



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes- Tuesday, April 12, 2011 Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5th St, San Pedro, Calif.

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call:** In attendance: Linda Alexander, James Preston Allen, Frank Anderson, Pat Carroll, Sue Castillo, Harvey Contreras, Scott Gray, Julia Parker, J. R. Perez, Alan Ramirez, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville, and Andrew Silber. The following members were excused: Art Almeida, Kara McLeod, Kali Merideth, and Alan Ramirez. Absent: Phil Trigas. Approximately 40 stakeholders were in attendance.
2. **Presidents Report:** President Linda Alexander welcomed the public and commented that in addition to public comment, stakeholders are welcome to comment on any items being discussed by the board. She also commented on the following:
 - She participated in the Ride Along program with the Council Office to identify areas needing clean up or other attention.
 - The Ad Hoc Committee for Port related issues had its first meeting.
3. **Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2011 Board and Stakeholder meeting.** Pat Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Julia Parker and passed with 8 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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

4. **Mayor's Office.** Ricardo Hong reported on the following:
 - The Mayor's State of the City address is April 13th at 4:15 p.m. at Jefferson High School and the Mayor will address the subject of education.
 - The Mayor's Day of Service is May 14th. The community can participate in two projects locally in San Pedro: A project at San Pedro High School and a Boys and Girls Club Fun Day with an estimated 100 children.
 - The Mayor will be visiting the Wilmington Park Elementary on April 27th.
 - Regarding the Dodger Stadium beating victim, the attackers are not yet known. If anyone has information on this incident, they are urged to call detective P J Morris at 213-847-4261. Security at the stadium is being increased.
 - Announcement of upcoming summer events in Downtown LA involving skateboarders, bicyclists etc. They will be held in July and August. James Allen asked if we could have the event here in San Pedro. He also commented on the issue of traffic. Since AEG is moving ahead with the building of a football stadium in the Downtown LA area, this will affect the I-110 freeway traffic, which is our main access to city hall. He is opposed to having all our cultural events in such a small concentrated area. Events should be planned in other areas of the city.
5. **Councilwoman's Office:** Gordon Teuber reported on the following:
 - The Councilwoman convened an Evacuation and Emergency Preparedness Meeting on March 31st. This group will meet monthly working towards community outreach and education as it relates to being prepared to respond to an emergency.
 - Councilwoman Hahn has introduced a new Healthy Neighborhoods Program to better serve the constituents. This program involves 1) community ride-alongs with neighborhood council leadership to assess the needs of the neighborhood council area; 2) instituting a monthly

meeting between council staff and neighborhood council leadership to discuss important issues and priorities; and 3) tracking all incoming constituent requests/issues and responding in a timely manner.

- The Target store on N. Gaffey Street at W. Capitol Drive continues to have ground water issues and the council office has sent a letter to CEO of Target asking the company to address and repair the problem.
- The city will be refurbishing the Gaffey Street Pedestrian Bridge and beginning Saturday April 30 through May 7 from 9 p.m.-5 a.m. there will be closures of the area. Refurbishing will include sandblasting, new signs, repairing fencing, etc.

6. **LAPD:** Officer Ron Weaver gave crime statistics for the previous month. He commented on the burglary at Mishi's Strudel Shop and said investigators have a lead on a suspect(s). At future meetings a new map will be presented providing more specific crime statistics for the Central San Pedro area.

7. **PBID:** There was no PBID report; however, copies of the PBID newsletter were available for the stakeholders.

8. **Port of Los Angeles:** Augie Bezmalinovich reported on the following:

- The annual Cars and Stripes event is scheduled for July 1st and this year will include fireworks.
- Summer Concerts at the Fountain will be held every Thursday (except for the first Thursday of the month).
- The Port is working with the Chamber to hold the Taste in San Pedro at the Waterfront.
- Navy Days will be a weeklong event from July 25th through the 30th and they are hoping to have an aircraft carrier in the port as part of the event.
- The Sampson Way presentation was held on March 24th and was well attended.
- Harry Bridges Blvd is closed to east bound traffic for the next few months while construction is being completed.
- The SP Slip and Ghost Fish upgrading project has received 16 bids. Once a bid is chosen, construction will begin.
- Scott Gray commented on the recent cruise terminal gangway problem and also asked Augie to inform the Port Police about the issue of cab drivers from out of town driving too aggressively in the area of the cruise terminal.

9. **Public Comment**

- Shannon Podzimek commented on the possibility of putting a non-profit women's shelter at the vacant city building at Oliver and Mesa.
- Michael Gatanz of People's Yoga, Health & Dance announced its first anniversary celebration scheduled for this Saturday. The first three months of this year have been its best yet.
- The Hawkins family commented on problems they have been having with the U.S. Post Office with regards to their pet dog. The post office has refused to deliver mail to their entire block which has resulted in retaliation from neighbors. They are hoping that the neighborhood council can assist them in getting this problem resolved. Andrew Silber suggested having a meeting with the postmaster.
- Carrie Scoville announced an upcoming meeting of the Citizens Redistricting Commission which will meet from 6-9 p.m. on April 27th. It will take public input and come up with a draft map for the legislative district. The meeting will be held at the Long Beach City Council Chambers, 333 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach.

