



# CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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## BOARD RETREAT NOTES SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015

PORTS O'CALL RESTAURANT  
1200 Nagoya Way, San Pedro  
9:00 a.m. Call to Order

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 9:20am by President James Allen. (**Quorum of 13 Board Members**). Approximately 5 stakeholders present.

Board Members	Roll Call/Attendance
James P. Allen	Present
Frank Anderson	Present
Sue Castillo	Excused
Karen Ceaser	Present
Donald Galaz	Present
Katherine Gray	Present
Jose Guerrero	Present
Alexander Hall	Present
Grant Hartwell	Present
Debra Hunter	Present
Collin King	Present
Kali Merideth	Absent
Khixaan Obioma-Sakhu	Present Arrived 9:30am
Debbie Rouser	Present Arrived 12:30pm left 1:30pm
Danielle Sandoval	Present
Carrie Scoville	Present
Hrant Harutyunyan	Present <b>not sure may have come late</b>
Dee & Judy, Ray Regalado, Robert Farrell	<b>Public present</b>

2. **Introduction** – President, James Allen
  - a. He hopes that today they can get focus and direction for the upcoming year.
3. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**
  - a. Carrie Scoville announced on Saturday May 30, 2015 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm at the Croatian Cultural Center 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 510 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, San Pedro Neighbors for Peace and Justice is having a community forum on Black Lives Matter.
  - b. Stakeholder Robert Farrell and a member of the Arts, Cultural and Entertainment District which has undergone a transition into a new entity. If in fact there is a future to San Pedro it is tied into all of the time, energy and public investment that's taken place in the Central area. He believes that this is basically the dynamo that drives the whole dynamic of Neighborhood Council activity that has the greatest impact for what the future of the community is going to be.
4. **Facilitator** – Debra Hunter
  - a. She began with an ice breaker group word association game.
  - b. She then conducted a non-verbal team building exercise.

5. **Strategic Planning Overview** – President, James Allen

- a. Allen asked everyone to close their eyes and imagine the kind of community they would like to live in and then write down in one or two words what that would be.
- b. He displayed a drawing that he drew 42 years ago when he first came to San Pedro. He spoke about how at that time the area was polluted, there were no controls on development and much of the area was industrialized. In the intervening years there has been a lot of community activism. It started when the Port of Los Angeles wanted to bulldoze the pine trees at Cabrillo Beach and create a marina on the outside of the breakwater. The community rose up and ultimately the Point Fermin activists chained themselves to the trees to prevent them being bulldozed. Some of those people are still active in the community today. People like June Smith, and Pat and Diana Naïve were all there at the beginning many many years ago.
- c. He passed out a map of San Pedro and pointed out how much green space there is. Particularly the park on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street below Harbor Boulevard that used to be one of the most polluted oil/chemical facilities in the area. There are still parts that cannot be developed today due to pollution. He wants to give a historical prospective of community activism, how it's engaged the Port, City Council, and even County and State government, in terms of creating future of San Pedro. In many ways had a physical effect on changes in our community.
- d. What he has in mind for the coming year is a challenge to the Central San Pedro Board and to the other two Neighborhood Councils in San Pedro is to go through and create a Futures Forum. For the three Neighborhood Councils to work together to envision what the next steps are going to be. For them to work with the Port, AltaSea, and the Housing Authority for Rancho San Pedro, to concentrate on these three critical developments. To have each of these entities engage with the three San Pedro Neighborhood Councils and bring what their vision is in advance so that the Neighborhood Councils can have input in the process not simply have to react after the fact. One of the major concerns of the community is the cumulative effect of all the development combined. Not to just consider each project individually. There will be close to a billion dollars spent on these three projects over the next ten years. How they spend that money and what gets built, all of San Pedro needs to have an opportunity to give these agencies feedback and input as to what we imagine our community will look like ten and twenty years down the road.
- e. Allen is proposing that the board allocate approximately \$2,500.00 in the budget for the coming fiscal year for this Futures Forum of the three San Pedro Neighborhood Councils. The Forum will allow the Neighborhood Councils to get as much information from these agencies as possible and give them the feedback/input that they need to have to understand where the community wants to go. For example how to connect the community to its harbor. We need to have a vision statement that communicates to these agencies what the community sees and be of benefit to the residents of San Pedro not just the developers.
- f. He then asked each person what their word or words were to describe their imagined community and asked them to place them onto one of the categories on the wall.

6. **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment** - Thomas Soong, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst

- a. He introduced himself and thanked the board for their participation and hard work. He talked about working on the Stipulation Worksheet later in the day. This would include how the Worksheet will impact the board's selection or election process.

