



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Tuesday, October 12, 2010 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5th St, San Pedro, Calif.

Call to Order & Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. The following board members were present: Julia Parker, Kali Merideth, Phill Trigas, Pat Carroll, Frank Anderson, Linda Alexander, Scott Gray, Kara McLeod, Art Almeida, Bill Roberson, Sue Castillo, Carrie Scoville, and J.R. Perez. Absent: James Allen, Alan Ramirez (excused), and Andrew Silber (excused). Approximately 14 stakeholders and guests present.

President's Report: President Linda Alexander thanked the stakeholders for attending. She commented on the following:

- The Neighborhood Council board members are required to complete ethics training. There is a high degree of pressure from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to have 100% compliance.
- Linda Alexander and J.R. Perez have spent some time getting acquainted with the managers of the Rancho San Pedro Housing complex. The management has finally secured a large flat screen TV for the social hall and are now looking for a DVD Player. If you would like to donate a DVD player, please contact them.
- Special thank you to Rafaello's on Pacific and 4th which provided the food for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting: Board members reviewed the September 14, 2010 minutes. Pat Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Frank Anderson and unanimously approved by the Board.

Appointment of new member to Board: Harvey Contreras and Allyson Vought gave short candidate statements. . Scott Gray handed out ballots and all board members were asked to vote for one of the candidates. While the ballots were being counted, President Linda Alexander talked about the various committees that stakeholders can participate in to become familiar with the neighborhood council. She also read a letter from former Board Member Phillip Strout who recently resigned due to health issues and having to move out of the area. After a count of the ballots by Kristina Smith and Bob Gelfand, Harvey Contreras was congratulated as the newest board member. He will be seated at the meeting in November.

Reports from Public Officials:

Mayor's Office: Ricardo Hong reported on the following:

- Mayor's Budget Day this Saturday, Oct. 16th. Ricardo talked about the Budget Representatives. There are 69 neighborhood councils signed up for the event, they hope all 90 will be represented. There are 14 from the Harbor Area and two are chosen from that group to meet with the Mayor.
- Thanks to the implementation of the Summer Night Lights program two years ago (violence reduction program), the Mayor's office estimates a 48% reduction in aggravated assaults, 40% reduction in gang related crimes; 57% reduction in homicides, 55% reduction in shots fired; and 45% reduction in victims being shot. In addition, 380,000 meals were served.

- The Mayor was in Washington DC and met with President Obama to talk about our city's infrastructure issues, traffic issues etc. The Mayor presented his 30-10 initiative to the President. Ricardo read a letter that the Mayor received from the President. The Mayor is attempting to get the Federal Government to allocate the funds sooner rather than later. These are funds collected through the new Los Angeles city sales tax increase.
- Ricardo is going to be serving part time as a Special Assistant to the Mayor. He commented that on occasion he may not be able to attend CSPNC meetings. He was asked to have someone from the Mayor's office attend to fill in for him during any such absences.
- Art Almeida asked a question about a recent article in the paper regarding Zoning Codes. He would like to have someone from the Planning Department come to our meeting to explain the ordinances. Sue Castillo suggested the City Planner come to the Land Use Planning Committee meeting. Kara McLeod commented that several red flags have been raised and we would like to weigh in as early as possible. We need an explanation of these eight proposed ordinances. Ana Dragin stated that the Councilwoman's Office has a planning deputy who can attend our planning meeting. Sue Castillo will contact Ana to arrange it.

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

- She thanked Linda Alexander, Carrie Scoville, and the other board members who attended the City Council's Trade, Commerce, and Tourism Committee meeting. The Committee recommended approval of the appointments of David Arian and Robin Kramer to the two vacant seats on the Harbor Commission and the City Council will vote on them.
- Waste water flyers. There has been a recent issue with RVs dumping waste onto the streets. In response to this problem, the Sanitation Department is offering waste water drop off for RVs owned by residents of Los Angeles. The RV Waste Dumping Facility is located at the Sanitation Harbor District Yard, 1400 North Gaffey Street in San Pedro. Services are available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9 a.m to 1 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Kara McLeod asked for additional outreach to inform people of this service.
- Storm drains are being inspected to be sure the rains don't cause the flooding that occurred during the last heavy rainstorms.
- Councilwoman Hahn will be speaking at the Downtown Merchants Meeting on Nov. 4, held at the Grand Vision Foundation 9 a.m.
- The Housing Authority held a meeting with residents of the Rancho San Pedro Housing project in response to rumors that they were going to be moved. Although some of the housing developments are being switched to Section 8, Rancho is not in these plans. There is no plan to move the residents at least for the next year.

