



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Tuesday, March 9, 2010 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5th St, San Pedro, Calif.

Call to Order & Roll Call, 6:30pm. Present: Art Almeida, Linda Alexander, Frank Anderson, Caroline Brady-Sinco, Pat Carroll, Sue Castillo, John Delgado, Scott Gray, Kara McLeod, Julia Parker, J.R. Perez, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville, Daryl Seybold, Andrew Silber, Philip Strout, and Phill Trigas. Absent: No board members were absent. Approximately 20 stakeholders and guests were present.

President's Report: We will be releasing our newsletter within the next week.

Reports from Public Officials, City Departments, and their representatives:

Councilwoman's Office: Ana Dragin reported on the following:

- DOT is making public safety improvements around schools in San Pedro which include Pt. Fermin and 15th Street (school warning signs replaced; red curbs extended.)
- CRA-funded sidewalk improvements are underway in downtown San Pedro.
- The child care facility at Peck Park is closing.
- Andrew Silber asked for an update on the Gaffey St traffic signal synchronization project at our April meeting.
- JR Perez asked about better lighting on Pacific around O'Farrell and Santa Cruz at night.
- Phill asked if the Councilwoman would be willing to provide an NC election notice in one of her e-blast communications.
- Anderson Senior Center: Ana is working with the Department of Rec and Parks to see if air conditioning can be added before summer.
- The City Clerk is not able to accommodate our request to change the Election date.

PORT POLICE: Stacey Creech talked about:

- Cars and Stripes scheduled for July 2nd near the Fountain.
- Port Police Station should be completed around November but probably won't be occupied until 2011.

LAPD: Officer Ashcraft gave an update on crime stats:

- Violent crime is down 17% (6th in the City out of 21 divisions) compared to last year. Property Crime is down 10%. Business crime is up.
- Keep your property lit at night. Turn lights on. Know your neighbors.

MAYORS OFFICE: Ricardo Hong discussed:

- Changes in the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). He asked what the Central SPNC Board feels about this department. Linda Alexander commented from a treasurer's perspective that DONE failed in its fiscal responsibilities. We had a professional accountant keeping our books, with \$25K in rollover funds which should be available to us.
- Day of Service is March 20th, at San Pedro High School. Would like input on people who can assist with murals, provide paint, and planting soil.

PORT OF LOS ANGELES: Augie Bezmalinovich:

- First waterfront update meeting was held Feb. 11 and 300 people attended.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 18 at the POLA High School. This is a public workshop regarding design near the Maritime Museum.

Public Comment:

- **Steve Robbins from PBID:** 1. PBID is preparing to trim trees within the PBID district. 2. PBID, Chamber and the Port are working together on a demonstration project to bring a rubber-tired trolley to downtown for free transportation, with kiosks and food carts along the promenade, to encourage cruise passengers to visit downtown. 3. A radio and TV advertising campaign to bring people to the waterfront is in the works. 4. By end of this month, a PBID website will be launched: www.sanpedrobid.com
- **Jody James:** COPE (Community Outreach Promoting Emergency Preparedness) is holding a forum on April 30th, at the Crowne Plaza, 9 am-1:30 pm. The keynote speaker is Lt. General Russell L. Honore. The thrust of the meeting is to help the business community get prepared for an emergency.
- **Bonnie from Assemblywoman Lowenthal's Office:** The Assemblywoman is planning a Senior Scam prevention event for the summer. The Woman of the Year is Lisa Tonson from Local 63, nominated by Janice Hahn, Chair of the Holiday Events Committee.
- **Frank Anderson:** He is a retired teacher concerned about loss of funding for public education. We should be calling our legislators. Also talked about Peck Park and the cuts in the child care program, which serves 100 children who will have to go somewhere else.
- **Kara McLeod:** We should have someone come and speak to us about a proposed Marymount College expansion.
- **Katherine Gray, 7th Street Merchants Association:** Would like to hear more about filming in San Pedro. She says the production company staff was rude and they taking up too many parking spaces.
- **Caroline Brady-Sinco:** The Harbor Interfaith expansion is moving forward. On March 23rd at 7 am, there will be an open house to explain the project.

Port of Los Angeles Presentation on improvements to I110/SR 47.

