



THE CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

STAKEHOLDER MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012

Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5th Street, San Pedro, CA

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. Board members in attendance: Harvey Contreras, Art Almeida, Julia Parker, Phill Trigas, Pat Carroll, Frank Anderson, Linda Alexander, Scott Gray, Allyson Vought, James Allen, Bill Roberson, Andrew Silber, Carrie Scoville, Sue Castillo and Annette McDonald. Absent board members: Kali Merideth (excused) and Kara McLeod. Approximately 35 stakeholders in attendance.
2. **President's Report.** Linda Alexander reported on the following:
 - a. Update from Mayor's Budget Review event that Linda attended on Saturday.
 - b. Linda and Allyson attended the DWP Ratepayer Advocate Meeting and also the Clearwater Project Meeting.
 - c. The Board Retreat will be held March 24, 10am-3 p.m. at the Croatian Cultural Center. The public is welcome to attend.
 - d. Appointments:
 - i. Allyson Vought was appointed as the representative to the HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils)
 - ii. Annette McDonald was appointed as Alternate Representative to the PCAC

REPORTS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS

3. **LAPD:** Officer Ashcraft reported that property crime is rampant not just in the Harbor Area but in the entire City of LA. The LAPD is promoting its "Lock it or Lose it" program. James Allen asked for a future report that includes statistics comparing specific types of crimes from last year to this year.
 4. **Council District 15 Report.** John Larson reported:
 - a. On Monday March 19, the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee will be holding a special meeting chaired by Councilmember Krekorian. It will be at the Port Administration Building at 6:00 p.m.
 - b. An update was given on the skateboard issue which has become a priority for the new Councilman.
 - c. The Councilman is frustrated with the lack of funds that is keeping the Harbor Station jail from being staffed and utilized. They hope to find the money to staff the jail in the near future.
 - d. Carrie Scoville asked that the Councilman support the neighborhood councils getting higher funding than is being proposed.
 5. **Congresswoman's Office.** Mike Aguilera, Field Representative for San Pedro, reported:
 - a. Last week two of the congresswoman's amendments were passed in the Small Business Committee: The first amendment will give priority to small business specialists within the SBA who serve areas of high unemployment in the city. The second relates to a congressionally mandated goal of providing 25% of all government contracts to small businesses and make them available to the public on line.
 - b. First meeting of the Ports Caucus was held. They have a focus on the importance of our ports as a national security issue and engines for our economy. The Caucus now has over 42 members from 19 states and two territories.
 - c. Bridges to Jobs Act: In response to a previous question on how many of the structurally deficient bridges are located in our area, Mike reported that 91 are located in LA and are some of the mostly highly traveled bridges. More information can be found on the website: T4America.org.
 - d. Announcement of event on March 15, "Women's Veterans Resource Fair," to provide assistance with housing, education, benefits, employment etc. for women veterans. Natalie Rogers, a naval veteran is the veteran's liaison through the congresswoman's office.
 6. **Mayor's Office. Ricardo Hong reported:**
 - a. The Mayor's Budget Survey results can be reviewed on the Mayor's website.
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- b. James Allen commented on an LA Times article comparing the pay scale for city council members and assembly members, with LA City Council members receiving close to double what assembly members receive. He suggested that at some point neighborhood councils should bring up the issue of what is appropriate pay for our city council people.
- c. There is an upcoming visit by the Mayor to the Maritime Museum this week for the groundbreaking of the downtown Harbor.
- d. Announcement of a Day of Service at the Boys and Girls Club on March 31st. The community is invited to this event which will feature a salad contest to promote healthier eating habits. There will be a prize presented to the best salad recipe.

7. Port Award: Linda Alexander commended the Port of Los Angeles for receiving the Climate Leadership Award from the EPA.

8. Port of Los Angeles Report. Augie Bezmalinovich reported:

- a. Ground breaking ceremony for downtown Harbor, Thursday March 15th at 11am.
- b. Annual LA Waterfront Update Meeting at Crown Plaza on March 29th from 6-8 p.m.
- c. Board of Harbor Commissioners meetings are scheduled for March 15th and April 5th. 8:30am both at Port Admin Bldg.
- d. Westways tanks are in the process of being demolished which will make way for more activity on upcoming projects.
- e. Plaza Park: The transfer of money is finally being handled between the Port and the City. They are looking to hold a groundbreaking ceremony in early April.

