



**Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
May 9, 2011 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Approved Minutes
Peck Park, 6:00pm**

1. **Call to Order:** President Diana Nave called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and welcomed those in attendance. Approximately 15 stakeholders were present.
2. **Roll Call:** All Board members were in attendance: Scott Allman, Bob Bryant, Peter Burmeister, Dan Dixon, Charles Eldred, Anise Goldfarb, Craig Goldfarb, Cynthia Gonyea, John Greenwood, Mary Hamlin, John Mavar, Diana Nave, Barbara Schach, Mark Anthony Shoats, John Sstammreich, Cpt. George Thompson and Lauren Vivian.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** George Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Bob Bryant and unanimously approved by the Board.
4. **Port Police:**
 - Sargeant Kobos of the Port of Los Angeles Police gave a short overview of the Port's Hazmat unit. He commented that the primary task of his staff is to educate lease holders in the Port. Officer Don Lee was also introduced and briefly talked about the inspection process. He is part of the staff that is involved with the "Green" Port issues and the Clean Water Act. They enforce federal regulations related to the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and State Health and Safety Codes. They are actively going after environmental issues (especially vessels emitting severe pollution and refineries creating water pollution). They also oversee security for all port operations. The staff is heavily trained in chemistry and how to handle chemical issues.
 - They are actively monitoring incoming cargo/containers for radiation after the recent disaster in Japan.
 - Pete Burmeister asked if the refineries are within the Port's jurisdiction. The response was that transporting of material via the rail yard through the port creates huge potential hazards. The containers are heavily inspected and they are proud to report that there have been no major incidents within the past 8 years other than a couple of derailments.
 - Diana Nave asked where the rail cars are being inspected. The response was that they are inspected on the terminals. The Port Police are involved in the City Attorney's task force. Most of the trains leaving the fuel yard are regulated by inspectors who also inspect the facilities.
 - John Mavar asked a question about the TWIC card and his concern that the security personnel are not checking identification thoroughly enough. Officer Alex Castillo, a Facility Security Officer for the terminals, responded that he meets regularly with their security teams. He suspects that the security personnel know Mr. Mavar (and others) well enough to be less strict on inspecting his credentials.
 - The Port police have been issued a federal grant for the I-Watch program. It is like a Federal neighborhood watch.
 - Cynthia Gonyea asked if the Port Police inspect the ground equipment (rail tracks, etc.) and the response was that the Port Police are not certified to do inspections on the tracks etc., just the containers.
 - Bob Bryant was concerned after hearing that during the tsunami warnings there was a small ship being loaded because the ship operator was not aware of the tsunami warning. Officer Kobos

responded with information on notification systems such as the Reverse 911 system. He provided his phone number for future reference 310-732-3500.

- Diana asked about the relationship between the Port's Hazmat Team and the Fire Department's Hazmat Team and was told that the Port personnel enhance what the Fire Department does and must wait for the LAFD to arrive prior to doing anything.

5. **LAPD REPORT:** Officer Ashcraft reported on the following:

- A three year investigation culminated into the arrest of 85 gang members. This was a huge operation involving the assistance of over 1500 police officers. LAPD took into custody \$140,000 in cash, various weapons, and a pound and a half of cocaine. They also shut down two houses growing marijuana and filed an injunction against the Rancho San Pedro gang. The success of this operation should help curb recent crime in the area.
- Recent crime statistics show that theft from houses and cars is still the primary issue. People are still leaving valuables in their vehicles and in some cases leaving their vehicles unlocked.

