



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5th St, San Pedro, CA

Call to Order & Roll Call: Board members in attendance were: Linda Alexander, James Preston Allen, Art Almeida, Pat Carroll, Sue Castillo, Harvey Contreras, Scott Gray, Kali Merideth, Alan Ramirez, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville, Andrew Silber and Phill Trigas. The following members were absent: Frank Anderson (excused); Kara McLeod (absent), Julia Parker (excused), and J. R. Perez (excused). Approximately 30 stakeholders in attendance.

President's Report: President Linda Alexander welcomed the public. She spoke briefly on the importance of all Board members taking the required Ethics Training.

Naming of the San Pedro High School Annex: James Allen reported on the recent meeting and nomination process for the new high school annex which resulted in nine names being proposed, all including versions of John Olguin's name. An online poll was made available to the community and resulted in three top choices with variations that included John and Muriel Olguin. The list will be sent to the school board and it will make the final decision on the naming of the annex.

Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2011 Board and Stakeholder meeting. Pat Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting, seconded by Bill Roberson and passed unanimously by the Board.

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

Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal's Office: Although there was no representative in attendance from the Assemblywoman's office, a message was sent asking stakeholders to watch for the upcoming Budget Decision Conference that Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal is preparing. Budget planning will be discussed.

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

- The Mayor will be in San Pedro tomorrow morning (Feb. 9th) 8:30 a.m. at Simons Restaurant where he will address his five years as Mayor including his plans and accomplishments.
- Budget challenge survey on www.labudgetchallengeneg.lacity.org. Last year 7,000 surveys were filled out and they hope to reach 10,000 this year. The mayor takes the public's input seriously and encourages everyone to participate.
- Football stadium: Ricardo commented on the possibility of a new stadium in downtown LA proposed by AEG.
- James Allen commented on the impact such extensive downtown development would have on the infrastructure which is already beyond its limits, specifically the 110 and 10 freeway interchange. He believes there are other places in the city that are underdeveloped and could use some kind of monetary investment from the city.

- Carrie Scoville commented that we have had two LA football teams and they have both left. If we are going to invest in a stadium, we should be sure that the team stays here. Why can't we, as a city, own the team?
- Ricardo has heard complaints that the rates are too high and that the parking meters are not functioning too well. Andrew Silber would like to see parking meters that are more attractive.
- Harvey Contreras commented on the exorbitant penalties for late tickets.
- Scott Gray commented on the lack of enforcement of the two hour limit which is important to merchants.
- Bill Roberson commented on the high number of broken meters and whether anyone has studied the loss in revenues when the meters are down.
- James Allen would like the city to report how much money is in the parking meter fund.

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

- In response to the parking meter topic above, Ana commented that this district brings in the lowest revenue of parking fees in the city. As far as repairing broken meters, she stated that if we report them to the DOT, the staff will come out and repair those meters.
- **Plaza Park.** The Council Office met with The Bureau of Engineers and the Port Engineers to discuss Plaza Park. They are doing surveys and geotechnical work on the park at this time. They have established a working group that will be meeting on a monthly basis (First Wednesday, 2 p.m., at the Council Office) and reporting to the chamber on the progress.
- **San Pedro Flood Claims.** The City is making sure that all claims are resolved (around 30 of them). They have resolved about half the claims so far. They are resurfacing the area of town that was affected.
- **Marshall Court.** Improvements are being scheduled and include new pavements, sidewalks curbs, gutters etc. This is a million dollar project going out to bid sometime this month. Construction will start in the early summer. A handout showed the project description.
- **Proposed Football Stadium:** AEG said they will proceed with a full EIR for the project and will be conducting a traffic impact analysis. The Councilwoman would like an off ramp just for the stadium. Linda Alexander commented on potential problems. Ana also stated that a project like this could potentially create 20,000-30,000 jobs.
- **Art Almeida** commented on the controversy regarding Gaffey Canyon and clarified that the original Gaffey Canyon went up 5th Street across Cabrillo into the La Rambla area.
- **Tree Trimming:** General Services trimmed the trees around the Welcome to San Pedro bridge. Sue Castillo commented that the fencing is still an eyesore.
- Linda Alexander asked if the Councilwoman is still focused on working with neighborhood councils considering her recent announcement about running for Congress. Ana Dragin responded that the Councilwoman is still dedicated to her present duties.
- Jack Short: Asked the Board and Council Office to give some attention to the property the city owns at the Northwest corner of Oliver and Mesa (501 Mesa). This is a former Fire Dept. Dispatch Center which changed hands and has been severely neglected in the last two years. James Allen suggested that the city sell the property and make money.

