Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 06, 2018  
Highland Park Senior Center  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

AGENDA

A. Call to Order: 7:05 pm
B. Roll Call: PRESENT- Yolanda Nogueira, Rocio Rivas, Boo Caban, Zach Gardea, Stan Moore, Mary Pickert, Gavin Pierce, Jeffrey Rex, Jamie Tijerina, SuzAnn Brantner, Joan Potter, Alexis Rivera, Sheri Lunn.  
ABSENT: Antonio Castillo, Clint Schaff, Joe Tarr, Melanie Freeland, Marcus Moche, Ross Ufberg.
D. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE): John Darnell is present but no update due to interest of time.  
E. President’s Report- Rocio makes statement on anger towards Jose Huizar and the article in LA Times on ongoing FBI investigation into Huizar. Rocio apologizes for her comment to media. The comment is that of her own and not HHPNC overall.  
F. LAPD Report: Senior Lead Officer Mark Allen gives update on two area incidents. Gang-related shooting on 5700 block of Fayette St and gang-related stabbing at Marmion. Northeast Station toy giveaway up until Dec 12th. Officer recommends being friendly to neighbors.  
H. LAPL Report: winter reading challenge program.  
I. Board Announcements: none  
J. Committee Reports (Executive, Rules, Budget, Land Use, Outreach, Public Safety, Family Youth Education, Housing & Homelessness, Beautification, Culture and Equality, Arts, Sustainability, Local Business/Economy): Executive committee meeting was attended by large group of neighbors against possible development on 616-620 Ave 66 due to height issues and tree clearance. Hearing has been postponed until Feb 5th. Developer must submit more reports. Outreach is waiting on Highland Park Recreation Center to update. Sustainability has two new chairs and next meeting is Dec 10th.  
K. Budget Advocates Report: Budget is working on White Paper on City Hall Budget.  
L. Liaisons (Grievance Panel, Animal Services, Homelessness, Legal, Public Works, DWP, Film, CD1, CD14, Purposeful Aging, Resilience). Animal Services has meeting on Dec 11th at Ramona Hall. Planning animal fair with possible support from CD1 and CD14. Election committee meeting soon.  
M. Alliances (ARC, LANC, NC Sustainability Alliance, NC Emergency Preparedness Alliance, PlanCheck NC): ARC update on testing of new river park and contamination issues. LANCC motion to demand Huizar to resign.  
N. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items—Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board’s jurisdiction (Limited to 10 minutes, maximum 2 minutes per speaker)  
Several Stakeholders made public comments about concerns a construction project on Avenue 66 First NE Zeigler Lyons: Slope and fact sewage should move due to gravity and not pump.  
Carla Solis: she states that developer (for 616-620 Avenue 66) did not notify neighbors of potential development, despite telling HHPNC in July that he had. There are protected trees that should not be removed. Rescind support for this project.  
Alex Zuno: States that previous homeowner could not develop due to trees, so he questions why new developer can. He also brings up building of pool in neighborhood due to flooding from tree removal. Rescind support for this project.  
Richard Marquez: Attended two Land Use Committee meetings and said that there is a gap in communication between the committee and HHPNC. He does not support Sunset Beer and feels duped.  
Gemma Marquez: Feels that Land Use Committee always gives green light to bars. Invite LAPD, HHPNC, CD1 and CD14 staff, and local stakeholders to discuss possible new bars through an ad-hoc committee. Letter submitted by stakeholder included in minutes for record as requested.
Yaya: Change.org petition since July against Bill Cody of CD1 due to sexual harassment claims from five female neighborhood stakeholders. Restorative Justice for the Arts has shared the petition.

Francis McNola: No more liquor licenses please!

Caroline Aguirre: Asked for investigation into Land Use Committee due to approval of alcohol licenses.

Trish Gossett: She disagrees and is upset about LANCC vote against Councilman Huizar demanding for his resignation.

Vanny Arias: Collection for LA Shelter and also toy giveaway at the Offbeat Bar.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda. Motion to approve agenda. Approved. Yolanda Nogueira abstains.

2. Approval of November 01, 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Approved. Yolanda, Boo, and Rocio abstain due to absence at meeting.

3. (item moved to #5) Presentation by Occidental College environmental class about Highland Park Tree Canopy Assessment survey they completed. Importance of tree coverage for health and energy reasons. Monetary value of each tree is around $5215. Highland Park is tree insufficient and is becoming more so due to development. Recommends no-fee plant permits to empower citizens and nonprofits to encourage more tree planting.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR: The following routine matters can be acted upon by one motion. Individual items may be removed by the Board for separate discussion. Items removed for separate discussion will be heard following New Business items.

   A. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for October 2018.

   B. Motion to approve the reimbursement of $144.25 spent by Council member Jamie Tijerina on November 10, 2018 for coffee and pastries consumed at Financial Literacy Workshop the same day.

   C. Motion to approve a revised budget that moves all Community Improvement funds to Outreach and makes minor adjustments to the Office allocation.

   D. Motion to approve up to $100 for the rental of the Highland Park Senior Center on Saturday, April 13, 2019 to be used as polling place for Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council elections.

