



# THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Tuesday, Sept 14, 2010 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St, San Pedro, Calif.

**Call to Order & Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Linda Alexander. The new board members were welcomed. Roll Call was taken. The following board members were present: Linda Alexander, James Allen, Art Almeida, Pat Carroll, Sue Castillo, Scott Gray, Kara McLeod (arrived at 8:14pm), Kali Merideth, J.R. Perez (arrived at 7:08pm); Alan Ramirez, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville, Andrew Silber and Phill Trigas. Absent: Frank Anderson and Julia Parker. Approximately 40 stakeholders present.

**President's Report:** Linda Alexander made welcoming remarks and commented on the following:

- Announced a change in the agenda (Item 12B, Finance Committee Funding Requests). This item was postponed. There will be a Finance Committee meeting later this month and a new treasurer will be appointed by then.
- Announced Vacant Board Position and Application Process. The notice will be posted this week and an application will be available on the website.

**Approval of Minutes of August 10, 2010 Board and Stakeholder:** James Allen moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Andrew Silber and approved unanimously by the Board.

**Board Appointment of Treasurer to replace Interim Treasurer on the Executive Board.** Pat Carroll nominated Kali Merideth for the position of Treasurer. There were no other nominations and the Board voted unanimously in favor of appointing Kali for the position of Treasurer.

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

**Mayor's Office:** Ricardo Hong provided the following information:

- The Mayor will be in San Pedro tomorrow morning to meet with the General Managers of Crowne Plaza. He also plans to drop by POLA High School and welcome the new students. He then will be attending the Port Tech event at the Double Tree Hotel.
- Two vacancies on the Board of Harbor Commissioners: One position is being filled by Robin Kramer who was former Chief of Staff for Past Mayor Reardon Robin Kramer and also for Chief of Staff for Antonio Villaraigosa. The other opening has a strong push for a choice from San Pedro.
- San Pedro Courthouse issue: Ricardo spoke with Mike Gin and he said that nothing is going to happen for at least another year. The state makes the decision as to whether the courthouse will be closed, not the city. The contact person is Mike Gin who serves as Supervisor Knabe's Field Deputy for San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor-Gateway and the Palos Verdes Peninsula.
- Andrew Silber commented that maybe the Mayor would like to see the filming of the television show "Law and Order Los Angeles" which is being filmed in San Pedro on 7<sup>th</sup> Street the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Council District 15:** Ana Dragin from Councilwoman Hahn's office reported on the following:

- The Councilwoman is urging the Mayor to choose a Harbor Commissioner from the San Pedro community with labor relations.
- The stop sign requested by stakeholder Armando Ortiz has been installed (O'Farrell & Centre). Armando reported that the residents of that community are very happy that this safety issue was

addressed with the help of the Councilwoman's office. Ana commented that the DOT is cutting back on services.

- Community Cleanup scheduled for Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12noon. It is being organized by "Clean San Pedro" and involves the cleanup of the Pacific Avenue corridor. Other non profits will be getting involved.
- Construction on Gaffey Street. Crews are currently doing reconstruction of ADA curbs.
- Announced the Grand Opening event of the new offices of ILWU Local 13 at 6<sup>th</sup> and Centre. The event is Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> with food and fun activities throughout the day including a ribbon cutting ceremony at 3:00.
- Art Almeida was surprised that the Chamber of Commerce was involved with this labor related event. James Allen clarified that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and California Chamber of Commerce, and other national Chambers are all funded by large corporations. However, the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce is not affiliated with those and is opposed to many of the initiatives of the other Chambers. The ILWU has an important impact on our downtown and our San Pedro Chamber of Commerce welcomes them.
- Bill Roberson asked Ana about the dangers of gas lines in our community in view of what happened in San Bruno. He wondered if public officials know where all the underground pipelines are located. Ana commented that Councilman Rosendahl has brought the issue up at the City Council. The city Engineering Department has a map of all the underground utilities in the Harbor Area. Ana offered to email Bill the information.

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

- Provided crime updates. Violent crime is 15% down from last year. Burglaries and GTA's (Grand Theft Auto) are down 7.4% in the downtown San Pedro area from August 5 to September 11. There were 15 robberies in all of Harbor Division; 2 of those were in downtown San Pedro. There were a total of 64 burglaries reported in Harbor area, with 5 of those in downtown San Pedro. There were 74 GTA's reported in Harbor area, downtown San Pedro had 4.
- Some of the issues are traditional issues with property crimes and theft from motor vehicles. Strategies are being used to combat the problems. Curfew and truancy task forces will be deployed in order to show more police presence.
- Massage parlor issue: Things are on mark for enforcement. They are at the second stage of their plan and it is working.
- Phill Trigas asked about a big brawl in front of the Centre Street lofts and what PBID and LAPD can do to mediate the issues that happen after 2am on the weekends when the bars close. Officer Nua will request more visibility at 2am.

