

**HERMON NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 – 7:00-9:00 PM  
Hermon Fellowship Center  
5800 Monterey Road, Los Angeles, CA 90042**

The City's Neighborhood Council system enables civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs. We are an advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, comprised of volunteer stakeholders who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities and bringing government closer to us. All agenda items are actionable unless otherwise noted.

**I. WELCOMING REMARKS:**

**A. Call to order**

**II. COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Representatives from government offices, Police Department, and community-based organizations. Reports and Brief presentations only. Any questions, please follow up with presenter on the side so meeting may proceed as scheduled (up to 10 minutes total)).**

**A. LA City Council District Representative**

- Suzy – Update on the 5295 Via Marisol/625 Coleman Multi-family Units Developer. Prop 6 repeal of the Road Repair and Accountability Act did not go through which is good for the \$2.3 Via Marisol project. Still working on the Bushnell capital improvement project.
- A woman from South Pasadena says there is an abandoned homeless encampment with a lot of debris on or under the bridge on Avenue 60.
  - Officer Austin Fernald: that kind of information is sent to LAPD HOPE Detail which forwards it to them. There is protocol they have to follow including outreach to those living in the encampment first. If it is vacant it can be cleaned/cleared quickly. Asks council to encourage people with info on the encampment to call 311 system to make sure LAPD has that info.

**B. LAPD Senior Leads**

- Officer Austin Fernald:
  - Brought and introduced several cadets to meeting who have graduated from academies and will be walking the foot beat along Broadway tonight.
  - Homicides year to date are down. In January 2018 there was a homicide in the Via Marisol Ave homeless camp. This resulted in an arrest and is pending in court. Overall homicide rate went down 14%, there are two less than last year.
  - Accidental death: On Sunday night (1/6/19) on San Fernando Road a male living in a motor home with his three children put a tarp over his motor home and put on a generator to keep it warm at night. The generator's exhaust was meant to go out the window but due to the tarp, it came back into the motor home. In the early morning hours, they all woke up feeling ill. The father believed it is the flu. When their mother came to pick up the children up the oldest child (a 14-year-old boy) was unresponsive. He died of carbon monoxide poisoning. One of the younger children is in critical condition.
  - Arrest made for frequent "gentrification" graffiti tagger. A citizen took a picture of a car in the area during a graffiti incident and put it on the Nextdoor app. Detectives pulled over a car with outdated registration matching that description and the young man admitted to graffitiing 8 times in the last two years. There is a website where a collective of taggers

- post about their graffiti but this suspect appears to be the leader.
  - Nicole – heard about a child being killed by someone shooting their guns into the air on New Years in another community. It reminded her of similar issues in this community on 4<sup>th</sup> of July and New Years. Fernald did not know of anyone injured in Hermon community this past New Years. They had a few calls about loud parties and fireworks.
  - Citizen expresses concern about the recycling center traffic issues. Fernald: Cynthia Gonzales of the City Attorney’s office is working on that. He will ask her to attend an upcoming meeting and address those issues. Jorge: since the last time they discussed it there have been two additional complaints to do with impeding traffic and because recyclers load and unload on the sidewalk kids from the nearby school have to walk in the street to cross. Also there are noise issues. Fernald: because it is a commercial area they may not be able to address the noise issues. Jorge: an inspector from building and safety went out there and said they were DOT and LAPD issues. Fernald agrees.
- Lt. Ryan Whiteman:
  - He is the gang narcotic officer in charge. He has 25 uniformed enforcement detail officers, 6 narcotics detectives, and 5 gang detectives. They investigate all shots fired, gun arrests and anything gang related. In Boyle Heights, Lincoln Heights and El Sereno they ended the year with plus 4 in gang crimes so they were over from last year, resulting in 11 more crimes. Enforcement efforts outpaced 2017 by almost 25%. In the Hermon area there are sometimes Avenue street gangs and gangs in the parks. He has four officers that work the avenues and they communicate with the Northeast Gang Unit often. His cell phone number is 909-285-5279. His email is [34900@lapd.online](mailto:34900@lapd.online). He encourages the board to contact him should they need anything. His gang unit does do a lot of community-based outreach. Last year they referenced nearly 300 kids to gang intervention services. They work a lot with council offices, attend community meetings, do school visits and mentoring. Community outreach is important to him so please use him as a resource and hold him accountable.
  - Nicole – Thanks him for getting his number because the often it is difficult to get through when she calls the non-emergency number late at night.
- Nicole- Expresses her concern about the firework issues on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and New Years and asks for their advice on how to address the issue. Officers ask the community to identify locations. It is never too early to start an educational campaign on social media. Tells a story about a citizen reporting their neighbor selling fireworks. An undercover officer went in and they were able to recover a lot of fireworks. He encourages community outreach to police to identify problematic locations so the police can arrange stings and make arrests.
- Linda – asks about securing a property where there was a fire in a homeless encampment. Fernald says the developer is working on getting permits to demo the property. She says the walkway was damaged in the fire. A few holes in the walkway and it is pretty dangerous. He thinks the city has something to do with that and he will contact them about it. He will keep them updated.
- Officer Fernald – on a positive note they are getting additional officers/resources assigned to their stations. Two new officers for Whiteman’s unit and patrol has 7 new officers. And they have 2 additional detectives.