10. **Land Use Planning Committee:** Sue Castillo gave background on the Sampson Way design issue.

Key points that the Committee discussed were:

- Minimizing the size of the intersection and concerns about the retaining wall which is 15 feet high. The Committee hopes that details of the wall can be reviewed by the Port. The wall could have negative impact and the Committee would like to turn it into something positive.
- There are also concerns that the sidewalk in front of city hall as planned is not wide enough and that the solar farm proposed for the top of the parking structure could also have negative impact.
- James Allen commented that one key issue overlooked is the “seamless interface” concept and he feels that the Port continues to avoid the definition of this concept. He would like to see a compromise by having off port property parking in the downtown area.
- A resolution was presented by the committee as follows:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING POLA'S PLANS TO PROVIDE A DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN HARBOR BLVD AND SAMPSON WAY, AT THE HARBOR AND 7TH ST INTERSECTION

Whereas the Port of Los Angeles has an approved EIR with plans for the elimination of vehicular traffic on Sixth Street east of Harbor Blvd and the development of a public plaza in front of the Maritime Museum building at Sixth Street. The new primary vehicular connection between downtown and the waterfront will be the intersection of Harbor Blvd and Seventh Street;

As this change will have a great impact on downtown San Pedro, the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council has reviewed the alternative intersection designs presented by the Port and has the following comments:

The construction of an extremely large intersection here is undesirable as this would divide the community from its waterfront, visually as well as from a pedestrian access perspective. We prefer that the Harbor Blvd roadbed not exceed two lanes in each direction plus the necessary additional turn lanes.

We prefer that this intersection maintain the character of an urban street rather than that of a freeway or suburban highway. The design speed for this intersection should be no greater than 35 miles per hour. Lane widths and curve radii should be reduced to be consistent with this moderate design speed.

In consideration of the above concerns, this neighborhood council prefers alternative intersection design number 2 as presented by the Port.

We have concerns regarding the 15-foot high retaining wall along the east side of Harbor/Sampson Way, facing the waterfront and the new plaza. How will this wall and the area fronting this wall be treated? We ask the Port to research options and present these to the community for comment before the project goes to a construction design phase.

We ask that the sidewalk on the west side of Harbor Blvd in front of City Hall be widened from approximately 8 feet wide (existing) to 12 to 15 feet as a part of this project, as this is the only reasonable and appropriate opportunity to widen this sidewalk.

We have concerns regarding the proposal to site a solar panel farm on the roofs of the proposed cliff-side parking structures (as approved in the waterfront EIR). We do not consider these utility structures between upper San Pedro and its view of the waterfront to be acceptable from an

aesthetic perspective.

A motion was made by James Allen that the Board support the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Pat Carroll and passed unanimously by the Board.

11. Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report:

- The Approval of Monthly Expenditures for March was delayed until the May Stakeholder meeting.
- Consent Calendar: **Motion to approve Finance Committee Recommendations for Community Improvement and Outreach Project Funding:**
 - i. Beacon House: \$1,000 to support Youth Street Scenes Event
 - ii. POLA High School: \$1,000 for ceiling mounted projector.
 - iii. Clean San Pedro: \$1,000 for landscaping tree wells & planters in PBID area.
 - iv. Cabrillo Beach Youth Sailing Program: \$1,000 to purchase a set of sails.
 - v. Angels Gate Cultural Center: \$1000 to support the Artists in Classrooms Program
 - vi. San Pedro High School Docs Rocs Program: \$1,000 to purchase video camera.
 - vii. Cabrillo Beach Boosters: \$1,000 to fund community events.

Carrie Scoville moved to approve the Consent Calendar. **The motion was seconded by Pat Carroll and passed with 6 yes votes and 2 no votes. .**

- The San Pedro Convention and Visitors Bureau withdrew its request for funding.
- A representative of Harbor Interfaith Services talked briefly about its Volunteer Appreciation Event that will honor the volunteers. The event will be held in June 2011. Katherine Gray spoke in support and asked the board to consider raising the amount to \$1,000. **Andrew Silber made a motion to approve the request from Harbor Interfaith Shelter for \$750 to fund the Volunteer Appreciation Event. The motion was seconded by J. R. Perez and approved unanimously by the Board.**
- Tara Schindler talked about the Meet the Music Program of the Grand Vision Foundation which is requesting \$1000 in funding. Pat Carroll recused herself from the discussion and voting. **Sue Castillo made a motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$1000 for the Meet the Music Program. The motion was seconded by Andrew Silber and approved unanimously by the Board.**

12. Outreach Committee: Pat Carroll reported on the following:

- Copy for the next Central SPNC newsletter is due by the 15th.
- The Committee is considering the possibility of utilizing "search engine optimization" to create a better internet presence.
- The Committee is considering ways that the community can get more involved with the Central SPNC.
- The next meeting of the Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday at 6:30pm at Think Café.

