC – Diana Nave

Others – Amber Meshack (DONE), Delores Allmond, Doug Epperhart, Greg Donnan, Chris Sapien, Irene Mendoza, Dr. Martin Marks, Jacob Haik (Deputy Chief of Staff for Councilman Joe Buscaino, Octaviano Rios (Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti), Joseph Martinez (Field Representative for Dr. Richard Vladovic, LAUSD Board Member for District 7), Victor Medina (BONC), and Farley Herzek (Interim President of Harbor College)

Presentation on Code Compliance Unit

- Rocky Wiles, Planning Department, introduced herself. She is one of three staff members of the recently created Code Compliance Unit of the Department of City Planning. Previously, the DCP had no way to track the conditions that had been required of applicants who had been granted approval of projects with conditions. The Dept of Building and Safety had done this when someone complained, but due to budget cuts has not been able to follow up in a timely manner. With the Code Compliance Unit, the building permit will not be issued until all of the operational conditions have been met. Rocky previously worked for the Building and Safety Department and also as a consultant. Since there are 20,000 cases that have been approved with conditional uses, DCP head Michael LoGrande asked the Unit to start with some of the older conditional use cases relating to alcohol and entertainment. The Unit has mailed out 150 letters to the businesses and found that 90% are missing key elements that were required by the Zoning Administrator for their original application. The Unit has also found that the State Department of Alcohol Beverage Control has been issuing liquor licenses once the City's determination letter has been received, rather than waiting until all needed documents have been provided. The fees which applicants pay to the City Planning Department could be used to fund the Compliance Unit's inspections. The thinking is if there is proper oversight before the business opens, then there should be many fewer complaints about code violations later on. There may also be penalties assessed for violators. When asked when there would be more staff assigned to the Unit, Ms. Wiles said that possibly more would be added after the Planning Department and Building and Safety Departments have merged, in another year or so. In answer to how to find out if a liquor store has a conditional use, she suggested checking either by the Planning Toolkit app or the Dept. of City Planning website.

Harbor College Update

Farley Herzek, Interim President, introduced himself. He has a background of 29 years working in the Long Beach schools and at Long Beach Community College. He also was the President of East L.A. College. Harbor College is in a growth mode once again, with more summer school classes and fall semester classes. He is very concerned that with only a high school education, it is very difficult to get a good job. He plans to work with area high schools to offer more college-level classes on their campuses and to do more outreach so that high school students don't end up in low-paying jobs.

The College will be providing more support for incoming students, including orientation and counseling. Up to now, the College has been losing 40% of incoming students. 95% of incoming students need remedial assistance in math and English. The college will be addressing this need in the first semester. There will also be a winter intercession Boot Camp. He also plans to open up the Harbor College campus to the community and mentioned the new Theatre Arts building, the new

campus library, and new science building. The students run the food services program and have the ability to cater for community events. The College also has an excellent nursing program. There is also a plan to increase the number of international students who attend Harbor College. The permanent President for the College will be selected by June 2014.

Reports from elected officials

Jacob Haik, Deputy Chief of Staff for Councilman Joe Buscaino, reported that there had been a September 30 meeting with five of the Neighborhood Council presidents. He said that any Neighborhood Council can request that Councilman Buscaino attend one of their meetings. The Councilman has many events coming up, including the October 13 spaghetti dinner in San Pedro and a December toy drive.

Octaviano Rios, Harbor area representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti, said that the Mayor had made a number of new Commission appointments, including Victor Medina to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. The Mayor really appreciates all of the volunteer work that Neighborhood Councils perform. His priorities are economic development, increasing jobs, and increasing accessibility of City Hall and its services. The Mayor has also appointed Hector Serrano to the Harbor Area Planning Commission and Patricia Castellanos to the Harbor Commission. Anthony Pirozzi has been nominated for the Harbor Commission but not yet confirmed. On the Mayor's website, he has a petition to the Corps of Engineers endorsing alternative 20 which would help restore the Los Angeles River and encourages residents to sign on to it. Octaviano can be reached at (213) 473-2388 or octaviano.rios@lacity.org.

Victor Medina, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, said that he has three goals as a BONC member: more transparency on the part of the Harbor Area neighborhood councils (including for finances), encouragement for more youth involvement, and more media and outreach with sharing of best practices. He has attended three BONC meetings so far. He has noted that not many of the neighborhood councils have participated in commenting on the nine motions that came out of the Neighborhood Council Plan Review. The boundary adjustment policy has been passed; the grievances and complaints policy and procedures has passed; the rules governing Board selections is on hold; the elections procedures and term limits has passed; Brown Act and posting policies is on hold; NC's and rule formulation, appointments of General Manager, and Board of Neighborhood Commissioners is on hold; creating and maintaining information and communication network for public use has passed; duties of the BONC is on hold; and the exhaustive efforts process has passed. Victor can be reached at boncvictormedina@gmail.com.