**C. Other Government Departments/Agencies**

-No other government liaisons.

#### D. Community Organizations

- Jamie Tijerina, Member of Highland Park Neighborhood Council and one of three Budget Advocates for Region 8 Northeast Los Angeles.
  - The White Paper - The budget advocates are responsible for holding city accountable to how they allocate funds. Her focus is on the LAPD and Parks and Recreation. They are working on getting out the “White Paper” this month, which is a document that lists the budget advocates’ citywide recommendations for the city budget and how they want the funds to be allocated. The White Paper should be out at the end of the month and they will have a meeting with the mayor’s office (date TBD). If the community has any budget concerns please contact her so she can make sure it is addressed. When the White Paper is ready it will be distributed to the Hermon NC.
  - Renters’ Rights Workshop on 1/16/19 3-5pm – a coalition of neighborhood councils, officials and non-profits organizations have put together a Tenants’ Rights workshop. Hermon NC is a sponsor of the event. LA Tenant’s Union will have a knowledgeable speaker named Rene Moya. He will be providing booklets which he will have to invoice. Ferias Legales will have a lawyer from the organization there to answer specific questions. Jamie will request translation services. She typically only needs 30 minutes to set up before the event. She will order pizza and water using part of the existing funds.
    - a. Nicole asks how it is being promoted. Jamie – she will send the flyer via her email lists, social media, the board of supervisors and several local officials have put it in their newsletters, the library has been promoting it on their events calendar, she would like to go to the schools. Nicole says there may be an issue with the strike, but maybe with the Charter School. Nicole will also put it up on Nextdoor. Jamie can also livestream the event.
    - b. Jamie has also gotten feedback about potentially doing a Landlord Rights Workshop in the future. There will also be a Neighborhood Councils 101 workshop before the election. She will send flyers to the council. It would be great if a few board members could come for a Q&A.
- Liz from Art in the Park
  - Community Band will be 10am-12:30pm on Saturdays. There will be concert on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Kids can join if they have prior musical training.
  - There will also be a doll-making workshop with a guest artist on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2-5pm

#### III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Public comments on non-agenda items within the Board’s jurisdiction (Up to 2 min/speaker)

- A. Public Comment: Andrea Morgan, who works at York Manor in Highland Park, shares about York Manor’s after school financial education and literacy program. It is open to students and aged 10 to 17. They use a curriculum from Creative Wealth international. She personally has also been an educator for 15 years and brings her background into the curriculum. Only 17 states in the US require financial education as a class in high school. A recent survey on economic personal finance education found that student debt has reached an all-time high of \$1.5 trillion and California is the number one state with student debt. A full session of the program starts in March and mini sessions start at the end of January. There will also be an open house at the end of the month.
- B. Public Comment: Raymond Yu – The Royal Pagoda Motel (995 N Broadway) is about to close and a new hotel high rise will be built in its place, but traffic signal lights at North Broadway

and Bernard Street are too small. He demands an emergency replacement of the traffic signal lights from 8 inches wide to 12 inches. The Chinatown Golden Dragon Parade, the Chinatown Firecracker 10k race, and the LA Marathon all run through that intersection.

