

12/07/17 HHPNC BOARD MINUTES

A. **Call to Order** –7:03 pm

B. Roll Call—Present: *Harvey Slater, Daniel Andalon, Elizabeth Andalon, SuzAnn Brantner, Boo Caban, Antonio Castillo, Joan Potter, Liz Amsden, Melanie Freeland, Zacharias Gardea, Suzanne Huerta, Sheri Lunn, Stan Moore, Marcus Moché, Yolanda Nogueira, Rocio Rivas, Diego Silva, Jamie Tijerina (Total: 18) Absent: Gabriel Chabran (Total: 1)*

C. Elected Officials—**Mayor's office**: No report. **CD1**: Bill Cody, field deputy, provided 100 computers to Franklin High School; everyone invited to the holiday party at the Treehouse at 6:00 p.m. **CD14**: Lucy Aparicio, field deputy, reminder that this Sunday is the holiday tree lighting 6 pm at the parking lot next to Starbucks and thanks to the board for helping with the event. Planned for January are improvements for San Pascual Park, which include new fitness zones, bathrooms and ADA walkway, parking lot and basketball courts, and hoping completion in summer time. Traffic crash on York Ave. included a driver not yielding to motorcycle driver and there wasn't anything that could be prevented; the other accident on Figueroa St. and Myosotis St. also resulted in death, where the pedestrian was not on a marked crosswalk; CD14 will work with Department of Transportation in this area, to install and upgraded crosswalk. **AD51**: No report. **SD22**: No report. **BOS1**: No report.

D. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE): Mary Kim, stepping in for John Darnell, announces registering for the upcoming Civic University 2.0; reminder to check that inventory is accurate and current; Ignite LA is a curriculum for Young women from the ages of 14-24 to encourage them to be prepared on how to run for office for example, funding deadlines are coming up; and final reminder on updating bylaws in ad hoc committee.

E. President's Report: No report.

F. LAPD Report: No report.

G. LAFD Report: No report.

H. LAPL Report—Two music programs from UCLA on Sunday, the next one is a local chorus group with holiday music, and there are fun craft programs for all ages. Please see the calendar.

I. Board Announcements: A. L. Amsden announces 1. People can register for California's Brace and Bolt program at EarthquakeBraceBolt.com from January 23 to February 23, 2018. The program will subsidize residents increasing their homes' stability in the event of an earthquake. Depending on what needs to be done and how much work they do themselves, the rebate can cover most or all of the cost but tax may have to be paid on the rebate; 2. The tree in front of York Blvd post office appears to have been cut down, USPS claims DWP did it but DWP advised that their policy is to trim professionally for the utility i.e. in power lines, but not to take down trees without owner's permission. The DWP person I spoke to who checked it out thought the tree was a Palo Verde, which has spines and is scratchy, but is a low water California native. Best option would be to replace with a more user-friendly tree, also low water California native. Advised complainant. City often gives away trees.; 3. City Council will vote on oil well drilling setbacks including fracking in February. People should contact their City Councilmember, Cedillo or Huizar, and County Supervisor Hilda Solis that you support a 2500-foot setback – currently oil wells abut or are adjacent to schools, hospitals, nursing homes, apartment buildings and homes and the chemicals now used are increasingly toxic. 4. People concerned about the increased pollution if Glendale expands the Grayson power station should attend the Glendale Water and Power commission meeting in January (date may be February 5th) to voice their opposition support the alternatives of solar and storage – further info at: www.StopGrayson.com and <http://graysonrepowering.com/>. People opposed to the

Scholl Canyon dump expansion including construction trucks running up Figueroa St. should reach out to people they know in Glendale to lean on their City Council to stop the project.

B. R. Rivas shows city certificate from CD1 and Red67 for supporting the arts.

J. Committee Reports—Executive: There are items up for discussion from the last meeting. **Rules** No report. **Budget:** 82% of the budget has been spent and have 6 months left. **Land Use:** Only one agenda item to discuss. **Outreach, Family Youth Education:** In planning stage for the health fair and working diligently with Hathaway-Sycamores. **Housing and Homelessness:** final stages for the directory. **Beautification:** Planning a gardening area at senior center with Jack and doing it next year. **Culture and Equality:** items discussed are on the agenda. **Arts:** No report. **Sustainability:** Planning a sustainability fair, report on year goals and rest is on the agenda. **Local Business and Economy:** Conducted first meeting and M. Freeland and J. Tijerina are members. Developing agenda items for next meeting and looking for more people to join the committee.