   E. Motion to approve up to $500 for banners, posters, flyers, buttons, and any other publicity materials needed to attract candidates, and also to promote voting on election day April 13th

   F. Motion to approve up to $200 for expenses related to hosting a candidate workshop designed to stimulate interest in running for the Council. Workshop will address questions raised by potential candidates and, if needed, assist them in filing their applications.

      Roll call taken. All in favor. Motion passes.

5. (item moved to #3) Board discussion and motion to apply HHPNC to be part of the Welcome, Neighbor program in collaboration with Miry’s List and Empower LA and appoint a volunteer board member or stakeholder as Welcoming Liaison. This program would give our neighborhood council and stakeholders a framework for supporting families resettling in Los Angeles as refugees. This vote is to complete the application form for Welcome, Neighbor and the programming would begin in January. Presented by Miry Whitehill of Miry’s List. To volunteer email volunteer@miryslist.org. Jamie Tijerina to serve as liaison board member with program. Public Comment Tim Mellin: Define Miry’s List and relationship with DONE. Would it be for refugees only or for all undocumented? How are you “refugees” defined. Motion approved.
6. Discussion and motion to assist Aldama Elementary in purchasing school safety supplies, which must be replaced every year with the school’s limited funds. Request for no more than $350 to purchase glow sticks (instead of flashlights; they’re cheaper and last longer), a wheelchair and to purchase about 500 sleeves to fit 3x5 index cards that would be used to identify students. Board recommends school principal to submit an NPG for the items needed in February. Motion tabled.

7. Discussion and motion to assist Burbank Middle School’s food baskets for La Posada Family event for December 8, when 250 low-income families from Highland Park receive a free meal, toys, and a food basket to take home. This year has proven difficult for the school to obtain donations and contributions from the community and businesses. Request for no more than $500. Roll call taken. All in favor. Motion approved.

8. Discussion and motion to collaborate with ASNC in a Community Education Town hall to be held on December 7th at Ramona Hall from 6-830pm. This Town hall will provide information to parents/guardians and community members regarding the impending LAUSD teachers’ strike and the options for parents/guardians. Request for no more than $350 to help pay for half the rental fee, snacks/beverages and flyer printing costs if need be. Motion to table indefinitely due to conflict of interest due to Rocio running for school board.

9. Discussion and motion to collaborate with Hathaway-Sycamores Children and Family Services and Highland Park Recreation Center to host a Power to the Youth Wellness Fair on January 26 2019 from 11am- 2pm. The Wellness Fair will focus on mental health resources for middle and high school students and their families. The event will consist of resource booths from mental health organizations, interactive workshops and activities, such as poetry, spoken word, Zine creations and word wall, and food/beverages for teens and families. Request no more than $650 to cover for expenses, such as a printing, food/beverages, and workshop supplies. Comes out of Committee budget. Roll call taken and all in favor. Motion approved.

10. Discussion and motion to support Council File 0-18-0911, which requests that the Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department (HCIDLA), in conjunction with the Departments of City Planning and Building and Safety, to "develop a methodology to ensure that newly-constructed rental units required by, or voluntarily created as a result of, land use approvals, are publicly listed on housing.lacity.org." In addition, the motion requests that HCIDLA "develop a plan for creating a master notification list for qualified extremely low, very low, low, and moderate income tenants who can be notified of pending availability of new affordable units before units are otherwise rented, and report to the Council on the plan, including staffing and resource needs, within 90 days." NELA housing resource directory will be posted on HHPNC website. All in favor pending the finalized version of the letter. Motion approved.

11. Discussion concerning community concerns regarding the number of liquor licenses in Highland Park along Figueroa and York corridors, such as the 3 liquor licenses on York Blvd. for Jane, Sunset Beer, and new Hermosillo Wine Bar. Motion to hold a community town hall meeting on December 20 from 7-9 pm at Highland Park Senior Center to discuss the issuance of liquor licenses and related issues of community concern. Motion to hold a special meeting at Highland Park Public Library this Sat, Dec 8th at 9:30am regarding alcohol licenses for Sunset Beer and Hermosillo Wine Bar. All in favor. Motion passes. HHPNC will discuss a possible Town Hall as suggested with public and LAPD on Jan 17th from 7-9pm at Highland Park Senior Center.

Public comments:
Jeffrey Hernandez: Requests to rescind support for 616-620 Avenue 66.
Jessica Ceballos: if there are enough signatures on a petition, ABC can stop it. There are 41 bars and restaurants that serve alcohol and 32 stores that sell it.
Olivia: Cypress Park resident who is against too many alcohol licenses.
Vivian Smith: Better information on posting of status of potential new liquor licenses as well as requirement for new licenses to also serve food.
Luchador: Brings up 72 liquor licenses within two miles and 12 bars within two blocks.
Jessica Lassen: More restaurants and less bars.
Mohammed Bin Kilan: Calls for moratorium on new liquor licenses. Says HHPNC is out of touch with stakeholders.

Laura Garcia: Calls for no more bars.

Diane Garcia: Local homeowner collecting letters against new bars.

