



Regular Board and Stakeholder Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
Remote Meeting

Minutes

1. **6:30 pm. Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Carrie Scoville. There was a quorum with 13 Board Members, and approximately 65 stakeholders were present.

Board Members	Roll Call/Attendance
Linda Alexander	Present
James Allen	Present
Carolyn Anderson	Present
Frank Anderson	Present
Eugenia Bulanova	Present
Louis Caravella	Present
Steve Casares	Present
Charles Patrick Cooper	Present
Maria Couch	Absent
Matt Garland	Present
Tamra King	Present
Linda Nutile	Absent
Matthew Quiocho	Present
Carrie Scoville	Present
Maki Villacarillo	Present
	Vacant Seat
	Vacant Seat

2. **Opening Remarks, Recognition of Dignitaries, and Special Recognitions** – Ms. Scoville reviewed meeting protocols.
3. **President’s Report** – President’s Activity and Announcement of Board Vacancies
 a. Ms. Scoville reviewed parliamentary procedure for making motions.
4. **Appointment of Board Members to Fill Vacancies**
 a. There are 2 applicants, however, their applications were received after the deadline for submittal.
5. **Election of Secretary** – Maki Villacarillo approved by acclamation.
6. **Appoint Card Holder** – Charles Cooper approved by acclamation.
 Motion to appoint Charles Cooper to serve as Card Holder passed with 11 yes (Alexander, Allen, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, King, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 0 no, 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).
7. **Election of Election Committee Chair** – Bill Roberson elected by acclamation.
8. **Motion to Cancel the December Board and Stakeholder Meeting**

Motion by **James Allen** to amend the motion that instead of holding the December 15th stakeholder meeting to hold a special meeting on December 8th, second by **Frank Anderson**, and passed with 11 yes (Alexander, Allen, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, King, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 0 no, 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).

Motion by **James Allen** to cancel the December Board and Stakeholder Meeting as amended above, second by **Frank Anderson**, and passed with 11 yes (Alexander, Allen, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, King, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 0 no, 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).

9. Approval of October 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by **Linda Alexander** to approve the October 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes, second by **Stevan Casares**, and passed with 11 yes (Alexander, Allen, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, King, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 0 no, 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).

10. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- a. Board member James Allen requested that the text below be entered into the minutes.

Homeless in San Pedro, Tiny Homes

Central San Pedro Council members,

Those of you who attended the meeting on Tuesday night, Oct. 20, were witness to the presentation on Homeless Housing by CD 15 deputy Alison Becker. This was the shortened version that was presented to the CD15 Working group, but it did answer some questions regarding what the Council office has been up to during the last three years. The last item Ms. Becker explained, to my surprise, was the "pallet housing" project on Figueroa Street for 75 tiny homes. This is significant, as I'll tell you later on in this message; it is somewhat of a vindication for our neighborhood council. Let me explain.

What many of you don't know is how the CeSPNC was influential in motivating the entire city to act on the homeless issue before they had any plan except to tolerate or ignore the problem. Over five years ago when I was president we had a very active homeless committee, in fact we were the first NC in the entire city to actually have a homeless committee and for well over a year we had been lobbying the CD15 office to do more than arrest and harass the unsheltered neighbors. We were the first to start calling them "unsheltered" a term more common today.

Our council at that time was very united and supportive of addressing the homeless issue as we could see that it had grown and had become more obviously a public health problem that was now visibly impacting our business district and residential areas. We pushed for services, sanitation and shelter much to no avail.

Councilman Buscaino's response continued to be police enforcement that solved little and only made it harder for these people without shelter to actually receive services because of outstanding warrants for failure to appear on misdemeanor charges.

So after months and months of trying to work with the council office we were approached by a young man by the name of Elvis Summers who had built a small portable "tiny home" that would allow some modest shelter, a bit of privacy and a place to store their belongings off the public right-of-way. He did this on his own, with his own labor, donations and only wanted our consent or approval. We were not asked for any financial support and we gave none.

The motion to support tiny homes was passed unanimously and the project moved ahead. However, within weeks a small group of people who had never been to our meetings or shown up at hardly any public meetings starting complaining about the homeless getting tiny shelters; then started to attack CeSPNC on social media and followed up by creating a Facebook page called Saving San Pedro, which was actually usurped from another group fighting the Rancho LPG facility on North Gaffey Street.

