



# THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## Stakeholder Meeting Minutes- Tuesday, May 10, 2011 Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St, San Pedro, Calif.

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call:** In attendance: Linda Alexander, Frank Anderson, 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: James Preston Allen, Art Almeida, and Pat Carroll. Absent: J.R. Perez and Alan Ramirez. Approximately 35 stakeholders in attendance.
2. **Presidents Report:** President Linda Alexander reported on the following:
  - Announcement of an Award Celebration for POLA High School on Friday, June 3, 2011 at 4pm. This will be a champagne and dessert reception.
  - The community is asked to help in sorting food donations for union families in need. This volunteer opportunity starts Monday through June 30<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-4:30 at the Crescent Warehouse on Signal Street.
  - Update on last month's public comment from a family having a mail carrier issue where the post office withdrew mail services due to their family dog. The Council Office is looking into the situation and at this time the dog is up for adoption.
  - Those stakeholders in attendance were thanked for being present and urged to participate in the meeting.
3. **Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2011 Board and Stakeholder Meeting.** There was a motion by Andrew Silber to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Frank Anderson and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

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

4. **Mayor's Office:** It was reported that Ricardo Hong was attending another event and not available to give a report from the Mayor's Office.
5. **Port Police:** Officer Stacey Kreech reported on the following:
  - There will be a video available next month on the I-Watch program. The program outlines how the community can assist in keeping an eye open for suspicious people. They are asked to call in any activity out of the normal. Brochures were available.
  - The Grand Opening for the Port Police Building is scheduled for July 23, 2011 and they hope to move into the building by the end of the year.
6. **Council Office:** Elise Swanson reported on the following:
  - Starting Friday May 13, 2011, the City Council will begin to consider the budget and the budget recommendations. There are two issues that concern the Councilwoman: 1) The new deployment plan by the Fire Department which includes reallocation of resources. She wants to look at ways to restore all services; and 2) She wants to pay particular attention to the Warner Grand to make sure it never goes dark.
  - The Councilwoman is introducing a motion to ask the Bureau of Engineering to create a dining district in order to reduce fees to restaurants for outdoor dining etc.
  - Regarding complaints about skateboarders, the Council Office has met with Captain Hayes and wants to find a way to warn the skateboarders of violations. They have a lot of interest in a skateboard park and are working with various foundations to create something.

- Tree trimming continues to be the top call to the council office. Los Angeles has the largest urban forest in the world with over 700,000 trees. The Council Office met with Urban Forestry who states they want to work with the neighborhood councils on this issue. Due to budget constraints they are focused on emergency response to trees that are a problem.
- There will be closures of Gaffey Street at the end of the 110 Freeway in order to facilitate restoration of the "Welcome the San Pedro" pedestrian bridge. The closures are scheduled for May 21st and 28th from 9pm-2am.
- Announcement of an upcoming Resource Fair, Thursday, June 9, 2011, at Peck Park.
- Kara asked if there is a schedule for the RFP process related to the Warner Grand and was told that they are tracking issues first.
- Andrew Silber asked about the ATSAC traffic signal system and would like to see a detailed report on the changes next month.
- Andrew also asked if the council office has any information on when mail delivery might be restored to the residents on the street who were dealing with the recent dog issue. Elise responded that the issue has been referred to the attorneys for the Post Office. The Council Office will continue to track the issue.
- Scott Gray commented that the Holiday Inn/Clarion at 1<sup>st</sup> & Gaffey is vacant and he had heard that it might become a senior citizen property. Elise did not have an answer and will research the issue. She asked that the board members email her ahead of time with these questions so that she can be better prepared to respond.

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

- Upcoming Board of Harbor Commissioner meetings are scheduled for May 19th and June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Port's Administration Building at 8:30am.
- Wilmington Waterfront Park Grand Opening is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Summer concerts will be held at the Fountain from 7pm-9pm every Thursday from June 9<sup>th</sup> through Sept 8th except First Thursdays.
- The annual Cars and Stripes event is scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup> and this year the Port plans to include a short fireworks show.
- The annual Navy Days event will be called Navy Week and will extend from July 25<sup>th</sup> through July 30<sup>th</sup>. There are three or four ships scheduled to be in the inner harbor at Berth 87 along with the USS Abraham Lincoln in the outer harbor.
- Taste in San Pedro event. This year the Chamber has asked the Port if they can host it at the waterfront. It will be held along the Promenade from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Street on August 5-7.
- There will be a workshop on June 7<sup>th</sup> related to the Red Car Museum being proposed at the Bekins Building in Wilmington.
- The port has received 14 bids for the redevelopment of the SP Slip area near Utros. They have picked Sully Miller, a \$5.7 million contract. Construction starts July 5<sup>th</sup> and the completion date is estimated to be October 3, 2012.
- Warehouses 9 and 10. The Port has interviewed the people bidding and they are going to the BOHC and ask to exclusively negotiate with the Arts and Crafts Center which plans to create a market place complete with artisan work space, classes, events etc.
- Recent article reports a decrease in diesel exhaust. Down by 50% compared to 2006.