- C. **Public Comment:** Jamie Tijerina – She is a candidate for assembly district delegate in assembly district 51. The assembly district election meetings are held every two years in order to elect delegates for every assembly district in the state of California to the democratic party. Delegates help shape the platform of the party and vote on ballot measures and candidates that get endorsed. She is running along with a slate of local candidates. She encourages the community to come out and vote – even if not for her since it is the “the most important election of 2019 that you didn’t know about”. It is on January 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm at East LA Rising. She recommends getting there early.

**IV. Candidacy Statements for Community Interest Board Position (Up to 2 minutes)**

- A. **Cheryl Hansen Statement:** “I’ve lived in Hermon for 36 years. I’ve raised two kids here; they’ve both moved out I have to go from one place to another but I love this community and I don’t want to leave. I want to get more involved. I worked for years at night – this is not my statement, this is just what I’m telling you. At night I worked for years and I couldn’t come to any of these meetings. And finally, I got an opportunity to switch to days and now I’m here. And I’m just really excited. I want to contribute to our neighborhood which I love so much. And community interest – whatever you’re interested in just let me know. I’m interested.”
- B. **Board discussion:** Cheryl been actively involved in the community. She’s done beautiful graphic design work for several events and always has great ideas. She has been a pleasure to work with and has shown time and time again that she’s willing to put in the hours and it would be a pleasure to continue working with her.

**V. Election for Community Interest Board Position (up to 2 minutes)**

- A. Danielle Suarez moves to make a motion to elect Cheryl Hansen for community interest board position. Jessica Jimenez seconds. The board unanimously votes to elect Cheryl Hansen.

**VI. Update for Timeline for April, 2019 Hermon NC Board Election (discussion and possible action – up to 3 minutes)**

- A. **Candidacy Filing Period – Closes January 28, 2019. Reminder to all Board Members and interested parties to register at Hermonnc.org**
  - o Nicole - it is not an easy system to register with via an iphone so she recommends using a regular laptop or desktop. Danielle – be prepared to submit three documents to prove your residency/identity.
- B. **January 12, 2019 – Candidate information session**
  - o Since Hermon is in Region 8, the candidate information session is January 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm - not January 18<sup>th</sup> as previously listed.
  - o It will be at the Boyle Heights Technology Youth Center at 1600 E 4<sup>th</sup> St.
  - o Nicole will put that information on the Nextdoor app.
- C. **March 14, 2019 – HNC Candidate Forum (before HNC meeting)**
- D. **April 13, 2019 – Election Day.**
  - o Election will be held at the Hermon Fellowship Center at 11am-3pm.
  - o Correction – the new term begins on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 not on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 as previously listed.
- E. **Outreach efforts for election dates and process**
  - o Speaker Joseph Risen: 20 months ago, the Hermon community set a record for participation in a neighborhood council election in order to subdivide from the existing neighborhood council. About 9-10% of people in the Hermon community voted to create our own neighborhood council. City wide the average is about 1% to take part a neighborhood council election and most neighborhoods struggle to do even that. Later, when the people currently on this board first ran for their seats participation still averaged 3-4%, way higher than the citywide average. He

does not want to see the Hermon averages drop down to citywide averages again because it is hard for city officials, elected officials and their staff to take neighborhood councils seriously when they know very few people in the community voted for them. Despite its small size, the Hermon community is taken seriously because of the participation. So he encourages the council to get out the vote.

- Nicole – suggests an email blast that is focused on election information and encourages people to run for the board. She will also send out a corrected date list.

