



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, June 7, 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, Art Almeida, Pat Carroll, Sue Castillo, Harvey Contreras, Scott Gray, Kara McLeod, Kali Merideth, Julia Parker, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville, Andrew Silber and Phill Trigas. The following members were excused: Frank Anderson and Harvey Contreras. Absent: J.R. Perez. Approximately 40 stakeholders in attendance.
2. **President's Report.**
 - Linda Alexander reminded Board Members to complete the Ethics Training if they have not already done so.
 - There is an upcoming meeting with the Council Office and all the Neighborhood Council Presidents in the district.
 - The Central San Pedro NC web site is being enhanced and a Facebook page has also been created. Stakeholders can submit questions through the website email.
3. **Approval of Minutes** of May 10, 2011 Board and Stakeholder Meeting. Motion to approve May 10, 2011 minutes made by James Allen, seconded by Andrew Silber and passed by unanimous vote.

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

4. **Mayor's Office:** Ricardo Hong reported on the following:
 - **May 14th Day of service** was a huge success. Seven hundred plates of food were served at the Port of LA Boys and Girls Club. Scott Gray was thanked for coordinating the fundraising, Andrew Silber for the donation of hot dogs, and Harvey Contreras for all his hard work.
 - **Pot Holes:** 20,000 were filled last weekend. The city hopes to reach a goal of 300,000 by the end of this fiscal year. Call 311 to report a pot hole. Alleys do not qualify.
 - **Harbor Resource Fair:** Thursday, June 9th. The Community Development Department is putting on the event at Peck Park. Sessions include: Job search strategies, employment opportunities, dress for success, resume writing, cleaning your record and creating a positive paper trail.
 - **Appointment:** The Mayor has appointed Jaime De La Vegas as the new manager of the Department of Transportation.
 - **Questions for the Mayor:**
 - a. James Allen asked for the Mayor's position on removal of the downtown San Pedro parking meters and strictly enforcing a two hour limit. Ricardo responded that this is the first time he has heard about the proposed removal and will check into the issue. There was a short discussion on the subject.
 - b. James also spoke about the ATSAC system and he challenges the city to prove to the council that it is doing the job that it was designed to do.
5. **Council Office:** Elise Swanson reported that she met with Andrew Silber on the CD15 list and would like to ask for permission to report bi-monthly. Nothing significant has changed

since last month but she will give an update in 30 days. Gordon Teuber arrived later and commented on the following:

- The Welcome Bridge at end of the freeway on Gaffey has been sandblasted and they are about to start the chain link fence replacement. They are proposing to have blue lighting with 43 feet of lettering that will say San Pedro.
- AT SAC has been completed and is working.

6. PBID Report: Katherine Gray reported on PBID issues as follows:

- “No parking” signs on 6th Street were a problem on First Thursdays and a solution will be sought.
- PBID is looking for RFP’s from branding companies. They want a new branding company to take over from the previous one. Andrew Silber commented that he feels the branding issue could be taken more seriously by PBID.
- A new security company is being considered downtown that can provide more coverage and longer hours.

7. CRA Project: Prior to the meeting, stakeholders had an opportunity to view proposed plans for a new park at 402 W. 9th Street. The CRA is applying for state funds to build the parks and are holding a series of meetings to get input from the public. That information will be put together into the final design that is submitted to the state. Andrew Silber commented that the more input the state gets from the community, the more likely this project will be funded and our community is desperately underrepresented for park space. The application is due July 1st and a final meeting is scheduled for June 21st at the YWCA at 6pm where a couple of final designs will be presented.