Joseph Martinez, representative for Dr. Richard Vladovic, LAUSD District 7 Representative and LAUSD President, said to call him for any District 7 school issues: (213) 241-6385 or joseph.j.martinez@lausd.net

DONE Update

Amber Meshack, DONE Project Coordinator, asked that Board rosters be kept up to date. Use the Board roster form and send to ncsupport@lacity.org, with a copy to amber.meshack@lacity.org. This will ensure that DONE is able to communicate to each member of your Board. Budget Day will be Sat. October 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at City Hall. The NC elections/selections are coming and are a great chance to do outreach to your stakeholders. Mayor Garcetti will personally install the new Board of the NC with the greatest increase in voter turnout in spring 2014. Please let DONE know who your Election Chair is as soon as possible. Amber is holding brown bag lunch meetings at least once a month on the Westside and eventually in the Harbor area as well. She will be doing mini-trainings during these sessions, such as how to craft an effective Board agenda. She can be reached on her direct line at (213) 978-1479 or via e-mail at amber.meshack@lacity.org

Notification motion

Doug Epperhart discussed the need for having a longer notification period so that Neighborhood Councils have time to study issues, put them on their agendas and vote on them. It was moved by Linda Alexander (Central San Pedro), seconded by Diana Nave (Northwest San Pedro), and passed 6-0 to support this motion.

Review HANC Framework

Diana Nave, HANC Secretary, passed out copies of the original set of guidelines for HANC since there are a number of new people now representing their neighborhood councils. She also asked for a list of each Council's current official representatives and how each Council has determined to decide on their vote on issues which come up during HANC meetings.

City Attorney Town Hall on October 3 at 6 p.m.

Since City Attorney Mike Feuer and his staff are putting on the event, HANC members are not responsible for bringing refreshments but are asked to get the word out to their stakeholders. Free parking is available in the west parking structure of the Harbor College.

Report on Presidents' meetings with Port and also Council District 15 Office

For the issue of getting the new Harbor Division jail staffed and open so that Harbor LAPD officers don't have to drive all the way to the 77th Division for booking suspects, Councilman Buscaino suggested that each neighborhood council in the Harbor Division area write a letter.

The four Port-impacted neighborhood councils met with Arlie Baker, public relations for the Port of Los Angeles, to discuss the need for an early notification system on important issues, how the Port-supported grants system needs to have a better outreach process, and how big a loss the termination of the PCAC has been with its focus on the technical aspects of port operation and impact on the community.

October Pothole Blitz

Rosalie Preston asked how other neighborhood councils had prioritized their pothole lists for the October pothole days since Harbor Gateway North just learned that only eight potholes can be filled but their list has over three times that amount reported by stakeholders.

Sharing: Issues, Concerns, Questions & Announcements

Diana Nave asked in regards to Neighborhood Watch groups, what does the LAPD currently provide to support such groups. LAPD charges \$2.50 each for the stick-on Neighborhood Watch signs for windows. Some Neighborhood Councils, including Harbor Gateway North, have purchased Neighborhood Watch metal signs for lamp posts at \$85 each. Coast San Pedro is supporting lawn signs, stickers for windows, and notepads for each Block Captain as a way to encourage the formation of more Neighborhood Watch groups within their boundaries.

Lu Watson encouraged more filing of Community Impact Statements and said that it is not too late to file a CIS on the new mural ordinance and the sidewalk repair ordinance. There is a proposed amendment to the small lot house ordinance which would fast-track construction of them and comment can be made on this up until October 15.

Linda Alexander had received notice that the public can comment on a proposed citywide cat program until November 4. It would increase the spay/neuter of cats, reduce the euthanasia of cats in the City of Los Angeles, allow a household to have five cats without a kennel permit, allow the feeding of free-roaming cats in colonies except in environmentally sensitive areas or parks.

Doug Epperhart announced another in the Excellence in Leadership workshops at the Grand Annex, on November 11 at 6 p.m.

Greg Donnan recommended the martial arts competition at California State University Dominguez Hills on October 12.

Dr. Martin Marks ("Dr. Footsie") gave out information on the various programs he can provide to schools on tobacco prevention and about diabetes education.

Next Meeting: Wed November 6

- Harbor Gateway North to Chair; Harbor City to take minutes
- Agenda items?