K. Budget Advocates Report—The Budget Advocate White Paper will address many of the same issues as the Early White Paper published in CityWatch – transparency, the deficit, liability issues and the need for long-term projections – and it will be presented to the Mayor along with our reports and recommendations on the budgets for the various Departments with whom Budget Advocates have been meeting. The draft White Paper will be discussed at the Regional Budget Days while obtaining further stakeholder input. Regional Budget Days will be on January 20, 2018; venues are still being confirmed and a flyer will be circulated within the next few weeks.

L. Liaisons—Grievance Panel: No report. **Animal Services:** No report. **Homelessness:** Attending the Getty house tomorrow to help support local arts and crafts vendors who are also homeless. **Legal:** No report. **Public Works:** No report. **DWP:** No report. **Film:** No report. **CD1:** Communicating well, have a commitment to do a public forum but need a date; CD1 has contributed funds to different events. **CD14:** Meeting again in January. **Purposeful Living:** No report.

M. Alliances—ARC: No report. **LANCC:** L. Amsden reports: 1. Mike Feuer spoke on homelessness; the City really needs a FEMA-style general to take charge, make things happen and they are asking for people in the neighborhoods to step up and help. He has appointed Gita O’Neill, previously of the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, as the director of homelessness policies and strategies and if you would like to be part of this (or know someone else), please contact her at gita.oneill@lacity.org or through the main number (213) 978-8100. Now their goal is to get one storage unit, one parking area for sleep-in vehicles and one transitional housing facility into every Council district. We all know that with CDs 1 and 14 spreading from the northeast to downtown, this is not enough. Our local homeless residents need services and don’t want to risk Skid Row; their home is here. 2. There was also a presentation on a new transit assessment for City Planning, they are soliciting input from stakeholders this month and a 60-day comment period will start in January. They will be presenting again at PlanCheck this Saturday (December 9th) from 10-1 at Hollenbeck Police station 2111 E. 1st St. 3. Finally, there were some interesting slides created to show the responses to a survey this fall about what residents and businesses thought of the City’s infrastructure – hopefully we can get these posted on our website. 4. And as a follow-up to the Community Impact Statement we submitted last year about illegal dumping, we were told that City does not have enough \$\$ to create a fund to reward reporters of illegal dumping. This needs to be addressed because if the City fines the perpetrators as much as the County does, the profits can help stop the problem. Several departments can join in this effort – LA Sanitation is requesting better cameras in their upcoming budget. **NC Sustainability Alliance:** No report. **NC Emergency Preparedness Alliance:** No report. **PlanCheck NC:** No report.

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)

NONE

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda. *All in favor. Agenda approved.*
2. Approval of November 02, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. *Abstain: Daniel Andalon, SuzAnn Brantner, Boo Caban, Zacharias Gardea, and Yolanda Nogueira. Minutes approved.*
3. (2 min.) 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.
 - 3A. Motion to pay the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, \$792 for use of the Highland Park Adult Senior Center on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning July 18, 2017 and ending June 19, 2018. We are paying a reduced rate; this is for staff fees only.
 - 3B. Motion to pay the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, \$792 for the use of the Highland Park Adult Senior Center on the first and third Thursdays of each month, beginning January 4, 2018 and ending June 21, 2018. We are paying a reduced rate; this is for staff fees only.
 - 3C. Motion to approve up to \$500 for the HHPNC sustainability fair next year for flyers, drinks and promotions.
 - i. *3(D) was moved from the Consent Calendar to the end of the meeting and the agenda, thus revised, approved. Roll Call: H. Slater, D. Andalon, E. Andalon, S. Brantner, B. Caban, A. Castillo, J. Potter, L. Amsden, M. Freeland, Z. Gardea, S. Huerta, S. Lunn, S. Moore, M. Moché, Y. Nogueira, R. Rivas, D. Silva, J. Tijerina. All in favor. Motion passes.*
4. (3 min.) Presentation by Amit Thakkar to explain a city-wide policy-making competition challenge, which is a civic engagement project that requests Angelenos to submit a policy proposal and Councilman Ryu will select one policy to convert into a new city program or legislation. Competition ends on December 11.
 - a. *Lawmaker.io is set up for any resident to propose a new idea, build a political coalition and to meet with politicians. Councilmember Ryu will make the number one policy into legislation. There are seven policies and to vote must add address. There is no political platform and no profit or funding is being accumulated.*
5. (5 min.) Presentation by Dennis Arguelles from National Park Conservation Association followed by discussion and motion to submit CIS to relevant council files, commissions and lawmakers supporting the Rim of the Valley Proposal. The Rim of The Valley Corridor Preservation Act would make the Rim of The Valley (The Rim of the Valley Corridor comprises the mountains surrounding the San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Simi, Conejo and La Crescenta valleys) part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Debs Park is part of the Rim Of the Valley thus impacting Highland Park.
 - a. *David Arguelles presented and discussed on the rim of the valley. The park service is a cultural resource and has a 40-year history tracking natural resources. Seeking city council resolution; there is no impact on local property rights, and land use authority means that local park can use local resources, but not sure if this will pass in congress anytime soon. Need local support for this expansion.*
 - b. *Motion to support this and submit CIS when council file is created. L. Amsden motions with J. Tijerina as second. All in favor. Motion passes.*
6. (5 min.) 5715 N. Figueroa Street (ZA-2017-4458 CUB) – Discussion and possible action to support a Conditional Use Permit for on-site consumption of alcoholic beverages incidental to a new 1,702-square foot restaurant with 72 seats.

