



# THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council August 11, 2009 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Croatian Cultural Center, San Pedro

**Call to Order & Roll Call:** 6:40pm. President John Delgado Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. Present: Alexander, Almeida, Anderson, Brady-Sinco, Castillo, Delgado, MacLeod, J. Parker, Roberson, Scoville, Silber, Strout, Trigas; Absent: Buie, Henderson, R. L. Parker. Approximately 40 stakeholders present.

### **Chairman's Report and Board Comments:**

- President Delgado thanked the board members for their hard work in the community.
- Philip Strout talked about the success of the Beacon House Block Party and thanked us for our support.
- Sue Castillo talked about community beautification grants - workshops are being held Thursday, Sept 17th (City of Los Angeles Public Works "Community Beautification Grant" Workshop, 6 pm, Harbor Gateway Branch Library, 24000 S. Western) and Wednesday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup> (LANI Maintenance Matching Fund Workshop, 4 pm, LANI Headquarters, 900 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 118, Los Angeles)
- Frank Anderson talked about a recent meeting in Gardena related to Charter schools.

### **Guest Speaker, Councilwoman Janice Hahn:**

- The parking lot at the Croatian Cultural Center is now open providing free parking for the community.
- Capt. Billy Hayes from LAPD Harbor Division was introduced and Hahn talked about the resignation of Chief Bratton and how he had achieved his goals, which were to reduce crime and improve moral within the LAPD. Hahn hopes that his successor will continue to reform the Department. She wants to bring back community-based policing. She believes that the relationship between the neighborhoods and police force is better than ever. She hopes our new Chief of Police will come from within our own Harbor Department.
- In her last term of office, Hahn hopes to accomplish the following:
  - The modernization of LAX.
  - The improvement of the Port as an economic engine. 43% of the trade that comes into this country comes through our Port. The \$100 million channel deepening project should make us more competitive, as should the Gambol shipyard project. We need to look at the diversity of jobs. Bruce Horton said the port should be a "come to" port and not a departure port.
  - Hahn briefly spoke about Prop A and how close it was to passing. It would provide \$30 million for after-school activities at an average cost per household of \$30 a year. She feels that the only way to help with the gang problem is prevention, and that more money is needed. Bill Roberson asked why a 2/3 vote was needed for passing of Prop A. In response the Councilwoman commented that there is a move at the state level to lower the threshold for these kinds of measures.
  - Doug Epperhart asked Hahn about action on the NC Review Commission issues. Since NC's are advisory groups they should not need to do a disclosure file. He said that the City is still not accepting neighborhood council file statements.
- Regarding Knoll Hill: Hahn thanked the steering committee for all their hard work in coming up with a conceptual plan. Linda Alexander asked Councilwoman Hahn to clarify her position on

Eastview as it relates to Knoll Hill. Kara McLeod gave her opinion that she is opposed to any land swap related to Knoll Hill. Sue Castillo asked about Quimby Funds. Councilwoman suggested that it might be helpful to have a presentation on Quimby Funds at a future meeting. When asked her position on the "compromise plan", she said that, as she stated in her letter, she supports it, but has no means to fund it at this time (her letter should be attached to the minutes).

- Art Almeida asked a question about the Croatian Cultural Center being open to all the citizens of the city. Hahn responded that it is available for any general community use.

**Comments from Capt. Billy Hayes, Commanding officer of Harbor Division:**

- He has a goal of making LA a better destination for tourism. His priority is to make this a safer community and eliminate "criminal homelessness". They have put more police officers on a footbeat in downtown to improve the security of the area.
- He talked about the programs that the LAPD has for at-risk youth. It is funded with private grants from businesses in the community. In the past two years they have seen a significant drop in gang-related crime. This year violent crime is down 15%. Gang violence is down 17%, although street robberies are on the rise.

**Ricardo Hong, Mayor's Office.** Announced the appointment of Phill Trigas to the Harbor Area Planning Commission.

**Knoll Hill Conceptual Park Plan:** Board members and the public were given the opportunity to comment on the Knoll Hill Park Plan. Highlights included:

- Kara McLeod felt that the project won't get done if a land swap occurs. If the City Recreation and Parks Department takes it over the facility, there will be no change in the current usage and no planned improvements carried out.
- Andrew Silber was generally in favor of the proposed plan with some alteration but Carrie Scoville was opposed to plan and felt Knoll Hill should stay with State Tidelands as a passive park. However, Phill Trigas felt that we need to move it out of the State Tidelands in order to get what the community wants. The majority of speakers were against the proposed land swap.
- Kara McLeod suggested that the proposed plan, if not approvable by State Tidelands, should be revised to conform to their requirements.
- Joanne Rudell from the Port of Los Angeles explained that the Port has no funds for any open space passive park, and that the retention of State Lands protection is no guarantee that it will be built.
- Andrew Silber stated that the committee has done what they've been asked to do and fulfilled their commitment.
- Bruce Horton stated that he did not vote for the compromise plan (including mixed use/open space/ballfields). Coastal SPNC is not in favor of a land swap. Seniors want something for seniors up there too. The original plan without the playground equipment would have been fine.
- Ray Patricio said make sure that there are activities for teenagers in the new park.
- Pat Nave said that the Port is in a better position to develop the park than the City, and that it should not be converted to city ownership under a land swap.
- Craig Goldfarb felt there is a lack of options, and that we need to have at least a second plan, including a temporary, incremental plan.
- Art Almeida said "don't compromise". The park should be public, no special interests. Leave it passive.
- Frank Anderson stated that there used to be many venues for the youth to play. He can't support this plan. 70% of people in Los Angeles prefer passive parks. We are conceding too much. Appreciates the work of the committee but can't support the plan the way it is.
- Sue Castillo commented that we need to continue working on the issue and said that she expected that the next steering committee meeting would be held early in September. She said

