Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

Notice of Housing, Renters and Homelessness Committee Committee Meeting and Agenda
August 8, 2019 – 6:00-7:50 PM
Arroyo Seco Library - Community Room
6145 N. Figueroa St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90042

The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any agenda item prior to the Board taking action. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker but the Board has the discretion to modify the amount of time for any speaker.

When the Board considers the agenda item entitled “Public Comments,” the public has the right to comment on any matter that is within the Board’s jurisdiction. The public may also comment on a specific item listed on this agenda when the Board considers that item. In addition, the members of the public may request and receive copies without undue delay of any documents that are distributed to the Board, unless there is a specific exemption under the Public Records Act that prevents the disclosure of the record. (Govt. Code § 54957.5)

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council holds its regular meetings on the first Thursday of every month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. The agenda for the regular and special meetings is posted for public review at: the Fire Station #12 located at 5921 North Figueroa Street and online at www.highlandparknc.com, Facebook @hhpnc, and Instagram @highlandparknc.

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ALL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PLEASE JOIN US.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
   Rose called to order at 6:05pm

2. Roll Call and Secretary Appointment
   Rose Serna, Olga Vasquez, Prissma Juarez - board members present.

3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items. (10 mins max, 2 min per speaker)
   Taking input down Colorado Blvd, will change the whole way you try to get to the area. Contact Silvia Solis. Mostly against the Rapid showed up at Oxy conversation.
   Rose Serna, Yaya, Mike, Steve Crouch, Olga, Gemma, Stephanie, Vanessa

   ACTION ITEMS

4. [10 mins] Introductions

5. [5 min] Discussion and motion to elect the Chair of the Housing, Renters and Homelessness Committee.
   Unanimously voted Rose Serna as Chair of the Committee

6. Motion to adopt the agenda. / Acción para aprobar la agenda.
   Gemma Marquez motioned . Rose seconded. All in favor, no abstentions.

7. [10 min] Discussion and possible motion to update the Housing, Renters and Homelessness Committee purpose, mission, and goals for 2019-2021 board term.

Current mission statement: The HHPNC Housing and Homelessness Committee’s mission is to advocate [for all stakeholders] and educate on housing and homelessness issues in Highland Park by creating awareness of affordable housing and displacement; advocate for and empower homeless families and residents; lobby to provide city and state services; and inform city hall of Highland Park housing and homelessness issues. In addition, the committee will work with community organizations, city departments, and local stakeholders to
provide resources and aid to [tenants and] homeless residents. The committee will review the implications of the problems of housing and homelessness, and to make recommendations in that regard.

Previous committee decided on this statement. Rose Serna motions to update the statement. Gemma seconded. Al in favor. Motion passes.

8. [10 mins] Presentation by Raymond Mora from the Shower of Hope Foundation on their mission and role within our community.
They are not present. They have clothes, laundry services, etc.

9. [5 mins] Discussion and possible recommendation to the board to write a letter to the LA Department of Sanitation advocating for advanced notice and transparency of homeless sweeps occurring in our neighborhood.
On the agenda because numerous homeless folks - that their stuff has been taken like medical equipment, identification, haven’t been given proper notice by LA Sanitation. The workers come off unprofessional. Olga - Is the information available online. Vincent - Yes and sometimes not online. Where can people stash their belongings during items/belongings. Rose Serna - the city is working on it. Suggestion - City of LA has a notification system - get a notice ahead of time (week). Gemma - agree on everything but the fact that we are sometimes we are exposing the public to dangerous hazard. She’s seen children see people shoot up. Push Huizar. Pedestrian walkways, thing of the elderly, a lot of things. Behind the alley apartment - he was just documenting it. What does do with the video? LACAN - if the city is rolling them up they monitor the sweeps. There is a more dignifies. Was the person shooting up homeless? He says he’s right - he probably did assume they were homeless. Rick Marquez - he has seen people shoot up in the park - it is a mental illness issue. We cannot keep the same conversation up. Ex : Murder case - both not from LA. Came with hope for change. Sad-no one in the audience on their behalf And not addressing that it is a national problem - happening here in LA, Seattle, San Francisco. B - people do not tiptoe around the association between homelessness and drug abuse. Invisibilizing them is criminal. Rest of the country brings their homeless here. We can build relationships with those that give medical services. By spreading literature. When you say things like “Get rid of” people around here know them. They handcuff people for being homeless. There is no proof of it. The cops ask them who the dealer. She is going to get her glasses. Living in the same streets as these, she has three kids. Getting rid of them. A lot of the community - need rehab. Do you need help. SNL - she got food for the homeless. The policy for the females to use their restrooms. Trying to get rid of these problems around their homes. There’s people that only smoke cigarettes on the street. Depend on each other as family. S said he’s here trying to address those issues in the most humane way to do that. We are impacted in a different way than. Transient - G, Marquez - Ex. shirtless guy, with her elderly woman, she and to stand them. R. Marquez - shootings, she’s been here since 1966. She had to stay away. Transparency and communication is key. Other issues. 900 people ended up suing the city over ..?? “law in diamond Bar” Respect needs to come from the cops. Every 3 or 4 days getting their stuff removed. Mental health and rehab. Cristy - would you like to be on the committee? Something with texting, yes. Can talk about the Vision day. Gemma Marquez - pointed out that the wording on the agenda items should be changed. Rose wants to motion to pass the motion.
Sometimes when they take their stuff, clump it together, helpful to get some of the stuff back from a closer place. R. Marquez - tag their personal stuff - give them a matching tag, etc. She sees herself being in partnership with LA Sanitation but not police. Number one thing that would help you with her status/situation (R. Marquez) - Stop dehumanizing them. She is proactive on FB - do it directly - not through organization. Directly. Dangerous especially for women on their period in the middle of the night.
George Hamilton - came on behalf of the homeless community. We don’t have a location/facility for shelter anymore. He spoke about the army reserve in San Pascual because of the armory and the asbestos. R. Marquez - they have the money already, he thinks its a good place for a homeless shelter. G. Hamilton had leg braces taken away. They cost $10,000 even with insurance. They take their stuff down to Alvarado; Monica Alcaraz & Martha aren’t consistently helpful. They stole 300/hour for a toilet. “They will be ran by the gangs and they would charge the homeless.” Brush it off with nonprofits. Shelter respect and support from the community.
Care packages, woman and children-centered. Have them off the streets - more intimate and a safe space. Group therapy, every woman matters. Domestic violence in homelessness. Self-educating classes for empowerment to build themselves up. Also for the men in the community, framed in a different way.
Rose Serna motioned to table and draft the letter in the meanwhile and visit it the next time we meet. Motion passes unanimously. Gentrification displacing people in the name of profit. The illusion to come here. Its everywhere (NY, country-wide). Gang injunctions - went to court and it was unconstitutional. Check the documents to make sure what the agencies and the city wants to do.