6. **Cooper/William Johnson Community School:** Principal Barbara Politz reported on the following:

- **The school, located next to the Science Center, has just changed its name from Cooper to William Johnson**
- The students at this school are considered "high risk" and are bussed into the school from 22 different zip codes. They only take LAUSD students.
- The school maintains a 6-hour a day schedule for students from grades 7-12. They have 170 students, 95% of them being high school age. 100% have failed at their traditional high school; either because of grades or behavior. Some are gang members. Some are behind on credits. The young man killed in Harbor City was one of their students. To her knowledge, he was not a gang member.
- Principal Politz commented that she is proud of the school and its ability to change lives.
- Due to budget cuts they have lost four teachers, one dean, two 3-hour campus aids, a psychology social worker and the assistant principal, but they have gained 70 students. This year they took a \$65,000 cut.
- In response to a question about what needs the school has, Ms. Politz responded that they need computers. They also need individuals who can volunteer to be a mentor or tutor during the day. She would like to see an AA chapter or Narcotics Anonymous on the campus. This would have to involve someone who is currently in the program and willing to start a chapter at their school. They also need counselors. They can't spend money on food and could use food rewards for the students. Monetary donations help a great deal. In response, Diana Nave suggested contacting Beacon House for an AA sponsor and Lauren Vivian suggested contacting the Brown Recovery Homes.
- Pat Nave asked what is expected from volunteers. The response was that individuals have to be checked out by LAUSD before they can be a volunteer.
- About one third of the students are from group homes or foster care.
- Barbara Politz can be contacted at 310-832-0376 or cell 310-936-4457.

7. **Safety and Security Committee:** John Stammreich reported on the following:

- The Map Your Neighborhood training will be conducted by COPE on Saturday, June 4th from 9am-11:30am at Peck Park. John thanked Jody James and Lonna Calhoun for getting this event put together.
- The committee will be submitting a budget for next fiscal year to assist with getting the program to stakeholders of NWSPNC.
- The committee plans to invite Kat Meredith, Partner Service Governmental Relations Liaison for the Red Cross, to speak at a future meeting. Her goal is to get the neighborhoods proactive instead of reactive. She will be talking about local shelter sites etc.

8. Public Comment:

- **Jody James:** Thanked the Board again for funding the recent Quantitative Risk Analysis of the two Rancho LPG tanks. Jody provided a handout for board members and stakeholders to sign. The document asks for assistance from Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer and Mayor Villaraigosa in getting these tanks out of our community.

9. Port Committee:

- **Parking Structure Motion:** Pat Nave provided background information on the motion which relates to proposed parking structures planned for the old rail yard below the wall along Harbor Blvd. The resolution recounts what the Board has done in the past. There is a long continuous history with respect to these structures. The goal of the Port Committee and the Board is to create continuity for visitor-friendly activities along the waterfront and keep the new development as green as possible. The State Attorney General's office has demanded that the Port agree to install solar arrays to create millions of watts of solar power and recent visual presentations show solar arrays on the roofs of the parking structures which were not in the original EIR. Our position is that we do not want the parking structure roof covered with solar panels, as addressed in the motion below:

Resolution concerning San Pedro Waterfront Development Proposed Parking Structures between Sampson Way and Harbor Boulevard

WHEREAS, the Port of Los Angeles (Port) has approved the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the San Pedro Waterfront redevelopment; and
WHEREAS, the EIR addressed the planned redevelopment of Ports O'Call, including constructing parking structures in the area between Harbor Boulevard and Sampson Way; and
WHEREAS, recent visual presentations show solar arrays on the roofs of the parking structures, even though the original EIR showed open green space on the roofs; and
WHEREAS, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) in its comment letter to the Port and United States Corp of Engineers dated December 8, 2008 stated: "11. The DEIR/DEIS should evaluate parking structures with roof tops near Sampson Way that are green (plants and grass) to provide activity space, viewing and access from Harbor Boulevard to the Ports O'Call area and
WHEREAS, the parking structures locations and the elevation change from Harbor Boulevard to Sampson Way, warrant green space on the roof of these parking structures for aesthetic and access reasons.
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that while the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the Port's pursuit of renewable energy, we hereby unanimously reaffirm our support of green space on the roof of any parking structures built in the area between Sampson Way and Harbor Boulevard
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we respectfully request the Port to reconsider its design of these parking structures to use the greens space alternative.

John Mavar made a motion that the Board approve the above Resolution. The motion was seconded by Bob Bryant and passed unanimously by the NWSPNC Board.

Motion Re: Realignment of Harbor Boulevard. Pat Nave recalled that there were five alternatives originally presented to the community and that last month the majority of the Board supported Alternative Two. He reviewed the various aspects of the resolution shown below. Scott Allman made a motion that the Board approve the resolution, seconded by Pete Burmeister. A slight change was made in item #5 for clarification.