- a. *Land use committee considered the application and supported the request after discussion and there was some opposition by members of the community due to another alcohol license in the area. Land use recommends support. Representative explains the application. Property already had a license adjacent to a barber, and this is the chef's second restaurant of Spanish cuisine, which is opening in April. Received 37 signatures of support from Fig Jam and will do more outreach. Harvey S. worked with Chef Theresa, who's from the community, and glad to see her in the neighborhood. D. Silva mentions concern of yet another liquor license in an area that is being gentrified. There are 60 establishments selling alcohol.*
 - b. *Request made to ensure food was the prime business and an effort be made to hire staff locally. A. Castillo motions to support the application as proposed. M. Moché seconds. Oppose: Diego Silva, Stan Moore, and Rocio Rivas. Motion passes.*
7. (5 min.) Discussion and possible action on a proposed Commercial Cannabis Signage Ordinance. The Commercial Cannabis Signage Ordinance is a proposed Los Angeles Municipal Code amendment that would establish restrictions on advertising of cannabis and cannabis products on signs in the City.
- a. *Discussed in land use. This is moving forward to a commission next month. The standards should be those that apply to other businesses. Bill boards cannot advertise near schools and churches, parks, limited in size and variety of other restrictions. Liz move to oppose this until standards made equivalent to alcohol; no more restrictive than alcohol.*
 - b. *Addressing this issue for the public hearing. Marcus Moché will write a letter. All in favor. Motion passes.*
8. (2 min.) Request that additional funds and personnel be assigned to work on neighborhoods-specific plans for emergency preparedness given the recent hurricane and fires and the potential of a devastating earthquake not only cutting LA off from the rest of the state, but also fragmenting our neighborhoods when bridges and freeways collapse, trees block roads and the power, sewage and water systems are nonoperational.
- a. *L. Amsden states that the letter speaks for itself. Concerned on how resources will be available for those living in the hills who can get cut off from the rest of the city. City needs to support CERT program and be better prepared to distribute resources and supplies. All in favor. Motion passes.*
9. (2 min.) Discussion and motion to submit a CIS requesting Councilman Huizar to act to improve safety on North Figueroa due in response to recent traffic deaths in Council District 14.
- a. *Public comment from stakeholder Macdonald, who supports the motion, attended the wake of the man who was killed on Myosotis St., and wants the street to be safer as the intersection is scary. There have been 8 deaths in the last 5 years on Figueroa and adding a signal alone will not change anything until speeding is addressed. Abstain: Liz Amsden and Stan Moore. Motion passes.*
10. (3 min.) Motion to create a Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee to review and make any necessary changes, particularly regarding operation of committees.
- a. *Matter discussed in executive committee, which decided to create an ad hoc committee. A concern was raised about committees not being in compliance in terms of meetings and not having enough members. Motion to create an ad hoc Bylaws committee was made by A. Castillo due to it not having to comply with Brown Act and operates expeditiously. D. Andalon states that in the past bylaws are discussed in the rules committee and thinks that would be appropriate. Discussion ends with forming the ad hoc committee to discuss possible changes to by-laws and to present recommendations to rules committee, which will make the final approval and present to board. A. Castillo, D. Silva, S. Lunn, D. Andalon and S. Moore will be on the ad hoc bylaws committee. All in favor. Motion passes.*