- They are working with Caltrans on this project. An overview of the project was provided. There will be a new lane added between the Vincent Thomas Bridge and the 110 fwy connection, improvements to John S Gibson Blvd and its freeway on-ramps, and a continuation of bike lanes. They are conducting technical studies, one of which is a noise study.
- **Overview of the environmental process.** They are currently in the technical studies portion of the process. After this, they will issue the Draft IS/EA and then have public hearings to obtain comments on the document. Then they will finalize the document and Caltrans should adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project. The BOHC will also have to approve the MND.
- **Phill Trigas:** Asked if this will have any affect on the skateboard park and the response was that it will not, even though the roadbed will be widened over it.
- **Carrie Scoville:** She would like to know where the noise monitoring sites are located.
- **Andrew Silber:** Most of the large busy ports of world have dedicated freeway on-ramps. He doesn't understand why LA, one of the busiest ports in the world, does not have such a dedicated on-ramp.
- **Kara McLeod:** Asked about the timeline of the project. Response was given that it will be a month or two before release of the mitigated negative declaration. They expect to have the final design by 2012, which is when construction would start.
- Project funding is from the federal and state government, through Bond Measure 1B. Regional transportation money from LA Metro and Port Funds will be added.

Improvement of the Perimeter of the China Shipping Terminal: Sidewalks, Curb and Gutter, Bicycle Path and Landscaping. Augie Besmalinovich read a letter from Sue Castillo. The Engineering Department is planning a 10 foot wide walkway with landscaping. This improvement is not being funded by China Shipping Settlement Mitigation Funds. Includes 885 yards of improvement, at approximately \$6M cost.

Removal of mature trees from Knoll Hill: Augie reported that the trees growing along the north edge of Knoll Hill were in danger of falling after the big rains, due to exposed roots. For the sake of public safety they had to be removed. Kara commented that the soil erosion problem here had been well documented.

Update on City Budget Crisis: Doug Epperhart reported:

- The City is in an economic crisis. Doug has been watching it happen and talking to various committees and people all over the city, but no solution is in sight. The Controller estimates a 500 million shortfall for next year. City employees are being laid off. DONE is now staffed by under 30 people (most were transferred to other departments). The NC's have an opportunity to take control of the NC system and remake it in a way that functions for us. The Mayor is saying he will try to keep our funding at the \$45,000 level. BONC will continue to function, as they only employ one staff member (members are volunteer positions). The Mayor's Budget Day is this Saturday. Budget LA folks are planning to turn out in large numbers. Get more information at www.budgetla.org and www.Ronkayela.org.

2010 Neighborhood Council Election. Bill Roberson reported that the City will hold our election on June 8th (Primary Day), despite our protests. The election will be held at the Anderson Senior Center from 3pm-7pm, which also conflicts with our standard meeting which is the 2nd Tuesday. Candidate applications will be available on the website tomorrow. There is an agreement that there would be no function for our bylaws prescribed Election Committee under the new system. Carrie explained that an election committee would keep tabs on the timeline to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Finance Committee Report (Carrie Scoville):

The Finance Committee Report included budget adjustments which decreased the FY2009/2010 budget by @\$25K to account for the loss of FY2008/2009 rollover funds. Ms. Scoville reported that the Finance Committee had received 16 proposals for Community Improvement Projects totaling over \$52k. All requestors had been interviewed with regards to their proposals. However, given the proposed budget adjustment the Finance Committee determined there was only \$3,642 available. The Committee recommendation is to reallocate those funds for CSPNC General Outreach Expenses instead (Line 299). Report attached, approved as presented.

ACE (Arts and Culture) District Report:

- A Commercial/Artcraft District is being considered in downtown San Pedro. This would require a zoning change for the purpose of identifying San Pedro as an enclave for innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity in order to attract new businesses and residents to "the Edge of LA." Synergy can be utilized to make people want to come here and be part of what's happening. The discussion included the down side of such a district (parking and other neighbor impacts), what the boundary of the district might be, and whether single family residences would be exempt.
- **Andrew Silber made a motion that we support the proposal for the establishment of a Commercial/Artcraft District in San Pedro with the boundaries to be left up to the SPACE and the PBID. The motion was seconded by Caroline Brady-Sinco and motion passed with 10 yes votes and 1 no votes. Summary Below:**

PROPOSAL SUMMARY FOR A COMMERCIAL/ARTCRAFT DISTRICT IN SAN PEDRO

The purpose of the zoning change is to further identify San Pedro as an active enclave for innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity in order to attract new businesses and residents to "the Edge of LA". Demographer Joel Kotkin maintains that people will increasingly be working from home, and that live/work/sell neighborhoods will be most appealing to people with new ideas that will shape the future. People will want to avoid long commute times and will look to live and work in environments that they view as the most stimulating for their businesses and families. This overlay will help us define ourselves as "just that hive."