8. Public Comment:

- **Shannon Moss** addressed the council about a discrimination problem she encountered at Good Fellas Sports Bar on Saturday April 2nd around 11pm which resulted in a bar fight. She is asking for assistance from the neighborhood council including clarification on the dancing policy at the bar. During discussion it was suggested that a committee be formed to discuss the matter further with Scott Gray, Art Almeida, Bill Roberson and Kara McLeod volunteering to be part of such a committee. This policy setting discussion should be done through email with the use of our existing city charter and our own by-laws. There was also a comment that there have been many problems associated with Good Fellas.
- **Pat Carroll** announced upcoming events sponsored by the Grand Vision Foundation.
- **John Stinson**, new President of the San Pedro Art Association, commented that the organization is looking at additional ways to present art in San Pedro and will be utilizing the Croatian Cultural Center which is now a “multinational” cultural center. They are trying to promote it as a community art center and are also planning to start an art fair at 22nd Street Park with free booths provided to the neighborhood councils. Stinson also announced other events including a National Watercolor Society Exhibit at Angel’s Gate Cultural Center.
- **Chris Elce:** Announced that the official launching of the “ExperienceSP.com” website and as a gift to the neighborhood councils they will host an ad for two months free on the site. The website promotes downtown San Pedro and community activities.

9. Presentation by City of Los Angeles, Department of Sanitation on their Clean Neighborhoods Program (pull info from Coastal minutes). Lisa Mowry is the Financial

Manager for the program and talked about the 10 year financial plan for the program. Highlights included:

- They convey and treat 350,000,000 gallons of waste water a day and produce 79,000,000 of recycled water a day, mostly for irrigation.
- Their staff monitors the water being received. They use CCTV to monitor the condition of aging sewers and also clean out sewers to prevent spills.
- Four city water reclamation and wastewater treatment plants operate around the clock. They have to be kept in good condition to prevent breakdowns, permit violations and sewage spills.
- L.A.'s sewer system has over 6,700 miles of sewers. 50 projects are underway to repair old sewers and build new ones. Sewage spills are down 80% since 2000. L.A.'s sewers are getting older. Some sections of the city have sewers over 100 years old. They need to be watched. The average life of a sewer is approximately 80 years but 30% are older than that. They will soon need to be replaced.
- When our treatment plants malfunction, the health of the environment is at risk.
- With the current budget they can replace or repair the wastewater components only once every 168 years.
- The average homeowner spends around 2% of the home's value on upkeep every year. The LA Wastewater System needs to do this too. They have been doing more with less money for a long time. They have reduced staff by 28%, cut their operating costs, and restructured how they borrow money. There is nothing left to cut.
- They are proposing a 10 year series of rate increases. An increase of approximately \$37 per year for each of the next 10 years for the average L.A. family. The monthly bill will go up about \$3 the first year.
- There are specific reasons why they have to do this now. The wastewater system meets the highest environmental and public health standards every year but as it ages, it becomes more vulnerable to serious operational problems, permit violations, and lawsuits.
- Terminal Island is an old plant. It is in need of a lot of work.
- Major sewer projects have been deferred because of the shortage of funds. It is time to increase funding for current and future wastewater infrastructure projects.
- A small portion of the rate adjustment will go to a small loan revolving program for homeowners for sewer pipe rehab from home to the system.

Committee reports:

10. Port Committee: Sue Castillo gave a quick overview of items the committee discussed at the last committee meeting.

- **Motion to approve letter to Port on Front Street Landscaping Project**
Comments for submittal to the Port: The Board Members reviewed the letter as presented by the Port Committee.
 - a. A motion was made by James Allen to amend the letter adding a sentence as follows: "The Central SPNC Board also recommends to the Port that whenever it is utilizing public money for public art that it work with the San Pedro ACE District to consult on what public art should be used." The motion to amend was seconded by Andrew Silber and passed by the Board with 11 yes votes and 1 no vote.
 - b. A motion to approve the amended letter and send it to the Port was then passed by the Board with 12 yes votes and 0 no votes.
 - c. Sue asked that we will come back with more information on bus stops. She also commented that Eastview Little League continues to occupy Knoll Hill despite the promises that it would be there only a limited time.