7. **Strategic Planning Outline** – Debra Hunter

Debra placed large blank sheets of paper all around the room with the following categories. She asked everyone to write down ideas for each category and place the post-it notes in each category. After everyone has placed their ideas they will go over all the ideas so the board can come together and have consensus and have a really productive 2015-2016 year. James commented that all of these categories are connected. The challenge is how to draw the lines between what is public works, transportation and/or the Port. How do they all come together so that instead of having 12 different things to focus on they find a way to combine categories into a manageable list of goals.

a. **Public Works**

- I. Prioritization of sidewalk repairs

- II. Blitz initiatives on potholes
- III. Beach Clean-ups
- IV. Gaffey Street median design
- b. **Parks and Recreation**
  - I. Return of Knoll Hill to public access, the community
  - II. New & more pocket parks
  - III. Better park maintenance/clean accessible restrooms/ removal of fallen palm fronds
  - IV. Better lighting/graffiti prevention
  - V. Outdoor exercise equipment for seniors
  - VI. More activities for Children
  - VII. More youth programs
  - VIII. More pocket parks
  - IX. Public fruit trees (urban food forest)
  - X. Enforce no alcohol policy, post signage of code with a phone number to report violations
  - XI. Parks should support San Pedro residents and visitors by being a welcoming destination
- c. **Transportation**
  - I. Expansion of local circuit transportation – Dash shuttles to Harbor College and Kaiser
  - II. More bike lanes
  - III. Rail lines – lite rail to cruise center
  - IV. Save the Red Car, expansion of the Red Car line
  - V. No lane reductions
  - VI. Public transportation in and out of San Pedro
  - VII. Direct transportation to LAX
  - VIII. Eliminate toll roads, bring back car pool lanes
  - IX. LA DOT transportation forum
  - X. Directional signage
  - XI. Improved signage, for example for event parking
  - XII. Direct airport transit
  - XIII. Sponsor a CicLAvia
  - XIV. Express intra community transit (Dash)
  - XV. Caltrans clean up, better maintenance
  - XVI. Collaborate with Crenshaw Subway Coalition
- d. **Community Appearance**
  - I. Clean streets, anti-litter, community clean-ups, culture shift
  - II. Water conservation awareness, turf terminators
  - III. Homeowner awareness of property appearance issues
  - IV. Trees
  - V. Public arts committee
  - VI. More murals
  - VII. Regular community clean up days
  - VIII. Increase the number of public trash receptacles and recycling bins
  - IX. Enforcement of signage codes
  - X. Graffiti abatement clean up CD 15 entrance
  - XI. Tidier public gardens
  - XII. Spay and neuter of feral cats
- e. **Homelessness**
  - I. Have drives to collect blankets, water, socks, shoes and/or hygiene kits for the homeless
  - II. Create coordination with non-profit & faith based organizations in the community
  - III. Housing for the homeless
  - IV. Housing- housing first model, more available units
  - V. Homeless prevention
  - VI. Address homelessness as a city-wide problem
  - VII. Work with property managers
  - VIII. Re-establish community recognition of the humanity of the homeless
  - IX. Support services sponsored by the POLA
  - X. Have locker space available to the homeless

- XI. Less criminalization of homeless
- f. **County of Los Angeles**
  - I. Vocational programs
  - II. Sustainability
  - III. World renowned public education
  - IV. Turn courthouse into a museum
- g. **State Government**
  - I. Uphold and strengthen CEQA laws
  - II. Listen to us/stakeholder voice
  - III. High speed rail to LA
  - IV. Build Ports O' Call for San Pedro, not just developers
  - V. Stop erosion of State Land Commission
  - VI. Active role in development with State elected officials on our Neighborhood Council
  - VII. Be more open to take survey of different opinions or suggestions
  - VIII. High speed rail
  - IX. Civic engagement
  - X. Give input and direction to government departments and elected officials
- h. **City Council**
  - I. Position papers on City ordinances
  - II. Drive the priorities and solutions
  - III. Weekly reports from CD15 and Mayor's office
  - IV. Better communication/more engagement
  - V. Support vocational programming
  - VI. Promote memorial signage around San Pedro
  - VII. Neighborhood Council comment period on City Council agenda items
  - VIII. Give LAUSD more support for budget and educator compensation
  - IX. Increased accountability
  - X. Increase Neighborhood Council budgets
- i. **Port of Los Angeles**
  - i. Ask the Port to do outreach similar to Alta Sea
  - ii. Engage the Port on transparency, more communication
  - iii. Participate in POLA workshops
  - iv. Keep and promote Saturday Fish Market
  - v. Porting seeming to control area
    - I. Harbor Department, City Council and the Mayor rule
    - II. Community input, more communication
    - III. Stop being secretive about what's going on
  - vi. Directional signage at the Port
  - vii. Return Knoll Hill back to the community – Knoll Hill is public state land managed by the Port. The private little league was supposed to be temporary. Community planning had intended that the area be returned to the public.
  - viii. Environmental sustainability, decrease pollution, have more monitoring
  - ix. Recognition of San Pedro community locations/memorials
    - I. More memorials and public recognition for what members of the community have done for the community.
  - x. Formal recognition of Neighborhood Council Port Advisory Committee
- j. **Land Use and Planning**
  - i. AltaSea, the Port wants to know what the public wants to be built
  - ii. Aesthetic coordination
  - iii. Direct Neighborhood Council input into any new land use or planning development
  - iv. Alta Sea, Ports O' Call, Rancho San Pedro to find out what the public desires, get feedback, Facebook polling
  - v. Neighborhood Council input on land use
  - vi. More retail
  - vii. Affordable housing on vacant lots
  - viii. Neighborhood Council conduct, participate in community studies