9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- a. **Donald Galaz:** Formally thanked the Central San Pedro NC for its letter of support related to the illegal racing issue. He has been in contact with the Congresswoman's Office and this issue will also be on the Northwest San Pedro NC's Issues Committee Agenda for discussion.
- b. **David Ellis:** Branch Manager of the San Pedro Regional Library at 931 S. Gaffey Street. He hopes to partner with the neighborhood councils in the future. The library has a Job Club that meets every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. It also has a partnership with the Harbor Work Source Center to assist the community members looking for work. Programs include computer clubs, children's programs and other programs for people of all ages.
- c. **Ron Tanimura, Barton Hill Elementary Principal :** Hopes to partner with the Neighborhood Council to improve the community. Commented on the preliminary LAUSD budget which shows it is eliminating funding for the after school activities.
- d. **Michael Gatanz:** Talked about his second installment of an Economic Development Plan for downtown.
- e. **Janet Gunter:** Provided additional information on the dangers of the Rancho LPG Tanks on Gaffey. She commented that their homeowner's group is gaining momentum and asked that everyone look into this problem more extensively. It was suggested that this issue continue to be discussed at the Port Subcommittee meetings.
- f. **Lonna Calhoun:** Talked about the upcoming Map your Neighborhood event sponsored by COPE Preparedness.

10. Marymount College: A letter of support for Marymount's Expansion Project was included in the Agenda Packet. **Andrew Silber moved that the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council endorse the Marymount CUP and send the letter as presented. The motion was seconded by Pat Carroll and carried unanimously.**

11. Presentation Re: Metro Express Lanes on 110 Freeway. Linda Alexander said the individual scheduled to present was ill and that the presentation would be rescheduled.

12. Clearwater Project: Lonna Calhoun spoke has studied the EIR and believes Alternative #1 has no risk to our coastline but Alternative #4 does have substantial risk. She believes that the project EIR does not evaluate the risk of landslide for Alt 4 using the most current information." She would also like to see the comment period time extended to give the public the opportunity to be well informed. **Sue Castillo moved that a letter be sent to the Sanitation Department requesting a one month extension on the Public Comment period, seconded by Art Almeida. Motion carried unanimously.**

13. Discussion on Free Speech Issue at Farmer's Market: James Allen provided background information on this issue. He explained that the Chamber of Commerce contracts with a manager to run the Farmer's Market. Groups have been denied a chance to have a table to pass out literature. (Information was also included on Pg. 4 of the Agenda Packet). James wants Central NC Board to ask for a clear and open policy in support of the right to free speech for all citizens in this public place. Sue Castillo made a motion requesting that the Chamber state in writing what its position is on free speech in the Farmers Market. After a short discussion, James Allen and Andrew Silber assisted in drafting a resolution which was presented to the board. Andrew Silber moved to approve the motion as presented, seconded by Sue Castillo and carried with 11 yes votes and 0 no votes. The wording of the resolution follows:

Whereas our stakeholder citizens wish to exercise their First Amendment rights at the San Pedro Farmers Market, we, the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council, request a clear written policy from the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce stating its adherence to protecting free speech, assembly and petition in any public place.

14. Parking Meter Issue Update: Katherine Gray explained that Janice Hahn's motion, introduced when she was still a City Councilmember, related to parking meters is still in committee. In the meantime, she suggested that the previous letter of support from the Central NC Board for this motion be re-transmitted to CD15's new Councilman, Joe Buscaino, to apprise him of Central SPNC's position on the issue. Pat Carroll moved that the previous letter be sent to CD15 Councilman Joe Buscaino, seconded by Art Almeida. There was a lengthy discussion on the motion. Sue Castillo commented that she does not support free parking just reduced parking. Pat moved to amend her motion to advocate a trial time of four months free parking with a two-hour time limit enforcement. Pat withdrew her original motion and moved that the Board support the 50 cents meters, seconded by Sue Castillo, however, this motion was subsequently withdrawn. *A new motion was then made by Andrew Silber to send the letter as presented in the agenda packet, seconded by Allyson Vought. The motion was passed with 7 yes votes and 3 no votes. The contents of the letter were as follows:*

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council strongly recommends that the Transportation Committee advocate a trial time of (4) months of free parking in downtown San Pedro. This is needed to regain customer base that has been lost since April 2009 when the parking meter rates jumped from .25 an hour to \$1.00 an hour.

Merchants in our area have seen their business decline as a result, and with the economy still challenged, people need an incentive to re-visit and do business in downtown San Pedro. Since the start of the fare hike the number of cars parked on our streets is down 65% by the City's own statistics.