L.A.P.D.: Officer Maligi Nua reported on the following:

- The crime stats are pretty much the same as last month. The Southwest area of San Pedro is still experiencing a lot of property crimes. Efforts by the LAPD to resolve these issues include extra patrols and increased checking on parolees, especially those in half way homes. Sixteen probation checks have been conducted which has led to some felony arrests for probation violations.
- There was an extensive discussion about downtown problems and the solutions.
- Kara asked about a gang injunction. Officer Nua said it is still on the table.
- Illegal vending task force confiscated several illegal carts two weeks ago.
- Upcoming Health and Safety Fair is scheduled for Oct 23rd at the Target store area in San Pedro. The CHP and LAPD officers will be conducting safety seat checks to teach parents the proper way to install the child car seats.
- Julia asked about Harbor Jail not being used. Officer Nua responded that the captains are trying to do what they can, but it all comes down to budget cuts.

Port of Los Angeles: Augie Bezmalinovich reported on the following:

- San Pedro Downtown Harbor Presentation was held Sept. 16. It can be viewed on the internet. CDs are also available. They hope to complete the design by next summer and then there will be a six-month bid process.
- Lobster Fest was a great success. Approximately 45,000 attended over the weekend.
- Happy Harbor Halloween event takes place Saturday, October 20, 2010, 12 noon -3 .pm, along the Promenade, North of the Fire Station by the Maritime Museum. The event will include arts & crafts, giveaways, games, and free parking.
- Sampson Way kick off meeting will be held on November 18th at POLA High School 6-8 p.m. There will be discussion on the design. Plaza Park will be part of that project.
- Waterfront Update: The Port has put out an RFQ for Berth 87. They hope to get an event planner to plan some events so that developers can see the potential for re-developing the Ports O' Call area. They liked the events like Cars and Stripes.
- They have put out an RFP for Marina Operator for the new Cabrillo Way Marina. It is still on schedule to be completed by August 2011.
- Two new Harbor Commissioners have been chosen and will be approved by the full city council.
- The Board Room was packed at the recent Oct 7th presentation on the USS IOWA. Everyone was positive about bringing the USS IOWA to San Pedro. The Harbor Commissioners were very welcoming and are working with Robert Kent. A financial analysis is ongoing. The Port has an independent consultant taking a look at it. Kara McLeod asked if a berth spot has been chosen and Augie responded that Director Knatz has asked the departments to find a berth spot. Three locations were identified by Robert Kent. They are going to look at more spots than that.
- The Angelina tour boat will be going through an overhaul project. (Spirit cruises will take over the tours in the meantime.)
- The Catalina Express Terminal will have changes when China Shipping comes in. The Pavilion building may be taken over. (The building located right under the bridge).
- There will be abatement and demolition work at the south side of Ports O' Call, south side. The current lease holder, Jamie Wilson, is in agreement with it. The area will be temporarily replaced with landscaping.
- Sue Castillo asked about the RFP for Ports O' Call. Augie responded that they wanted to get the RFP out by the 1st of the year. At the November 4th meeting they hope to make a decision. Sue was wondering if the community is going to be able to give input.
- Carrie Scoville asked about restrooms on the promenade. Thanked the Port that they are being converted into real restrooms. Carrie also commented on RV and boat parking under bridge by the power station. She would like to know more information about that area and Augie will drive by and find out.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Bob Gelfand: Bob gave an update on the Bylaws Task Force which was created to hold off a power play from DONE and BONC. He gave a brief explanation of the proposed bylaws format.
- Pat Carroll: Announced that the Grand Vision Foundation is sponsoring a series of nine films, one per month. These are documentary films and a panel discussion will be included. A flyer was distributed provided the film titles and a brief description.
- Lt. Chris Carroll: He is with the Harbor Animal Shelter and is hoping to work on having a relationship between Animal Services and the neighborhood councils. He responded to a question about sewer raccoons.

- Ray Buffer: Announced the upcoming production at the Relevant Stage Theater Company. Starting November 11, they will have eight public performances of “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” live on stage. The Nov. 11 performance will be free to vets and seniors over 65. The production is open to the public starting Nov. 12. www.relevantstage.com for more info.
- Caroline Brady-Sinco: Commented on Harbor Interfaith Services and the demolition of the old center at 9th and Gaffey. A new family resource center is soon to be under construction.

Welcome and Congratulations to new Harbor Commission David Arian: Mr. Arian was not able to attend our meeting. Scott Gray talked about the recent meeting where there very positive comments on the two appointees. (David Arian and Robin Kramer). Scott read his statement which he presented at the meeting held earlier in the day.