- **Motion requesting consideration of combining the Red Car Maintenance Facility and Museum at one location.**
 - a. A design workshop in Wilmington is being held tonight on the proposed museum. Carrie Scoville gave some background information on the museum and also the proposed Red Car maintenance facility. The Board reviewed the letter brought forth from the Central SPNC Port Affairs Committee.
 - b. A correction was made changing the words “below Harbor Blvd” to read “east of Harbor Blvd.
 - c. James Allen was concerned about how the Wilmington community might respond to the suggestions of Central’s Port Committee. In response Carrie explained that the Port Committee is suggesting combining the museum and maintenance facility without any specific preference to the actual location. Whether the combined facility were placed in Wilmington or San Pedro, they felt combining them would enhance the value as a tourist attraction.
 - d. **After a short discussion, the Board approved the corrected letter with 12 yes votes and 0 no votes.**
- There was a suggestion that the Central SPNC hold a Special Meeting to present two upcoming projects: The Clear Water Program which involves the building of a new outfall tunnel from the Carson plant underground to the ocean; and the T.I.R.E. (Terminal Island Renewal Energy) Project. Sue will conduct such a meeting. James suggested that this might be an issue that all the Harbor Area neighborhood council’s could discuss at a town hall type meeting.
- **Andrew Silber made a motion that the President attempt to interest the other neighborhood councils into having a joint review of the three issues (Clearwater, Clean Water and T.I.R.E.) outside of a regular council meeting. The motion was seconded by Kara McLeod and passed by unanimous vote.**

11. Finance Committee Report:

- **Approval of Monthly Expenditures:** **Motion by Kara McLeod that the Board approve the monthly expenses as presented by Kali Merideth. The motion was seconded by Pat Carroll and approved by unanimous vote.**
- **Finance Committee Recommendations for Community Improvement and Outreach Project Funding:** (Scott, Andrew and Kara recused themselves from the discussion and vote on the funding projects). **Motion by James Allen to approve the following recommendations including Agenda Item 8C (shown below as letter “m”). The motion was seconded by Bill Roberson and approved unanimously by the Board:**
 - a. San Pedro Art Association \$500 to support community beautification (benches and fixtures)
 - b. Angel’s Gate Cultural Center \$1000 to support expense of musician for community event (Cevapcici Festival)
 - c. San Pedro Youth Sports Association \$2500 for field improvements and officiating costs at Bloch Field
 - d. San Pedro Convention and Visitors Bureau \$1000 to fund uniforms for volunteers and insurance for cart
 - e. San Pedro Convention and Visitors Bureau \$1000 for expense of children’s coloring book with four tear outs to promote San Pedro to visitors
 - f. L.A. Harbor College \$2000 for printing program, education materials, set materials and costumes for shows at schools within CSPNC boundaries.
 - g. The Relevant Stage \$1000 for promotional materials and licensing fees to support the non-profit TRS Youth Horizon Summer Day Camp
 - h. Harbor Interfaith \$1000 to provide pantry food for families in need in our community

- i. Mishi's Strudel \$500 to compensate performer and advertising for community cultural awareness event
- j. Pedro Pet Pals \$1000 for medical equipment to assist in healthier pets for adoption
- k. Harbor Occupation Center \$1000 to provide job training and academic courses to the community
- l. Shakespeare by the Sea \$500 funding to support printing costs of programs handed out to audience at community shows.
- m. Reallocation of \$400 from Community Improvement to Outreach for the purchase of a banner and translator.

12. HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils):

- **Motion to support Clean up Green Up campaign.** Carrie gave information on this City ordinance introduced by Janice Hahn, Jose Huizar and Ricardo Alarcon to conduct a pilot project for enhanced environmental clean-up efforts in Wilmington, Boyle Heights and Pacoima. It is an initiative led by local environmental justice organizations like the Coalition for a Better Environment and Communities for a Better Environment. **The following motion was made by Carrie Scoville, seconded by James Allen and passed unanimously by the Board: The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council endorses the "Clean-Up, Green-Up Strategies" campaign and proposed City ordinance, Council File #11-0112.**
- Carrie Scoville also provided highlights from her written report. (A copy can be viewed on the Central SPNC website).