**P.B.I.D.** Executive Director, Steve Robbins, reported on the following:

- Public Safety questions: In June, the PBIC extended the hours till 2am for the security force on Fridays and Saturdays. This was for a 90-day period. They patrol and hang out in front of the trouble spots. There were no incidents to report during that period but things happened after they left at 2pm. They are also considering adding hours on First Thursdays.
- Lunch discount program. Merchants will be asked to participate to offers a discount. Ads and coupons will be placed in the Best Buy Harbor Area Booklet.
- Demonstration projects on First Thursdays: Lamps will be placed as a demonstration.
- Cruise terminal. The PBID will set up 4 locations inside the cruise terminals to pass out information to passengers and crew members. They are working with Disney to have a welcome to Disney event (a taste of San Pedro where restaurants and merchants can showcase themselves inside the cruise terminal)
- The "Branding Program" will begin on the week of October 11. Stakeholders and community leaders will be invited to meet with the branding company to give them an impression of what is appropriate for San Pedro.
- PBID made a donation for Dias de Matras for permit fees (\$3500) to cover the city fees.

- Trolley: Final interviews have been conducted for the trolley. It will run 3 days a week, 8 hours a day, Friday, Saturday & Sunday OR Thursday, Friday, Saturday.
- Andrew Silber thanked the PBID for the security detail which has helped reduced crime in the downtown area; and also for restoring the lights.
- Sue Castillo asked about the furniture. Steve reported that it is in town being kept in a warehouse. The final documents have been signed and now the city has to sign it off, then the installation will happen in a few weeks.

**Port of Los Angeles:** Augie Bezmalinovich reported on:

- BOHC. The meeting scheduled for September 16 was cancelled and rescheduled for Monday, September 27 at 1pm. At that meeting the TRAPAC MOU will be discussed.
- October 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am will be the following meeting at the POLA Admin Bldg with a special presentation on the USS Iowa.
- Port Tech LA is tomorrow.
- Downtown presentation is next Thursday. 6:30-8pm.
- Lobster fest this weekend.
- Sampson Way kickoff meeting will be Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at POLA High from 6-8pm. Sue Castillo asked about neighborhood council input on the Front Street project. Augie responded that he has spoken with the harbor engineer and the issue has now gone to the civil group. Curbs and gutters are being looked into. It is going through the Civil Process.
- Andrew thinks it is a shame that for lack of a quorum the BOHC has slowed so much work down. Andrew would like Augie to talk to them.
- James Allen asked about the Downtown Harbor Project and what the Port is doing in terms of public art. He would like to see public input before they choose public art. Augie suggested that James attend the Thursday meeting.

**Public Comment:**

- **Shawn Marsh and Daniel Contreras:** POLA High School students who talked about getting the bus stop back in front of the POLA High School. They are very unhappy with the relocation of the Metro 257 bus stop. (JR Perez asked for clarification on the location. The response was that the bus stops are currently at Beacon & 7<sup>th</sup> and Pacific & 7<sup>th</sup>).
- **Robert Garth:** Business owner on the southwest corner of 7<sup>th</sup>. He talked about the bus stop being removed from 7<sup>th</sup> and Center. They would like to try and get it back.
- **Gordon Tueber:** Reported that the Council office got requests to remove the bus stop (Dash and MTA). The Dash changed its route and the MTA deleted the stop. He doesn't think MTA will bring it back
- **Katherine Gray:** The Kiwanis group currently has a special where it costs only \$10 to join. They meet every Wednesday at 10am at The Whale and Ale. She hopes members of the community will consider joining. Their activities include a toy drive.
- **Rebecca Trani:** Also commented on the bus stop issue. The bus stop was there for 30 years. If exhaust fumes are the issue, then perhaps the stop could be put in front of Liberty. Gordon Tueber responded that the bus stop is not coming back. They tried to move it but it cannot be legally put there. MTA moved it for many other reasons also. He stressed that there are bus stops at PV and 7<sup>th</sup>, Mesa and 7<sup>th</sup>, Pacific and 7<sup>th</sup> street, as well as Grand and 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **Pat Carroll:** Spoke on behalf of the Grand Vision Foundation. They are proud to announce the upcoming "Community Cinema" which will be presenting a year-long documentary series once a month. It will be on the big screen at the Warner Grand on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month (except Dec and Jan). The first film, "Reel Engine" is Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and will include a panel discussion. San Pedro High School is involved. Jack Baric moderates the first couple of films.