**VII. Update from Finance Committee (discussion and possible action – up to 5 minutes)**

**A. Treasurer Transition**

- Danielle Suarez is officially the new treasurer as of today. She has access to the portal and the credit card. So make sure any new credit card purchases go through her.
- Nicole will send her information on the purchase of the banner.

**B. Report on funds available until end of Fiscal Year**

- Danielle - We did a really good job allocating our funds this year. We over-allocated by \$215.13. We spent time during finance meetings figuring out how much we already spent. In office we spent \$1,881.74. But since we over-allocated we could potentially spend more if a few of these purchases go through.
- Nicole: What was the total allocation for office and what exactly is spent in office? Danielle: Our total allocation was \$5,400, we spent \$1,881.74 on refreshments, outreach Fresco community, \$100 per board meeting for the fellowship center, \$125 per board meeting for fellowship for one time, AppleOne minute taker.
- For outreach we have spent \$13,333.42 and we have \$11,356 left in the outreach budget that we've allocated that we have not spent. We still \$500 in lecture that we haven't spent. For community improvement projects we still have \$3,909.87. In NPG we have spent \$5,000 and we have left \$2,500 for the whole allocation of \$7,500.
- Danielle recommends that in the next finance meeting they go through each category and see what we have allocated, what we have hit, and what is left in each so we know where we can move the money.
  - Nicole – we should probably do that ahead of the meeting because it has to get on the agenda to approve what gets allocated to what. The next meeting is special meeting which means we can set the agenda 24 hours in advance which will give more flexibility.
  - Danielle – the next meeting is on February 7<sup>th</sup> so she recommends having the finance meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm at the Fresco Center and she will send out the agenda 24 hours in advance.
  - Nicole – send the agenda to NC support, nextdoor and post it in dog park, Fresco and the fellowship hall.

**C. Discussion and possible action of re-location of funds in various sub-categories**

**VIII. Update on upcoming Clean Team Events (up to 3 minutes)**

**A. Next Clean Team – Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup>, meet at Fresco at 9 a.m.**

- Nicole - Sandra Ryan was unable to make it tonight. But she was concerned about rallying the kids for the Clean Team event due to the upcoming teachers' strike. So the question is do we reschedule the Clean Team? The postcards have been sent out already so rescheduling may not be possible.

**B. Reminder of Date for April Clean Team Meeting and corresponding process and efforts**

- It will be set around earth day. There will be dumpsters and a professional document shredder. They have budgeted giveaway items that still need to be

ordered.

**C. Outreach (including free giveaway item) and outstanding paperwork. (event info filed with City, etc.)**

- Joe – encourages board to contact the charter school since all of their students have to do 100 hours of community service – so the board could put a flyer up there.
  - Cheryl will make a flyer that they will send to the charter school.

**IX. Street Banner Design and Installation Update (up to 3 minutes)**

**A. Installation and payment update**

- Nicole - They have the banners and are close to putting them up. The banner company tried to process the board's credit card in December but a charge of close to \$5,000 requires pre-approval on the same day the charge is made. So the board needs to coordinate submitting a form to the credit card company and making sure the banner company charges them that same day. So assuming that is all done in the next few weeks, the company should print them and put them up by February.

**X. Holiday Event and Tree Lighting Update (discussion and possible action - up to 5 minutes)**

**A. Discussion and feedback of first Holiday Event and ideas for next year**

- It was a fun success, there was a lot of positive feedback. The Santa was late, but he was a real bearded Santa which the community enjoyed. The tree looked great. Nicole proposes that they have it next year since it was such a success – maybe enhance the event to bring Santa down into the main area.
- Lee Turner suggests maybe a second food truck, although everyone seemed happy with just the one food truck.