LAPD Report: Senior Lead Officer Ron Weaver reported on the following:

- Provided an update on crime statistics in the Central area which included information on a recent robbery at the medical marijuana clinic located at 4th & Pacific.

- With the increase in crime, the LAPD is conducting compliance checks on paroles. There have not been able to determine any distinct pattern for the burglaries.
- Carrie Scoville commented that she appreciated the report covering the entire Central district and not just the downtown area.
- **Graffiti:** Two officers have been assigned to the graffiti problem and several cases have been filed in the last two months. Officer Weaver commented on the importance of reporting all crimes (including graffiti) because the LAPD can't move the appropriate resources to places if people don't report the crimes. Graffiti can be reported to the Community Resources Office at 310-726-7920 or email 32328@lapd.lacity.org
- Steve Robbins commented that Crimes in the PBID area over the last two years have declined over 50%.

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

- **LA Waterfront:** The meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, February 28, 2011 from 6-8 p.m.. There will be a discussion and update on the entire LA Waterfront. The 2nd workshop for Sampson Way is scheduled for March 24, 2011, 6 p.m. at POLA High School. Augie also announced the upcoming Board of Harbor Commissioners meetings.
- **Ship in a Bottle Art Piece:** will be unveiled on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 11a.m. at the newly constructed Cabrillo Way Marina at 22nd & Miner.
- **Mini Taste in San Pedro:** Scheduled for February 23, 2011, 6-9 p.m., at the newly renovated cruise ship terminal. They are sponsoring tours of the terminal. The cost is \$50 per ticket.
- **Disney Wonder Cruise Ship** arrived January 21st and cruises started January 23rd.
- **Adaptive Reuse for Warehouses 9 and 10 near 22nd Street Park.** They have some proposals back and are also looking for an event site coordinator to do some events on the waterfront.
- **Ports O' Call:** Three buildings have been demolished and will be replaced with landscaping.
- **SP Slip** (area near Utro's Café): The port is adding landscaping, benches and a 40-foot stainless steel tuna art sculpture.
- 2010 port container traffic was up 16%. Exports rose 10.3%
- The Port police recently confiscated 10 million dollars worth of counterfeit products.
- **Front Street Issue:** Augie read the Port Director's letter sent in response to Central SPNC's request for more information on Front Street.

I received your letter dated November 10, 2010, regarding the improvement of the Port's property edge along Front Street between Swinford Street and North Pacific Avenue. I have been informed that our Engineering Division is in the process of investigating "right-of-way" issues such as who owns the land and where our department is authorized to place improvements. Concurrently, our engineers are conducting a "flooding" study of the area along with inspecting old drawings for hidden substructures under the soil. This "pre-design" work can be very cumbersome but is essential in order to do the job right.

Once all studies are complete our engineers intend to have a few preliminary designs that will be shared with your neighborhood council. We anticipate having conceptual designs finished during the 1st quarter of 2011. At that time our department would welcome feedback from your organization.

Please coordinate this effort with Augie Bezmalinovich, our San Pedro Community Affairs Advocate. Mr. Bezmalinovich is our liaison to the community and the appropriate avenue for any community concerns such as this one. Please feel free to bring any future questions or concerns to him at 310-732-3503 or abezmalinovich@portla.org.

- After reading the above letter Augie gave an explanation of Right of Way and Maintenance issues which need to be worked out, as well as potential problems with substructures. The Port engineers are currently reviewing all the issues which as part of their pre-design work.

- The Board agreed to take Item #10 off the Consent Calendar. (10. *Motion to approve letter to Executive Director asking the Port to provide a timeline on Front Street Improvements.*)
- Andrew Silber wanted to be on the record that he thinks waiting so long to fix the problem is not being a good neighbor.