k. **Economy/Financial Development**

- i. Keeping it local
- ii. Get feedback on recycled San Pedro spending
- iii. Get data on cross-community spending
- iv. Get data on types of businesses needed
- v. Sustainability – political, economic, cultural, etc.
- vi. Local excursion destination
- vii. Tax break for new small businesses
- viii. Neighborhood Council role in collaboration with Harbor College, Alta Sea, etc.
- ix. Help new small businesses to start in San Pedro (vacant properties)
- x. Keep track of job creation and new development

l. **Miscellaneous**

- i. Use of technology for neighborhood alerts
- ii. More programs to the area, make our neighborhood a community
- iii. More memorials and public recognition for what members of the community have done for the community
- iv. Better training and communication from DONE
- v. Committee Communication
- vi. Central Neighborhood Council should hold one major event in our area
- vii. Public/Private partnerships
  - I. Strategic coordination
  - II. Harbor area Neighborhood Council's
- viii. Piggyback on Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council's Pathways to Employment event and hold one of our own
- ix. Neighborhood Council Board member meet & greet
  - x. Ray Regalado, Frank Anderson, James Allen and Debra Hunter all made comments to the effect that when the three San Pedro Neighborhood Councils join together on any issue their voice as a group becomes stronger and more difficult to ignore. Particularly when dealing with the Port. If all three Neighborhood Council Port Committees banded together that voice might actually get heard. Further, if all the similar Neighborhood Council committees got together, again, they might be more effective on shared issues. Of course, this does not negate the each Neighborhood Council committee does and needs to do for its own area.
- xi. Robert Farrell commented that Neighborhood Council board members are elected City officials. He suggested that they ask what the status of Board members as elected Public representatives. James suggested that they write a letter to the City Attorney asking what elected Neighborhood Council Board members can do relative to the City Charter. Particularly in regards to the Port not listening or responding to Neighborhood Councils. Khixaan suggested that they in fact state Neighborhood Council board members status to the City Attorney rather than ask.
- xii. Thomas Soong reminded everyone that as elected officials they represent their neighborhood. The Councils goals are about interacting and reaching out to the community.
- xiii. Debra Hunter commented that the above items are not a definitive list of things they are going to do but a guide to the kinds of things the Council wants to achieve in the community. One of things that the Council does is information dissemination to stakeholders, one way communication. Then there are engagement activities where the Council is helping them form opinions or figure out how to articulate what is important to them. The goal is to take these items and translate how to act on them. One method of communicating the community's ideas is to publish position papers.

8. **2015-2016 Budget Priorities and Planning** – Treasurer, Danielle Sandoval

- a. Operations - She pointed out that in the current fiscal year they spent close to \$10,000 on Operations. For next year that category is budgeted at \$12,000. She would like to see them spend less in that category in the future. This category includes audio/sound services, virtual office services and temporary staffing services.

- b. Outreach – There was a lot of money budgeted for advertising and yet they didn't spend any of it on advertising. For the coming fiscal year she thinks they should do more branding of Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council. She suggested they could do yard signs to let stakeholders know about the council.
- c. Community Improvement – No funds were spent from this budget line in the current fiscal year. A community garden is an example of a community improvement. Board member Sue Castillo wants the board to consider covering the holes left when trees were removed at 7<sup>th</sup> and Mesa with tiles with Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council's logo as a community improvement project.
- d. Neighborhood Purpose Grants – There is \$5,000 in the 2015-2016 budget for NPG's. For the current year they spent \$10,000, partly because they did not do any community improvement projects.
- e. Selections – This will be a category they will need to have a few thousand dollars in to cover outreach specific to the selection.
- f. Debra will create a matrix combining the Budget items and the Strategic Plan Outline items in a way that will allow the Council to prioritize and rank items. This will also give a percentage number to for items as a cross reference to the budget.
- g. Carrie Scoville commented that they will need funds in the budget for the Board selection.
- h. There was discussion of the process for hiring a translator when needed.
- i. James Allen suggested that the Council could do a flyer with the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council boundaries on one side and a list of upcoming events on the other.
- j. Khixaan suggested that the board have meet and greet events in addition to the monthly stakeholder meeting.

9. **Review of Bylaws** – Thomas Soong

- a. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) - Procedures Situation Worksheet. The following items needed clarification to align with the bylaws.
  - i. Number 1. Article V - Governing Board, Section 3: Official Actions – For this section to be consistent with the bylaws the proper selection is *Simple majority vote by the board members present, not including abstentions*.
  - ii. Number 4. Article XIV – Compliance, Section 1: Code of Civility and Number 5. Article IV – Compliance, Section 2: Training – both of these are being overlaid onto all Neighborhood Council bylaws by DONE.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Sheryl Akerblom,  
 for the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council