



**Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
August 9, 2010 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes  
Peck Park, 6:30pm**

1. **Call to Order:** President Diana Nave called the meeting to order at 6:34pm
2. **Roll Call:** Board members in attendance were: Bob Bryant, Dan Dixon, Cynthia Gonyea, John Greenwood, Craig Goldfarb, John Mavar, Diana Nave, Gabriel Rivas, Barbara Schach, Mark Anthony Shoats, and Capt. George Thompson. Absent: Pete Burmeister. Excused: David Arvonio, Mary Hamlin and Laureen Vivian. Approximately 35 stakeholders present (15 left after the USS IOWA presentation).
3. **Approval of Minutes of the July 12, 2010 Meeting:** John Greenwood made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2010 meeting, seconded by Capt. George Thompson. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Board.
4. **Presentation on Possible Relocation of USS Iowa to San Pedro.** Robert Kent was introduced and began his presentation with a 4-1/2 minute video on the USS IOWA Battleship. This is a unique ship with a history as far back as World War II and if built today would cost approximately 1 billion dollars. If relocated to the Port of Los Angeles as a tourist attraction, it would bring an estimated 450,000 visitors per year. The attraction would include a land based museum. This is the last available battleship of its kind as no more have been built. Mr. Kent talked about the NAVSEA donation process for this 33 million dollar project which is being privately funded. They have hired two professional fundraisers to attain their goals.. Five different tours will be available on the ship which would also be used as an educational tool with field trips bringing 20,000 children a year from LA and Orange Counties. They would also accommodate overnight youth groups and extended navy camps during the summer. The ship would also serve as a disaster preparedness center in times of an emergency in the Los Angeles Harbor. It will create approximately 200 jobs if brought to the Port and will create revenues for the city. It would be considered an opportunity site which would enhance the proposed waterfront project. Mr. Kent showed a slide of the proposed site which would house the battleship and require a minimum 10 year lease. He commented that a project summary is available by email. The presentation was followed by public comment from the following individuals:
  - a. **Scott Carter** of the Downtown Business Owners Association commented that their group is very supportive of the project especially as it relates to increased jobs.
  - b. **Bruce Horton**, a member of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board, commented that their council passed a resolution in support of the USS IOWA project. They have begun a petition process to show community support for the project and have collected 550 signatures in just 4 days at recent local events. They have heard nothing but positive feedback for this project.
  - c. **John Stinson**, also from the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council commented that the current waterfront plans are missing a “WOW” factor that would bring visitors to the area and the waterfront. This project would provide that “wow” factor. He encouraged the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council to consider a motion in support of the USS IOWA.
  - d. **Board member Dan Dixon** asked how the project would affect the USS Lane Victory and Robert Kent responded that it should raise attendance and that the Lane Victory group is supportive of the project.

