

Letter to Gene Seroka & Board of Harbor Commissioners

Date:

Mar 22, 2021 7:46:54 PM

From: james centralsanpedro.org

Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:34 PM

To: Gene Seroka <gene_seroka@portla.org>; Board of Harbor Commissioners <commissioners@portla.org>; dmfgrants@msn.com <dmfgrants@msn.com>; apirozzi@yahoo.com <apirozzi@yahoo.com>

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Subject: Response to your comments regarding NC motions at BOHC meeting

March 4, 2021

President Lee, Gene Seroka and the Board of Harbor Commissioners,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for hearing the concerns of the Central and Coastal Neighborhood Councils today. It was nice to have you notice my absence from your regular meetings but like most of the volunteers on the neighborhood councils I have work obligations between 9-4 daily that normally don't allow for attending weekday meetings unless I am covering a specific issue on the BOHC agenda.

You will note that all of *our meetings* are held in the evenings on weeknights to accommodate working people's schedules.

However, I do have a few issues both with the access and formatting of the BOHC meeting and then your responses to our motions.

First, having voice only access to my presentation that did not sync up to the visual Zoom video on my computer is really quite disorienting and places remote speakers at a severe disadvantage. With all of the technology that the POLA has at its command this shouldn't be a difficult problem to solve. Not having visual presence for a speaker addressing the commission is a further impediment to clear communication and is not equitable Zoom protocol. Also not having on screen access for the presentation of our motions so as to share the written language with the public attending the meeting is a disservice to the public and under normal circumstances would be either a Brown Act violation or just plain disrespectful—probably both.

I ask that in the future you provide the NC's the ability to appear on screen to speak and screen share documents.

Now to the issues.

On the Harbor Blvd. HACLA park project. We are asking for a full briefing at our next council meeting on March 16 to more accurately understand what Commissioners Pirrozi and Middleton are referring to in regards to the rail line and the proposed use of a non-contiguous park to the Rancho San Pedro housing development. To Mr. Pirrozi's remarks about rails themselves, our point is not the specific existing rails but the right-of-way that future transportation plans would use. And I'd like to remind the commission of the long held promise of providing just such a transportation link for transit around our waterfront to alleviate auto traffic and to facilitate the flow of people to the various sites.

As to Ms. Middleton's comment about the residents of RSP voting for the park option as opposed to the other two proposals I can only say that of the various people on the RSPCAC, the ones who I have heard from, are mostly on the payroll of the ONEsanPedro project. Which makes me wonder whether anyone has polled the entire population of RSP to find out what the residents truly think OR whether a park option that is adjacent to RSP development was even proposed? Clearly recreation space for this development is a necessity. Again CeSPNC is not opposed to more parks, or parks on port lands just not at this location for the reasons stated in our motion. However, I suspect that this HUD funded park project is being proposed solely for the \$30million bonus for the RSP development that comes with accomplishing this or another amenity project.

Lots E&F Homeless uses.

Simply saying "no" to this site for whatever reasons- *laydown* site for construction, overflow parking or "too close to the super fund site" does not address the underlying condition of the plight of the homeless on the borderline of POLA property. Clearly if port management wanted to do something to seriously help the community address this crisis you would have offered alternative properties in San Pedro to help alleviate the human suffering. None was provided but only excuses as to why this lot E & F wouldn't work. As to this property "being too close to the superfund site" I can only respond that if it is too dangerous for human use then it shouldn't be used for anything but a construction *laydown* or other industrial uses. This excuse then also calls into question all of the other properties that abut the superfund site. I propose that the port make up a list of all available, under utilized or empty properties it controls and provide the neighborhood councils that list within the next 30 days for consideration with our community partners.

Lastly regarding attendance at our meetings by port staff. The Brown Act mandates us like you to hold publicly noticed meetings. Our agendas for all council and committee meetings are posted online and emailed to interested parties 72 hours in advance AND we post our regularly scheduled meetings on our websites for planning purposes. Each one of our regular council meetings has a placeholder in our agenda for port staff updates. Your PR outreach team doesn't need to wait for an invitation to attend.

However as requested above we would like to have a specific briefing by upper management in real estate, preferably Mike Galvin, to explain the Harbor Blvd park rail line demise, the future prospect of the return of the Red Car to the waterfront and other options for addressing the homeless crisis.

Lastly as mentioned in my remarks of this morning CeSPNC is planning a Town Hall meeting on waterfront developments to which the POLA staff is invited to participate and present on Saturday May 15 from 2-4 pm. Please let us know of your interest in presenting.

Once again I thank you for your attention to our resolutions and look forward to further civic engagement on the topics that they address.

*James Preston Allen,
Past president of CeSPNC and current board member.*

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