1. Section 13.06 of the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code provides for the establishment of "Commercial and Artcraft Districts (CA district overlay)...whereby the artisan segments of the population may live, create and market their artifacts."
2. Districts may be created by petition of 75 % of the owners and lessees of property in an area of no less than three acres, or by resolution of the City Council (the later is proposed).
3. Regulations are imposed to promote and achieve optimal conditions for artcraft functions while maintaining adequate protection from obnoxious pollutants for adjacent properties.
4. The creating, assembling compounding or treating of articles shall be accomplished by hand, or to the extent practical for a particular artifact. Only retail (not wholesale) sales would be allowed.
5. Total Kiln volume shall not exceed 24 cubic feet and no individual kiln shall exceed 8 cubic feet.
6. Power tools shall be limited to electrically operated motors of not more than one horsepower.
7. Machinery and equipment shall be installed and maintained...noise, smoke, dust, odor and all other objectionable factors shall be confined...to the extent that no annoyance or injury shall result to persons residing in the vicinity.
8. The display of all completed artifacts shall be permitted outdoors...sale of all items except antiques shall be limited to those lawfully produced on the premises.
9. Employees/paid helpers shall be limited to no more than 3 persons other than members of the immediate family occupying the dwelling on the premises.
10. The following activities are on permitted indoors, on the first floor:
Block printing, jewelry manufacturing, metal engraving, ornamental iron, printing and publishing, taxidermy, watchmaking.
11. Artcraft classes shall be permitted with no additional off-street parking provided that classes are held no more than 2 days a week, 3 hours per day, and limited to 15 persons. All classes must be held on the first floor of the building. No certificate of occupancy is required for this activity.

PCAC Report:

- Carrie Scoville provided a written PCAC report. She explained that an alternate for the PCAC needs to be appointed. After discussion, Pat Carroll made a motion to appoint J.R. Perez to the position of PCAC Alternate, seconded by Kara McLeod and approved unanimously by the Board.
- **Motion on PCAC Restructuring: (from the PCAC Steering Committee)**
Whereas the Port Community Advisory Committee has been in continuous operation since January 2002 and was formed to implement three charges from the Mayor's office, and
Whereas many of the original tasks PCAC studied and made recommendations on have been received and acted upon by the Board of Harbor Commissioners, including the China Shipping Mitigation Funds, the Wilmington Waterfront Plan, the Clean Trucks Initiative, and the San Pedro Waterfront Plan, and Whereas the Port Executive Director felt it necessary to curtail PCAC operations by eliminating staff support for its committees and operations, and

Whereas the Board of Harbor Commissioners has not replaced the Commissioner co-chair in four years, hampering orderly and timely communication with the Board,
Therefore the Port Community Advisory Committee makes the following recommendations for changes to its structure and operation:

1. Adopt the PCAC recommendation for By-law changes, POLA #83 and POLA #84 adopted by PCAC on May 20, 2008;
2. Eliminate those organizations that did not send a representative to the PCAC meetings during 2009;
3. Place on inactive status, those organizations that have three consecutive absences without notification to the chair, and give them 30 days to respond to the question as to whether or not they wish to retain their seat on the Committee;
4. Adopt a new By-law stating that inactive members shall not count against a quorum;
5. Provide Port staff for the following committees meeting monthly: Air Quality, Wilmington Waterfront Development; San Pedro Coordinated Plan; Environmental Impact and Mitigation; Steering, and the monthly PCAC meeting;
6. Provide Port staff for rotating all other committees or ad hoc committees that may be formed as deemed necessary but who will not meet on a monthly basis;
7. Report on a monthly basis directly to the Board of Harbor Commissioners as a set part of the Board agenda; and
8. Have the Port City Attorney work with the PCAC to suggest further By-law changes that may be necessary to carry out the membership changes and quorum changes that the suggested restructuring will require.

Carrie explained the above Motion on PCAC Restructuring. The Central SPNC Board unanimously approved directing our PCAC Representative to support the Motion when presented at the next PCAC Meeting.

HANC: It was requested that the written HANC report be included in these minutes for review. (See attachment)

Approval of Minutes from February 2010 Meeting: Art Almeida made a motion that we approve the minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting, seconded by Kara McLeod, and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristina Smith, Administrative Assistant to the Central SPNC with revisions by Secretary, Sue Castillo.

Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

NOTES

March 3, 6:30 pm

CHAIR: Bob Gelfand, Coastal San Pedro

NC's Present: Julia Parker & Bill Roberson (Central San Pedro), Doug Epperhart & Bob Gelfand (Coastal San Pedro), Greg Donnan, John Bradley, Tom Houston, & Grant Reed (Harbor City) Lu Watson & Rosalie Preston (Harbor Gateway North), Katy Carlson & Adrienne O'Niell (Harbor Gateway South), Diana Nave & Robert Bryant (Northwest San Pedro), **Others Present:** Beth Halter, Karl Halter, James Campeau, & Irene Mendoza

Neighborhood Council Elections

The question of what further pressure might be brought to bear to get the date changed was discussed. Doug will follow up one last time with Larry Frank in the Mayor's office, but it does not look likely.

First day to file applications is March 10. The City Clerk has not released a copy of the application. They intend to put it online and are encouraging people to apply on line. The City Clerk is holding two outreach events in our area, the first of which is March 16 at Peck Park.

The following approach to joint publicity was agreed upon:

- Doug will write a press release, send it to Random Lengths, Daily Breeze, San Pedro Chamber, and to Diana for distribution to HANC reps who will further distribute it
- Harbor City NC should send to Harbor City Chamber
- Diana will send press release to Janice Hahn and ask her to include in her e-newsletter and place on her website.

City Budget Crisis

The city is sending notices out to the first 500 individuals being laid off. Doug thinks that the Council & Mayor are paralyzed and that as a result bankruptcy is becoming more of a possibility.

Budget LA formed with NC reps from throughout the City and has been meeting every two weeks since early January. Its purpose is to educate and inform people about what is happening with regard to the budget. They also want to help determine priorities. There is a lot of information about the budget available at their website www.budgetla.org. Doug would like Budget LA to begin meeting in different parts of the city.

The NC reps met with Larry Frank, Deputy Mayor Last Friday, but Doug does not think that either of the two Region 7 reps were there. March 13 is Budget Day. It will start in the auditorium at the new LAPD Headquarters and breakout sessions will be held in City Hall.

Adrienne thinks the City should do salary comparison with the private sector.

Budget Forum Debrief

Diana reported that there were over 60 people at the forum. Attendees were very engaged and felt it was informative and insightful. Several people who attended shared the following points:

- Carmen Trutanich said the City needs to focus on the current issue of bond ratings and recommended that the Convention Center be taken out of the General fund either by leasing or selling to the Proprietary Departments (Airports, Harbor, DWP) and that it be transformed into a cutting edge Green Facility
- Politicization has gotten in the way of good decision making
- Mayor's staff has increased sharply under this Mayor – do we need all of them?

- Carmen Trutanich said the Council/Mayor should stop trying to micro manage the Departments by telling them how much they need to cut and letting them decide where to make those cuts.

Motions related to budget

Before voting began, it was pointed out that the votes were to develop the motions that in most instances then needed to be taken back to the individual councils for consideration.

A four-part motion was proposed to:

a) Support the short term solution of moving the Convention Center out of the General Fund to the proprietary departments rather than selling to a private entity.

Discussion included concerns that this would result in an even greater increase in our utility rates, concern that the Tidelands Trust Act would not allow the Harbor Department to spend money in this way, and most likely the Airport regulations would also prohibit the use of airport funds; we might not have sufficient information about the ramifications of this action – Motion failed. Voting For: Central San Pedro, Harbor Gateway North; Voting Against: Harbor City, Harbor Gateway South, Northwest San Pedro; Abstaining: Coastal San Pedro.

b) That additional revenues be found for the 2010-11 budget.

Discussion: possible additional revenues might include billboard tax; oil extraction tax; collection of “uncollected” revenues. It was noted any tax would probably need to be placed on the ballot and therefore would take a while to implement.

Motion Passed: Voting For: Central San Pedro, Harbor Gateway North; Harbor City, Harbor Gateway South, Northwest San Pedro Voting Against: Coastal San Pedro.

c) Any layoffs should be spread across the entire budget, not just the civilian workforce

Discussion: laying off civilians in the Police Dept results in Police officers doing work that could be done by civilians a lot more economically

Motion Passed: Voting For: Central San Pedro, Coastal San Pedro, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway South, Northwest San Pedro; Abstaining: Harbor Gateway North

d) That as cuts are made, there be regard for trying to meet the needs of individual communities, rather than using a one size fits all approach.

Motion passed unanimously.

e) A vote was taken on parts b, c, and d combined.