What started out as an uprising over homelessness escalated into attacks against our neighborhood council and against me personally as president. It was a vial, nasty and belligerent attack that was based upon little understanding and great ignorance of the complexity of causes of homelessness. However, their response and our defense made the news countywide— radio, TV and newspaper reporters were now all covering the *tiny homes* battle in San Pedro and focused the attention of every elected politician in Los Angeles for the first time on the long ignored problem of homelessness. Up until this point I don't think that either the county or the city had an accurate count of the numbers.

Councilman Buscaino was in deep denial but realized he couldn't let a neighborhood council lead on this issue— particularly with me as the spokesman. He quickly formed the Homeless Advisory task force and appointed people to it that wouldn't criticize his lack of vision or leadership. Needless to say no one from CeSPNC was appointed to this taskforce. They met regularly in private for over 18 months came up with a short list of "recommendations" acceptable to Buscaino but then never issued a public report.

In the mean time the Saving San Pedro vigilantes came to everyone of our meetings for months, disrupted the meetings, yelled and screamed at our council and attempted to have me removed as president. They failed. However, as a result the Dept. of Neighborhood empowerment did institute a "code of civility" because of much of this. And during this time at one critical meeting DONE removed me from participating with no notice for having my ethics certification lapse. Four years later Thomas Soong, our then DONE rep apologized to me for that action. Believe it or not during this time we often had over 150 people attend our meetings

some in support others opposed, but this truly was the best example of civic engagement I have ever witnessed in terms of attendance!

The following May our council held bi-annual elections and the Saving San Pedro group formed a slate full of the people who shouted the loudest who thought they could do a better job. We also formed a slate and did a major plan to get out the vote. That election we had the most people to ever come out to vote than at any other election in the history of NC anywhere in the Harbor Area. And if not for the busing in of LAPD cadets to help defeat us our slate we probably would have won- but I lost my seat by garnering more votes than any body else who won a seat on all the other councils in the harbor area who held elections that year. Frank Anderson the only current board member who has more seniority than me was elected to that SSP council.

This might have been the end of it but for the fact that these people who had so little experience running meetings, or being involved in civic affairs and who had so little knowledge of governing basically ended up forming a circular firing squad. These SSP people were so angry that they couldn't even get along with each other. They elected Mona Sutton as their president and Joanne Rallo as the outreach chair who live-streamed meetings on Facebook. They immediately set to work on changing most of the bylaws, standing rules and making a must have meeting template that mandated the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each meeting.

In my estimation Ms. Sutton's lack of knowledge of how to run a meeting with basic Robert's Rules of Order was in way over her head and her meetings devolved into chaos. Council members became argumentative with each other, blaming each other, members resigned out of frustration and eventually DONE had to intercede with Exhaustive Measures and take over control of the council when Sutton accused someone of sexual harassment (it wasn't me). An investigation was started but I don't recall it was ever completed. The majority of the Saving San Pedro team quit.

There was as only a skeletal crew left on the council then, no leadership and DONE in charge of a collapsing council. Christian Guzman, Frank Anderson (I believe) and Danielle Sandoval were the only ones left on the council with any experience and they ended up running it with DONE for several months and then oddly enough Sandoval recruited me to come back onto the board. To exit Exhaustive Measures Guzman was elected/appointed president and after a few months and recruitment of some new board members DONE released CeSPNC from control but has ever since kept an close eye on us.

During this time and for many months hence CeSPNC didn't have an active Homeless Committee and was fundamentally sidelined on all policies yet still took much of the heat from SSP and others who continued to gripe about the homeless issue. Subsequently Guzman could not manage the board and ended up alienating a majority and he resigned under fire. Alexander Hall, a very polite young black man, who I had recruited previously, then became president. This was when Jane Castillo, Maria Couch came on the council and Khixaan Obioma-Sakhu became outreach chair. Matt Garland was elected treasurer. It was during one very contentious meeting at the San Pedro Library that the SSP GROUP came in to complain again and George Mathews, who now leads a clean; the streets team (endorsed by Buscaino's office) became very irate. He said some very unflattering things about me and challenged me to a confrontation by saying, "let's step outside to settle it". I declined. The meeting then collapsed into dysfunction and soon there after Alex Hall either resigned or did not run for reelection, I forget which.