13. PBID: Discussion on possible letter by Central SPNC concerning communication between city departments and downtown merchants to avoid conflicts with First Thursday parking.

No action was taken on a possible letter but there was a short discussion. Andrew Silber stated that communications with PBID has been a challenge for downtown merchants and this should be addressed. James Allen suggested that this issue be brought up as a Central SPNC issue at the ACE District with PBID representatives in attendance.

14. Election Committee: Appointment of 3 member election committee.

Bill Roberson was appointed to head the committee with Kristina Smith as a committee member. The committee will need to find one more volunteer.

15. Outreach Committee:

There was no official committee report. Pat Carroll announced the next meeting to be held June 20th at Think Café 6:30 pm.

16. Downtown Merchants, Chamber Marketing Committee and San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau:

- Report from Katherine Gray on a fashion and jewelry show held last Sunday involving Maral Designs. Two thousand dollars was raised for charities and many restaurants participated with donations.
- This Sunday at the Croatian Cultural Center Mishi's Strudel is sponsoring a Hungarian festival.
- The hotel at 1st and Gaffey is open (San Pedro Inn) with a special San Pedro rate of \$79. They don't have a restaurant at this time so brochures are being placed for our local restaurants.
- The Children's Coloring book will be ready in two weeks and has great input from local artists.
- Andrew Silber commented that Councilwoman Hahn has introduced a motion to the city council to remove the parking meters thanks to the efforts of Scott Gray.

- Andrew attended a Chamber committee meeting and reported that the consolidated marketing strategy was approved to be presented to the Chamber Board. At that meeting there was a discussion on marketing the Taste in San Pedro. Also, Navy Week will be one of the most important events in 2011 in our community. More than 3,000 sailors will be in town on that weekend. The committee also reviewed a strategy of how to hire an online marketing team.

17. PCAC (Port Community Advisory Committee): A written report was provided by Carrie Scoville and can be viewed on the Central SPNC website. Other comments included:

- At the May meeting the committee conducted a round table discussion because the speaker did not show up.
- The June meeting was cancelled.
- The grand opening of the Wilmington Waterfront Park was June 4th. There is also another park called Triangle Park which should be open in 15 months at Avalon and C Streets.
- The Port has hired Cynthia Ruiz as the new Deputy of Executive Relations. She is a liaison for the community.
- The July PCAC meeting will have a presentation on Clean Air Action Plan Measures as they apply to Rail. This relates to the impending EIRs on the BNSF/SCIG and the UP/ICTF. There will also be a presentation on rail electrification using maglev component technologies.

18. ACE District: Linda Alexander reported on the following:

- The panel has reviewed the proposals that were submitted and they will be presenting them Monday at the ACE Board.
- Board elections will be held at the next meeting.

19. CRA: Sue Castillo and Andrew Silber reported on the following issues being discussed by the CRA:

- Taco Bell at 10th and Gaffey. Neighbors want alley improvements made which would impact the parking.
- Parking study for Downtown San Pedro.
- Plaza Park update. Plans are to start with the upper section first and the slope second. Some improvements should be visible at the end of this summer.
- Prop 84 public park at 420 W. 9th Street.
- Public improvement subcommittee reported that they are adding more street furniture. At vinegar hill they are going to use drought free plants.
- Other projects in the works are an urban greening grant application; a proposal to use \$700K on fixing alleys; the Meta Housing Project at 303 Pacific; possible improvements to Lillian Fierman Park which is actually the loading zone for the Warner Grand.
- Status of Governor's Proposal. THE CRA issue has gone away for now but might come back. An Assembly Bill introduced by Rob Wright, would change the CRA law and keep the CRA's in place.

20. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

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