



# THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Tuesday, September 8, 2009 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Croatian Cultural Center, 510 West Seventh Street, San Pedro

**Call to Order:** President John Delgado Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Present: Linda, Art, Frank, Caroline, Sue, John D, Kara McLeod, Julia Parker, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville, Daryl Seybold, Andrew Silber, and Phill Trigas. Absent: Raymond Lee Parker, Oliver Buie, Philip Strout and Larry Henderson. Approximately 40 stakeholders present.

### President's Report:

- Thank you to Griffith Company who was contracted by the Port of Los Angeles and assisted in upgrading Bloch Field with new topsoil. They donated a lot of time and resources to get the field ready for the youth.
- Principal at SPSHS will be invited to a future meeting.

**DONE (Department of Neighborhood Empowerment):** The General Manager of DONE, BongHwan Kim gave an update to our neighborhood council on the following:

- **Marketing effort for all the neighborhood councils:** Spring of next year all 89 NC's will be holding elections. DONE has never done any communications and outreach previously but will be making a huge marketing effort for these upcoming elections. There was further discussion on elections.
- **New name:** New name being marketed for DONE is EMPOWER LA. They will no longer be using DONE or BONC. Their goal is to reach out to a broad audience telling communities that NC's are the best place to get involved.
- **Congress of Neighborhood Event:** The upcoming congress is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>. All 89 neighborhood councils will be coming together for networking, resource sharing and learning.
- **City Budget:** The crisis is real and there are still a lot of heavy negotiations that have to go on. There are possibilities of layoffs and every department is being asked to come up with contingency plans. Kim states the he sent out a survey to the NC board members to find out what is the most important services that DONE should provide.
- **NC Funding:** Kim talked about how the NC's fought to keep their funding and how important that funding is for the NC's to do what they do in the community.

**LAPD Report:** Officer Ashcraft attended the meeting in place of Sr. Lead Officer Nua.

- **Crime in the Central Area:** LAPD Gang Units have been making arrests so property crime has come down by 6%. Harbor Division as a whole is in the top ten as far as lower crime statistics. There were two drive by shooting in the Central area and investigations continue on those two crimes.
- **Vinegar Hill Crime Issues:** There was a comment from a stakeholder about problems at 11<sup>th</sup> and Palo Verdes (specifically the Alhambra Bar). Andrew Silber commented that as the drug dealing on the streets comes down, the hotels start to have more problems.

### Ricardo Hong, Mayor's Office:

- **Chief of Staff:** Announced the appointment of a new Chief of Staff named Rev. Jeff Carr (heading gang reduction). He is known for being tough.
- **Discount Card:** Stakeholders can now receive a Discount Prescription Drug Card with savings of 5%-40%, no requirements. Print out as many as you can. To access the information and find out about the 1500 retail stores participating, visit [www.Forlarx.com](http://www.Forlarx.com) and click on "Prescription Drug

Card.”

**Gordon Teuber, Councilwoman Hahn’s office:**

- **Thank You:** Gordon commented that the Councilwoman thanks the Council for being able to speak last month.
- **Street Lighting:** Pacific Avenue, New street lighting. The Council Office has had several call regarding the installation of street lights. The CRA funded 16 decorative street lights. The other signalized intersections have to utilize steel poles. They will investigate into painting them green.
- **Gaffey Street:** State of California has turned over funds to LA for maintenance of Gaffey Street from the end of freeway to 9<sup>th</sup> street. The Council Office will be receiving an update next week on the planned upgrading of the ATSAC system which is being funded by the State. 1<sup>st</sup> and Gaffey is a target intersection as a priority. Council Office is continuing to work on beautification projects which includes Phase II of the Welcome Park and an Exit park on the opposite side of the street. There are still issues with Gaffey Bridge and the council office is still working on it.
- **Comment:** Andrew Silber commented on the 16 decorative street lights which comes out to \$12,500 per streetlight. The total project was approved at \$800,000 and the bid came in under \$600,000. It will take 2 more months to get that completed. Andrew made comments on the ATSAC upgrades.
- **Comment:** Art Almeida reminded Gordon Teuber that at the last Central NC meeting a motion was made to rename Bandini Canyon to Bandini Arroyo.
- **Sidewalks:** The City is considering a point of sale sidewalk ordinance which would require inspections upon the sale of a home. More information will be forthcoming on this issue in the future.

**City Attorney, Carmen Trutanich:**

- Trutanich stressed that the City Attorney’s office under his direction will not be involved with politics. Under his leadership, their office will be doing what is the right thing to do for the City of Los Angeles. He is impressed with the City Attorney’s office and the quality of the lawyers there and feels that they just needed new leadership. The issues he faces daily are difficult. He gave examples of some of the issues and cases that he recently worked on.

