

**Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Community Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – Peck Park Auditorium**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** The following board members were in attendance: Mollie Abbatiello, Dan Dixon, Bonnie Easley, John Greenwood, Craig Goldfarb, Jody James, John Mavar, Philip Nicolay, Ray Patriciao, Cpt. George Thompson, Barbara Schach, John Stammreich, Sanni Wehbe, Mary Hamlin and Diana Nave. Pete Burmeister was excused.
2. **Approval of Minutes** of the December 10, 2007 Meeting. Approved unanimously.
3. **Youth and Education Committee—Recommendation** to board to appoint and swear-in new youth seat member. Barbara Schach reported on the candidates. Merle Moilov was recommended to be appointed to the board for the term January 2008 until the next election. Girl scout advisor, familiar with the council, she has worked with adults in San Pedro as well as children. On the Youth seat for the Bath House board, homeless awareness concert, college student at LB State, one of our service award winners last year. **Motion to approve committee's recommendation to appoint Meryl Moilov as a Youth Seat board member was passed unanimously.**
4. **Presentation by State of California, Department of Transportation.** Yunus Ghausi, Senior Transportation Engineer explained the changes proposed on Western & Dodson between 9th and 19th Street. Between 25th St and Summerland it is a State Highway but safety and operation of the facility has been delegated to the City of Los Angeles. Councilwoman Hahn's office sent correspondence to the Dept of Transportation to review this specific area of Western and Dodson. An investigation was launched and re-striping is being planned between 9th and 19th as well as barriers. They want to restrict Westbound Dodson traffic. John Mavar talked about his committee's recommendation of a left turn pocket. Board members made comments as to whether residents in the immediate area had been contacted as to their input on such a change. It was also asked if a traffic count was conducted but Mr. Ghausi stated that a full 8-hour study was not conducted. He stated that if the community does not want the proposed change to Dodson, they can delete this portion of the improvements from the plan. Pres. Dan Dixon suggested that the Issues Department contact the Council office to further discuss this matter.
5. **Presentation by Sanitation Department.** Mariet Ohanian, Civil Engineer Associate, gave information on the Peck Park Canyon improvements. \$8 million dollar project, \$6 million from Prop O funds (Water Quality Improvement Bond). Improvements are proposed for the 31 acres of undeveloped area of Peck Park, enhancements include enhancing the stream and surrounding canyon as well as food control and water quality improvements. Includes Prop 50 funds from the state of \$1.9 million, State Park Recreation and Trail program will provide around \$120,000, the City will pledge \$30,000 and the NWSPNC will provide \$10,000. At this time the project is in the pre-design phase, construction to begin early winter 2010. They can return with a more detailed explanation of improvements at a later date. Phil asked questions about the Headwall stabilization. Diana clarified that the \$10,000 from our Neighborhood council that was already spent on barriers. She asked about the procedure for our council's input into the design etc. Presenter said that they would like to come back in a couple of months and give more specific information. Public relations team will come.
6. **Presentation by LAUSD—Angel's Gate high school update.** Brian Eamer, Development Team Manager gave information on South Region High School 15 which will be an 800 seat school on the Angel's Gate property. This site currently houses an adult school and continuation school. The LAUSD has engaged an architect who is working on schematic designs. Feb. 12 they will be having a community meeting to talk about schematics at San

Pedro High School. Timeline for here to end of construction drawings is about a year from now. EIR process is going on now. School scheduled to open 2012. Other meetings will be announced. Questions included where access will be into the school.

7. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.

a. Carrie Scoville, Cal State University Long Beach. Talked about Innovative Maritime Partnerships Advancing Cargo Transportation. Public Forum January 16, 2008 on the Queen Mary, Long Beach. All Day Wednesday. Learn about Zero emissions. She provided a handout with all the necessary information.

b. Dan Dixon announced the Telephone User's Tax Forum at 2pm on Sunday, January 27th at the Port of Los Angeles High School, 250 W. 5th Street, San Pedro. A lot of good opinions will be expressed on this issue and community members are encouraged to attend.