This is when Maria Couch became president and Khixaan continued as Outreach Chair. Most of you will recall that Maria Couch's term was tumultuous and that she lost support from the majority of the council faster that I've ever seen a president lose support but this dysfunctional leadership lasted until there was a motion to censure her and she stormed out of a meeting saying she resigned but then didn't and went on leave until February of this year then resigned as president. Khixaan was terminated as Outreach chair for failure to provide documents justifying expenditures and missing a bunch of meetings. In the midst of all this Ms. Couch filed harassment claims with the city against, Matt Garland, Lou Caravella and myself. All of which have now been investigated, dismissed and cleared.

As you all know Carrie Scoville was elected Vice President under Couch and acted as president in her absence and then was elected to that office when Couch resigned that position.

All of this back ground is to explain that over the course of the last five or six years Central San Pedro NC has had its share of difficulties much of it caused by the conflict over how to deal with the homeless problem and how best to solve it. This brings me back to Allison Becker's report on homeless shelters and that they are now many years later adopting what our council endorsed long ago- tiny homes- which if you may have noticed are now being used all over the country. The tiny homes movement has become its own micro industry and towns smaller than Los Angeles have allocated land or given permits for an amazing number of designs for small communities. We were on the leading edge of innovation until the council office stepped in to stop us and they have continued to disregard, ignore and fail to seek our advice on this and other matters ever since.

So to a certain extent this is a kind of vindication without any recognition, but I felt compelled to bring those of you who are new to the council or those who have forgotten just what has happened in the recent past.

Last Christmas I met with LA Supervisor Janice Hahn and asked her to consider using the old county health department building at 8th and Beacon Streets for a shelter. Her first response was that Joe Buscaino would be opposed to it. The following January I invited her to a speech I gave at the Pacific Unitarian Church on "courage and conviction" and something that I said must have stuck with her as she soon ordered the opening of the first homeless shelter in San Pedro months before and for fraction of the cost of the CD15 Bridge Home facility.

The homeless issue is central to our district, as the majority of the homeless in San Pedro live here not in coastal or northwest San Pedro. It is an issue for which this council has at times stood on the right side of history on for all of the best reasons. And it is the

issue, which still vexes us and complicates our relations to parts of this community who still don't understand that compassion for the less fortunate and caring for others is a better path for all the community rather than condemning and victimizing the homeless. Finally, until and unless we solve this core problem all of the other dreams of uplifting our community be it housing development, transportation and safety, business attraction and retention or even waterfront redevelopment will all be delayed because of this core issue.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,
James Preston Allen, past president, CeSPNC

PS

I wish to thank all of you who have read so far as I initially only intended to write this in brief but found that I would have had to leave out much that was relevant to your understanding. Thank you.

- b. Caitlin Crommett asked about protocol for public comment.
- c. Magaly Gonzalez introduced herself as a candidate for one of the vacant board seats.
- d. Khalil Rashed, Deputy City Attorney from the City Attorney, introduces himself, he is covering for Lauren Halligan khalil.rasheed@lacity.org.
- e. Nicole Deering Community Resource Specialist from the City Attorney's office nicole.deering@lacity.org.
- f. Vicky Rodriquez introduced herself as a candidate for one of the vacant board seats

11. Public Safety Reports

- a. **LAPD Senior Lead** – Senior Lead Officer Junior Nua
 - i. Officer Nua gave a brief overview of crime statistics for the area.
 - ii. Friday, November 20th there is a Turkey give away at the USS IOWA to preselected families.
 - iii. The annual Helping Badge event this year will be a drive by event at the Harbor Station over 3 days for preselected families.
 - iv. Officer Nua's cell phone number is 310-869-2138.
 - v. Officer Nua answered questions from the board and stakeholders.
 - vi. There are resources available on the LAPD website that include the ability to file a police report online at www.lapdonline.org/home/content_basic_view/60409.

