



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Tuesday, March 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, Frank Anderson, Pat Carroll, Sue Castillo, Harvey Contreras, Scott Gray, Kali Merideth, Julia Parker, Alan Ramirez, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville, Andrew Silber and Phill Trigas. The following members were absent: Kara McLeod (excused) and J. R. Perez. Approximately 35 stakeholders in attendance.

Presidents Report: President Linda Alexander welcomed the public and commented on the following:

- She commented on the Ride Along program that the Council Office has launched which gives board members a chance to ride around the community with a Council Office representative to document areas of concern.
- The Central SPNC is creating an ad hoc committee for Port related issues which will be chaired by Frank Anderson.

Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2011 Board and Stakeholder meeting. Andrew Silber made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2011 meeting with one minor correction. The motion was seconded by Pat Carroll and passed unanimously by the Board.

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

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

- The Mayor's Budget Day is scheduled for this weekend.
- 8500 Surveys were filled out, which is very promising. This is a way for the Mayor to know what the public wants. The results of the survey will be discussed at Budget Day
- Blue Ribbon Commission has been meeting with residents in Los Angeles to discuss the proposed downtown football stadium. They have held three out of five meetings so far. The public can give feedback by sending emails to dteventscenter@lacity.org.

LAPD Report: Officer Maligi Nua reported on the following;

- Residential and motor vehicle property crime has taken a turn for the worse. The LAPD is trying to identify career criminals being released and then performing random checks. They have established a street enforcement detail called "the Blitz" Thursdays through Sundays from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. They are also pushing hard to educate the community on crime prevention. One suggestion was to have the last four digits of your driver's license etched into the back of items such as televisions, computer equipment etc. so that they can be identified by the property owner if recovered by the police. They have been checking pawn shops etc. to cross check stolen items with what is appearing in these types of places.

- Harbor Division has a new Graffiti Officer, Roger Reynoso, who has a lot of experience with this issue. He has already filed seven complaints with the City Attorney's office. These complaints were based on reports from community members. It is requested that property owners take a photo of any graffiti on their property and email it to 32025@lapd.lacity.org.
- James Allen made a comment that he felt Officer Nua and the entire LAPD, as civil servants, have no place playing politics and endorsing a candidate for civic office, such as honorary mayor, especially when that candidate has expressed interest in running for a position on the City Council. He asked Officer Nua to relay this comment to Chief Beck.
- Bill Roberson asked a question about the "sudden rush" of criminals being released back onto the streets. Nua's response was that it was due to budgetary cuts in the prisons at the state level. They don't have the money to house the inmates and are giving them early releases. Certain felons have non-revocable parole status and cannot be violated.
- Bill also asked about the new Harbor Division jail and whether it was being utilized, and if not, is there any timeline for when that might happen. The response was that due to budgetary cuts, the jail is not going to be utilized in the foreseeable future.

Councilwoman's Office: Gordon Teuber reported on the following:

- **New personnel at the Council Office:** Nicole Wells is handling public works issues (pot holes etc). Gordon is only in San Pedro Mondays and Thursdays. Today he spent more than five hours with Councilwoman Hahn on the council floor going over the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) budget issues and the transfer of obligations. It is looking quite likely that the CRA will be dissolved. The Budget Committee of the legislature is supporting the Governor's efforts to dissolve the CRA.

The following were responses from the Council Office to Central's itemized list:

- **CRA Façade Improvements:** This item relates directly to the CRA issue and CRA could be dissolved.
- **Northrop Grumman building:** No potential new tenants.
- **San Pedro Courthouse:** Judge Paul in San Pedro, who sits on state panel for court house facilities, says this courthouse is not scheduled to close anytime soon. It has four active court rooms.
- **Warner Grand:** Councilwoman Hahn supports keeping the Warner Grand open and supports the idea of a public/private partnership to run the theater.
- **USS IOWA:** The Councilwoman is asking that it not be necessary to do a full EIR. The Council office fully supports this project. The Navy has not yet responded with its decision.
- **Gambol Industries:** This is a dead issue at this time. An alternative location on Terminal Island is a long term plan, not a short term plan.
- **Waterfront Development:** Councilwoman will continue to push for improvements on the waterfront, Ports O' Call etc. There are some positive steps forward with the Port in terms of the marina etc.
- **Ponte Vista: Last plan presented was for 1135 unit.** They are doing a new EIR and a new traffic study. They will be coming forth in three to four months with new alternatives for the project. The councilwoman is happy that the project density has been lowered.
- **Beautification and maintenance:** Councilwoman agrees that there needs to be a connection between the North Gaffey Beautification Project and Phase Two of the waterfront project to connect it to the waterfront.

