



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Tuesday, August 10, 2010 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5th St, San Pedro, Calif.

Call to Order & Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by President Linda Alexander. The following board members were present: Linda Alexander, Art Almeida, Frank Anderson, Pat Carroll, Scott Gray, Kara McLeod, Julia Parker, Bill Roberson, Carrie Scoville, Andrew Silber and Phill Trigas. Absent: Sue Castillo, Ralph (J.R.) Perez and Phillip Strout. Approximately 25 stakeholders present.

President's Report: Linda Alexander made welcoming remarks and encouraged Central San Pedro NC stakeholders to provide the council with feedback and to communicate any concern they might have in the community. She commented that this was a special night due to three vacant board seats being filled.

Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting: **Kara McLeod made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2010 Stakeholder meeting, seconded by Pat Carroll. Andrew Silber asked for minor corrections which included the spelling of the name Cyphers. Correction to the roll call to reflect that Phillip Strout was absent. The board approved the minutes with the minor corrections.**

Appointment of New Board Members to fill 3 Vacant Positions (to include discussion of filling Treasurer Position on the Executive Board and possible appointment). Bill Roberson made a motion to move this agenda item until after Public Comments. The motion was seconded by Andrew Silber and approved by the Board.

Reports from Public Officials:

LAPD: Officer Junior Nua gave an update on crime statistics in the area.

- We are down in the Harbor Area. In the summer, however, we experience a crime spike with kids out of school. There have been some gang assaults but nothing to be alarmed about.
- A Gang Intervention Team has been working on issues. Business windows were being smashed and cash registers were being stolen. A suspect was arrested and those crimes have stopped.
- There have also been isolated shootings. (Santa Cruz St; also 7th & Grand)
- Burglaries have doubled, especially residential. Also theft of seats and car parts from Cadillac Escalades.
- Some strategies include crime suppression overtime details funded by grants. Officers are hand-picked by the Captain to find violent criminals. These criminals mostly deal with sales of narcotics.
- There is also a traffic enforcement details, as well as unmarked car patrols.
- Linda Alexander, JR Perez and Scott Gray were thanked for attending the Movies in the Park for the Rancho San Pedro Housing Development held July 30th. It was a great event due to the collaboration of the Council, the LAPD and the housing development.
- Kara McLeod asked about bike patrols and said she would like to see horse patrols on First Thursdays. LAPD has a 6 man bike patrol that handles a lot of traffic citations.
- Scott Gray asked about the Massage Parlor issue and was told it is being handled.
- Andrew Silber asked about J-walking issues and also had questions about a possible burglary task force. Officer Nua responded with an explanation of career criminal background checks.

- Linda Alexander commended Officer Nua and the rest of the officers who worked with the children at the aforementioned Movie Night event in the housing development.

Mayor's Office: Ricardo Hong was not in attendance.

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

- Announcement of next Board of Harbor Commissioners Meeting.
- Proposal to develop a world class maritime research center at POLA has been accepted for review. Geraldine Knatz would like to come and do a presentation at the Central SPNC meeting.
- Lobster Fest scheduled for Sept 18, 19 & 20.
- Downtown Harbor Design Presentation is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2010 6:30-8pm at POLA High School.
- At the Taste in San Pedro, POLA had a Waterfront booth and their outreach has taken hold and many people were asking questions.
- Sampson Way update presentation/workshop tentatively Nov. 4
- Cabrillo Marina: Moved the boats to the south side to the North side.
- 22nd Street is still on schedule.
- Large palm trees around fountain are not doing well. They may replace them.
- California United Terminal is leaving Long Beach and moving to Pier 400. Now we have 8 container terminals in the port.
- Fish market building on end of 22nd street is being fumigated in November.
- Carrie Scoville commented that the problem at the base of Knoll Hill has been fixed.

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

- Next week ribbon cutting for Bandini Canyon Park/Trail, Thursday Aug 19 10am. Talked about improvements at Marshall Court.
- Proposed Topless bar at 1010 N. Gaffey. The landlord is currently in the eviction process to remove the tenants. No further permit applications have been submitted to move the project forward.
- The City council passed a Business Tax Holiday for the City of LA in hopes of bringing more businesses to the city.
- Bandini Canyon name change was brought up by Art Almeida and Gordon stated that the Councilwoman is not supportive of that change.
- Kara asked about resurfacing of streets in the area. She would Ana Dragin to report in more detail at the next meeting.
- Summer Fun event was a great success. Councilwoman Hahn enjoyed interacting with the community.