- **Bianca Villeneuve** from Assemblywoman Lowenthal's office: She commented that there is nothing to report on the budget but wanted to invite everyone to the Car Seat Safety Check being held September 25 at Target in San Pedro. There is a CHP and Dept of Traffic Safety Check to assist parents in the proper installation of car seats. She also provided handouts on an article involving AB2098. Sue Castillo asked Bianca to follow up with the Assemblywoman on the issue of the Court House in light of it being on a state level.
- **Rebecca Trani**: Talked about the need for a filming liaison in town because of problems with businesses and filming crews. Linda Alexander informed Rebecca that she is a filming liaison for the Chamber. Ana Dragin commented that many of the businesses are having issues and Terry McKinnon in the Council office will be assisting with these issues.
- **Allyson Vought**: Resident who lives in the old News Pilot building. She would like to see the tables and chairs back on the sidewalks. She also felt that owners of unrented buildings should be asked to help clean up. She is pleased with what she sees happening in downtown San Pedro. Sue Castillo referred Allyson to the CAC meetings.
- **Irene Mendoza**, Board member of San Pedro Chamber of Commerce: She is making a request for sponsorship from all the NC's in San Pedro for the San Pedro Holiday Parade which will be held Sunday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a very special event because it is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parade. The focus will be on the youth of the community. The parade will feature sports teams, bands, sports and youth organizations, elected officials of San Pedro, LAPD, Fire dept. etc. They hope that Central San Pedro will support it. The parade route is 15<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street on Pacific with bands at two locations. It is a free event for families of our community. Irene publicly thanked Ana Dragin for her assistance in getting departments together to help them with the budget.
- **Daniel Homer**: Senior at POLA High School. He commented on the bus schedule as a whole. He would like to see a better bus schedule. Linda Alexander asked Alan Ramirez if he would be willing to take on this issue to help the students and he agreed.
- **Slobodan Dimitrov**: He informed the neighborhood council that he created the mural at 255 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. He publicly thanked James Allen for his support on the project. The mural has some lighting deficiencies and he has applied for a support grant to get solar lights but it did not come through. He would like to see the mural better lit at night.
- **Bob Gelfand**: Commented on the citywide bylaws task force invited to create itself by the BONC. The City is potentially requiring NC's to take their bylaws and rewrite them in a different order requesting voluntary compliance. September 25<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting where it will be discussed. Bob also talked about his role as the Cultural Committee Chair for the Coastal NC and an email he recently received from the Relevant Stage Director who is concerned about the future of the Warner Grand. He feels there should be a San Pedro wide meeting of everyone to discuss the issue of the Warner Grand (as they did in 2002). He also announced a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event of Republic Pictures planned for Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> of September in the Valley. It is a free event put on by a neighborhood council.
- **Marcie Miller**: She is the Communications Chair for the Coastal SPNC and also Daniel Homer's mother (student who made a public comment). She also commented on the bus issues. She has been complaining about the bus problems for 4 years. She is outraged that any decisions were made about buses without talking to the families. She would like the neighborhood council to be supportive of something that would help the 800 kids of POLA High School.
- **Alan Ramirez** talked about the JSA Government program for students. He would like to start such a program at POLA High School. More information on the program can be found at [www.JSA.org](http://www.JSA.org).

**Presentation by Port of Los Angeles Director:** Executive Director, Geraldine Knatz, updated the community on the following:

- Annenberg Foundation Grant for the Marine Research Institute: The Port has put in their application and has learned that the Foundation is not accepting any other application at this time, so the odds for a grant being awarded is good.
- TRAPAC MOU: Dr. Knatz provided information on the implementing of the TRAPAC MOU that was negotiated to settle an appeal on the EIR. It was negotiated with 15 parties called “the appellants.” In the MOU they established a Community Benefit Fund with a goal that as the port grows, the money in the fund would grow. She sees this as an opportunity to create a more lasting and perpetual fund because this fund would accrue interest. TRAPAC set up a formula for this. With the interest they can manage the projects and get things done. There will be a meeting on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm where the BOHC will discuss this further. Several neighborhood councils have sent letters and want to be part of the process but they can’t allow other parties into the legal settlement process. However, the Port does want the feedback of the NC’s. Once the fund is created they want organizations to come forth and apply for the monies. The money would be controlled by a 7-member board. The members of the board would be determined by the following: The Trapac Appellants would nominate someone from San Pedro and someone from Wilmington (from the 15 appellants), there would also be someone chosen by the Mayor’s Office, Council District 15, Tech School of Medicine working with the TRAPAC Appellants, the Port, the County Department of Health, and UCLA. There will be \$15 million in the fund, \$6 million has been pledged for air filtration in Wilmington Schools. The remainder can be applied for if applicants meet the guidelines. They are working closely with State lands. Dr. Knatz suggested that the neighborhood council board member come to board meeting and give input and/or write letters.
- Comments from stakeholders about the Top Sail Program and City Dock One.
- NOAH research vessels. NOAH people came down and were impressed with the possibilities available at the Port of Los Angeles.
- Bob Gelfand wondered why the NC’s couldn’t appoint a member to the 7-person board. Geraldine thinks the NC’s could be very involved in making recommendations on who the appointees are.
- Bill Roberson commented about the discussion involving TRAPAC being behind closed doors. Dr. Knatz responded that this is the reason it was brought to the Board and is now being negotiated in public.
- Doug Epperhart asked if the ultimate decision maker is the BOHC. Can others making proposals (not accepted by the 7-member board or perhaps not put through the process) come to the BOHC at the point the board makes their recommendations? Geraldine answered that the BOHC could possibly change their minds. She doesn’t know until she sees the guidelines.
- Kara McLeod recognized Bob Gelfand’s concern and commented that our community does not feel that we get our fair share of representation.
- Bob Gelfand also made comments related to the Research Center and the desire of preserving the history and past heritage of our area. Geraldine responded that the whole area is historical and a lot of the history is being integrated within the waterfront plan.
- Linda suggested that at our next agenda setting meeting we can consider ways to bring feed back in and find a way to funnel the ideas of the community.