8. Report by Public Officials.

a. **LAPD** Officer Irmina Dumaplin reported that crime is down. Holiday season was really slow, less robberies than expected. Gaffey and Westmont at Home Depot there were some auto break-ins and one car stolen. Western & Park Western, stolen items from auto. They have secured an injunction against the Rancho San Pedro Gang which should result in more arrests.

b. **DONE (Department of Neighborhood Empowerment)** Rosa Arcadia reported on the issue of the City Clerk taking over the neighborhood council elections. By-laws revisions will be necessary for our council. Announced an Informational Meeting at 6:30, Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at the Harbor Gateway Branch Library, 24000 S. Western, Harbor City, CA 90710. Our budget was \$500 for elections and we only spend \$200. Board member John Stammreich would like to know that if we are providing \$5,000 to the City Clerk, we should be given an accounting of how the \$5,000 is spent. He also asked if we only have bi-annual elections do we pay \$5000 per year or \$5,000 per election. (John Stammreich would like Dan Dixon to ask these questions when he attends the information Meeting.)

Dan also talked about his attendance at the Coastal San Pedro NC Meeting which was attended by Councilwoman Janice Hahn and at that meeting he publicly expressed the opinion of our council's disappointment in the city clerk taking over the elections.

c. **Councilwoman Hahn's office:** Ana Bozic was told that the RV ordinance update went to DOT last week. They will institute a pilot program for 30 days. They are not doing citywide all at once. San Pedro is the "guinea pig" to judge the success of this ordinance. Signs will be posted hopefully in March. Ana also talked about the safety collaboration meetings at San Pedro High School. They are planning a Peace Vigil on May 1st at the school. On the subject of graffiti, Ana announced that \$100,000 has been allocated by the Councilwoman for graffiti removal in San Pedro and Wilmington. The issue of the relinquishment of Gaffey Street (from end of Freeway to 9th Street) by the State to give the City of Los Angeles the authority to make improvements is still in the state approval process and therefore will not happen this month (January). Jody James asked about Amerigas and Ana stated that there is nothing new to report on the Amerigas issue.

9. Issues Committee-John Mavar presented several motions.

- a. **MOTION** to allocate \$2,500.00 to Clean San Pedro for clean-up of Capital Dr. and other San Pedro locations. 26th January Saturday Morning.

Motion Re: Co-sponsor clean up for Capitol Dr. Clean Up

January 13, 2008

WHEREAS; the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council refurbished the storm drain on Capitol Dr., with trees, ground cover, sprinklers, and fencing,

WHEREAS; NWSPNC has kept up with weed and trash removals by having clean ups and pay service,

WHEREAS; the area has weeds that grow out of control and Clean San Pedro will come in with weed removal equipment and volunteers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council will co-sponsor with Clean San Pedro, a clean-up, January 26, 2008, 8 am to 12 noon on Capitol Dr.

Motion passed unanimously by the NWSPNC Board on January 14, 2008

- b. **MOTION** to co-sponsor Capital Dr. clean-up with Clean San Pedro

MOTION Re: Clean San Pedro

WHEREAS; Clean San Pedro is non-profit organization that is run by volunteers to clean streets and areas in need of weed and trash removal,

WHEREAS; areas around Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council and downtown San Pedro are in need of special attention such as but not limited to Capital Dr. and Park Western Dr.,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council allocates \$2500.00 to Clean San Pedro for clean ups of trash and weeds in areas, including, but not limited to the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council area. Motion made by John Mavar, Diana Nave seconded, unanimous vote in favor. John Mavar made the motion seconded by Jody James. Margaret Moilov wanted to know how long the \$2500 would last. NWSPNC Board voted in favor unanimously. January 14, 2008

- c. **MOTION** requesting DOT to install left-turn pocket on Western from Dodson Ave. Motion made by John Mavar, seconded by John Stammreich. Craig Goldfarb felt that it should go back to committee in view of the presentation by DOT today. John Mavar would like to vote today with a possible amendment. John Stammreich felt that if we need to vote on this issue with confidence and if we are not confident would we want to delay the vote. Diana Nave was worried that the "no left turn" issue was not brought to the residents. John Greenwood felt the left turn lane recommendation makes the most sense. Mary Hamlin was not in favor of a left turn pocket lane because of her experience in living in the area. Amendment was presented by John Greenwood.

MOTION Re: Left Turn Pocket on Western Ave (intersection of Dodson Ave.