PBID Report: Steve Robbins reported on the following:

- On July 30th, 50 travel agents were here for an educational seminar. PBID hosted them on a two hour harbor cruise with dinner.
- PBID has published its summer newsletter.
- They are finalizing the real estate section on their website which will include a submission form for stakeholders to list real estate opportunities for sale etc.
- PBID is going forward with the branding project. First Monday in October is the kick off. Branding people will be here that week.
- PBID is working to produce a video of San Pedro for tourism and marketing.
- Direct mail company will do a coupon promotion for downtown San Pedro restaurants.
- Stakeholder Rebecca Trainee asked if the community can do anything to help with the video.

Public Comment:

- **Celia Bruckman** commented on the National Children's Project which involves creating a data base relating to health issues with children. 100,000 will be studied in 105 counties across the nation. LA County is one of those counties and San Pedro is one of the communities. They will be inviting pregnant women to participate in the study and follow them through birth to 21 years. This is the largest study ever conducted. They would like our support. Kara McLeod questions why autism is included in an environmental study.
- **Frank Anderson** announced a Labor Day event scheduled for Sept 8th. This is the annual Labor Day solidarity march and the event will include free food, music, shuttle buses for transportation. Held at Banning Park.
- **Art Almeida** made a public comment that Jack Baric should be commended for his historic documentary.
- **Rebecca Trani** commented on her business on 7th Street. She is happy to report that "7th Street is now alive." She would like to see the area get some bike racks. She also talked about a location scout coming to meet the neighborhood council.
- **Andrew Silber** commented that he would like to bring up the bike rack issue at the CRA CAC. He stated that it was encouraging to see so many youth at first Thursdays.
- **Robert Garth:** Commented that he is a USS IOWA supporter. He is a building inspector in South Central but has a vested interest in San Pedro and being a navy man he would be proud of something as wonderful as having the USS Iowa here. He also commented on two occasions during First Thursdays when there was a catering truck on 7th Street. He hopes that the neighborhood council can check into whether they have a legal right to be there. Bill Roberson was also offended by the "Roach Coach".
- **Victor Medina:** Would like to do a presentation on GAP at a future meeting. 310-519-7233

Presentation by Neighborhood Prosecutor's Office.

- Liz Greenwood talked about her role as Deputy City Attorney for Los Angeles. She also works on the City Retirement Commission.
- Neighborhood Prosecutor program originally strived to have one attorney in every police division. In the last two years there has been a 36% budget hit. People have left but have not been replaced. She is the Neighborhood Prosecutor for all of South Bureau. They get a lot of complaints directly from the police officers, also from community meetings etc.
- Contact information for Liz Greenwood is 310-678-5666 which is her personal cell phone. She commented that the quickest way to make a complaint is to talk to the lead officer. She has worked on the problem of prostitution at Harbor Regional Park. She works with the different city agencies to get things solved.
- Her goal is to improve the quality of life in South Bureau neighborhoods.
- In her office there is also a Civil Attorney who handles Civil Abatements
- Bill Roberson asked about the local court house in San Pedro but Ms. Greenwood was not familiar with the issue of it possibly being closed. Gordon Teuber commented that there are no plans to close it and that there must be at least one court house in San Pedro. It is just a civil court house. No prosecution.
- Kara McLeod asked about pay phones in her neighborhood that were previously removed and one has returned. Liz offered to talk with Justin Houterman and find out more about the issue.
- Andrew Silber commented that having one Neighborhood Prosecutor for such a huge area seems to be a gigantic job. Liz commented that hopefully budget problems will be worked out in the next couple of years and improve the situation.