- e. **Board member Bob Bryant** hopes that the ship will not be destroyed in any way for business purposes as happened in the case of the Queen Mary. In response Mr. Kent commented that they would definitely not change anything within the battleship and it will be kept in its original state.
  - f. **Board member Mark Anthony Shoats** asked where it is currently anchored with a response that it is currently in a dock on the east side of the San Francisco Bay.
  - g. **Board Member Cynthia Gonyea** asked about the lease requirements with a response that the Navy requires a 10 year lease be included in the application.
  - h. **Board Member Mark Anthony Shoats made a motion that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council support the USS IOWA as a project for consideration by the Port of Los Angeles. The motion was seconded by John Mavar.** During discussion, John Greenwood asked what concerns the Port has and Augie Bezmalinovich responded that Director Geraldine Knatz is well aware of the community's desire. Their port staff is looking to see if the project "makes sense" and how it will affect them economically. Dan Dixon asked that the Port look at this project as a net neutral item not a money maker. **After discussion the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**
5. **Presenting of Certificates to past Board Members:** Past President Dan Dixon presented a certificate to Phil Nicolay for his admirable 8 years of work on the Board of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council and his dedication as Chair of the Port Committee. Dan also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Paula Mazzarino who completed the term of the board position vacated by Bonnie Easley. He hopes that Paula will remain active in the Youth and Education Committee.
  6. **Elections and ByLaws Committee Report.** George Thompson reported on the By-Laws Application that is being submitted in response to a motion passed at the July meeting related to changing the Education seat on the Board to an At-Large Seat with the understanding that the open Youth Seat fulfills the Education Seat requirement. He also announced that Election materials are available for the two vacant board seats and he will be working with Bob Bryant on outreach to the community. Diana described the vacant seats and announced a deadline of September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  7. **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:** None
  8. **Reports from Public Officials:**
    - a. **DWP:** Jeff Childress introduced himself and announced that he would return next month and do a full presentation related to the DWP. He provided applications for low income and senior citizens discount programs. He also announced the upcoming DWP Kickoff Workshop on the Integrated Resource Plana being held Thursday, August 12, at 111 N. Hope Street, Los Angeles. Diana Nave commented that our council needs to appoint a new DWP Oversight representative. Gabriel Rivas expressed his hopes that the DWP will be more transparent in its future operations.
    - b. **Councilwoman's Office:** Gordon Teuber was available to stand in for our council rep, Ana Dragin, who is vacationing. He called upon Past President Dan Dixon to join him at the podium and presented a Certificate of Appreciation for Dan's service as President of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council. He commented on the following:
      - Northwest's letter send to the Council office regarding EZ Smog. The councilwoman's office will be responding to the letter soon.
      - USS IOWA: The Councilwoman if very supportive of the project.
      - The Councilwoman's Summer Celebration held August 5<sup>th</sup> was a great way for her to meet with and connect with her constituents.
      - Proposed Topless Bar at 1010 North Gaffey. Gordon was able to verify that the owners are in the process of evicting the current tenants.

- The Council office is aware of the problems at East bound 1<sup>st</sup> Street onto Northbound Gaffey (they are seen the U-tube videos showing the problems) and are planning to re-stripe the road. Better signage is also going to be being considered.
- ATSA system will be worked on through the end of the year followed by the improvement of handicap ramps at the corners.
- The Pedestrian bridge at the end of the freeway is the next big project.
- LA City Council passed a three year moratorium on business tax.
- The Council Office is reapplying for state enterprise zone designation.
- Trusela's Restaurant CUP was approved for beer and wine.

- c. **Port of Los Angeles:** Augie Bezmalinovich gave a report on Port activities which included:
- Upcoming Board of Harbor Commissioners meetings: August 19 at the Port Administration Building at 8:30am and September 16 at 8:30am at Bannings Landing in Wilmington
  - Proposed world class marine research center at City Dock 1. Application for funding has been submitted.
  - Geraldine Knatz is hoping to speak at the next NWSPNC Stakeholder Meeting.
  - Upcoming design presentation on the downtown harbor will be held on September 16, 2010 at POLA High School 6:30pm-8.
  - CUT is moving their terminal to Pier 400 which means the Port will now have 8 container terminals.
  - 10,000 trucks in the Clean Air program are having a positive effect on the air quality.

9. **Planning and Land Use Committee Report:** A written report was included in the agenda packet. The following items were discussed:

- a. **Proposed topless bar at 1010 N. Gaffey.** John Greenwood gave an overview on the issue and commented that he felt the NWSPNC should go on record opposing the use of the property for a topless bar even though the Council office has reported that the tenants are being evicted. The motion as brought forth by the Committee reads as follows: *Whereas the property at 1010 N. Gaffey Street at the Channel Street offramp of the Harbor Freeway has been discussed as the location for a topless bar, and*  
*Whereas this is not an appropriate symbol for an entrance to San Pedro, and*  
*Whereas this location is already overrun with traffic much of the day, and*  
*Whereas the property is less than a block from the skate park, a heavily used youth facility, and is across the street from the Harbor Area Animal Shelter, frequented by families, and*  
*Whereas the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council has already heard citizen concern about such a business being located anywhere in San Pedro, and*  
*Whereas the business will bring an inappropriate element into San Pedro,*  
*Therefore, the NWSPNC opposes the use of this property for a topless bar;*  
*Urges the property owner to come up with other options for the property, and*  
*Urges Councilwoman Janice Hahn to do everything she can to oppose a topless bar in San Pedro.* During discussion of the motion the following public comments were heard:

- **Charles Eldred**, homeowner and member of the Westmont Homeowners Association commented that having a topless bar at this location would devalue their properties.
- **John Stammreich** commented that the Channel Street exit is the gateway to the neighborhood. This is not the appropriate area for this type of business.
- **Dona Devona**, a member of the Miraflores HOA feels that their community would be negatively impacted by a business of this type and are opposed to it.
- **Olive Reed** from the Harbor City Neighborhood Council commented on the constant negative repercussions of having a topless bar located on PCH within their council

boundaries. She is hoping that the Harbor Area neighborhood councils can assist in getting this negative element out of their community.