Comments from the discussion included:

- Bob Bryant had concerns about the expense of a pedestrian bridge.
- Laureen Vivian felt that some of the features that the Port is including in the design are not to be minimized but exalted and one of those is the pedestrian bridge which she fully supports and wants to see developed.
- John Greenwood would like to see more specifics on the proposed bridge before he makes a commitment of support.
- Augie Bezmalinovich: There will be a grand staircase from Harbor Blvd down to the Sampson Way area. Also a bridge into Ports O'Call (short or long). These items are in the EIR.
- Pat Nave stressed that we want to get on record as a Neighborhood Council. Timing is an issue and the vote today is important.

- There was one abstention and the remaining board members voted unanimously in favor of the resolution.

**Resolution concerning Realignment of Harbor Boulevard and Sampson Way
San Pedro Waterfront Development
Proposed Intersection at Seventh Street**

The Port of Los Angeles (Port) has approved the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the San Pedro Waterfront redevelopment. The improvement of traffic flow in and around Ports O'Call was envisioned as part of this redevelopment. The approved EIR presented alternatives for the realignment and modification of the intersection at Seventh Street, Sampson Way and Harbor Boulevard. In recent months, members of the governing Board and stakeholders of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) have participated in community input meetings and have discussed the presented alternatives in the Port Committee and Board meetings.

In the early stages of the environmental document preparation, the governing Board provided two comments concerning the Seventh Street Intersection improvements to the Port and United States Corp of Engineers on December 8, 2008 during the public comment period of the EIR process.

“15. The project proposes significant changes to Harbor Boulevard in order to maintain and improve traffic flow. As part of the project operation the Port needs to include a post-project validation of the traffic projections. Should the actual traffic impacts be greater than expected and outlined in the DEIR/DEIS the Port should implement new traffic control measures to improve transportation within the projected area. A formal review of the traffic impacts should be done after each construction milestone has been completed.” . . .

“18. The Port proposes modifying the Sixth and Harbor intersection to provide a smooth transition from Harbor Boulevard onto Sampson Way for access to Ports O'Call and the proposed parking in the area. This traffic modification would change Harbor Blvd into a southbound one-way street southbound at Sixth Street. We support the realigned intersection to improve access to the waterfront in Ports O'Call and the parking area's proposed for the bluff area, while increasing the exposure of the waterfront and downtown business district to visitors. At the same time, in order to reduce the speedway effect of on Harbor Boulevard south of Sixth Street, we recommend traffic calming measures such as a landscaped median for the realigned Sampson Way. “

Our comments to the Port concerning the realignment and improvement of the Seventh Street intersection are provided below. These comments are consistent with our previous comments and discussions with the Port staff.

1. The majority of the Board supports Alternative 2, the T-Intersection as the preferred alternative for realignment and improvement of the Seventh Street, Samson Way and Harbor Boulevard Intersection.

2. The completion of the T-Intersection should not impede pedestrian access to the Maritime Museum due to the proposed retaining wall and red car track realignment.

3. Understanding that a 15 foot retaining wall may be required along the East Side of Sampson Way, adjacent to the proposed Red Car line, to complete the T- intersection, we ask that the Port evaluate potential alternatives to this retaining wall. Should the retaining wall be required we suggest the Port utilize the wall space along the retaining wall for public art by local San Pedro artists.

4. The signalization of the intersection should be designed to accommodate both pedestrian and traffic flow. The smaller size of the T-Intersection, along with pedestrian friendly signalization, should improve pedestrian connectivity to downtown and Plaza Park.

5. We support the use of a Pedestrian Bridge to provide connectivity between the community west of Beacon Street and the waterfront at a location between Seventh and 13th Streets.

- Front Street Plans: Diana Nave circulated preliminary plans that will be discussed at the next Planning and Land Use Committee meeting.

10. Port of Los Angeles: Augie Bezmalinovich reported on the following:

- The next Board of Harbor Commissioners Meetings are scheduled for May 19th and June 2nd, 8:30am at the Port Administration Building.

