



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Tuesday, May 11, 2010 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5th St, San Pedro, Calif.**

Call to Order & Roll Call, 6:33pm. Present: Linda Alexander, Art Almeida, Frank Anderson, Pat Carroll, Sue Castillo, John Delgado, Scott Gray, Julia Parker, J.R. Perez, Kara McLeod, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville and Andrew Silber. Absent: Caroline Sinco-Brady, Daryl Seybold, Philip Strout and Phil Trigas. Approximately 20 stakeholders and guests present.

President's Report: John Delgado reported:

- Neighborhood Council Elections are on June 8th. The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council polling location is the Anderson Memorial Center, at 9th and Mesa from 2pm-8pm.
- John Delgado commented that he will not be running for a board position in this election.

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

LAPD: Officer Nua, reported:

- The Central San Pedro area has recorded the lowest reported crime in the last month. Down 11% in Part 1 crime.
- The LAPD is working on the property crime problem in San Pedro, which is currently prevalent in the Northwest area. Most unlawful entries are through unlocked windows in homes and unlocked vehicles. The LAPD cadettes are checking vehicles and leaving flyers in unlocked vehicles. The bicycle unit has been working with truancy of the high school.
- There is heavy deployment with at least 5 units on each watch overlapped with other cars depending on the day of the week. For the summer they want to maintain a high visibility in the Rancho San Pedro housing development as well as continued patrolling of downtown. They have in the works the possibility of more ATV's (All Terrain Vehicles). They currently have three and would like to have three more.
- The LAPD is working with the Rancho San Pedro Housing Development Management. More gang enforcement will be conducted in that area.
- Andrew Silber commented on the PBID focusing heavily on downtown and assisting the LAPD. He publicly thanked both departments. Officer Nua commented that Captain Hayes realizes how helpful the PBID security is.
- Frank Anderson asked about the rule on tinted windows and was told that tint is not allowed on the windshield or the two front side windows.
- Linda Alexander questioned if there was gang activity increase in the housing projects due to the closing of the Jordan Downs and Nickerson housing projects. This resulted in a short discussion on combating crime in the housing development.

MAYOR'S OFFICE: Ricardo Hong reported:

- The Gun Buy Back program was conducted this past weekend. The program asks citizens to surrender guns with no questions asked and in exchange they receive a \$100 Ralphs or Visa Card. Last year they expected 200 and were astonished that 1,700 were surrendered. This year they ran the program in 7 locations and 2,500 guns were surrendered. The Mayor's Office wants to continue encouraging people to surrender weapons.
- May 20, 2010 event. Deputy Mayor Larry Frank will be at Harbor College to discuss the City of Los Angeles' strategies and programs funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

(ARRA). Learn how the city is training workers now in preparation for the anticipated economic recovery. 5:30-7:30pm, Harbor College Technology Building, 1111 Figueroa Place, Wilmington.

- Art Almeida asked about the issue of the DWP turning money over to the city. Ricardo commented that it is a very old institution and over time it became less and less transparent. They are trying now to bring more transparency to that department. There is a lack of information that needs to be addressed. Andrew talked about City Watch and articles about the surplus.
- Bill Roberson asked about the courthouse being closed and requested that Ricardo tell the Mayor that the San Pedro Courthouse must stay open. The City must stand by their promise to keep the Courthouse in San Pedro.

PORT OF LOS ANGELES: Augie Bezmalinovich reported:

- The waterfront project. He suggested the community visit www.lawaterfront.org to get daily updates. Phase 1 comments have closed. A summer workshop will be scheduled to go over the changes heard from the community. It will take a year to finish design of the downtown harbor and then a 6 month bid process with 18-24 months for construction.
- Cabrillo Way Marina is about 50% complete and should be done by the summer of 2011. This is 125 million dollar project.
- Inner harbor cruise terminal: They are doing improvements as we speak which have to be completed by the end of the year. The "Amping" contract has been awarded, they have the new gangways and new fenders, and will also work on interior paint and audiovisual equipment. Exterior paint will be chosen through a workshop process.
- Wilmington Buffer: This refers to a 30 acre area on Harry Bridges and is a 55 million dollar project that should be completed by next summer.
- San Pedro Slip/ghost fish area (near Utros): They are waiting to get permits approved and should start construction at the end of the year.
- Cabrillo Beach area: new bathrooms and other enhancements are coming.
- Planning in progress for the Red Car museum at the old Beacons building in Wilmington. Workshop will be held this summer.
- Large community workshop for the waterfront is planned for the fall.
- Sue Castillo asked about the Banning's Landing Park project: Augie commented that it is moving forward but is only in the conceptual phase at this time. Sue also asked about the progress of planning for street improvements along Front St. and North Pacific Avenue near China Shipping. Augie promised to get an update before the next meeting.
- Andrew Silber asked whether funding for these various projects is in place. Augie commented that the design phase is funded but construction is not. Hopefully by next July they will have funding in that fiscal year. Geraldine Knatz has a commitment to have something going on all the time with the waterfront.
- Sue Castillo asked if the Port has an estimate yet for the Front Street project and Carrie Scoville asked about the dirt pile at the China Shipping Terminal and what they are doing there. Augie will find out and report back.
- Hey Rookie pool: Augie hopes that someone from the Port can explain how the process works. He feels that the Central SPNC board has only heard one side of the story.

Public Comment

- **Steve Robbins from San Pedro PBID** reported:
 - Recent activities included a waterfront cruise passenger outreach demonstration project that was carried out over a 5 week period involving a kiosk in the terminal for passengers. They judged it a mixed success. They had problems with the wind and were also disappointed that the terminal operator refused the PBID and Chamber access. At present there are 4 kiosks on the waterfront promenade that are braving the elements. PBID has an agreement with the Port to manage the kiosks.

- Trimming of all the trees in the PBID area should be completed a week from Friday (10 day project). Short discussion on the problems the PBID had in acquiring a permit. The council office gave assistance to the PBID to get the process completed and got some of the high fees waived.
- The Port, CRA and PBID are issuing an RFP for a downtown route for the rubber tire trolley.
- The PBID will be having an electronic quarterly newsletter beginning the end of June. Those interested can visit www.SANPEDROBID.com to sign up.
- In response to Richard Pawlowski's inquiry, Augie Besmalinovich commented that the Norwegian Star Line is pulling a ship and Royal Caribbean is also pulling the Mariner of the Sea due to economic reasons. This amounts to a loss of 478,000 passengers per year. The good news is that Disney is coming and Royal Caribbean Lines may also be returning at some point. There was a short discussion on how this affects downtown business.
- **Fred Allen, Vice President of the Board of the Grand Vision Foundation:** They are seeking the support of all members of the community for their proposal to run the Warner Grand Theatre. It is in a preliminary planning phase right now.
- **Pat Carroll:** Reminded the Board that we are publishing a newsletter and it will be out before the election. Copy deadline is tomorrow.

Rancho Residents Advisory Council (RCAA) Tenant/Management issues: Veronica Mendoza from Resident Services talked about their concerns:

- There are 469 units and each tenant pays \$15 per unit for resident services. The Housing Authority told them that \$4,600 is allocated each year to run the RCAA, but according to Veronica, the numbers don't match up. She has been trying to find out where the money is going and how it is spent, but the Housing Authority has not adequately answered their questions. This is public information and it should be available for everyone to see.
- Board members gave their input but overall it was determined that more information was needed on how HACLA operates.
- Andrew Silber suggested the Council and Mayor's Offices talk to the Housing Department to explain these matters.
- Carrie Scoville said that this is a City issue.
- Kara commented that the Building and Safety Dept. might be able to assist with the office space issue.
- Ricardo Hong of the Mayor's Office agreed to work with Veronica from Rancho San Pedro to resolve the issues which will include contacting HACLA. He will report back to the Board next month. Board Member JR Perez will assist on behalf of the Central San Pedro NC. He also offered assistance with getting the youth at the housing development into a baseball program.

