

TO: CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (CeSPNC)

FROM: MATTHEW QUIOCHO, VICE CHAIR CeSPNC BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES COMMITTEE, MEMBER CeSPNC FINANCE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION REGARDING INCORPORATION OF TERMINAL ISLAND INTO THE BOUNDARIES OF CeSPNC

DATE: July 21, 2020

Terminal Island has become a source of contention between CeSPNC and WNC. June 22, 2020 the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) denied CeSPNC's request to amend its bylaws allowing for the incorporation of Terminal Island into the council boundaries of CeSPNC. WNC currently claims Terminal Island within its own council boundaries. James Allen, Carrie Scoville, Lou Caravella and I were in attendance and represented CeSPNC. Having heard arguments from CeSPNC, WNC and other community stakeholders, BONC ruled against CeSPNC. Several BONC Commissioners encouraged CeSPNC and WNC to work out an agreement amongst themselves, such that Terminal Island may perhaps become a shared asset.

Going forward CeSPNC board should adopt an official policy regarding Terminal Island. Despite BONC's ruling, the question of which council should represent Terminal Island remains an open question. Resolution of this question is difficult given the many varying viewpoints of CeSPNC board members. While divergent viewpoints are a cornerstone of democracy, it is imperative that the CeSPNC board come together and determine a unified course of action based on the needs of our community and the will of the majority.

As part of adopting an official policy, the CeSPNC board should consider the following potential courses of action:

1. **Do nothing.** Should the CeSPNC board decide against any further actions, Terminal Island will remain solely within the boundaries of WNC indefinitely. BONC recently approved the CeSPNC Board approved bylaws dated Feb 2020, sans the requested boundary adjustments. Members interested in this course of action would best be served by ratifying the newest BONC approved bylaws and voting against further appeals regarding boundary adjustments.
2. **Appeal to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council.** In order to appeal BONC's decision, board members should familiarize themselves with the guidelines outlined in a *Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils*¹ which reads in part:

¹ https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Plan_Amended_12-18-131.pdf

Article VI Certified Neighborhood Council Self-Assessment, Boundary and Bylaw Adjustment, Complaints, and De-Certification

(a) A Certified Neighborhood Council may petition the Commission to adjust its boundaries....

(vi) If the Commission approves the Incorporation Petition, the proposed area shall be incorporated into the specified Certified Neighborhood Council named in the Incorporation Petition. **If the Commission rejects the Incorporation Petition, the applicants may, within five meeting days of the City Council during which the Council has convened in regular session, file an appeal with the City Council.**

Appeal of BONC's ruling would appear to require a determination as to the number of LA City Council "regular sessions" that have passed since June 22, 2020. If five or more City Council sessions have passed since BONC's ruling this course of action is potentially null and void.

3. **Request a rehearing before BONC.** Several members of the CeSPNC board including board President Carrie Scoville have made the argument that BONC was in error when it interpreted CeSPNC's petition as requesting the "full integration" of Terminal Island into the territory of the CeSPNC. Rather it is argued, the petition should have explicitly stated CeCPNC intent was and always has been to share Terminal Island with other neighborhood councils. Board members who support this course of action are encouraged to introduce motions approving CeSPNC to request a re-hearing in front of BONC.

4. **Seek a settlement with WNC and/or other neighborhood councils in the Harbor Gateway community.** During the June 22 hearing, several commissioners noted the validity of both CeSPNC's and WNC's historical claims to Terminal Island. However, BONC as a whole appeared to remain apprehensive about issuing a unilateral "lose-lose" decision which would likely antagonize both parties. Besides possibly working with WNC directly, it has also been suggested by board members that CeSPNC may perhaps be wise in exploring a partnership with CSPNC and/or NWSPNC in regard to all three councils sharing Terminal Island.

Members who support this course of action are encouraged to introduce motions supporting the appointment of a council representative or body of representatives to work with other neighborhood councils directly, in order for a coalition of councils to ratify their bylaws recognizing Terminal Island as a shared asset. Which specific councils would be included in such a coalition is a matter for further discussion.

*Note: All members are encouraged to vote for ratification of the BONC approved bylaws. Despite BONC making several executive changes, the majority of changes passed by the CeSPNC board in February remain unchanged. Failure to ratify the newest bylaws would potentially leave CeSPNC with bylaws from 2018. Ratification of the BONC approved bylaws does not preclude COAs 2-4.

Conclusion

The purpose of this policy memorandum is not to convince board members to choose one course of action over another. Nor is it intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible actions which could be taken in regard to Terminal Island. Rather the purpose of this policy memorandum is to assist the CeSPNC board in better understanding the current status of Terminal Island and make an informed decision.

I implore the board to decide on a unified course of action whatever that may be. Without a clearly defined policy in place regarding Terminal Island, CeSPNC is likely to continue finding itself locked in disagreement or paralyzed in a cycle of indecision. Let's decide what we are going to do as a unified board. Let's make it official. Let's make it transparent. We owe it to our stakeholders.

signed,

Matthew Quioco

Vice Chair Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee
Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council