- The Port will be presenting Summer Concerts at the Fountain from June 23rd to September 8th, every Thursday except for first Thursdays. There will be 9 total concerts with bands and a fountain show.
- This year the annual Cars and Stripes event will be held on July 1st and this year will feature a short fireworks display.
- Navy days will be extended to Navy week and will run from July 25th through the 30th. There will be 3 or 4 ships in the inner harbor at Berth 87 along with the USS Abraham Lincoln in the outer harbor.
- The Chamber has decided to move the Taste in San Pedro from Point Fermin to the waterfront between 1st street to the Maritime Museum. The event is scheduled for August 5th through 7th.
- There will be a workshop on June 7th related to the Red Car Museum being proposed at the Beakins Building in Wilmington.
- The port received 14 bids for the redevelopment of the SP Slip area near Utros. They have picked Sully Miller, a \$5.7 million contract. Construction starts July 5th and the completion date is estimated to be October 3, 2012.
- Recent article in the paper reports a decrease in diesel exhaust.

11. Councilwoman's Office. Elise Swanson reported on the following:

- Councilwoman Hahn is concerned about proposed cutbacks by the L.A. Fire Department relating to deployment. She wants to fully restore the cuts that are being proposed. She does not support the current plan and is working with her colleagues to find another solution since public safety is so important.
- Tree trimming is one of the top phone calls into the council office related to the NW area. They met with George Gonzales, Chief Forester, who explained that due to the budget situation they are primarily focused on emergency response. The City of LA has approximately 700,000 street trees making it the largest urban forest in the world. They are giving "no fee" permits to residents who want to take on the expense of trimming a city tree. They are also partnering with neighborhood councils on tree trimming issues.
- The council office is continuing to work on the issue of Target and the ground water problems. Target would like the City of Los Angeles to prove it is their issue and not a city issue. Temporary measures are being looked at.
- Weymouth & Western - They have received approval to restore the two right turn lanes onto Western Avenue going north. They are waiting for the date that this will occur.
- May 14th is Sharefest and Gordon Teuber is spearheading a project at Taper Elementary. Other projects include assisting San Pedro High School with their scoreboard and a victory garden at Narbonne High School.
- Recent gang sweep by LAPD - The Councilwoman is asking the City to change the name of the housing project from Rancho San Pedro because of the association of the name with the gangs.
- There will be Gaffey Street closures for restoration of the bridge at the end of the freeway. Notice will go out to the community before they actually close it.
- Laureen Vivian asked about the San Pedro lettering on the smoke stack next to the freeway. She would like to see it removed.

12. Land Use and Planning Committee:

- The Committee brought forth a Motion regarding limitation on commercial vehicle parking on Westmont Drive. The motion was passed with 10 yes votes, 4 no votes and 2 abstentions: The wording of the motion follows:

Motion regarding Parking on Westmont Drive :

*Whereas the members of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council have received complaints about commercial vehicles parked on Westmont Avenue west of Gaffey; and
Whereas these vehicles make it difficult to pick up and drop off students at Taper Ave. School; and
Whereas there is already posted a sign on a portion of this property that prohibits vehicles longer than 16 feet;
Therefore, the neighborhood council requests that the City of Los Angeles post the north and south sides of Westmont Dr. from Gaffey Street to Taper Ave. in such a manner as to make it illegal for commercial vehicles*

to park in this location.

13. Community Involvement and Collaboration Committee: Bob Bryant reported on the following:

- The committee made a decision not to rent a bench on Western due to the expense.
- The committee is proposing that the NWSPNC purchase carry bags with our logo to distribute to stakeholders for outreach purposes. They suggest 500 or 1000 bags at a cost of about \$1.65 to \$2.25 each. This item was referred to the finance committee for further review.
- The deadline to submit articles for the Newsletter is the 17th. Bob urged each committee member to write articles related to their committees.