WHEREAS; the intersection of Western Ave. and Dodson Ave. is well traveled by residents of San Pedro, WHEREAS; families travel through this intersection to shop at 25th and Western and visit Averill Park and other destinations,

WHEREAS; many accidents have occurred along Western Ave. near or at this intersection resulting in minor injuries to deaths,

WHEREAS; as many as eight accidents have occurred in the past,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council requests that Cal Trans install a left turn pocket in the center-divider on southbound, Western Ave. at the intersection of Dodson Ave., to help prevent further accidents and injuries.

John Greenwood amended that we endorse the rest of the project and ask for more time to get community input on the traffic and that we request a traffic study. Amendment passed unanimously. The amended motion was passed unanimously by the NWSPNC on January 14, 2008.

d. MOTION to support citywide installation of digital “graffiti cameras”.

Motion Re: Graffiti Camera purchase

WHEREAS; The Office of Community Beautification (OCB) removed 30.5 million square feet of graffiti from more than 612,000 locations in fiscal year 2006-07, for a cost of over \$7 million. Private citizens and business owners spent unknown amounts painting over graffiti placed on their property. Overall requests for graffiti removal are increasing.

WHEREAS; While this approach is effective at combating problems that are fixed, a more flexible approach is needed for tagging hot spots that appear and disappear depending on police attention and the habits of taggers. OCB has bought 65 moveable cameras that it places in graffiti prone areas it has selected in conjunction with the LAPD and Council offices.

WHEREAS; The existing cameras use film and have a low quality resolution, making them less than ideal. Council District 2 has been looking into buying new cameras that use digital technology, with images that can be easily downloaded. The company that sells these cameras will agree to move the cameras periodically (every 6 months at a minimum).

WHEREAS; These cameras, which cost around \$7,000 each, are bullet proof and solar powered. They can shoot a picture of a person tagging within 250 feet of their location, which can be made inaccessible to climbers. The City of Montebello combines the use of digital cameras with special equipment that senses when the spray button from an aerosol can has been pushed.

WHEREAS; The Office of Community Beautification collects data from its fourteen graffiti abatement contractors on where tagging is occurring. They should develop a program in which a select number of digital cameras are purchased that can be rotated around the City in areas where the tagging problem is most severe, similar to LAPD’s ‘cops on the dots’ concept.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council SUPPORT the request of the Office of Community Beautification (OCB) for the implementation of a citywide program to purchase and mount new digital cameras on public poles to detect tagging activity and photograph perpetrators to reduce the overall cost of removing graffiti by prosecuting those responsible and seeking redress. We also request that relevant neighborhood councils be consulted about locations that are under consideration for such cameras.

Motion made by John Mavar, seconded by Mary Hamlin. Several comments were made as to how effective the cameras and prosecuting the violators would be. Diana Nave made a motion that we table the motion to get more information. **Unanimous vote in favor of tabling the item.**

10. Support for “instant” city election runoff: Gautum Dutta, Deputy Director of the Political Reform Program with the New America Foundation talked about how Instant Runoff voting works. Former City Commissioner. John Greenwood explained why he feels the instant runoff voting is not effective. John Stammreich. made several comments and Diana Nave asked a question. John Greenwood moved to table any motion and Diana Nave seconded the motion to table. John S. commented that we need more specific information on what we are supporting. **Board voted unanimously to table the motion.**

11. Port Committee—PCAC actions

Phil explained the upcoming motions that will be brought to the PCAC for a vote at their February meeting. First motion was for the Harbor Commission to prioritize Wilmington Open Space plans. Second motion was for Port to provide clear information on all mitigations in environmental documents. (We voted yes on this motion previously). These are informational motions and will not be voted on until the Feb meeting of PCAC. John Greenwood made a

motion to table this issue. Unanimous vote by the Board in favor of tabling these items until the next NWSPNC stakeholder meeting.

12. **Additional Public Comments:**

- a. Janet Gunter: Presented a poster board showing blight in Wilmington as a result of industrial impacts on the Port and Wilmington which relates to the China Shipping lawsuit. Janet talked about the intent of the law suit and the need to draw attention to the impacts to the community from the Port and the responsibilities of the Port to the community. She commented that you have to drive home the importance of moving into a community and spending money in that community to offset the damages and this has not been happening. State Lands has approved projects that are on Port, City, County or on Government Property. But projects are needed beyond that. Part of the settlement agreement was that the Port needed to work with proponents of projects to illustrate a nexus. The nexus can be easily seen, if you have negatively affected a community by port industry you have to put it into language that can be defensible and can stand up to the scrutiny of State Lands. The current proposals are not impacting the community enough.
- b. Skip Baldwin, Wilmington Citizen's Committee. Will come back next month to give his presentation regarding the PCAC motions since our board tabled a vote until next month.
- c. Carrie Scoville commented that the Central NC voted in support of both of the items listed.