- **Plaza Park.** There has been some forward progress. There continue to be monthly meetings on this issue.
- **Enhance the Park by Anderson Center.** Ana Dragin got about \$200,000 in Quimby funds to renovate the inside building of park. Community wants some outside improvement as well.
- **More land for park space:** CRA submitted a Prop 84 grant for the area across from the YWCA. In considering Prop 84 Grants for other areas such as Knoll hill and implementing the work that LANI did, Knoll Hill and other areas do not qualify because there is “sufficient park space per capita in San Pedro” according to the formula used.
- **Neglected property at Oliver and Mesa:** General services send a crew out to cut down the bushes, board up windows and remove graffiti. They are hoping that a nonprofit organization might find the property appropriate for its operations.
- **Andrew Silber:** Commented that he is happy that the Council Office has responded to the list. He did not expect a full verbal report on every item at the meeting. His idea was to create a format that would show whose responsible, how long it will take and what action is being taken to complete each issue. Gordon responded that he wants the Central SPNC to see that the Council office is paying attention to the Central SPNC’s concerns.
- **Bill Roberson:** Saddened to hear that the shipyard project is a dead issue and talked about preserving institutions that create a variety of jobs for the community. There was a short discussion on the attempts of the Council Office to fight for the Gambol shipyard. Bill also commented that he hopes the Councilwoman will not neglect her duties while pursuing other political endeavors.
- **James Allen:** Asked about the ATSAC system and when will it be up and running. Gordon responded that it is 98% completed and almost ready to go on-line.

Port Police: Officer Stacy Creech commented on the following:

- April 22nd is the scheduled date for the Railroad Revival Concert at Ports O’ Call. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.
- New community resource officer for Wilmington is Roberto Ramirez.
- Grand opening of Wilmington Waterfront Park is scheduled for June 4th.
- Westbound lanes on Harry Bridges Blvd will be closed because of construction. Only the Eastbound lanes will be accessible between Figueroa and Broad.

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

- Last Monday the Port held its LA Waterfront meeting and there were 225 people in attendance. CDs of the meeting were provided for the Board. A video of the meeting is also available on the website. A second workshop is scheduled for March 24, 2011 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Port of Los Angeles High School and will focus on the Sampson Way Design.
- The “Ship in a bottle” art piece was unveiled on February 22nd at the new marina off 22nd Street.
- The recent cruise ship terminal event referred to as a “Mini Taste in San Pedro” was very successful with over 300 people in attendance which included about 100 travel agents. The event included a tour of the upgraded cruise ship facilities and food from local restaurants.
- The Port’s Fountain will be down for a few days for maintenance.
- A meeting is scheduled for June 7th to discuss the Bekins House Building and proposed Red Car Museum. More details will be announced soon.

- Closures of Harry Bridges Blvd will go on through November while construction is happening. Only the Eastbound lanes will be open. There will be trees lining the boulevard to complement the Wilmington Buffer Park. Carrie Scoville asked about truck traffic accessing China Shipping during the closure and the Port Engineer responded with the proposed route.
- SP Ghost Fish slip is out for bid and will be undergoing a full acre of redevelopment which will include 22 benches designed by artist Harold Green. There will also be a 40 foot tall ghost fish sculpture by artist Carl Chen.
- Five new restrooms are under construction at Cabrillo Beach.
- There are plans to renovate the Maritime Museum which is celebrating its 70th anniversary at the end of this year.
- Tanks have been demolished at Westways.
- The Downtown Harbor is a 2 year construction project.
- The Navy is currently requesting information from the USS IOWA group and they have until May to respond. The Port should know more around July or August.
- The Port is continuing with the EIR process on City Dock One.
- The Port has hired a consulting group that informs them they will need to get a critical mass at the waterfront in order to attract a developer. Warehouses 9 and 10 will be leased out. They will be contracting with a promoter to hold events at the waterfront. Currently, three proposals have been received for warehouses 9 and 10. Details can be discussed at the next meeting of Central's new Port Committee.
- Scott Gray asked Augie to provide an update next month on "cold ironing" (shore power electrification).
- Andrew Silber made a statement to the stakeholders about how well Central San Pedro was represented at the recent Waterfront Meeting because the Central SPNC Board Members think it is extremely important what happens to waterfront development as it reflects hugely on the Central San Pedro's district. Andrew wants the public to recognize the time and energy that it put in by the Central SPNC representatives who give up their evenings to attend meetings in an effort to make this a better town.
- Andrew also expressed his disappointment that the Maritime Museum is not been painted until the end of the year. His final question was whether Augie or Dr. Knatz had visited the Fort Mason Complex in San Francisco which is a great example of possibilities for Warehouses 9 and 10. Augie responded that he has not but wouldn't be surprised if Dr. Knatz has visited there.