12. Reports from Public Officials/Representatives

- a. **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)** – Julien Antelin, Director of Innovation
 - i. Mr. Antelin gave a detailed report which included some of the following.
 - ii. There is now a Planning 101 training required for all neighborhood council Planning and Land Use committee members. The training must be completed within 60 days of appointment to a Planning and Land Use committee. Dates for the next live sessions are Monday, November 30th, Saturday, December 12th, and Tuesday, December 15th. Videos of the trainings are available on YouTube, though this does not fulfill the requirement for attending the live training.
 - iii. The Departments proposed Social Media Policy is being discussed at Board of Neighborhood Commissioner (BONC) meetings.
 - iv. If you have a virtual event, an event form is not necessary, unless there is funding involved, but to be sure share the information with him
 - v. Neighborhood Council elections are coming to the harbor area on June 15, 2021.
 - vi. Mr. Antelin answered questions from the board.
- b. **Office of Mayor Garcetti** – Johanna Rodriguez, Harbor and Watts Area Representative – Not present
- c. **Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragan's office** – Scott Stragacich, Special Assistant to Ms. Barragan – Not present
 - i. His email is Scott.strgacich@mail.house.gov.
- d. **Councilman Joe Buscaino's Office** – No one present
- e. **Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates** – Danielle Sandoval, Region 12 Representatives – Not present
- f. **Port of Los Angeles** – Augie Bezmalinovich – Not present
- g. **Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell** – Hina Ahmad – Not present
 - i. Ms. Ahmad's email is hina.ahmad@asm.ca.gov.
- h. **Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell** – Hina Ahmad – Not present

- i. Ms. Ahmad's email is hina.ahmad@asm.ca.gov.

13. Reports from Board Liaisons

- a. Linda Alexander PBID liaison, the PBID markets on a regular basis for downtown San Pedro. They are responsible for the outdoor dining and hoping to add more locations.
- b. Frank Anderson Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (HANC) gave a report on the last meeting which included some of the following.
 - i. LADWP gave a presentation on the water management plan. Their goal is to be using 100% recycled water by 2035.
 - ii. The Planning Department is working on a ban for profit prisons in the city.
 - iii. They discussed a resolution condemning the actions of Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).
 - iv. There is consideration of HANC having its own harbor area budget advocacy group/committee.
 - v. He commented that government and city representatives are not coming to HANC meetings.
- c. President Carrie Scoville gave a report on the last Port President's meeting
 - i. This month there was a presentation on the former Ports 'O Call site.
 - ii. And a Presentation for the Vincent Thomas Bridge freeway off ramps and the Knoll hill projects

14. Homelessness Committee Report – Tamra King, Chair

- a. Presentation by Abode Communities – Brenden O'Donnell, Senior Project Manager
 - i. Mr. O'Donnell gave a detailed presentation that included some of the following.
 - ii. Abode Communities is a nonprofit working to provide affordable and supportive housing.
 - iii. The Mayor's initiative aims to reduce the time and cost to develop affordable and supportive housing.
 - iv. Abode has a modular construction model. Units are built in a factory off site.
 - v. They are proposing to install 89 units – 88 studios and one 2 bedroom unit, with a community room, and office and meeting space.
 - vi. There will be a full-time on-site property manager.
 - vii. Mr. O'Donnell answered questions from the board.

15. Presentation by Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) on the proposal for children's play area between 1st and 3rd Streets on Harbor Boulevard

- a. Presenters Jenny Scanlon, Chief Development Officer and Jessica Frazier, Development Officer gave a detailed presentation that included some of the following.
- b. The plan calls for removal of the former Red Car Trolley rails between Harbor Boulevard and the current promenade.
- c. The proposal is to redevelop the area with family friendly amenities.
- d. Ms. Frazier answered questions from the board and stakeholders.

16. Finance Committee Report – Linda Alexander, Chair

Motion by **James Allen** to consent calendar items 16.a. through d., second by **Lou Caravella**, and passed with 11 yes (Alexander, Allen, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, King, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 0 no, 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).

Motion by **James Allen** to approved consent calendar items 16.a. through d. as presented, second by **Lou Caravella**, and passed with 11 yes (Alexander, Allen, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, King, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 0 no, 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).