Public Comments on non-agenda items:

- **Scott Gray** explained the new time keeping device which allows for comments of three minutes.
- **Emily Lloyd**, Exceptional Children's Foundation: She is Vice President of Programs at the agency which operates an art center in the 600 block of Pacific Avenue for adults with developmental disabilities. They are in the process of buying property across from Vons on Gaffey and will be doing renovations. They plan to move in at the end of the calendar year and will hold an open house.
- **Alan Michelson**, new Manager of the San Pedro Branch Public Library at 9th and Gaffey, talked about Measure L and provided a handout. Measure L is a measure put on the ballot as a result of the city council wanting to discuss how they were going to deal with the budget and how it affects the library. The library is busier than ever. People are doing research, looking for jobs, etc. The Los Angeles City Library system is last among the eight largest library systems in the nation. It has eliminated 30% of its staff because of the economy. Measure L will restore services and add funding to the book budget without requiring any new tax.
- **Pat Carroll** announced important events through the Grand Vision Foundation and provided a flyer as well as Warner Grand Program.
- **Lydia Gutierrez**: Announced her candidacy for the Community College Board of Trustees Seat #5. This board represents 9 community colleges. She hopes to win the seat and work on keeping vocational training programs strong.
- **Carrie Scoville** announced an upcoming event for the San Pedro Neighbors for Peace and Justice. The event is scheduled for February 27th and the honoree this year is her mother, Julia Scoville.

Presentation on State Enterprise Zones by Steve Robbins. Highlights from the presentation included:

- Streetscape Furniture Project: Pictures were shown of the new trash cans and benches being installed this month, as well as a map indicating where all the items are being placed.
- Enterprise Zones were brought back by the Mayor three years ago. However, Governor Brown's new budget calls for the elimination of all enterprise zones. Mr. Robbins explained the purpose of Enterprise Zones which provide tax credits and incentives for businesses. Some of the credits include: Employee Hiring Tax Credit, Sales or Use Tax Credit, Business Expense Deduction, Net Interest Deduction and Net Operating Loss Carryover. Local incentives include DWP Discounts, Site Plan Review Fee Waiver and a Reduced Parking Ordinance. More information can be found at www.lacity.org/cdd & www.cdd.lacity.org/bus_index.html.
- James Allen asked if the Governor is successful in eliminating the Zones, would the City allow some of these incentives. Mr. Robbins responded that the City could craft an enterprise zone that would benefit us locally.
- **Andrew Silber made a motion to approve a letter to be sent to the Governor's Office stating Central's position on Enterprise Zones. The motion was seconded by James Allen and approved by unanimous vote of the Board.** Wording of letter follows:

Dear Gov. Brown,

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council respectfully urges you to reconsider your proposal to eliminate Enterprise Zones as part of your plan to address the state's fiscal crisis.

While we understand that difficult times require that we make choices that may not be to our liking, but which serve the greater good, Enterprise Zones have proven their economic worth and long-term benefit both to local jurisdictions and the state.

San Pedro was only recently included in a newly redrawn and approved Enterprise Zone and has not, therefore, had the opportunity to experience its benefits. We are confident, however, that based on history, it will be an exceptionally positive economic driver for a community that has for too many decades suffered an exodus of industry that generate both jobs and tax revenues.

Our neighboring community of Wilmington has developed an extensive core of small and midsize businesses that employ many thousands of people and produce exports, wholly as a result of its placement in an Enterprise Zone.

Certainly we join you in seeking to cut wasteful programs, but Enterprise Zones have proven that they are not wasteful, but are, indeed, beneficial. It has been estimated that businesses claim only ten percent of the tax credits available to them for Enterprise Zones. Yet, the availability of these zones has created the potential for new or relocated businesses and new jobs.

In a community such as San Pedro, with a history of losing its economic base, the unrealized potential of Enterprise Zone program is one we can ill afford to lose.

Again, we urge you to reconsider your proposal to eliminate this potentially important program.

Presentation on CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles).