that the park should be designed to serve the greatest number in the community and that we should not let design be determined by who it "should not" serve.

**Plaza Park (Beacon Street between 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> including slope down to Harbor Blvd)**: Frank O'Brien gave background on the plans for the refurbishment of this park, to be accomplished with \$5 million from China Mitigation funds. The project includes replacing a fence, repaved sidewalks, new irrigation system, new drinking fountains, new stairs, new lighting, stabilization of the slope, and new plantings. Projects presented for China Shipping Mitigation funds have to go to State Lands for approval. There was a discussion on mitigation funds and how they are utilized.

**Renaming of Bandini Canyon**: At the July meeting, Art Almeida commented that he felt there was a need to rename the area called Bandini Canyon because it is technically not a canyon, but an arroyo. After discussion, **Andrew Silber made a motion to request the renaming of Bandini Canyon to Bandini Arroyo. The motion was seconded by Art Almeida and passed by 7 yes votes, 5 no votes and 1 abstention.**

**Public Comment:**

1. Bruce Horton: Gave some background on the issue of Coastal SPNC opposing the proposed 7-11 store on Pacific Avenue at 19<sup>th</sup> Street due to the 24-hour operation requested. **Kara McLeod made a motion that we put this issue on next month's agenda, seconded by Andrew Silber. The motion was passed by a vote of 11 yes, 1 no.** The Harbor Area Planning Commission meets to determine a position on the project on August 18, 2009.
2. Doug Epperhart: Co-Chair of a committee filing a voter's initiative with the state regarding reducing the salaries of city council members. They are seeking endorsements from all 89 neighborhood councils. A signature campaign will begin in January.
3. Steve Kleinjan talked about Hot Pedro Nights, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is an annual event which involves closing of streets in downtown San Pedro.

**Approval of minutes of the July 14, 2009 Stakeholder Meeting**: Motion by Kara McLeod to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Andrew Silber and approved unanimously by the Board.

**PCAC report by Carrie Scoville**. Carrie Scoville provided information on PCAC issues and specifically commented on Dr. Geraldine Knatz's July 24th announcement that as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, Port staff and consultants would no longer be provided for certain PCAC subcommittees due to budget cuts. These subcommittees would still be able to meet per the Stipulated Judgment, however, Port support would not be provided. In response, Andrew Silber recommended that the PCAC go back to the Port and ask them to continue supporting these subcommittees. Linda Alexander made a motion that the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council write a letter to support the staffing of the PCAC, the motion was seconded by Kara McLeod but during further discussion Linda withdrew the motion. **Linda Alexander then made a motion that the CSPNC authorize Carrie Scoville to write a letter to Geraldine Knatz and the Harbor Commission requesting the reinstatement of the existing staff, consultants and committees that serve the PCAC as they currently exist. Furthermore, the CSPNC is requesting that the meetings continue to rotate between Wilmington and San Pedro. This motion was seconded by Kara McLeod and passed by a Board vote of 8 yes, 0 no.** Carrie's PCAC Report can be viewed on the Central SPNC website.

**Pacific Corridor Redevelopment Area Community Advisory Committee**. This report was waived due to the late hour.

**Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (HANC)**: Julia Parker reported on the last meeting of the HANC. The HANC requests that each neighborhood council provide funding of \$100 for copies, mailings etc. Julia will re-send the priority list to the board members requesting that they submit what they feel should be Central's priorities for HANC action. **Kara McLeod made a motion that the Central**

San Pedro Neighborhood Council allocate \$100 for the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (HANC). Motion seconded by Bill Roberson and approved unanimously by the Board.

**Finance Committee:** No report.

**Outreach Report:** Phill Trigas gave a short report and commented that the committee is on target to get the Newsletter published in the very near future.

**SPACE District Report:** There is an open Request for Proposals for funding art and cultural entertainment events now underway.

**Election Committee Update:** Bill Roberson announced that Central SPNC's elections will be held on June 8, 2010 from 2:00-8:00pm. The two possibilities for polling locations are the Croatian Cultural Center and Anderson Senior Center – the polling place should be ADA accessible.

**Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristina Smith, Neighborhood Council Administrative Assistant.  
Draft finalized by Secretary Sue Castillo.  
Corrections requested and made. Board approval on minutes 9/8/09.