- **After discussion, the above motion was passed by unanimous vote of the NWSPNC Board.**

- b. **Proposed West Coast Self Storage facility at 750 W. Basin** (former San Pedro Rentals location). Architect Charles Field handed out the proposed plans for the new facility as well as samples of the color scheme and types of materials being used. He had previously given a presentation to the NWSPNC Land Use and Planning Committee and several comments and suggestions were brought forth. Those comments and suggestions were incorporated into the new plans. John Greenwood was ready to make a motion of approval but several other members of the community (including Pat Nave and Chuck Hart) were still concerned with certain aspects of the revised plans, mostly related to how the height of the proposed building would affect the adjacent properties and the planned JC Housing units. **A motion was made by John Greenwood and seconded by Bob Bryant that the matter be referred back to the Planning and Land Use Committee for recommendations on the matter with the understanding that the committee will act on behalf of the NWSPNC. The motion was seconded by Bob Bryant and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**

10. **Presentation on Neighborhood Council Best Practices.** Sean Holiday, Coro Fellow in Public Affairs, gave an excellent presentation on his study of the neighborhood council system. He worked with the Highland Park Neighborhood Council and their stakeholders to find ways of improving communication and educating stakeholders on the purpose of neighborhood councils. Sean also answered questions from the stakeholders and board members. You can review the findings of his study online at [http://votehp.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/hhpnc\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://votehp.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/hhpnc_final_report.pdf)

11. **Port Committee Report:** Committee Chair Phil Nicolay updated the Board and stakeholders on two items from the last NWSPNC Port Committee and PCAC meetings and the related motions.

- a. Recommendation for a vote for the next PCAC President. Ken Melendez and June Smith are both up for the position. The NWSPNC Port Committee recommends Ken Melendez be appointed as President. (An explanation for the recommendation was included in the agenda packet). Phil hopes that Ken can work on PCAC membership. **The Port Committee brought forth a motion in favor of the NWSPNC's PCAC representative casting a vote for Ken Melendez as Chair of PCAC. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**
- b. Phil provided a handout which gave background information on the proposed resolution regarding Port Mitigation Funding. When the TraPac EIR was passed in 2008, several groups appealed the decision and in lieu of going to court an MOU created an "Appellants Group" consisting of 15 groups and two individuals. The MOU provided for funds to be distributed for mitigation projects for both the TraPac project as well as other projects not yet defined or assessed under the CEAQ and NEPA. So far, neighborhood councils have not had an entry point into the process. The purpose of the Resolution drafted by the NWSPNC Port Committee is to bring the topic up. During discussion, Chuck Hart made a public comment that there is no place for NC's to become part of the process. In contrast, Pat Nave talked about the importance of getting NC's involved. Gordon Teuber suggested that the NWSPNC board members meet with the Council Office before making a decision on this motion. After the discussion the following motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board:

***WHEREAS, the Charter of the City provides for a system of elected Neighborhood Councils, with specified powers and obligations to represent their areas; and  
WHEREAS, the entire geographic area around the Port of Los Angeles is represented by the Coastal San Pedro, Central San Pedro, Northwest San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway South, and Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Councils; and  
WHEREAS, the Charter requires the Board of Harbor Commissioners and the City Council to provide "notice to neighborhood councils as soon as practical, and a reasonable opportunity to***