11. (3 min) Motion to approve the appointment or selection process for open board seats for the one-year extended HHPNC term in the event an existing board member or officer is not able to serve.
 - a. *Harvey Slater will not serve for another year as he planned to serve for a two-year term. The board is at liberty to reach out to the public to recruit interested parties to apply for the president seat, same procedure as when a seat is open. Conduct outreach and get a collection of applicants to be transparent. And allows for other board members to step down if they would like to. Money is set aside for elections outreach process. Organized process of getting notice out for anyone interested in open position. Liz motion to put together an ad hoc committee to discuss what needs to be done for members stepping down and the president's position. Jamie second. Harvey, Joan, Suzann, and Stan will participate in the ad hoc committee on appointment/selection process for open board seats. All in favor. Motion passes.*

- 12 (3 min.) Motion to submit letter of concern regarding LAUSD school board member Dr. Ref Rodriguez's felony charges and conflict of interest implications, which affect the institutional effectiveness of LAUSD and, thus, the public education service for all the students and families of Los Angeles.
 - a. *R. Rivas explains that the Family, Youth and Education Committee members have felt strongly against Dr. Ref Rodriguez retaining his school board position and participating in the decision making of many charter schools, which is a clear conflict of interest. L. Amsden states she has opposed his election and will help edit the letter. All in favor. Motion passes.*

13. (3 min.) Presentation followed by discussion and motion to support signing onto a letter that urges assurance that Measure H funding goes directly to service based providers and transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness.
 - a. *Presenter was not present at the meeting. Measure H did not mention spending any money for LAPD and the letter is to hold city council accountable to utilize funds allocated for intended purposes of Measure H. L. Amsden said to also add letter to budget file. All in favor. Motion passes.*

14. (3 min.) Presentation followed by discussion and motion to support the efforts and be part of a coalition to stop the abuses at the port of LA and submit a CIS to 17-0725-S1, other council files, and commissions that address this issue.
 - a. *Ruben is part of the coalition to end abuse in the port of LA warehouse resource center, where 40% of goods transport through. Several companies, such as TJ Max, Amazon and Kohl's, have engaged in wage theft, racial discrimination, and many workers are currently homeless. On Tuesday December 12th, the city council will vote on this issue. All in favor. Motion passes.*

15. (2 min.) Discussion and motion to present a CIS with recommendations to the police commission and any council files that address Special Order 40. Special Order 40 is a police mandate preventing LAPD officers from questioning people for the sole purpose of determining their immigration status.
 - a. *J. Tijerina provides background information on Special Order 40, which is up for discussion and wants to make sure that its upheld to ensure our immigrant communities are protected and privacy is not invaded. And that there is no fear in reporting crime. All in favor. Motion passes.*

16. (2 min.) Discussion and motion to submit a CIS to the Cultural Heritage Commission regarding a tree that may have been illegally cut down at Lindsay Orchard. History to it in October the stakeholder sent email to whole board and spoke at sustainability committee.