Councilwoman Hahn, members of the committee,

My name is Scott Gray. I am a founder of the Harbor area’s Maritime Research Center and Nautical Shop and president of the San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau, president of the 7th Street Village Merchants Association, and a board member of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council. Today I represent myself as a proud, but concerned, member of the Harbor community.

Thank you for coming here today and giving an opportunity to the people most affected by these Harbor Commission appointments to be heard on our concerns and real life experiences.

This is a most critical time for the Port. We stand at the beginning of the \$1.2 billion waterfront improvement project. We have the possibility of bringing the USS Iowa here as a tourist attraction. We have the opportunity for Gambol Industries to reopen the abandoned Southwest Marine site and create real, long-term jobs.

But to successfully accomplish these and other good things we need commissioners with vision and the courage to act on that vision.

We need commissioners who recognize that containers will likely not continue to be some kind of bounty from a proverbial golden economic goose.

We need commissioners who will understand that no single project will, like magic, give the Harbor area jobs or visitors, but that taken as a whole they will help build a solid future for our residents.

We need commissioners who recognize that projects like the shipyard and tourism are essential to our future.

We need commissioners who will insist on steady progress on the waterfront improvement; who will ease the way for the Iowa to find a home in Wilmington or San Pedro to provide world class attractions for visitors.

We need commissioners who will support tourism and our convention bureau as a key element of the Harbor area’s economic engine in the future so that we can effectively market the renewed and reinvigorated community that will result from these great projects.

Most of all, we need commissioners who recognize that the Port of Los Angeles is a guest of the people of the Harbor area. We need commissioners who will honor the people of Wilmington and San Pedro as the gracious hosts we have been and ensure that in the future the Port is the best guest it can possibly be.

I am confident that these two candidates fit these conditions.

Plaza Park Improvements Update:

- Frank O’Brien gave background information on Plaza Park which is the green belt area from 7th to 13th Street between Beacon/Harbor Blvd. It is owned by the City of Los Angeles and is currently in a state of disrepair. The Port through China Shipping mitigation received \$5 million for upgrading. They hope to do the improvements in phases, addressing the bluff top first and then the Harbor Blvd level after the Sampson Way configuration is resolved. Frank urges everyone to stay involved. On the 18th of November there is a workshop and that will be the time to give input and see alternatives.
- Kara McLeod, a resident adjacent to the area, explained that she is concerned with erosion if nothing is done soon. Mr. O’Brien feels the real solution to the erosion problem is structural engineering and that takes planning. He feels that the real problem is the bluff top. He feels it will probably take six months to do all the final engineering and three to four months for bidding, which means that it will be a year before construction starts.

- Sue Castillo asked if there were any issues that should be addressed at a committee level before the Nov. 18th meeting. He felt that the Central SPNC should attend that meeting and recommend an option.
- Scott Gray feels that the Port is looking to us to give strong opinions.

Change in Agenda order: The board agreed to move Item #9 related to recommendations from the Bylaws Committee and address it after the Finance Committee report.

Front Street Issue:

- Sue Castillo gave an overview of the issue for the benefit of stakeholders in attendance. She explained that our neighborhood council has not had a chance to participate in the intermediate levels of planning. She presented a resolution as follows: *CSPNC has requested participation in the planning of Front Street pedestrian, bike bath and landscaping improvements for several months, without response from POLA. CSPNC formally requests that our board and stakeholders be given the opportunity to meet with POLA planning staff to discuss the relevant issues before a formal plan is presented to the community.*
- Port Representative Augie Bezmalinovich took issue with the wording of the resolution and referred to previous minutes of the CSPNC documenting that he had reported on this matter as requested. He asked that the first sentence of the resolution be stricken because it is inaccurate in that the CSPNC has never specifically requested participation in the planning. He read the following paragraph which relates to the Front Street Project: *The Front Street Beautification project is currently in the planning phase. Port staff is investigating feasible options for improvements in the area. In addition to conflicts with existing rail and utilities, there are severe grading and drainage issues in the proposed area of improvement that are being studied in order to develop a viable, long-term solution. At this point, the project scope is still undetermined and will depend heavily on the results from our feasibility study. The minimum mitigation requirement for China Shipping is 5' of landscape along the property line. However, we would like to include, if possible, a pedestrian connection to the existing sidewalks on the northern and southern boundaries of the project limits.*
- Sue Castillo stressed the importance of the CSPNC being able to participate in the planning process and this was the main reason for the resolution.
- Kara McLeod agreed with Augie that we never formally asked for participation.
- Pat Carroll made a motion that we strike the first sentence of the resolution as presented and retain the second sentence. The motion was seconded by Kara McLeod. However during short discussion, Pat Carroll withdrew her motion. Pat Carroll then made a new motion that was seconded by Julia Parker with the following wording: **The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council requests that our Board and Stakeholders be given the opportunity to meet with POLA Planning Staff to discuss the planning of Front Street. The motion passed with 12 yes votes, 0 no votes.**