**B. Holiday Bow Update.**

- **Discussion and possible action for approval for purchase of bow of up to \$2,850**
  - Nicole - The vendor gave the board an option to buy the bow for \$2,500 and the neighborhood council would own it. The vendor says that they could take it down, store it themselves and put it back up. The vendor will have tutorial to show them how disassemble it, take it down and then put it back up. Danielle recommends video recording that process.
  - The bow costs \$2,425 per year to rent, so buying it would save a lot of money in the long run and potentially allow for more funds to use for a more elaborate display.
  - If they do not use the rest of the NPG money, they could use those funds to purchase the bow. Also funds from community impact and community improvement.
  - Lee makes motion to approve the purchase of the bow for up an amount up to \$2,850. Danielle seconds. The motion is unanimously approved.
- **Discussion and possible action for approval of storage of the bow for up to \$500.**
  - A storage facility would be too expensive but Mika Color has said they would be willing to store it for them. The board needs to look into if they are technically allowed to use that kind of storage and figure out what they would pay Mika Color to store it. Nicole suggests offering to pay them \$250 a year to store it.
  - Danielle makes motion to approve storage and annual installation of the bow for up to \$500 a year. Leo Aguilar seconds. Motion unanimously approved.
- **Alternative storage and installation options**
  - Leo – in the future we could potentially get a storage unit.

**XI. Discussion and possible action to revise budget allocations (up to 5 minutes)**



- XIV. Update on Land Use Committee (discussion and possible action – up to 5 minutes)**
- A. First Meeting – January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Hermon Fellowship Hall**
  - B. Topics to include proposed project at 625 Coleman**
    - Nicole – Make Architecture, the firm for the project, will be at the meeting. They want to do a project that is not by right that would increase the density significantly.
    - Public Comment: Joe Risen – the 625 Coleman address maybe confusing to people because the project itself is not on Coleman. People who will be most affected are those who live off Via Marisol and Avenue 59 - the increased density, the entrances and the buildings will be there. He suggests adding in the agenda items that the development will be along Via Marisol between Ebey and Lolitas Dr.
    - Public Comment- Citizen suggests getting a map of the proposed affected area.
    - Nicole has requested pictures of the site from Make Architecture. The topography of the site is quite steep and is bigger than it appears when you are driving around it. She will also suggest they bring a parcel map of the site to hand out. It is in the landuse committee format because the council needs more information before they decide if they will support it or not. Joe suggests adding a sitemap to the agenda.
  - C. Discussion of additional topics – including potential re-zoning of commercial properties zoned LARD 1.5 back to LAC2**
    - Jorge asks how many units are allowed with LARD 1.5 zoning as opposed to LAC2. Nicole: With a C2, if you don't have Q conditions, you can build one unit per 400 square feet of land. With LARD 1.5 she thinks it is one unit per 1500 square feet. A lot of the area on Monterey Road was rezoned from LAC2 to LARD 1.5, which means you cannot build a commercial building, you have to build residential. And you need a conditional use permit for offices. It's a tricky situation for the commercial buildings already in the area. If the community wants commercial buildings in the area than we should look into rezoning. The city rezoned it in 2000 and no one even realized it had been done. So we should talk about the process to get rezoning started if that is what we want. It would involve creating a community plan and getting it adopted.
- XV. Update on Neighborhood Purpose Grants**
- A. Outstanding status and processing**
    - Nicole – we had a special meeting to approve the Neighborhood Purpose Grant funds for the three recipients and now they just need to be processed and paid. Danielle - I learned how to do that today. Art in the Park is processed and the other two will be done by tomorrow.
- XVI. Outreach Strategy (discussion and possible action – up to 5 minutes)**
- A. Hermon NC Facebook Page, Instagram, E-mail campaign (mailchimp). More promotion/exposure to direct traffic to Facebook, Instagram, website.**
    - Jorge – Instagram and Facebook are now linked. If you have pictures, send them to him. For email blasts, please send him jpeg files rather than a pdf since mailchimp does not send pdfs.
      - Cheryl volunteers to help him with social media and email blasts.
    - Nicole requests an email blast to inform people they have an Instagram and Facebook page. She will also do it on nextdoor.
  - B. Follow-up to meetings to be posted on various sites (Nextdoor), Facebook, E-Mails.**
  - C. Upcoming mailings: Postcard for March/April meetings and April Clean Team**
  - D. Additional Outreach Flyer for April Clean Team.**
  - E. Approval for signage for meetings of up to \$500 (banners, etc.).**
    - Danielle – on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> they approved Mika Printing for ongoing printing of agenda and office, storage and printing services for a total of \$900 and \$450.