**8. LAPD – No Report**

**9. PBID – No Report**

**10. Report on CD 15 action items:** Andrew Silber reported on the following:

- The list is moving forward rapidly.
- The new street furniture on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets is attractive. The design was very carefully chosen to blend in with San Pedro's historic downtown district and to match the light poles.
- A lot of other CRA projects are moving along quite rapidly, especially the renovation and façade improvement project. About 17 buildings are having their façades renovated starting mid May. 11 stores front should start getting attention June.
- Downtown is not going to be getting two parks as previously proposed. The CRA is working on funding a park on 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

**11. NEWSLETTER:** Our newest newsletter has just come out and is available on the website. It has been mailed to over 12,000 addresses in the Central area.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- **Angela Romero:** Announced her new walking tour company which is planning a waterfront tour which she hopes will bring people from Cabrillo to the downtown area. Three tours are being planned: 1) A tour from the Marina to the Bridge; 2) An old San Pedro tour with historic sites; and 3) a back lot San Pedro tour showing filming locations in the downtown area. They will kick off their tours the next First Thursday, but the actual tour days will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday. More information can be found on her website [www.sanpedroxb.com](http://www.sanpedroxb.com). She is partnering with San Pedro Today to do a monthly column. Kathleen Gray commented that the Convention and Visitors Bureau should find out the history of the buildings in the tour.
- **Jody James:** Reported on Cope Preparedness which was started by Lonna Calhoun, a certified Emergency Manager. Lonna's passion is to help her community survive a disaster. Jody announced the Free Map Your Neighborhood presentation co-sponsored by NWSPNC on June 4<sup>th</sup> at Peck Park from 9am-11:30am. Jody also commented on the butane tanks on North Gaffey and asked provided a handout for stakeholders to sign which requests assistance from our local representatives.
- **Susan Cabrera** works at Bandini Elementary for the Healthy Starts program and lives in San Pedro. She would like to see more street lighting in the area at 1<sup>st</sup> and Meyer where the DWP yard is located. It is very dark at night. She would like to know the process to get the DWP or the city to put some lights on the street. Ms. Cabrera was referred to the Bureau of Street Services.
- **Rob Jones:** Commented that he would like to see the Red Car extended farther north towards Target on North Gaffey.
- **Harvey Contreras:** Announced an event on Saturday being held at the Boys and Girls Club on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. This is a community fun day that is free to the public and will include free games, face painting and barbeque. All are welcome. They need volunteers as well as donations of food items such as hot dogs, hamburgers and buns. This is an important event and the Mayor is behind it.
- There was a comment from a stakeholder (Ron) requesting information on the proposed sound wall from Gaffey to Pacific. Sal Zambrano was available to respond to his question stating that the Port is continuing studies and a public meeting may happen in June or July this year with renderings of the proposed wall.

**13. FRONT STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:** There was a presentation by the Port's landscape architects showing the potential designs for the Front Street project. The project includes the area from under the Vincent Thomas Bridge to Pacific and Front Street. They are in the pre-design phase at this time. They are asking for feedback from the CSPNC Board and the community. Highlights, comments and questions during the presentation included:

- The engineers came up with two potential scenarios for the trails. A soft meandering trail or a straight trail more formal but with features such as seating, picnic benches etc.
- They are working with a distance of 23 feet from the new curb to the landscaped area. The multi-purpose trail would be 12 feet wide.
- Possible interpretive signage with history of the port etc.