Business in Downtown San Pedro needs help and we endorse a trial moratorium on parking meters for this time to help revitalize the area. After the trial period we will then need to assess its success to see if a permanent removal of the meters is warranted.

15. CD 15 Action Item List: Andrew Silber gave an update on the CD15 Action item list as it was created by the ad hoc committee. A copy was included in the agenda packet. *Bill Roberson moved that the list be submitted to the Council District 15 representative, Joe Buscaino and his staff, as a vehicle for tracking issues. The motion was seconded by James Allen and passed unanimously by the Board.*

16. Skateboard Safety Issue: Art Almeida discussed the necessity of educating youth on wearing safety helmets when skateboarding and having them adhere to traffic laws.

- a. Request for Board support of Councilman Buscaino's position on this issue. *Motion by Art Almeida that the Board go on record supporting councilman Joe Buscaino's position on the skateboarding issue and that a rule be passed by the City Council that safety helmet be worn by skateboarders on public property, seconded by Annette McDonald. Motion carried unanimously.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

17. Land Use Planning Committee: Sue Castillo referred to the minutes of the Committee Meeting which were included in the agenda packet (Pgs. 6-9). The Committee reviewed a list of eight CRA assisted functions of concern to the Central SPNC. The list was included in the agenda packet. *A motion was brought forth from the Committee to take the list, meet with Councilman Buscaino, and discuss all eight points in order for the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council and CD15 to work together to further Central's redevelopment interests. The motion was seconded by James Allen and passed unanimously by the Board.*

- 18. Outreach Committee:** Pat Carroll explained the purpose of reallocating funds. A motion was brought forth from the Committee and passed unanimously by the Board to approve the following budget item changes related to outreach:
- Line 208 (\$2500) release funds encumbered for SP marketing and logo and have those funds remain in Line 208 (Advertising)
 - Line 203 (\$367- exact figure TBD) to Line 301 balance available after SP Clean Up.
 - Andrew was concerned about money taken out of marketing but was assured that marketing proposals can be brought to the Outreach Committee meeting for consideration.
- 19. Election Committee:** Bill Roberson gave an update on the selection/election process. We are still considering the date of June 12th to have our Selection of Board Members. Bill will be holding an Election Committee meeting in the next two weeks.
- 20. Finance Committee:** The February Monthly Expenses were included in the agenda packet and approved unanimously by the Board. A budget summary was also included for the Board to review.
- 21. Port Subcommittee:** Frank Anderson reported on the items discussed at the Port Committee Meeting:
- Construction on the downtown water cut has begun and be ready for the tall ships in 2014.
 - The Committee briefly discussed concerns about the USS Iowa EIR and potential traffic mitigation measures.
 - There is landscaping in progress on Harry Bridges Blvd. and it is now open in two directions.
 - Front Street upgrades were discussed which included landscaping, curbing, plaza area, kiosk & seating plus safety features and a bike lane and kiosk. The goal is to make the area attractive and maintainable.
 - Andrew Silber asked the Port Subcommittee to contact the Port and ask them what they are doing about Navy Days. Scott Gray commented that there will be a destroyer in port this year. The Convention and Visitors Bureau will be meeting with the Port, the Chamber and others to discuss maximizing the effects of that. There is an effort to get more ships here this year.
- 22. PCAC (Port Community Advisory Committee).** Carrie Scoville gave a short verbal report:
- No PCAC meeting this month because the presenters could not attend and there were no action items.
 - The new PCAC alternate process was discussed.
 - At the March PCAC meeting there will be a presentation on the Terminal Island Planning workshops and also an update on the status of mitigation projects being funded by China Shipping Mitigation Funds. There will also be an update on the Amp Offset Program.
 - At the April meeting there will be a meeting on the Trapac Foundation (Harbor Community Benefit Foundation) which was set up for the China Mitigation Funds. There will also be a Waterfront update.
- 23. HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils)** Carrie Scoville gave highlights from the written report that was included in the agenda packet.
- 24. ACE District (Arts, Culture, and Entertainment)** Linda Alexander reported that the ACE District is in transition. There is still some money available (approximately \$130,000) and another \$20,000 - \$30,000 will be made available this fiscal year to be spent in compliance with the MOU between ACE and the City. With the elimination of the CRA, the future of the ACE District group is in question.
- 25. Approval of Minutes:** The February 14, 2012 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved by the Board with minor revisions.
- 26. Announcements:** Board Retreat scheduled for March 24, 2012.
- 27. Adjournment:** The Meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Smith, Administrative Assistant to CSPNC