14. Finance Committee: Treasurer, Craig Goldfarb, reported on the following:

- All the demand warrant money has been spent. We may need assistance from the Councilwoman's office so we can get funds transferred onto the credit card. DONE is having problems handling the work load from the NC's due to low staffing.
- Craig reviewed the need for reallocating funds from various categories.
- The Port of Los Angeles High School request has been changed from an outreach project to a grant and needs to be authorized as moved into grants.

- Motion Re: Reallocation of funds: **A motion was made by John Greenwood to approve reallocating the following funds:**
 - ✓ Move \$400 from blog to newsletter;
 - ✓ Move \$200 designated for Harbor Highlands improvement to the retreat.
 - ✓ Move \$3500 from outreach line item for Port of LA High School (POLA) to grants line item for POLA.

The motion was seconded by George Thompson. There were 2 abstentions and the remaining board members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- Motion Re: Funds made available on Purchase Card: **Craig Goldfarb made a motion requesting that DONE make all remaining funds not already put out on demand warrants available on the purchase card. The motion was seconded by George Thompson and approved unanimously by the Board.**
- Motion Opposing Sweeping of Funds motion. The following motion was made by Chuck Eldred, seconded by Bob Bryant and passed unanimously by the Board:

Resolution Opposing the Recapture of Unspent Neighborhood Council Funds

Whereas each neighborhood council currently receives only \$45,000 per year which the Mayor has proposed be reduced to \$40,500; and

Whereas the policies of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment require all demand warrants be submitted NO LATER THAN April 15, nearly three months prior to the close of the fiscal year, and

Whereas neighborhood councils generally meet only once a month, thus usually necessitating an earlier date for approvals of such expenditures, and

Whereas the only other method allowed for expenditures of neighborhood council funds is through the use of the purchase card which cannot be used for some desired expenditures, and which cannot be used at all after June 15, and

Whereas neighborhood councils may undertake projects which require funding across program years, and

Whereas there is no mechanism for encumbering neighborhood council funds, and

Whereas all of the above factors make it very difficult for neighborhood councils to fully expend their limited, but needed funds within the time allocated, and

Whereas there is a need for more continuity in access to funds, and

Whereas the total amount of unspent funds across neighborhood councils is extremely small,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council strongly opposes any recapture of unspent neighborhood council funds, and requests the reinstatement of a policy allowing for funds to be rolled over for at least one year.

- Motion Opposing the Mayor's proposed 10% reduction in NC funding. The following motion was made by John Greenwood, seconded by Charles Eldred and passed unanimously by the Board:

Resolution Opposing Reduction in Neighborhood Council Funding

Whereas each Neighborhood Council received \$45,000 for FY 10-11, a reduction of 10% from prior years' funding, and

Whereas the Mayor has proposed a further 10% reduction to \$40,500 for FY 11 – 12, and Whereas the

Neighborhood Council System has also experienced significant cuts overall, including the proposed

elimination of funds for the administration of Neighborhood Council elections from the FY 11-12, and

Whereas Neighborhood Councils are increasingly being asked to, and are, funding services provided by city employees and city contractors, and

Whereas Neighborhood Councils leverage the funding received through the City by countless hours of

volunteer services and leveraging of other funds, and
Whereas the total funding reduction from all Neighborhood Councils would be less than \$500,000;
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved That the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council opposes the proposed
reduction in funds and requests that the City Council approve funding at the \$45,000 level for FY 2011-12.

- Approval of monthly expenses: A motion was made by George Thompson that the Board approve the monthly expenditures for April 2011 as presented on page 13 of the agenda packet. The motion was seconded by John Greenwood and passed unanimously by the Board.
- Motion Re: Purchase of Bags for Outreach
 A motion was brought forward from the Outreach Committee requesting that if there are remaining funds available they be utilized to purchase reusable shopping bags for outreach, subject to review by the finance committee who will set the maximum amount available. The motion passed with 14 yes votes and 1 no vote.

15. **Bylaws Committee:** A motion was brought forward from the Bylaws Committee to approve the changes to the Bylaws as presented in the agenda packet. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

16. **Issues Committee:** There was no quorum at the last meeting.