John Gridwell with Gambol Industries:

- John Gridwell gave background on the project being proposed by Gambol Industries. They are looking at reactivating the shipyard and making it a modern green facility for boat repair and new construction for yachts and commercial vessels. Owners currently have to travel very far to get their vessels worked on. He is pleased with the reduction in crime in San Pedro and what the Port is doing to improve the waterfront and feels this will bring more commerce to the proposed shipyard.
- Gambol Industries spoke to the Mayor and reported that he stands in support of both the Gambol project and the channel deepening. Gambol has no intentions of interrupting projects that impact China Shipping and Trapac.
- On May 18, 8:30 am at the BOHC meeting, the Port will have a number of things to say about Gambol. There will be a lot of information presented and both sides should be heard. Gambol is passionate about their project and feels that it can be accomplished.
- Comments:

- Andrew Silber commented that Councilwoman Hahn is on record supporting a shipyard rather than it being just a landfill and asked for an update. John Gridwell stated that the Councilwoman's Office continues to support the both the project and the channel deepening.
- Pat Carroll commented that one of the objections was that the spoil from the channel deepening was to be placed in the proposed Gambol site. Gambol responded that they feel that there is room for both. They are asking the Port to work with them.
- **Andrew Silber made a motion that (1) the Central SPNC write a letter to the Board of Harbor Commissioners stating that we support the Mayor of Los Angeles' priority to create jobs in Los Angeles by facilitating Gambol Industries project and instructing Port management to facilitate the construction of Gambol Industries new southwest shipyard; and (2) to authorize Andrew Silber or someone else from the Board to attend the May 18th meeting and read this letter into the record. The motion was seconded by Carrie Scoville and passed with 13 yes votes, 0 no votes**
- Carrie Scoville asked if Gambol would be retaining the Long Beach boat yard. Gambol responded that the Long Beach boat yard would be primarily utilized for vessels 72 feet and below so that they can support boat owners who may need a place to work and have a small "Do It Yourself" facility
- Kara McLeod asked if the Port of Long Beach is supportive. Gambol responded that they are on private property in Long Beach and although Long Beach would like them to expand, but they just don't have what Gambol needs at that location.
- Art Almeida made comments about the scaling of boats.

Warner Grand rehabilitation: Liz Schindler-Johnson was not in attendance; therefore, Sue Castillo provided information on the subject.

- In their 5-Year Plan, the CRA had \$3,175,000 for Warner Grand improvements which would include restoration of the interior, as well as exterior painting of the theater. After the budget process was created, they did not spend very much of the monies. It is reported that they have only spent \$100,000 of these allocated monies.
- The City is putting together an RFP for a leaseholder for the theater. This would be a private operator. They are not going to sell off the property at this time.
- Fred commented on the many repairs and equipment that is needed at the theater.
- Kara McLeod stressed how important it is that the theater stay open, especially with the momentum that has been built by Relevant Stage and others.
- Since very little information is known and no representative was available at the meeting, Andrew suggested that we ask the Department of Cultural Affairs to come to our next meeting to explain everything to us before we consider taking any action as a Board.

Request for POLA to reconsider funding the Hey Rookie Pool Rehabilitation subsequent to School District Decision to build new public pool nearby.

- Carrie Scoville recused herself from the discussion.
- Sue Castillo talked about the process that brought about the proposal. This is a historic cultural monument and it is estimated that it will cost \$7 million to rehabilitate it. She feels the community needs to question the process and its results.
- Art Almeida commented that he doesn't understand why anyone would have any interest in attending that pool because it is not a practical place to have a pool.
- Sue asked if the decision to build the pool has been "cast in concrete". Augie commented on the final projects were under consideration by the BOHC. The final recommendation was to go forward with the Hey Rookie pool and not the nexus study. The BOHC passed it but it is now in arbitration and nothing can be decided until the arbitration is completed. Augie states the project is more than just a pool and includes landscaping and other structures.
- Stakeholder Armando Ortiz commented on how important the pool was to the youth in that area at the time it was open. He supports the project.