10. [10 mins] Discussion on the Homeless Count and the uptick in our districts. Increasing vulnerable populations: transgender, gender non-conforming, people living with HIV/AIDS, people who have experienced DV/IPV, people with developmental disabilities, families, etc. Have our own study of the homelessness statistics here in HLP. Homeless industrial complex. Talk about the realtors. Hang onto your property if you do not want to lose your community. But they do because they want the money to retire. Investors buying whole blocks up at the same time. Mr. T Bowls for example
Motion to for a local neighborhood count. Everyone except Vanessa is in favor. Motion passes.

11. [5 mins] Discussion & possible recommendation to the board to participate in Vision Day – an event at Arroyo Seco Park to discuss housing and homelessness with stakeholders and hear their ideas for supporting our neighbors. Officers talk the way they do to us. Involve all the entities. Have a forum for the homeless problems and have solutions (Rick Marquez). Vision day is not specific enough. It will just be briefly talked about. Have the city personnel there. Have our own town hall focused on Homelessness. Gemma Marquez motions recommend to the board. Yaya seconded. No abstentions or opposals. Unanimously approved.

12. [10 mins] Discussion and possible recommendation to the board to submit a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File 14-0268-S16, Tenant Relocation Assistance / Ellis Act / Median Rental Price for Comparable Units / Family Size, Unit Size, and/or Number of Tenants / Adjusted Consumer Price Index (CPI) – introduced by Councilmembers David E. Ryu & Mike Bonin
Opportunity for committee members to volunteer to write CIS.
It will increase the amount that people receive when tenants are targeted by the law.
Ellis Act, if the owner wants to remove the unit from the building. Keep it off the market for at least five years. but they have loopholes.
The Ellis act is staying in place, but we will make it better for the tenants with this Council File.
Taking the federal number of needing $43/hour to have a sustainable life here. Averaging everything together. SF is a good example (Silicon Valley also) tech boom businesses effects. THis will give better protection to the tenants. NC is guilty in Land Use - “Affordable Housing” comes in and the definition of the developer. G. Marquez - big business in certain areas - provide nice housing for their housing. All the people that do the blue collar jobs are being pushed out to SB and Riverside. If they could do it in other parts of this country, why not here?
Rose motioned to have a CIS. SuzAnn was the only one that had the passwords for the CIS. Lorezo from EmpowerLA needs to be contacted.
Rose motioned. Yaya seconded. Unanimously passed.

13. [10 mins] Discussion and possible recommendation to the board to submit a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File 19-0002-S12, Refundable Tax Credit / Individual Rent Payers / Exceeds 30 Percent Taxable Year Gross Income – introduced by Councilmember David E. Ryu
Opportunity for committee members to volunteer to write CIS.
Rose motioned. Yaya seconded. Motion passes.

14. New Business / Nuevos Asuntos
Town Hall regarding this topic. Gemma motioned to bring it to the board Yaya seconded. Unanimously passed.

15. Adjournment / Levantar la sesion
Rose motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Yaya seconded.