Input from board members and stakeholders included:

- Concerns about the type of fencing being considered, how far back it will be set, ways to deter trucks from parking in the area, and ways to keep views of Port operations in sight.
- Sue Castillo commented that she likes the park-like look, large canopy trees, attention to bus stops, picnic tables, drinking fountains, lighting at night, natural colored concrete and an observation station with signage where you can see into the port.
- The importance of connecting the project with the fountain was mentioned.
- A suggestion of a possible pedestrian bridge.
- A comment related to the type of trees suggesting trees that provide shade and air cleaning, avoiding palm trees and utilizing native planting.
- A request for links for bicyclists and bike racks.
- A suggestion for providing maps, directions, or an information kiosk.
- A suggestion that public parking be provided at either end.

Additional comments can be forwarded to Augie Bezmalinovich who will then pass them on to the architects. Carrie Scoville also commented about the billboards on North Gaffey and the possibility of getting them removed.

**14. AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY:** Representatives from Meta Housing Corporation and the Community Redevelopment Agency provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed development in San Pedro.

- The proposed project relates to property at Pacific Avenue & 7<sup>th</sup> Street which has been purchased and ultimately will include the entire block.
- "Pacific Avenue Arts Colony" is what they are calling it at this time. Original proposed as a senior project, it has now become a family housing project which will include 49 residential units, on .87 acres. A total of 84,000 square feet with 88 parking spaces.
- Kara McLeod had concerns that the project might be too high a concentration of low income housing for this area.
- Andrew Silber asked about the ground floor retail space which he feels might be a challenge.
- They are currently looking for funding and are hoping to start construction in March 2012.

**15. Appointment of Representative to Attend PBID Board Meetings:** Stakeholder Katherine Gray volunteered to attend the PBID Board meetings and report back to the Central SPNC Board. She was appointed by the Board.

**16. Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report:**

- **Approval of Monthly Expenditures** The expenditures from March 24<sup>th</sup> through April 26<sup>th</sup> were presented by Kali Merideth. A motion was made by Kara McLeod to approve the monthly expenses. The motion was seconded by Andrew Silber and passed unanimously by the Board.
- **Transfer of funds:** There was a motion made by Kara McLeod to transfer funds from the following amounts line items into Community Improvements (301): \$400 from 105; \$175 to 102; \$250 from 103; \$714 from 105; \$100 from 106; \$796 from 107; \$100 from 108; \$80 from 109; \$120 from 201; \$200 from 202; \$3,050 from 204; \$1200 from 205; \$2810 from 206c; \$1475 from 208; \$947 from 209a & b; and \$710 from 210 for a total of \$12,727. The motion was seconded by Harvey Contreras and approved unanimously by the Board.
- **Finance Committee Report (ACTION ITEM):** The Finance committee brought forth the following motions:
  - i. Motion to reopen community grant application process between May 10<sup>th</sup> & May 24<sup>th</sup>. Unanimously approved.
  - ii. Motion to approve funding for POLA Boys & Girls Club for the following: \$1,000 to support additional staffing to extend the program hours for the summer day program and \$1,000 to provide \$20 subsidies for up to fifty student summer memberships. (Harvey Contreras recused himself from the discussion and voting of this item). Unanimously approved.
  - iii. Motion to approve a \$829.66 expenditure for the purchase of upgraded audio equipment from Alva's for use by the Central SPNC. Unanimously approved.
  - iv. Motion to approve funding of \$500 to Golden States Pops Orchestra for program insert advertising. Unanimously approved.
  - v. Motion to increase funding for the following previously approved organizations by \$1,000 each: Beacon House, POLA High School, Clean San Pedro, Cabrillo Angels Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro High School Docs Rocs Program. Total \$5,000. After discussion the motion was unanimously opposed. Motion failed.
  - vi. Request for board approval to move stakeholder meeting from June 14<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup> in order to accommodate funding approval deadlines. Board approved with 6 yes votes and 3 no votes.
  - vii. Finance meeting: The next Finance Committee Meeting was announced to be May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**17. Outreach Committee Report:** Andrew Silber introduced Chris Elce who gave a short presentation on search engine optimization. Chris explained the need to market the neighborhood council through social media avenues. After the presentation, Andrew Silber made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$1100 for search engine optimization expenses during a three month trial period. The motion was seconded by Kara McLeod and passed unanimously by the Board.

**18. Response to Rancho Holdings Invitation:** Linda Alexander received an invitation from Rancho Holdings to three representative from the Central SPNC to their upcoming meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 6pm. Several board members were opposed to sending representatives to a meeting which was not open to the entire public. After discussion, Julia Parker made a motion that the Central SPNC not participate in the upcoming meeting. The motion was seconded by Scott Gray and passed by the Board with 8 yes votes and 2 no votes.