- The board voted to support sending a contingent of CSPNC boardmembers to talk to Geraldine Knatz to obtain more information.

Committee Reports:

- **Port Community Advisory Committee Report:** Carrie Scoville reported on the following:
 - Elections for PCAC officers will be in June, with nominations in May. Carrie will be chairing the meeting and overseeing the elections.
 - At the next meeting there will be a presentation by the Coast Guard related to Port Security as well as updates from chairs on the San Pedro Waterfront Plan including the red car line and preferences. There will also be a discussion on the renaming of John Gibson Blvd.
 - The next BOHC meeting is the morning of May 18, and there will be a PCAC meeting in the evening. At the BOHC meeting on the first Thursday in June, the BOHC has agreed to catch up on the PCAC motions. No written report this month.
- **HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) Report.** Julia Parker provided highlights from the written report which was included in the agenda packet. There was an extensive discussion on the Sidewalk Ordinance issue. Board members gave their input. Scott Gray feels that this is not only unfair, but also unconstitutional. Andrew Silber suggested that the Board craft a motion. After additional discussion, the following motion was presented by Sue Castillo and seconded by Andrew Silber. The following motion was presented by Andrew Silber: **The City of Los Angeles is acting irresponsibly and illegally in attempting to delegate responsibility for public sidewalk repair. Repairing and maintaining sidewalks within the public right of way is a core city function of collective interest to all of us and cannot be made the burden of individual property owners.** The motion was passed unanimously by the board and this is to be carried forward to the City Council.
- **Finance Committee Report:**
 - Linda Alexander provided a copy of the US Bank credit card statement requesting that the Board review it and approve it.
 - **Kara McLeod made a motion, seconded Andrew Silber, to approve the statement showing expenditures. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.**
 - The next Finance committee meeting will be scheduled within the next two weeks.
 - There was a short discussion on proposals for funding and whether previously submitted proposals will be revisited.
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- **ACE District Report:** Linda reported that she is the representative and 17 organizations have qualified to be recipients of money from the ACE Board. 27 proposals have come in, the panel was selected yesterday. At the end of June there will be more information on those proposals.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes:

- The following corrections were made to the April 13, 2010 minutes and then unanimously approved by the Board:
 - Page 2, First Line, “send” changed to “sent.”
 - Page 2, Under the heading Port of Los Angeles, third bullet point about the Taste In San Pedro event, the following sentence was added to the record: “Doug Epperhart commented that many Coastal board members and stakeholders were not happy about the Taste in San Pedro returning to Point Fermin Park.”
 - Page 3, 2nd sentence, “Pat Nave told an interesting story about the history of the San Pedro Court House.” The following was added to that sentence, “and that the city agreed to give San Pedro a court house as part of the annexation agreement.”
 - Page 4, third bullet point from top, change Carrie Scoville to “Julia Scoville”.

- The following corrections were made to the April 29, 2010 Special Meeting minutes and then approved by the Board (7 yes votes, 0 no votes)
 - Page 1, last paragraph: After the word feasible, add the following sentence: The Port said that security for the Port Police dock was a concern.
 - Page 2, 1st resolution: Delete the quotation marks around “wildly enthusiastic”.
 - Page 2, 1st resolution: Item #4, replace “developed to” with “developed as”.
 - Page 2, 2nd resolution: Kara McLeod asked that her comment be corrected to reflect more accurately what she had stated. The first bullet point was replaced with the following bullet point. “We need to have a discussion with the community as to whether the red card should be a serious transportation asset, or be a tourist attraction. The existing historic red car line is the last operating red car line and we do not want to lose this.
 - Page 2, 2nd resolution: Add a fourth bullet point to read as follows: “There was extensive discussion about how a separate downtown loop would be added to the red car system.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristina Smith, Administrative Assistant to the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council