- a. Motion to approve October 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER).
- b. Motion to pay The Mailroom \$50 for Halloween event labels.
- c. Motion to reimburse board President Carrie Scoville for expenses related to Halloween Trick or Treat Event for \$307.86 for candy and supplies.
- d. Motion to make the following budget reallocates:
 - \$1,200 from Minute Taker to Outreach
 - \$1,000 from Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) to Outreach

\$ 500 from Community Improvement Project (CIP) to Outreach

17. Outreach and Communication Committee Report – Matthew Quiocho, Chair

- a. Report on 2020 Halloween Trick or Treat Event
 - i. The event was fantastic, a lot of fun, and was good outreach.
- b. Motion to approve purchase of advertising on 5 banners for the Warner Grand Theatre 90th Anniversary in an amount not to exceed \$2,700.

Motion from committee passed with 10 yes (Alexander, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, King, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 0 no, 2 abstentions (Allen and Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).
- c. Motion to approve printing and mailing of CeSPNC Fall Newsletter in an amount not to exceed \$6,400.

Motion from committee passed with 11 yes (Alexander, Allen, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, King, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 0 no, 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).

Motion by **Lou Caravella** to go to items 19 and 21, second by **Eugenia Bulanova**, and passed without objection.

- d. Discuss distribution of CeSPNC logo face masks. Item not considered due to time constraints.

18. Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee - James Preston Allen, Chair – Item not considered due to time constraints.

- a. Motion to approve requested changes to CeSPNC Social Media Policy.

19. Land Use and Planning Committee Report – Javier Gonzalez-Camarillo, Chair

- a. Motion to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to support transfer of jurisdiction of all matters relating to cannabis to the Planning and Land Use Committee CF 17-0769-S6.

Motion from committee passed with 9 yes (Alexander, Allen, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 2 noes (Garland and King), 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).
- b. Update on Pacific Avenue development projects.
 - i. 1309 S Pacific appeal hearing was postponed due to errors on the notification.
 - ii. 2111 S Pacific had a public hearing.

20. Port Relations Committee Report – Frank Anderson, Chair – Item not considered due to time constraints.

- a. Revisit San Pedro Public Market, now called “West Harbor”.
- b. Revisit the China Shipping lawsuit.
- c. Revisit the Public Access Investment Plan (PAIP).
- d. Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) proposal for children’s play area between 1st and 3rd Streets on Harbor Boulevard.
- e. Re-inventing the Port Community Advisory Committee (PCAC).

21. Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report – Stevan Casares, Chair

- a. Motion to place stop signs at the intersection of North Meyler Street and Summerland Avenue due to speeding traffic, and the lack of adequate visibility of cross traffic traveling east and west on Summerland

Motion from committee passed with 9 yes (Alexander, Allen, F. Anderson, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, King, and Villacarillo), 2 noes (Bulanova and Quiocho), 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).

Motion by **Frank Anderson** to consent calendar items 21.b. and c., second by **Stevan Casares**, and passed without objection.

Motion by **Frank Anderson** to approved consent calendar items 21.b. and c. as presented, second by **Stevan Casares**, and passed with 10 yes (Allen, F. Anderson, Bulanova, Caravella, Casares, Cooper, Garland, Quiocho, and Villacarillo) 2 noes (Alexander and King), 1 abstention (Scoville), and 1 not eligible (C. Anderson).

- b. Motion to place stops signs on North Meyler Street at its intersection with Elberon Avenue due to speeding vehicles, and the lack of adequate visibility of for vehicles crossing Elberon Avenue. at the intersection
- c. Motion to place metal bollards at the intersections of 5th and 9th Streets at Gaffey Street adjacent to the Starbucks entrances on those streets
- d. Future Committee topics:
 - i. Additional funding for road improvements, landscaping medians, crosswalks, bicycle lanes, etc.
 - ii. Increased parking enforcement and abandoned vehicle towing
 - iii. Re-establish the street sponsorship program

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

22. Parks and Schools Committee Report – Frank Anderson – Item not considered due to time constraints.

- a. Increasing utilization of our local parks
- b. Research allocation of Quimby funds to local parks
- c. Playground equipment at parks
- d. Working with Anderson Senior Center to make it a full-service park
- e. Making Knoll Hill a true public park

23. Ad hoc Committee Reports – Item not considered due to time constraints.

- a. First Thursday's and Arts
- b. Anti-Corruption and Transparency

24. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be a special meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Akerblom for CeSPNC