

# **Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Land Use Planning & Public Works Joint Committee Meeting February 22, 2012 Minutes**

Meeting convened at 6:35 in the Whale and Ale meeting room, 20 stakeholders in attendance.

I. In response to the elimination of California Community Redevelopment Agencies and funding, a list of eight agency-assisted activities was reviewed, potential approaches were discussed, and it was agreed that the list with comments, with the review and approval of the neighborhood council board, should be shared with our new Councilman Busciano in order that we may work together to further Central San Pedro redevelopment interests (motion to convey the list as discussed at this meeting made by James Allen, seconded by Linda Alexander).

List of CRA-assisted activities of concern to the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council:

1. **City Code violation enforcement activity.** CRA staff received complaints from the PC CAC and other community members about violations associated with particular nuisances, routed these to the appropriate City departments, and provided status reports back to the PC CAC. The systematic method and follow up increased City staff accountability and helped provide transparency into the City's code enforcement efforts. This neighborhood council offers to act as a similar clearinghouse and resource to the City in order to achieve significant code enforcement results, carried out as a part of its official CD Issue List function instituted in 2010.
2. **Non-discretionary building permit sign off with respect to compliance with the San Pedro Downtown Design Guidelines and stated historic preservation goals.** CRA staff previously carried out this function (over and above the work of City Planning staff). This NC asks that particular City staff member(s) who are knowledgeable about local guidelines and goals be assigned to this task, and that this staff be made available to the neighborhood council for reporting and follow up on building permit approvals.
3. **Community Plan Update.** CRA planning staff provided expert assistance that was focused on Pacific Corridor Area needs. This NC asks that the City Planning Dept bring the current draft document to public stakeholders at a community forum coordinated with the NC before any significant decisions are made, and that the process for finalizing the Plan allow reasonable time for NC input.
4. **Design Advisory Panel.** The Pacific Corridor Redevelopment Area benefited from the independent recommendations of its panel of design professionals on significant new projects, as these recommendations were typically implemented and greatly improved final design quality. This NC wants to continue to receive the benefits of such a panel, and is interested in organizing this under the aegis of the neighborhood council.

5. **Sidewalk repairs, updated street furniture and public greenscaping** were among CRA efforts in 2009-2011, but more remains to be done. It is recommended that an NC task force focusing on those issues be formed, and that Council District 15 work with this task force to find continued funding for such projects.
6. **Major Projects.** The Pacific Corridor Redevelopment Area working plans included community-desired initiatives such as a downtown parking structure, new park space, and the improvement of the Warner Grand Theater. Some of these initiatives achieved funding that will survive the loss of the CRA, but many others await further development. This NC has a continuing interest in these initiatives which will require economic development expertise. We ask that a dedicated City economic development specialist be assigned to our district and be made available to work with us.
7. **Seamless Interface between the community and the waterfront.** CRA staff worked with POLA staff for many years to incrementally implement the "seamless interface" vision established in the 2001 ULI Report on downtown San Pedro. This NC remains dedicated to the seamless interface concept and asks Council District 15 to recognize the importance of this vision and commit to achieving it over the coming years.
8. **Affordable housing.** The CRA funded and generally assisted with the development of affordable housing projects in this community, and this NC remains interested in such development.

II. Rachel Brunke and six POLA High School students spoke of their interest in local food growing and the vacant parcel addressed as 420 W. 9th Street, northwest of 9th Street and Mesa Avenue. Mary Jo Walker explained that this site is not owned by the City, and that a grant proposal (initiated by the CRA) is being considered by the State of California for the development of a public park at this site. If the proposal is accepted for funding by the State, it will be necessary to carry out the plan as described in the proposal (which does not include a community garden). It was suggested that they seek another site, as well as other creative methods to increase community agriculture. NC support should be expected when a viable plan is presented.

III. Carrie Scoville recently learned that additional China Shipping Mitigation Money has been made available for community improvements along the Front Street China Shipping perimeter. POLA is soon expected to provide details and potential scope of work for street improvements. This NC awaits more information from POLA and looks forward to working with them to develop this project.