**Geraldine Knatz, Director of the Port of Los Angeles:**

- Parks on port property that are being planned will be equipped with surveillance to keep the community safe. The Port is also expanding their current camera system in other areas of the Port.
- Knatz stated that the time has come and the Port is now down to the wire on the Board of Harbor Commissioners considering the San Pedro Waterfront project. She commented that she did not have a formal Power Point presentation (specific information is available on the Port website) and just wanted to briefly talk about some of the items that she has personally been cogitating on as she tries to wrap this up and make a recommendation to put before her board. (She stated that the Staff Recommendations will be presented in a separate document that is easier to review than the full EIR). Items discussed included:
  - Importance of the community attending the upcoming Board of Harbor Commissioners meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> so they could hear the needs and concerns of the community as a whole.
  - Project which will include three harbors created; the red car expansion, finishing the promenade and the upgrading of Ports O’ Call Village which will be good for downtown San Pedro.
  - Location of the cruise terminal and berth is the most controversial aspect. Cruise market is constantly changing. Disney has a five year agreement but only two years have been locked in. Overall length of the berth and size of the cruise ships is the reason for the need of an outer harbor cruise terminal. She is not convinced, however, that there will be a need for two berths in the outer harbor.
  - Parking structure shown in the plan may not be necessary for a few years.

- She wants the Port staff to come up with creative ways to upgrade the current cruise terminal.
- She has a lot of ideas to enhance pedestrian access and create bike paths.
- Future opportunities for shared parking and a parking structure that is aesthetically pleasing (park like).
- Existing system of the red car cannot be expanded to downtown so that is something that needs more discussion.
- Comments from Board Members and Stakeholders
  - How are you going to address the issue of transporting people from North Harbor Blvd to South Harbor Blvd? Response: Low emission vehicle shuttles on a route that will include Sanford Way and stay within the project area.
  - This is an EIR coming before the Board but the way it is being presented today sounds more like Construction Phasing and Planning decisions. Once it is certified how can those changes be made? Response: The EIR has 28 different elements and a lot of different projects within it and the board should have the flexibility to decide how a plan will be implemented and conditioning their actions in certain ways.
  - Comments on the Southern California Marine and why it wasn't included in the EIR.
  - There is a lot of flexibility within the project but there are some issues that have not been addressed.
  - A recommendation that the Central SPNC Board have a special meeting to review the recommendations of the Port Staff before it goes to the Harbor Commission for certification.
  - The red car should be improved and expanded. Richard Pawlowski would like to see the red car running along Pacific Avenue which is actually the transportation corridor.
  - Art Almeida asked if the Port has any specific information on the size of the cruise ships and how large they will be built in the future. He wonders how far the Port will go to accommodate them. The Port responded that there are many unresolved issues within the cruise industry which is affected by the economy.
  - How much does it profit for us to keep up with the cruise ship industry. Response: Local businesses supply the cruise industry.
  - Sue Castillo felt that without seeing the actual document and the Staff Recommendation document it would be difficult for the Central San Pedro Board to state their position on it.
  - Linda Alexander commented that the Chamber has in approval of the plan.
  - Irene Mendoza, stakeholder, commented that it is time we move forward and have a waterfront that San Pedro can be proud of.
  - Caroline Sinco-Brady agreed that it is time to move forward.
  - Phill Trigas felt that the Port has addressed the issues that were presented in the past comment letter from Central to the Port related to the project. He said he would be comfortable making a motion that we support the "framework" of the recommended project as verbally described by Director Geraldine Knatz. However, without a written plan to review, many board members did not agree and there was no second to Phill's motion. Bill Roberson said we should set a special meeting instead of having dueling motions.
  - Andrew Silber made a motion in support of the "concept" of the plan that was presented to us by Geraldine Knatz at today's meeting. The motion was seconded by Phill Trigas. After a short discussion, the board voted in favor of the motion with 7 yes votes; 6 no votes. (Art Almeida attempted to table the motion but then withdrew)
  - Kara McLeod then made a motion that the Board call a special meeting on September 22 with outreach to the community to address the specifics of the Waterfront Plan. The motion was seconded by Sue Castillo and passed unanimously by the Board. 7 yes votes, 0 no votes. Meeting will be held at the Croatian Cultural Center if possible. 6:30pm.

**Public Comment:**

- LAUSD: Roberta Jones-Booker announced an upcoming meeting Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm at White Point Elementary School to discuss construction activities related to the new high school.
- Doug Epperhart commented that the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council will be able to discuss the waterfront issue at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> and suggested that the Central board members attend that meeting. He also talked about last Saturday's meeting of the LA Neighborhood Coalition in West L.A. where Bernard Parks spoke on the city's budget crises. He stated that the City of Los Angeles is spending a million more a day than it is taking in. By May 2010 it will be completely drained and there will be a need to lay off 3,000-4,000 people. The Citywatch LA website has video of that meeting. Upcoming Neighborhood Councils Action Summit will be on October 3. Information on this will be sent out by email.

**Approval of Minutes:** After review of the August 11, 2009 minutes and two minor corrections, Kara McLeod made a motion to approve said minutes. The motion was seconded by Linda Alexander and approved unanimously by the Board

**Appointment of Permanent Representation to San Pedro's Art, Entertainment and Cultural District (SPACE):** Linda Alexander was nominated by Sue Castillo. Unanimously approved by the board.

**Appointment of Representatives:** The board appointed John Delgado and Kara McLeod as representative for the Mayor's Budget Day event on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Financial Report:** Linda Alexander passed around a brief expense report for review by the board.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:37pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristina Smith, Neighborhood Council Administrative Assistant