- a. *Important to ask to investigate this because it's not just an issue of resources destroyed, but environmental injustice, which took place on Garvanza, 969 Staylee Lane. L. Amsden feels strongly the need to stop this from happening and prosecute or otherwise people will break the law. A. Castillo amendment to sending it to the cultural heritage commission. Motion to amend letter to include the cultural heritage commission and staff. All in favor. Motion passes.*
17. (2 min.) Discussion and possible motion to write a letter of support to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for Westwood Forward in their efforts to create a new neighborhood subdivision and form their own neighborhood council called North Westwood Neighborhood Council.
- a. *Zack Gardea recuses himself and leaves room because he's currently UCLA student and could create a conflict of interest by making him an affected Westwood stakeholder.*
- b. *J. Tijerina explains that Westwood Forward, a student-run coalition that is also comprised of local homeowners and business owners, that feels their needs are not being heard by the Westwood NC. Motion to postpone item until further background information is provided. Favor 10: D. Andalon, E. Andalon, S. Brantner, B. Caban, J. Potter, L. Amsden, S. Moore, Y. Nogueira, R. Rivas, and D. Silva. Oppose 7: A. Castillo, H. Slater, M. Freeland, S. Huerta, S. Lunn, J. Tijerina and M. Moché. Motion passes. Item tabled.*
18. (3 min.) Motion to submit a letter of support for the Arroyo Arts Collective to assume maintenance and programming of La Culebra Art Park under contract with the city.
- a. *Gwen Freeman, president, and Marita de la Torre program director of the Arroyo Arts Collective presented that the programming will be focused on the community and shares with the community's sensitivity in preserving the history and culture of the park. G. Freeman met with Kathy Gallegos from Avenue 50 Studios and will partner with the arts collective to ensure that the programming has a proper impact and perspective with a Latin voice. The Arroyo Arts Collective does not have membership criteria, and anyone is welcome to be part of the program. M. de la Torre stated that she lives very near the park and welcomes the opportunity to be part of the park community. The Arroyo Arts Collective has a 30-year history and experience obtaining grants and administering the funds; also access to insurance liability.*
- b. *Public comments: 1. Yaya Castillo: representing Restorative Justice for the Arts, wants a confirmation of a 50-50 partnership with Avenue 50 Studios to maintain the Latino voice in the community. 2. Mark, resident for 30 years, has visited the park since as a kid and is concerned with the intentions of the Arroyo Arts Collective and what they are about. The park is an essential part of the neighborhood and don't want to see another coffee shop and hopes the collective recognizes indigenous groups. 3. Andrea advocates for partnership with Avenue 50 Studios because it's a grassroots gallery and it's important to protect our murals in Highland Park by Chicano artists. 4. David Marquez worked for council district to help buy the lot and create the park, it can never be a private land. On the board for Culebra Park move in the direction of an organization historically embedded in the community and cultural representation. 5. Brenda Perez representing Restorative Justice for the Arts asks to respect the Latino culture because it is being erased, they want to be involved with Kathy Gallegos in making sure they know the focus of the park and maintain that goal. They are willing to work with the Arroyo Arts Collective and to help them with the cultural competency regarding the community. 6. Hanna Mizratti is part of the team with Arroyo Arts Collective working with the park, and they conduct impact studies and cultural surveys and ways to be supportive to the community, be relevant in a cultural sphere; they want to bring the community in and incorporate indigenous culture. Jessica Ceballos: could not be at meeting but provided a statement by Kathy Gallegos stating that Avenue 50 Studios understands the importance of La Culebra Park, and partnering with Arroyo Arts Collective*

will be good to bring voices together. Harvey read 5 emails and R. Rivas 1 from stakeholders against the Arroyo Arts Collective acting as steward of La Culebra Park.

- c. *Bill Cody, CD 1 field deputy, states that Parks and Recreation Department decides who to give stewardship and is only concerned with the maintenance of the park more than the programming. The organization must be a 501 non-profit. HHPNC is providing a letter of support. M. Moché motions to amend motion to include Avenue 50 studios. All in favor. J. Potter opposes. Motion passes.*
- d. *Board agrees to amending the letter of support by adding Avenue 50 Studios partnership and proposed language on programming and cultural preservation. All in favor. Motion passes.*

19. New Business: *None.*

3D. (Moved from Consent Calendar) Motion to approve up to \$550 for Burbank Middle School's Holiday Posada to help pay for food for approximately 230 families on December 9.

- a. *J. Potter asked for this item to be separated from consent calendar to be discussed on its own.*
- b. *R. Rivas explained that the school lost some funding when one of their grants was not available this year from the Children's Hospital and that they have received low donations. The NPG for \$1000 was part of to the fundraising but mainly went to purchase food for the families' food bags and needed funds to feed the families on the day of the Posada. The funds will only go towards food from a local restaurant for the families attending the Posada.*
- c. *Roll Call: H. Slater, D. Andalon, E. Andalon, S. Brantner, B. Caban, A. Castillo, J. Potter, L. Amsden, M. Freeland, Z. Gardea, S. Huerta, S. Lunn, S. Moore, M. Moché, Y. Nogueira, R. Rivas, D. Silva, J. Tijerina. All in favor. Motion passes.*

20. Adjournment—9:08 pm