- Walter Beaumont gave an overview of the CRA. He provided a report explaining expenditures and funding, as well as an update of the Beacon Street Five Year Implementation Plan. The Beacon Street Project area covers the area of West 2nd, 3rd, 5th, Mesa, Center, West 6th & 7th Streets, Palos Verdes Street, Harbor Blvd, as well as Beacon Street. It was initiated in 2002 and the new redevelopment project area was named the Pacific Corridor Project.
- Mr. Beaumont's presentation included pictures of the San Pedro water front in 1908 and Beacon Street after World War II.
- Redevelopment goals were to eliminate blight through land assembly; foster new economic growth both locally and overseas; and construct specific roadway and sidewalk improvements. They were required by law to create low and moderate income housing.
- The presentation included an explanation of how the CRA gets its funding as well as an overview of the Governor's proposal.
- Contact California State Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal and let her know your feelings about the CRA.
- Scott Gray presented a letter addressed to the Governor in opposition of his plan to eliminate the redevelopment agencies. The letter presented three options and the Board was asked to vote on which of the three options should be used in the wording of the letter. **Bill Roberson made a motion to choose Option A, seconded by Andrew Silber and passed by the Board with 10 yes votes and 0 no votes.** The wording of the letter using Option A follows:

Dear Gov. Brown,

The tangible benefits of redevelopment are apparent throughout the Central San Pedro community. Dating back to 1969 and the adoption of the Beacon Street Project, San Pedro has slowly experienced the improvements made possible by this means of creative use of taxation and construction financing.

Therefore, we view with alarm your proposal to eliminate redevelopment agencies as part of resolving budget problems not of their making. It is neither fair nor prudent to suddenly and with inadequate notice move to destroy the mechanism that has made possible the resurgence of so many of our state's derelict areas. They have created jobs, both through the construction projects they have funded and through the businesses that have grown through their development programs.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your proposal to eliminate these agencies that have been so instrumental in our state's economic growth for two generations.

Governor Brown, we appreciate that you are taking the strong leadership role in attempting to resolve our state's fiscal emergency. We applaud you for being bold. And we urge that as you endeavor to resolve the problems we face, that you keep in mind what benefits the greatest number of our state's residents over the longest period of time.

Consent Calendar: The Board agreed to remove items #9 and #10 (Motion to approve reformatting of Bylaws per DONE guidelines and Motion to approve letter to Executive Director asking the Port to provide a timeline on Front Street Improvements) from the Consent Calendar. **Scott Gray made a motion to accept the consent calendar with the remaining item #8 (Motion to support NWSPNC's Resolution regarding Disaster and Evacuation Planning). The motion was seconded by Andrew Silber and unanimously approved by the Board. Following is the wording of NWSPNC's motion:**

WHEREAS, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is in and adjacent to an area containing many industrial facilities including refineries, pipelines, storage tanks, and a port with vessels calling from all over the world and transporting a wide variety of goods; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is in and adjacent to an area crossed by earthquake faults, roads used by both passenger vehicles and industrial trucks including tank trucks, rail lines used by tank cars crossing roads, hazardous material loading docks, and many other similar facilities, and the Port of Los Angeles is also widely considered a potential target for terrorist activity; and

WHEREAS, in case of an emergency requiring evacuation, the Northwest Neighborhood Council area has only Western Avenue and possibly Gaffey Street as exit routes, but because Gaffey Street runs north past the Rancho Holdings butane storage facility and the Conoco Phillips refinery on the east and the Defense Fuel Supply facility on the west egress on Gaffey Street in an emergency may be limited; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Police Department, and Los Angeles Fire Department have extensive disaster preparedness plans in place or in development which will generate pre-prepared responses from a number of first responders, but which are primarily designed to evacuate or tend to the needs of the Port, not the surrounding community,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council requests the Council Office to convene a committee consisting of representatives from the harbor area Neighborhood Councils, for the purpose of determining what disaster preparedness plans and evacuation plans exist and developing such additional plans that may be necessary, and that the committee be assisted by the first responders in case of emergencies, such as the Police and Fire Departments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the harbor area Neighborhood Councils with a request that they join with us in requesting the forming of a committee.

The President is directed to attest to the adoption of this Resolution and the Secretary is directed to forward it to the Council Office and to the other harbor area Neighborhood Councils for their consideration.

Old Business:

- **Update on Central SPNC's Priority List provided to Councilwoman Hahn.** Andrew Silber commented that he will report next month on the status of items listed on Central's Priority List provided to the Councilwoman.
- **Board Retreat Update:** Scott Gray went over the Survey results. This will be the planning document utilized for the structure of the retreat. The Board will now need to determine a specific Saturday in March and also the preferred location of the retreat.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Committee Report:

- Pat Carroll announced the next meeting scheduled for February 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., Think Café. The Food Drive committee will be meeting in coordination with the outreach committee.
- Pat also commented that in place of the next scheduled newsletter, the goal is to increase stakeholder participation by running ads in Random Lengths, San Pedro Today and posting posters.