13. Mayor's Budget Day: Frank Anderson attended the event and reported as follows:

- The City has a \$450 million deficit.
- There was a presentation on the budget surveys that were submitted.
- The Commission On Revenue Efficiency (CORE), a City ad hoc committee, reported on the \$541 million in outstanding receivables. Collections are basically nonexistent and there is no centralized billing or collection process. The committee will provide recommendations for consolidation. The previous committee made 35 recommendations and less than a third were adopted by the City. They need to get a process in place.
- Bill Roberson commented that it sounds like the department heads are acting untouchable and the departments are insular. He posed the question, “Don’t we have a controller in charge of the money?” Bill suggested an action item for Ricardo Hong to ask the mayor about this.

14. **Emergency Preparedness Meeting with Council Office:** Frank Anderson attended the meeting and provided the following highlights.

- Current planning for all types of disasters was discussed. Participants at the meeting included the police, fire dept, port police, etc. It was stressed that when a disaster occurs, the community is usually on its own for 24-72 hours. They need to be ready with emergency supplies.
- Reverse 911 is a system that can be utilized. It dials all phones within a specific area with an emergency message. They also utilized PA systems on trucks that drive around the community.
- Ways the community can get involved includes Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training and the “Map your Neighborhood” Program.
- There is an evacuation plan but it is outdated. Our neighborhood council can try to get more information out to the community.
- James Allen talked about the tsunami in Japan. He sees the need for more strategic planning with the hope that we won’t need it.
- Bill Roberson talked about the video images recorded during the disaster in Japan that need to be studied.

15. **New Ad Hoc Port Relations Committee Meeting:** Frank Anderson gave a report on the first meeting of this new committee during which it discussed Front Street renovations. The Bureau of Engineering has taken over the Front Street issue from the port. Other issues being addressed by this new committee include the dirt pile, the channeling deepening project, etc. Although the next meeting was scheduled for April 27 at 6 p.m., it was mentioned that this date may be changed because of schedule conflicts.

16. **Presentation on Found Animals Foundation.** Representative Jennifer Brent presented a Powerpoint highlighting the activities of this organization.

- Its goal is to reduce animal care center euthanasia in Los Angeles through sustainable programs.
- Information is available on their website www.foundanimals.org
- 3-4 million animals are euthanized each year. 72% are cats.
- More than \$20 million is spent annually in LA alone for staff, housing animals, medical care, feeding, euthanasia and disposal.
- Found animals funds Clinico, located within the animal shelter in San Pedro. This program offers high quality, low cost sterilization for cats, dogs, and rabbits.

- A mobile van services areas that have the highest number of animals turned into the shelter in the city of Los Angeles.
17. **Downtown San Pedro Merchants:** A networking group sponsored by the merchants and San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau meets every Wednesday at Mishi's on 7th Street at 3:30 p.m.. Part of its discussions have been about safety and security issues. It hopes to work with PBID to come with more ways of making downtown safe and attractive. Plans are to get the merchants together and look at some of the main issues they face. They met up to about six months ago and that died out because of the structure of the meetings. But they want the meeting to have results. The goal is to make downtown an attractive place for people to come. April 26th is the tentative meeting date. Their website will be up in two to three weeks. Parking issue remains. They are going to move towards eliminating parking meter fees.
- James Allen commented that the reason for parking meters was because the merchants demanded them. They need to enforce the two hour law. We need an action item to create a petition block by block to remove the meters and go back to the two hour enforcement.
18. **HANC REPORT:** A written report was provided on the April 6, 2011 HANC meeting which included a discussion with Richard Hong of the Mayor's Office on the issue of economic stimulus and jobs; a DONE update from BongHwan Kim, a presentation on the Clean Up Green Up Campaign; and a report from a recent community meeting with the City Attorney where the topics of administrative citation enforcement and the AEG/Events Center were discussed.
19. **PCAC Report** - Carrie Scoville reported on the following: There were no action items in February and there was no PCAC meeting in March. At the April 19th meeting there will be presentations on:
- **POLA Park Policies Working Group** : The Port is asking the PCAC for input on Park policies so establishment of an ad-hoc committee is planned for the April meeting to formulate policies that would be acceptable to all parks and open spaces operated by the Port (22nd St., Promenade, etc.).
 - **Trucks in Neighborhoods:** there will also be an informational presentation by LAPD and Port Police on enforcement procedures for ticketing trucks over 6,000 lbs in residential/business areas of Wilmington/San Pedro. A request has been made for a report on the number of citations issued.
 - Other current PCAC issues being discussed are the USS IOWA, the Bekins Warehouse Building, the Olympic Tank Farm EIR, other upcoming EIRs, The full PCAC report is available on the Central SPNC website at www.centrialsanpedro.org
20. **ACE:** Linda reported that they will be having (RFP) proposals going out for issues related to the artists' district.
21. **CRA:** Andrew reported that the meeting was postponed to this Wednesday and Andrew will be missing those meetings.
22. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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