Sam: Questions long-term community sustainability due to bars in Highland Park. How is the community’s voice being heard and taken seriously?

Marisol: Brings up message the new bars are showing to local children. Says it’s not apathy but a lack of outreach that limits more stakeholder activity.

M: Says outreach from HHPNC needs to have more outreach outside of social media and internet.

Douglas W Jacobs: Too many alcohol licenses on York Blvd. Advocates for a moratorium to reassess and bars are not helping solve neighborhood issues but adding to them.

Andrea Aguilar: Against liquor licenses due to limited parking and noise level in residential areas.

Jessica Lawsen: comments regarding the number of proposed bars with no food options.

12. Discussion on City Hall’s approval of legalizing sidewalk vendors and the rules and regulations where and how vendors can establish their business and impact on neighborhoods. Issue to be determined based on how laws are clarified due to public safety and health issues. Public comment (not present): *No vendor set up only sidewalks; no long lines blocking sidewalks or set ups blocking folks with disabilities. Motion tabled until further information is known.*

13. Discussion and motion to update the existing funding request to host two photo exhibitions to be held on April 20th, 2019 and April 27th, 2019 in collaboration with Chicanx Unknown at Ave 50 studios. Funding already approved, but new date. *All in favor. Motion approved.*

14. Motion to update the existing funding request for the NELearn Community Learning Series to reflect workshops to be held on Dec 15, 2018; Jan 24th, 2019, Jan 26th, 2019, Feb 9th, 2019, Mar 9th, 2019, and Apr 13th, 2019. Request already approved, but new dates. *All in favor. Motion approved.*

15. Motion to appoint a new chair to arts committee. Gavin can continue to chair committee but wanted to offer position in case anyone can give more time to it than he currently can give. Jamie suggests disbanding Arts Committee as it’s overlaps with Culture & Equality. *All in favor. Motion approved.*


17. Adjournment: 10:06pm
To: Ms. Rivas

HHPNC President

And HHPNC Board Members

Please enter for the “RECORD” the following:

1. Community members know Highland Park best! Therefore, form an Ad-Hoc Committee inviting the following stakeholders: HHPNC, Northeast LAPD, City of Los Angeles CD 1 and CD14 representatives, and Highland Park Stakeholders to explore, investigate, plan, act, and implement measures to ensure transparency, consistency, and fairness when supporting or opposing such alcohol and/or liquor license permits.

2. The Ad-Hoc Committee will use current ABC Census Tract to help with the determination of support or opposition to the requested permits.

3. I was informed by LAPD Sergeant Fernando Carrasco that he used either a 2014 or 2015 Census Tract to make his determination. Conversation date 12/6/18.

4. When approving alcohol outlets study carefully the community benefit to those within the 500 feet radius of the location.

5. Be specific with restrictions; such as, hours of operation, off-sale, on-sale, etc... And, hold City Officials accountable for monitoring and enforcing restrictions. Compliance checks!

6. Involve the City of Los Angeles in providing patrol vehicles in the area. At a recent meeting held by Chief Moore, I heard the following: The average LAPD response time from beginning to end was one hour. At the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, the response time indicated on the news was three minutes. Arriving officers heard the shooting. If LAPD is unable to provide better averages to their response time, then we need to curtail hours of operation until it does!

7. For all permits, impose requirements of maintaining the cleanliness of the outdoor public pedestrian walkways too.

8. The Ad-Hoc Committee needs to know what the project/plan entails and how to curb the over-saturation of these businesses in Highland Park.

9. New businesses have a right to be vetted through a thorough process that is fair and just for them and the Highland Park community.

10. Highland Park stakeholders have a right to be heard. Limiting stakeholder’s time to 10 minutes on topics involving alcohol and/or liquor is reckless and merits immediate changes.

11. For now — I am demanding a retraction to approval letters at the HHPNC Regular Board Meeting, dated November 1, 2018. This request is based on the over-saturation of alcohol and/or liquor licenses in the area. Another factor relating directly to Sunset Beer is the following statements made:
a. John Nugent lives in Highland Park. This is not correct. He lives in Eagle Rock
b. John Nugent, applicant did not check box for special circumstance nearby; such as, 
school or church. In this case, there’s a church immediately across the street.
c. John Nugent, applicant stated at Land Use meeting, the resident at 1711 North 
Avenue 56 (directly behind the site), supported the application. At the City Planning 
meeting he re-stated this again. Turns out the landlord was at the hearing, and the 
statement was not true. I believe this merits an investigation to the truthfulness of 
the applicant.

In addition, Land Use committee did not request the HHPNC Board write on their letter 
approval the restrictions agreed at the Land Use meetings. Did something change that 
caused a mere letter of approval be written without any of the restrictions requested?

Many Highland Park residents within 500 feet radius of location stated they were not 
aware of the requested application and felt betrayed by the lack of outreach.

Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. You are entrusted to 
serve unselfishly for the betterment of our community. Although, I know it can often be a 
thankless job, remember that a life lived helping others is a life well lived. Thank you for your 
service.

Best regards,

Gemma Marquez

Highland Park Stakeholder