- Liz can be contacted through her email address: Elizabeth.greenwood@lacity.org

Candidates for Vacant Board Seats:

- Bill Roberson explained the details of the vacant seats. The following candidates gave short statements:
- **James P. Allen:** Publisher of the local paper for 30 years. Owns property in the Central area and is also the Chair of ACE District and sits on several other board. He commented that it would be an honor and a privilege to serve on the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board.
- **Harvey Contreras:** Born and raised in South Bay and lived in San Pedro since he was 5. He has worked for the YMCA and volunteered as a camp director. Works at the Boys and Girls Club. He has been involved in the Top Sail program. Would like to work on committees. He commented that he is outspoken and gets along well with others.
- **Mark Contreras:** Also born and raised here. Served in the Army two years, and has been with the National Guard for about 10 years. Has traveled extensively and feels there is no other place like San Pedro. It is very special and unique and he wants to be a part of keeping it that way. Likes seeing our town grow and advance. He works for the Boys and Girls Club in San Pedro.
- **Katherine Gray:** Co-owner of the Maritime Research Center in downtown San Pedro. She is bullish on San Pedro. She feels San Pedro has so much potential. She wants to be a member of the NC because she cares and wants to help, especially with economic development.
- **Adela Gonzalez:** Not in attendance. She is a stakeholder who lives on West Oliver Street.
- **Karlheinz Halter:** Lives in Harbor City and is not an insider connected here but can see things with different eyes and likes to speak up for the people.
- **Kali Merideth:** Born and raised in San Pedro. Graduated from SPSHS in 1999. Has studied Economics and Finance. Has worked in banking and is now a casual longshoreman. Has attended 4 meetings in the past and looks forward to working with the Board.
- **Alan Ramirez:** Student. He thinks that a student's perspective would be good for the business owners. Was a lobbyist in the Student Government Program at the YMCA.
- **Rebecca Trainee:** She has lived in San Pedro all her life and her family owned the fish market. Jack trainee was her grandfather. She can feel the new life in San Pedro but it is still the good old town. She loves the energy of the people who love this town. Feel the future of San Pedro is looking great. She communicates with a lot of the members of the community and wants to share their comments with the Board.
- Andrew Silber commented that since there were so many qualified people applying for the board positions that he would like to see the Bylaws Committee consider expanding the Board to include more members. There was also a comment urging the candidates who are not elected to seriously consider becoming part of a committee.
- After voting by the Board, the following new Board Members were elected: Kali Merideth, Alan Ramirez, and James Allen.

San Pedro Convention and Visitors Bureau (Terry Tanimura).

- This new organization is asking for a letter of support from the Central San Pedro NC. The Visitors Bureau will have a dedicated focus to market San Pedro and will be sustained by various revenue streams including advertising, sponsorship, partner services, etc. They are also seeking some portion of travel occupancy tax. New ideas will include lunch with the captains of the cruise ships, lunch on the cruise ships, etc.
- **The following motion was made by Andrew Silber and seconded by Kara McLeod: “Whereas San Pedro enjoys no organized or effective tourism effort, the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council endorses the formation of a San Pedro Convention and Visitors Bureau (SPCVB). We, the Central San Pedro NC, ask that all San Pedro community organizations support and help the formation of the SPCVB and urge elected officials to divert transit occupancy taxes funds toward this organization.” The motion was approved by unanimous vote. (Executive Board Member Scott Gray recused himself from the room during the presentation and board vote).**
- **A letter of support was presented to the Board and Andrew Silber made a motion to accept the letter as written. The motion was seconded by Julia Parker. During discussion Carrie Scoville asked for an amendment to the motion be considered requesting that the third paragraph be removed. The request for an amendment was accepted by the Board and the amended motion was passed by unanimous vote.**

Wording of letter with corrections:

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council offers its strong endorsement of the new San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

We recognize the great potential for San Pedro as a destination for visitors as well as for business-related meetings and other events. We believe that the best opportunity for the community to take advantage of these types of opportunities is through an independent professional entity fully dedicated to marketing San Pedro as a destination. In addition, we would like to see San Pedro get its full share of transit occupancy taxes.

The San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau has devised a comprehensive and rational business plan that serves the best interests of the community and its residents. It is committed to developing an environment that fosters the creation of jobs for local residents. It is committed to ensuring that San Pedro is an attractive destination for both visitors and residents.

As we provide our support to the San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau, we encourage other individuals and organizations in the community do likewise. Further, we strongly encourage existing organizations and bodies that are involved in tourism promotion and related activities to partner with the San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau as a leader in these important efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion on Reactivation of Committee to review By-Laws/Standing Rules Committee and Selection of Committee Chair:** A motion was made by Scott Gray, seconded by Andrew Silber but then subsequently withdrawn. It was then agreed that the the Bylaws Committee be reactivated and

Scott Gray was designated as Chair of that Committee.