**19. Downtown Merchants Report:** Scott Gray reported on the following:

- The primary issue being discussed by the merchants is parking meters and the behavior of the meter maids. This is an ongoing problem.
- The Merchants have a Facebook page where the public can comment on the parking issue as well as other topics.
- There will be a workshop May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am with the Chamber 9:00am on Search engine optimization. The cost of the workshop is \$18 which includes a book.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Street Merchants meeting every Wednesday at 3:30pm at Mishi's.
- They recently held a meeting with the 6<sup>th</sup> Street merchants. Michael from People's Yoga is working on some marketing ideas for the merchants.

**20. Chamber Marketing Meeting:** Katherine Gray reported on the following:

- Search engine optimization is the buzz word at every meeting. They want to try and create a central website for San Pedro. The website would be for events etc.
- They are considering a second downtown event in addition to First Thursdays that would be held possibly the second Saturday with a focus on entertainment.
- Everyone wants to collaborate with all the other organizations. The biggest competition is Long Beach.
- At the meeting Jack Baric showed his video for San Pedro.

**21. San Pedro Convention and Visitors Bureau:** Katherine Gray reported on ideas the Visitors Bureau has come up with the promote San Pedro.

- They are creating coloring books for children.
- They are considering putting signs in the store windows identifying movies that were filmed at those locations.
- They are creating a list of "10 Things you can do in San Pedro."
- Hotel packages that include the four events that the port is doing in order to market San Pedro to those who attend.
- Combine packages with travel.

**22. PCAC:** Carrie Scoville provided a written report with highlights as follows:

- At the last meeting the PCAC formed an ad hoc group to work on Port policies related to parks. The public can attend.
- There was a presentation on trucks illegally parking in neighborhoods and how to report them.
- At the next meeting there will be a presentation on the clean air action plan and air quality measures related to rail.
- The Wilmington Waterfront Park is opening June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Bekins Warehouse/Red Car Museum Concept Review Meeting: The POLA will hold a concept review meeting for the proposed Red Car Museum at the Bekins Building. The meeting will be held June 7, 6-8pm at the Wilmington Senior Center, 1371 Eubank St.
- EIR comments on Olympic tank farm

The full PCAC Report will be available on the Central SPNC website for further details.

**23. HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils):** Carrie Scoville reported that this was an exciting meeting. The Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor was there to discuss the mayor's budget cuts. The following topics were also discussed at the meeting:

- Proposed Change to Fire Department Deployment Strategy

- There will be a fee hike proposed for Wastewater which will be reflected on our DWP bills. The consumers will be voting on this and the ballot will be included with the DWP bill.
- Discussion on City Clerk Elections. There are no funds in the City Clerk's budget for elections. HANC has written a motion which Carrie read as follows: "HANC supports inclusion of a lesser amount in the City Budget for DONE and Neighborhood Councils to explore other methods of conducting Neighborhood Council elections which would include flexibility for Neighborhood Councils and accountability in the process."
- Discussion on Warner Grand. The Mayor will adjust the January 2012 start date to the new management start date so there will be no "dark period" for the Warner Grand.
- Discussion on Animal Shelters. Concerns have been raised about privatization of Animal Shelters.
- Clean-Up Green-Up Campaign Ordinance.
- Ordinance regarding Farmers Markets.  
(The full HANC report is available on the Central SPNC website)

**24. Board Member Comment:** Andrew suggested that we consider replacing non active board members so that more active board members can be appointed to help relieve those board members who are overburdened. There was a short discussion on getting more stakeholders involved and the possibility of putting a "Volunteer Application" on the website. Volunteering stakeholders could get involved and consider applying for a board position in the future.

**25. ACE District (Arts, Culture, and Entertainment):** Linda Alexander reported on the following:

- The ACE has taking proposals for funding for arts related activities.
- The San Pedro ACE website has applications for board positions. Elections are June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**26. CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency):** Andrew Silber reported on the following:

- There is a list of the worst alleys in san Pedro that is being sent around.
- A parking study was initiated but there still are no results.
- Warner Grand Theater has a study it funded itself on downtown parking and facilities.
- Prop 86 money is going to be spent on a parks at proposed locations on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets. Public input is being requested.

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

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