Jorge: is that specific to Mika? Danielle: One of them was specific to Mika and the other was office, storage and printing services by their team for \$450.

- Danielle: Also on Oct 11<sup>th</sup> we approved \$400 for signage for meeting. Jorge: and signage includes not just banners, but frames? Because we need something sturdy made out of steel that does not blow in the wind. I found two sidewalk signs for posters – one for \$166 that you fill with water and is very sturdy and another steel frame just for \$35.
- Joe still has a 4x4 wooden frame. It is heavy and sturdy but difficult to transport. Danielle volunteers to transport the frame.
- Nicole suggests that Cheryl design a poster for the 4x4 first and seeing how it goes with that first.

**XVII. Community Impact Statement Update (discussion and possible action – up to 3 minutes)**

- A.** Jorge was contacted by the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. They asking neighborhood councils to each fill out a community impact statements on childcare. They are asking for \$100,000 to be appropriated through the budget to give childcare at each of the neighborhood council meetings – two adults at \$15 an hour. They are trying to get support from all of the councils. It wasn't on the agenda so it cannot be approved today but they can agendize it for a future meeting. It is tied to council file 17604 which has the actual plan for neighborhood councils including how one of the criteria for having a successful meeting is not having mitigating barriers such as translation and childcare services.
- B.** Nicole – suggests that they make a community impact statement for fireworks. Maybe they can start developing that at their next meeting.
- C.** John – The city council committee reforms will be sent to city council soon but there is still time to comment on the proposed reforms. For example: making all the election dates on one day.

**XVIII. Discussion and possible action for LA River Ranger Plan Outreach survey**

- A.** Nicole – the survey is about getting more rangers along the LA river and making it more safe I believe. Lee: it is also about safety and questions about would like more educational programs, activities, things like that. Nicole: We are not directly on the LA river but we are adjacent so I think it is good thing to keep on top of it. Maybe in the future we can have someone from one of these groups come talk to us.

**XIX. Set or announce date(s) for upcoming NC board and committee meetings**

- A.** Nicole does not know if they will need an event committee for another event because they may have spent all of their funds so there may not be Picnic in the Park this year. We'll have to see what we have left.
- B.** Finance meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm at the Fresco Center.
- C.** Neighborhood Board Meeting set for February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Fellowship Hall or across the street.

**XX. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (discussion and possible action – up to 10 minutes:**

- A. Status of City contract for rental of Fellowship Hall**
  - Nicole – still waiting on specific information from the pastor for the contract. And we have to pay the church for this year.
- B. Review and Adoption of Minutes for September, October, and November meetings**
  - Did not have copies. Will review them next meeting.
- C. Review and Adoption of the Monthly Expenditure Reports (MERs)**
  - November 2018:
    - Office: \$694.52
    - Outreach: \$2,013.11
  - December 2018:
    - Office: \$100
    - Outreach: \$3,349.07
  - Nicole makes a motion to approve the MER. Leo seconds. None opposed.
- D. Updated Neighborhood Council Board Roster has been submitted to DONE**

- Cheryl is sworn in

**E. Discussion and possible action to update the Neighborhood Council inventory list for DONE**

- Danielle and Leo will work on that.

**F. Discussion and possible action of council submissions for city attorney liaison**

- Nicole suggests taking the item off permanently.

**XXI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A.** N/A

**XXII. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A.** Leo – he purchased extension cords and light displays with a personal card. He talked to the city clerks' office and they need a board vote to approve refunding him in the next meeting.
- B.** Nicole – A more concerted effort for fireworks education either next month or March. They will invite Cynthia Gonzales of the City Attorney's office and LAPD.

**XXIII. ADJOURNMENT**