Finance Committee Report:

- It was determined that the action item on the agenda related to reallocation of funds in the Budget (from newsletter to community improvement projects) was not necessary at this time.
- Proposals for funding. Linda Alexander went over the proposals that were reviewed by the Finance Committee and reported on the committee's recommendations. Kara McLeod stated that we voted to support youth and the underprivileged so our recommendations are against what we voted in. There was a short discussion on this issue and **a motion was made by Kara McLeod to vote on each recommendation individually. The motion was seconded by Art Almeida and passed with 7 yes votes and 6 no votes.** The following recommendations were passed:
 - **San Pedro Dia de los Muertos Celebration, \$1,000.00, passed by 11 yes, 1 no.**

- **Holiday Celebration at Harbor Interfaith Shelter**, \$1,000.00, passed by 12 yes, 0 no.
- **Building Clean Up, Landscaping, Graffiti Abatement at the Little Fish Theatre**, \$500.00, passed by 8 yes votes, 4 no votes.
- **San Pedro Holiday Parade, San Pedro Chamber**, \$500.00, passed by 9 yes votes, 3 no votes.
- **San Pedro City Ballet, Dance Class at POLA High School**, \$1,000.00, passed by 8 yes votes, 4 no votes.
- Budget Day. Pat Carroll made a motion to approve the appointments of Kali Merideth and Frank Anderson as Budget Representatives for the Mayor's Budget Day. The motion was seconded by Kara McLeod and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- Monthly Expenses. The approval of the September expenses was postponed until the November 9, 2010 meeting.

Board Approval of Bylaws: Scott Gray provided a copy of the bylaws with proposed revisions. He commented that a major change is that the Land Use Planning Committee becomes a standing committee. Scott asked the board members to review the changes and they will be considered for adoption at the November 9, 2010 meeting. Scott asked Board members to contact him if there were any suggestions.

Port Community Advisory Committee (PCAC) Report: Carrie Scoville reported on highlights from her written report which is available on the Central San Pedro NC website. She stated that at the next PCAC meeting there will be an announcement from the new Chair, Ken Melendez, who will be asking for ideas from neighborhood councils and other organizations as to what they would like the Mayor to accomplish before the end of his term relating to the harbor. PCAC will then submit a wish list to the Mayor. Our board can give recommendations to Carrie to bring to the PCAC meeting. Carrie also announced an upcoming event at the Carson Civic Center called "Moving Forward Together" which is a nationwide environmental justice conference being held Friday and Saturday, October 22-23, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Other events were listed in the written report.

HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) Report: Julia Parker reported on the last meeting of the HANC where the following was discussed:

- The Valley Alliance of NC's which is thinking of breaking away from DONE. They had asked other NCs to review information, respond to questions and contact the Mayor's Office. The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board did not feel they wanted to participate.
- Zoning code is something we should take some action on.
- The Harbor Area Jail was talked about. They are hiring civilian officers for detention facilities. It was suggested that we write a letter to the councilwoman and have that letter on the agenda for approval next month.

Outreach Committee: Pat Carroll reported on the following:

- She attended the Northwest San Pedro NC meeting the prior day where a report was presented on the dangers of the butane tanks on North Gaffey. (Bill Roberson asked that this issue be placed on the agenda for next month.)
- She thanked Mark Contreras, Harvey Contreras, Linda Alexander, and Carrie Scoville for contributions to the newsletter. Art Almeida was also recognized for his contribution to the Bandini Arroyo article.
- The next Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday Oct. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Think Café. The agenda will include discussion on the banner, changes related to the website and adding a new domain name, distribution of the newsletter, and the planning of a community outreach event.
- There will be a community rally opposing the butane tanks held on Oct. 30.

Land Use Planning Committee: Sue Castillo explained the action item on the agenda which resulted in Pat Carroll making the following motion which was seconded by J.R. Perez: **Be it so moved that the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council expand the purview of the Land Use Planning Committee to take up miscellaneous Public Works and Transportation issues as they may arise, until such a time that a separate committee might be established. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.** The next Land Use Planning Committee Meeting was announced.

CRA Report: Sue Castillo explained that the CRA CAC did not meet this month as there was no quorum. Therefore, there was nothing new to report.

ACE District Report: Nothing new to report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

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