Motion passed unanimously.

f) Motion to oppose sale of bidding out of the Warner Grand Theater by the City of Los Angeles

Discussion: The City owns the Warner Grand and three other facilities in other parts of Los Angeles that are operated by the Cultural Affairs Department. The Mayor has proposed laying off all of the staff related the operation of these facilities and going out to bid to someone who could run them for profit. The rumor is that the City wants to receive \$250,000 plus a percent of the proceeds from any event held there. It normally takes the city a year to bid out an operation such as this and there does not appear to be any transition plan from the time the staff would be laid off to the time it could be re-opened. The Warner Grand is a real asset to the San Pedro Community and programming there has been an economic boon to the downtown area.

Motion Carried Unanimously

g) Oppose the closing of child care centers where the parents are willing to pay the cost of operation

Discussion: The city operates a number of childcare centers throughout the City including one at Peck Park. In some cases, parents have indicated a willingness to pay the full cost of childcare. The facilities exist, the staff exist, there is a great need for childcare, it would be shortsighted of the city to shut down a facility if the parents are willing to pay the costs.

Motion Carried Unanimously

h) Ask Mayor and Council Members to take the same percentage cut as City employees.

Substitute Motion: Ask Mayor and Council Members to take a 30% voluntary pay cut.

Substitute Motion Passed 4-2 Voting for: Central San Pedro; Coastal San Pedro; Harbor City; Harbor Gateway South; Voting against: Harbor Gateway North, Northwest San Pedro

Bylaws Task Force

The Citywide Bylaws Task Force met four times. Doug is writing an article for CityWatch. They passed a resolution that recommended that NC Boards elect their own officers. Later there was a motion to reconsider and the motion was changed. It now says that NCs should either elect their own officers or all stakeholders should be able to vote on the officers. Three of the 7 BONC commissioners have attended at least one of the meetings. Go to NCBYLAWS.blogspot.com for more information.

Consolidation of DONE with CDD

Doug reported on a meeting that he attended with Deputy Mayor Larry Frank and many NC leaders. The Mayor is trying to move people off the payroll as soon as possible. DONE staff belong to the Engineers and Architects union and therefore can be laid off immediately. The proposal is to create DONE as a section within the Community Development Department. However, there are legal considerations because DONE is a Charter Dept and CDD was created by ordinance. Therefore technically, the proposal is to place CDD in DONE. The current proposal is to reduce the DONE staff to 16 and outsource the administration of the NC budgets to a non-profit, Community Partners. Doug agreed to forward the list of the employees proposed to remain with DONE.

At least one member of the BONC wants to have BONC administer DONE. This would be similar to the previous structure of the Commission on Children, Youth, and their Families in which there was no department, only a commission and staff.

Motions related to DONE

a. Support DONE remaining as a stand alone Department

Argument in favor: Remaining as a stand alone department gives it more visibility and strength, might get lost in CDD, General Manager of CDD would be over NCs.

Argument against: Hard to say to City Council and Mayor that they need to take immediate steps to reduce City Expenditures, including consolidating departments, and then oppose consolidation of DONE with CDD

Motion Failed on tie vote: Voting For: Coastal San Pedro, Harbor Gateway North, Harbor Gateway South; Voting Against: Central San Pedro, Northwest San Pedro, Harbor City.

b. Oppose BONC being designated as a managerial Commission for Neighborhood Councils

Motion passed unanimously

c. Support the proposal that the DONE functions be placed within the Community Development Department

Motion passed 4-2 Voting For: Central San Pedro, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway South, Northwest San Pedro; Voting Against: Coastal San Pedro; Harbor Gateway North.

Cell Towers Update

Rosalie reported that HGN had a victory with the zoning administrator in opposing a cell tower. The proposal was for a 611foot tall pole in a mostly single story residential area that lacked adequate setbacks. They successfully argued that it would create blight and overwhelm the scale of the neighborhood. She gave a copy of the Zoning Commissioner's report to Diana for duplication.

The 11 members of the Westside Alliance of Neighborhood Councils unanimously passed a resolution regarding cell tower placement and have asked the HANC members to also consider this motion. Diana forwarded their request electronically to the HANC contacts.

The Coastal Commission approved the installation of 5 cell tower facilities on Paseo Del Mar in San Pedro.

Sharing: Issues, Concerns, Questions & Announcements

- In answer to a question regarding a half-off initiative Doug said it takes a lot of signatures and with everything else that is happening in terms of the City Budget, the idea has been sidelined.

Next Meeting – Wed April 7, Tom Houston, Harbor City, to Chair

- No agenda items were discussed