Finance Committee:

- Andrew Silber made a motion that the Board vote on the following Actions Items altogether as one block with corrections as shown below. Scott Gray seconded the motion. James Allen recused himself prior to the Board vote. The motion was passed with 9 yes votes and 1 no vote.
- Andrew Silber made a motion to approve the following corrections motions, seconded by Scott Gray. The motion was approved by 9 yes votes, 0 no votes. The following are the approved Action Items/Motions:
 - a) Action Item: Motion for Board approval of January expenditures.
 - b) Action Item: Motion to reallocate unused budgeted funds from Translation Services (\$500), Bank Fees (\$150), Refreshments (\$830) and Outreach Events (\$500) to Community Improvement Projects.
 - c) Action Item: Motion to reallocate remaining funds from 1st newsletter (\$1,000) to outreach project.
 - d) Action Item: Motion to cancel 2nd newsletter and reallocate those funds (\$6,000) to community improvement projects.
 - e) Action Item: Motion to move \$1800 from Material (Budget Line Item 205) to Community Improvement Projects
 - f) Action Item: Motion to participate in Upcoming Elections Forum in an amount not to exceed \$500.
- The next Finance Committee meeting was announced for March 15, 2011, 6 p.m. at the Whale and Ale. Funding requests will be presented.

Election Committee: Bill Roberson reported on the Election Task Force, which he commented was a work in progress. The committee plans to have a couple more meetings and will discuss topics such as:

- How much is the City Clerk spending and on what.
- The committee wants to get more money into the outreach for elections and decrease the election training program where they feel the clerk's office wasn't helpful.
- NC's have other issues and the committee feels it would be better to cut down the City Clerk's involvement.

Downtown Merchants and ACE District: No Reports.

PCAC: Carrie Scoville provided a verbal report. Highlights from that report follow:

- The PCAC voted to support the USS IOWA at the downtown cruise terminal.
- In January the PCAC voted to support the Anchorage Roads Storage Site proposal that will go before the Board of Harbor Commissioners. This is a controversial issue.
- The PCAC received a full report in November of Aesthetic Mitigation Projects and Air Quality Projects all funded by China Shipping mitigation funds.
- The February PCAC meeting will be held at the Wilmington Senior Center and will include a Clean Air Action Plan update and City Dock One update. The PCAC will be dark in March.
- Councilwoman Hahn voted not to support the Gambol Shipyard project and the rest of the City Council supported her on finding an alternate location for the project.
- Carrie attended the City Dock One NOP meeting and commented that it is a very impressive facility that is located in the Costal San Pedro Neighborhood Council area. Andrew Silber thought it might be wise for Central to form some questions on the City Dock One project for the next scoping meeting.
- Andrew Silber also went on record that it has been over 6 years since the court awarded the China Shipping Mitigation Funds and Plaza Park has still not had a shovel in the ground. In addition, Front Street is being stalled and the Port is consistently ignoring requests. He feels that the Board should consider this before withdrawing any strongly worded letters and that the Board is letting all of this happen without making much of a protest.
- Carrie commented that there are projects outside our jurisdiction being funded but none in our jurisdiction.
- Art Almeida asked if a neighborhood council can take the Port to court and was told that we can't sue the city. James Allen commented that as a part of the city you can remind them that the city cannot hold two opposing positions at the same time. We have to get the list from the approved projects with the designated monies and as a group appear in front of the BOHC and ask Andrew's question. The more we do that, the more uncomfortable they will be because the city cannot have two opposing positions.

HANC REPORT: Highlights from the most recent HANC meeting included:

- Review and lengthy discussion on the SB1818 affordable housing ordinance.
- Upcoming Election Forum scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2011 at Rolling Hills Prep. The forum will feature school board candidates and information on the upcoming Propositions, HLM and O. John Greenwood will be the moderator. 10:30-12noon.
- Review of the Community Care Facilities Ordinance.
- The full HANC Report can be found on Central's website: www.centalsanpedro.org

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

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