*provide input before decisions are made,” and “monitor the delivery of City services in their respective areas and have periodic meetings with responsible officials;” and WHEREAS, the Board of Harbor Commissioners (BHC), with the assistance of the Council Office, has entered into an MOU with a group commonly referred to as the “Appellants Group” for providing input concerning mitigation funding for Port projects; and WHEREAS, the BHC and Appellants Group now propose to establish a private non-profit corporation to receive substantial public funds from the BHC and disburse them in accordance with priorities and in amounts to be determined by the non-profit; and WHEREAS, the agreement establishing the non-profit corporation contemplates control over mitigation projects that are in the communities of San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City, and Harbor Gateway; and WHEREAS, at no time and at no point prior to or after entering the MOU and at no point during the negotiations for the establishment of the non-profit have the Neighborhood Councils been notified or consulted; and WHEREAS, the proposed documents establishing the non-profit do not account for any review or participation by the Neighborhood Councils now and in the future over the spending of mitigation funds generated through Port commerce; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of the system of City governance contemplated by the Charter, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council hereby requests that the Board of Harbor Commissioners include a process within the MOU and Non Profit By Laws that defines Neighborhood Council review of mitigation projects, funding decisions for those mitigation projects considered by the Port Community Mitigation Trust Fund (PCMTF); and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the City Attorney’s office, the Council Office, the State Lands Commission; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to the six other Neighborhood Councils in the Harbor Area so that they may consider whether they wish to take similar action.*

12. **Youth and Education Committee:** Barbara Schach reported that her committee will be doing outreach to the community for filling the Youth Seat on the board. September 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline.
13. **Issues Committee Report:** There was no Issues Committee meeting held last month. Chuck Hart gave an overview of the North Gaffey Tree Maintenance project. This includes 250 trees along N. Gaffey in the area between Home Depot and Five Points. He explained that volunteers assisted in planting the trees but the volunteer pool has since dwindled and Beacon House has been handling the maintenance of the trees through NWSPNC funding. They are hoping that the NWSPNC will continue to fund this project.
14. **Outreach committee:** Bob Bryant reported that they are ready to go to press with the next NWSPNC newsletter. He currently has about 30-35 articles.
15. **Treasurers Report:** A 4-page report for the month of July 2010 was provided by Craig Goldfarb for review by the Board. *John Greenwood made a motion to approve the July 2010 Expenditure Report with one minor change. (Amerigas line item be changed to “Hazardous Footprint Study”). The motion was seconded by Bob Bryant and unanimously approved by the Board.*
16. **Motion to consider the renaming of Peck Park Trails.** The NWSPNC previously passed a motion requesting the naming of one of the Peck Park trails after Ray Patricio. Diana Nave reported that Ray Patricio has expressed that he does not want the trail named after him for personal reasons. *George Thompson made a motion to rescind our previous motion related to naming the trail after Ray Patricio. The motion was seconded by Bob Bryant. John Greenwood abstained from voting and the motion was passed by unanimous vote of the remaining Board Members.*

17. **HANC Report.** A written report was provided in the Agenda Packet.
  - a. Diana Nave gave a quick overview of the report and emphasized that the Fast Lane project has been put over for 2 years. The MTA will be attending the September HANC meeting in order to discuss the project further.
  - b. BONC Meeting/By Laws Update: Within the HANC report it was stated that the neighborhood councils need to speak out if we do not want standardized by laws imposed on us. Dan Dixon made a motion, seconded by George Thompson, that the NWSPNC opposes standardization of by-laws. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
18. **Secretary's Report:** Diana Nave provided a written "President's Report" which reported on recent correspondence that has been received and also all communication and correspondence that was written on behalf of the NWSPNC Board.
19. **Committee Assignments:** Diana Nave provided an updated Committee Assignment List for review which included all Committees and their members. She commented that we are still in need of a representative to attend the DWP meetings held the first Saturday of the month. No Board members or stakeholders came forth to fill the position and it remains open. **A motion was made by John Mavar to approve the updated Committee Assignment List, seconded by John Greenwood and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**
20. **Board Retreat:** Diana Nave reported that the Board Retreat has been set for November 13, 2010. John Greenwood will work with a facilitator on the content.
21. **Miscellaneous Comments:**
  - a. The Peck Park Auditorium will not be available for our October meeting. We need to make plans to change the location or date for that meeting.
  - b. Diana Nave had lunch with the other two San Pedro Neighborhood Council presidents and they discussed the possibility of a joint NC newsletter in the future.
22. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith, Administrative Assistant to NWSPNC