**ILWU Local 13: Request for Support on Issue of re-hiring workers laid off by Tesoro Refinery.** D.C. Chavez from Local 13 talked about the injustice to refinery workers. They are asking the Central SLPNC board and the community to write to Tesoro and get these workers back. He hopes to keep the pressure on them until all 31 laid off workers are brought back. Art Almeida commented that our NC should support Local 13 along with the Chamber who is throwing the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new office of ILWU Local 13. JR commented that the Local 13 workers also support the community. **J.R. Perez made a motion that the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council send a letter to Tesoro outlining our resolution as follows: “The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council would like Tesoro to reconsider its decision to hire the subcontractor “Savage” and/or we would like Tesoro to require any subcontractor, including the existing one, to place value on employing an experienced workforce and rehire all the laid-off workers from our**

community.” The motion was seconded by Art Almeida and passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The board requested that a copy of the letter to go to Tesoro, Local 13 and Savage.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion on Issue of Sidewalk Dining:** The City of Los Angeles does not allow sidewalk dining. Kara asked if anyone has successfully negotiated the process to get a permit. Grand emporium owner has volunteered to go through the process and see how it works. Gordon is going to the CRA, PBID and ACE District to contribute funds for a slush fund to help these business gain these permits. Sue suggested that they all be reviewed together and pay the permits separately. Kara asked if as part of the new furniture plan etc. Phill also brought up the issue of parking when seating is added. A number of people in town are working on this issue.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Presentation of Proposed Changes to Central SPNC Bylaws and possible Board vote.** Suggestions came out of the bylaws committee meeting. Scott went through the major sections that had changes. Major change vacant board seats. Establish a nominating committee once a seat becomes vacant. They would open up the nominations and recruit. Some old wording was revised. Motion by Pat Carrol that we accept the changes proposed by the bylaws committee, seconded by kara McLeod. Most board member felt we should put this over to the next meeting because they had not had time to review them. Motion was withdrawn. Art made a motion to postpone the approval of the buylaws until next month, Kara seconded the motion. 1 no vote, 11 yes. Motion passed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance Committee**

- Board approval of monthly card expenditures for August: Motion by Andrew Silber seconded by pat that we pass the monthly expenses. Unanious approvals. Kali asked volunteers for finance committee. Andrew, Pat.
- Carrie explained that DONE has a different figure for our rollover. DONE cut off last years fixcal payments before the end of juen no anything after June 22 was for this year. . We lost an additional 877.

**Outreach Committee Report** (Pat Carroll); Monday September 20 6:30 at Think Café. Newsletter articles need to be turned in.

**Downtown San Pedro Merchants:** Law and Order LA is filming this week. Scott commented that the film crew was wonderful to work with, however, Andrew commented that his experience was not good.

**Port Community Advisory Committee (PCAC) (*Action Item*)** Carrie reviewed the PCAC report (also had lasat months). Gave highlights.

**HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils)** Report by Carrie in Julia Parker’s absence. Written report provided, Carrie gave highlights.

**Land Use Planning Committee** (Sue Castillo). Survey, will be put onh website and sent out to email distribution list.

**CRA Report** - Written report.

**ACE District Report** – Linda will talk to James about the slide show that we could show at the next meeting. Shows accomplishments for this year.

**Consent Calendar**

**Reactivation of Liaison to Mayor’s Office to follow up on Central SPNC correspondence.** Andrew doesn’t want the mayor’s office and his staff to ignore our letters and motions. (Removed) Ricardo recommends we work directly with him as the mayor gets too many letters. 1. Letter regarding the courthouse. 2. Feasibility of a Burroughs system.

**Instructions to PCAC Rep on PCAC motions regarding USS IOWA.** (this item passed by unanimous approval)

**Approval of letter to DONE.** (removed from agenda)

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:57pm.

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