- **Discussion and possible Motion or Letter of opposition regarding proposed topless bar at 1010 N. Gaffey:** Pat Carroll moved that we postpone the motion in light of the information from Gordon Teuber that the landlord are evicted the current tenants due to non-payment. The motion was not seconded. Andrew Silber suggested that the Board take this opportunity and pass a resolution since it is on the agenda. **Andrew then made an official motion that the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council opposes the use of the property at 1010 N. Gaffey as a place of adult entertainment. Kara amended the motion to state change “opposes” to “formally opposes”. The amended motion was seconded by Julia Parker. Phill Trigas recused himself from any discussion or vote on the motion. After discussion the motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**
- **Discussion on forming ad hoc committee to deal with Local History issues as they arise:** Art Almeida expressed his desire to form such a committee in order to recognize historic places in the community that he feels are often renamed inappropriately. He would like to see the community recognize original names given to many of these areas. He specifically mentioned Bandini Canyon not being a Canyon. The committee would deal with such issues as they arise. **A motion was made by Art Almeida and seconded by Andrew Silber that an ad hoc committee be formed to deal with local history issues as they arise. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**

OLD BUSINESS

- **USS IOWA:** Carrie Scoville explained the need to submit a letter in support of the USS IOWA reaffirming our resolution from January. A draft letter was included in the agenda packet. Carrie commented that we have passed a resolution but we have not sent a letter of support. **Carrie Scoville then made a motion that we send the drafted letter to the Pacific Battleship Center with amendments to the second paragraph as discussed by the Board. The motion was seconded by Kara McLeod. Andrew Silber asked that a copy of the letter be sent to the Mayor of Los Angeles. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**
- Corrected letter reads:

“The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council enthusiastically supports the placement of the USS IOWA in the Port of Los Angeles.

We are excited about the opportunity presented by having this historical icon in our community. The 500,000 visitors the ship will potentially bring each year will garner new permanent jobs and new revenue the City of Los Angeles desperately needs. We anticipate the addition of this great ship will help make San Pedro and our waterfront a destination point for visitors across the nation.

The prospect of the educational program is especially appealing to us as our district’s youth need as many opportunities as possible. The USS IOWA team should be commended for the great effort it has made in designing a practical and effective youth outreach program which will bring countless benefits for our community.

In closing, we commend the Pacific Battleship Center for the excellent work it has done in developing such a comprehensive plan to bring this ship to Los Angeles.”
- **Gambol Industries:** Carrie Scoville gave an update on the recent hearing at the July 28th Harbor Commissioners meeting which President Linda Alexander attended to represent the Council. The Harbor Commission postponed any decision until August 19th due to both sides being unprepared.
- **Renaming Bandini Canyon Park Issue:** Scott Gray read the letter drafted by Art Almeida. **Bill Roberson made a motion to approve the letter which was seconded by Art Almeida. Kara McLeod made a statement for the record that she does not agree or support this letter. Phill Trigas commented that he understands the desire to be consistent but he also feels that the time being spent on this issue is a distraction of the Board. Andrew Silber asked that the names of the neighborhood councils be corrected in the letter. An amendment was requested**

by Carrie that the Board also include an accompanying letter stating our support and our past resolution. The amendment was passed with 7 yes votes, 3 no votes and the amended motion was also passed with 7 yes votes and 3 no votes. Scott Gray agreed to write the accompanying letter.

- **Board of Harbor Commissioners Appointment:** Andrew Silber made a motion the following motion: “Whereas the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council has previously requested that a vacant seat on the Board of Harbor Commissioners be filled by a local resident, and, Whereas that request was ignored; We, the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council formally require that the Honorable Mayor find and appoint a resident of the Los Angeles Harbor area to fill the recently vacated seat on the Board of Harbor Commissioners. And, further, that a follow up letter be written re-stating Central’s past position regarding Board appointments by the Mayor.” The motion was seconded by Kara McLeod and passed unanimously by the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance Committee:** The Board reviewed and approved the July expenses as required by DONE.
- **Port Community Advisory Committee (PCAC):** Written report included in Agenda packet.
- **HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils):** Written report included in Agenda packet.
- **Outreach Committee Report** – Pat Carroll gave a short report and update on the newsletter.
- **Land Use Planning Committee Report** – No report due to time constraints.
- **CRA Report** - – No report due to time constraints.
- **ACE District Report** – – No report due to time constraints.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith, Administrative Assistant to the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council