13. **Port Committee:**

- a. North Gaffey Beautification Project – Phil gave an update. Trees are still an issue. We can make a change and if we want to we need to let the Port know. Street furniture is going in. Port wants our NC to make the decision on the trees. Dan explained that Target is already moving forward with beautification of their area. Dan suggested that Target and the Port work together to keep everything uniform. Bids go out the beginning of February. Dan will attend meeting and report back. Diana Nave commented that we appointed a committee to recommend trees to the urban forester. The forester has not returned our calls.
- b. Lubricators for the noise are being evaluated. That is a project that should occur soon.
- c. Base of Knoll Hill, container inspection facility by the dog park. This is just an idea and is planned for cruise ships and not containers. The Carson facility takes containers that are suspect.
- d. Air Quality Study is out. Port will come to March meeting.

14. **Land Use and Planning Committee—**

John Greenwood called upon Pat Nave to discuss the **MOTION** requesting a new EIR for Bisno Development's revised Ponte Vista project (1,950 units). This is directed at the City of Los Angeles, not Bisno. We are asking the City to recognize their obligations. City has received additional information from Bisno but has not circulated it. ATSAC has been funded and is no longer related to the Bisno project anymore. We need to let the city know they have an obligation with put out a supplemental or amended EIR so we have an opportunity to comment

on it.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

MOTION requesting new EIR for Bisno Development's revised Ponte Vista project (1,950 units)

WHEREAS, the NWSPNC has previously supported R-1 zoning for the Ponte Vista project area, in part due to inadequate information including no indication of the number of bedrooms in the units to be constructed, and faulty traffic information; and

WHEREAS, the NWSPNC supported Councilwoman Hahn's Community Advisory Committee vote for continuing R-1 zoning for the area, also due in part to the inadequate information supplied by the City and the developer; and

WHEREAS, Ponte Vista has since filed an amended application with the City for a project consisting of 1,950 units, with an insufficiently defined product mix still lacking a bedroom count, and has not prepared nor circulated any environmental analysis of the impacts of its new proposed project; and

WHEREAS, even though its project application has not been approved and no environmental analysis of the project or its changes has been circulated for public comment, Ponte Vista has prepared advertising materials indicating homes for working families, traffic studies that show less daily trips for 1,950 units than for 724 units, and various traffic mitigation improvements; and

WHEREAS, despite advertising a family-friendly project in its prior application, Ponte Vista predicted population, student generation, and traffic generation numbers that were far below the average in the surrounding zip codes and Community Plan areas; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the environmental laws is to permit the public to review and comment upon the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Planning Department be requested to prepare and circulate for public comment, a new draft environmental impact analysis for the amended application submitted by Ponte Vista, and that the analysis reflect the population, student generation, and traffic rates of the surrounding communities; and .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Councilwoman's Office with a request that she also ask the City Planning Department to prepare and circulate a new draft environmental impact analysis for the new application submitted by Ponte Vista.

The President is hereby instructed to forward this resolution to the presidents of the Neighborhood Councils in the harbor area, to the City Councils of Lomita and Rancho Palos Verdes, and to the relevant homeowner groups asking that they also request preparation and circulation of a new environmental impact analysis.

Motion made by John Greenwood, seconded by Jody James. 14 in favor, 2 opposed, Motion passed.

Announcement of Community Meeting on Miraflores/Channel cut-through alley. Early in February, we will advise everyone .

15. Election Committee—

MOTION to amend bylaw language with respect to timing of 2008 election. Motion made by Cpt. George Thompson to table this motion, seconded by Barbara. Board voted unanimously to table this motion.

16. **Treasurer's Report**—budget update. Barbara Schach made a motion to approve payment of facilitator's fee of \$1,000 for Board retreat. Seconded by Cpt, George Thompson, Motion passed unanimously.

17. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

18. Next Regular Meeting, Monday, Feb. 11, 2008. 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith
Administrative Assistant to NWSPNC