- Dan Dixon thanked Elise Swanson for filling in as a substitute secretary to assist in writing a motion regarding the Hernandez Ranch. This will be addressed at the meeting on the 25th and then brought to the next Board meeting.
- Steve Kleinjen was at the meeting and showed the committee pictures of a new curb sweeper/vacuum that he is purchasing. He will be presenting a request for funding at the beginning of the next fiscal year.
- The crosswalk on Capitol at Barrywood will also be discussed. The meeting is May 25th at 5:00 at the San Pedro City Hall, 4th Floor.

17. **President's Report** – Diana Nave

- Congratulations to Dan Dixon for completing the ethics training.
- A letter was received from Rancho Holdings regarding an upcoming quarterly meeting May 11 with the community. We have been urging them to make the meetings open to the public; however, they have voiced concerns about security. The meeting is by invitation and we can only send 3 representatives. The following board members volunteered to attend: John Greenwood, Pete Burmeister and Cynthia Gonyea. It was suggested that those attending let Rancho Holdings let the organizers of the meeting know that future meetings should be open to the public.
- Saturday was the opening of Peck Park Canyon. We received a nice certificate from Councilwoman Hahn thanking us for our leadership.
- Rain barrel program - We had 53 families show up. People loved it. There was a short workshop about how to harvest rain water etc. They gave away trees. 90% of the people who came learned about it on our e-blast or in our newsletter.

- We received a letter from the LA County Sanitation District asking to come back to present their four potential locations related to the outfall pipe which has to be upgraded. Board members said this should be scheduled for a future meeting.
- We received a request from the City's Bureau of Sanitation to talk about something we supported five year ago, their Biosolids injections project on Terminal Island. They want our support. This item will come to our next meeting.
- There was also a second request from the City's Bureau of Sanitation related to their wastewater plan and a proposed sewer charge increase. The majority of the board indicated that they would like to see the presentation.
- BONC meeting: Diana attended the meeting and gave input on the election issue. The city is considering a proposal that NC elections be postponed for two years. The BONC doesn't want to see it wait that long. The current city budget has eliminated funding for the city clerk to run the NC elections. BONC is considering a motion that would ask the city council to set aside some money to allow NC's to find another way of running their elections. The HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) passed a resolution at their last meeting on this issue.
- HANC MEETING: Diana gave highlights from the meeting. The group discussed the following issues:
 - ✓ Proposed Change to Fire Department Deployment Strategy
 - ✓ Mayor's Proposed Budget
 - ✓ Sanitation pickup Bureau of Street Services (BSS) efforts
 - ✓ City Clerk Elections
 - ✓ Highlights from the BONC meeting and motion related to NC ELECTIONS
 - ✓ Short discussions on the Warner Grand; Animal Shelters; and Debt Collection

18. **DWP Oversight Committee:** John Stammreich reported that there were two main topics at the last meeting. The group discussed the Prop 26 Challenge to the transfer of funds from DWP to the general fund which if upheld could add to the city's budget deficit. The other issue discussed was the ratepayer advocate. There are a lot of concerns that the ratepayer advocate created by Measure I in March may not be what the electorate envisioned. The big question was what should be the role of a ratepayer advocate.

19. **LANCC:** John Stammreich reported on the following:

- LANCC discussed city budget issues and how they relate to the NC's. The DONE representative commented that there might be a lot more requirements related to NC funding in the future.
- June 4th and 5th there will be another push to fill potholes. The community can report pot holes to Nicole.wells@lacity.org.
- Redistricting Commissioners are trying to connect with neighborhood councils.
- The Neighborhood Council Congress is being scheduled for September 24th. This will be a free event for individuals, however each NC will be asked to contribute to the costs. Lots of training. A survey was distributed to board members for the Congress of Neighborhoods 2011. This will help create the structure of the sessions and topics discussed in the workshops.

20. **Announcements:**

- Board Retreat Reminder. May 21st, 8:00am Ports of Call.
- Peter Burmeister: Rec and Parks is looking for a place for a skate park. Diana asked that it be on the Issues Committee agenda.
- Laureen Vivian thinks we should go after gifting for the skate park. Elise said there are some foundations interested in looking at San Pedro.

21. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith, Administrative Assistant to NWSPNC