Public Comments on non-agenda items:

- **Robert Davis representing Beacon House:** Announced the upcoming 2011 Youth Street Scene event scheduled for April 30th. This is a huge block party taking place on 11th Street. The goal of the event is to provide a safe and fun environment for youth where they can learn about positive after school organizations and positive outlets. They are asking the Central SPNC for funding support in the amount of \$750 for various operating expenses. The event will include live local bands, a talent contest, a poster contest, and a dance crew contest. Andrew offered to match the funds with a donation from the Whale and Ale.
- **Mark Contreras for Congress:** Gave background on himself and explained why he wants to run for this office.

Presentation on Front Street Improvements: Port Engineers, Sal Zambrano, Sue Lai, Guillermo Martinez and Mimi Gutierrez, were introduced by Augie Bezmalinovich. Highlights from their presentation follow:

- There was a diagram presented of the project area which currently has ponding issues due to recent rainfall as there are no curbs or gutters.
- Storm drain assessment is part of the project and they plan to add curbs and gutters, pedestrian lighting, landscaping and irrigation, as well as a multi-use pathway. The city will oversee the project because they will be maintaining the area after it is completed.
- They are going through the selection process for an architect.
- Sue Castillo commented that she had hoped this presentation would provide more specific information and designs.
- The engineers hope to come back to the Central SPNC Board in May with more specific designs.
- Andrew Silber commented on his fear of trying to get the various city departments to communicate in an expedited manner.
- James Allen suggested that the engineers set up a meeting within two weeks with a committee from the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council. The engineers expressed willingness to work with such a subcommittee. James also suggested getting Gordon Teuber involved to bring the city family together in a working session on a regular basis. There should be a monthly meeting where departments would coordinate.

Bylaws update: Scott Gray reported that he will send an email out to the Board this week related to the bylaws revisions.

Board Retreat Update: Scott Gray announced this Board Retreat which is scheduled for March 19, 2011 at Ports O' Call Restaurant from 9:30am-3:30pm. Deanna Cherry will be the facilitator.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Committee: Pat Carroll reported on the following:

- The committee members discussed the use of social media and other ways to outreach to stakeholders.
- Also discussed were ideas of driving traffic to the website which included the use social media.
- The Central SPNC is continuing to do advertising in Random Lengths and San Pedro Today. The goal is to reach the stakeholders and find out what they are interested in having us pursue.
- The Board previously allocated \$2,000 to a food drive and the Outreach Committee recommends reallocating the money into community improvements projects. **The Board unanimously approved the Outreach report and the reallocation of the \$2,000 back into community improvements projects.**
- The next outreach meeting is March 21, 6:30pm, Think Café.

Finance Committee: Kali Merideth reported on the following:

- We received a letter of thanks for our funding to Harbor Interfaith Shelter and also a letter of thanks related to the funding of the City Ballet at POLA.

- The financial report was presented in the Agenda Packet and Kali Merideth gave a quick review. **Andrew Silber moved to accept the finance report as presented. The motion was seconded by Pat Carroll and approved unanimously by the Board.**

Land Use Planning Committee: Sue Castillo reported on the following:

- The affordable family project in the 300 block of Pacific seems to be moving forward.
- The Land Use Planning Committee will meet to discuss the potential intersection alternatives at Harbor Blvd, 7th Street and Sampson Way.
- After a short discussion on an appropriate date, the next Land Use Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for March 22, 2011. Sue urged members to participate in the discussions.

PCAC: Carrie Scoville reported that the PCAC meeting for March has been cancelled. Included in the Agenda Packet was a schedule of China Shipping projects since inception. Carrie explained the document that she had prepared.

HANC REPORT: A written report was included in the Agenda packet.

Downtown San Pedro Merchants: No report.

ACE District: No report.

CRA: Andrew Silber reported on the following:

- The CRA had a considerable discussion on paving alleys.
- There was a battle over how often the CAC should meet.
- There was a discussion on Taco Bells plans for their property on 10th and Gaffey.

Issues Ad Hoc Committee: There was discussion on the possibility of creating an ad hoc committee for the issues that Andrew Silber is tracking with the Council office. Andrew suggested three people go to the council office and have a meeting once a month.

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

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