

Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Community Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2007, 6:30 p.m. – Peck Park Auditorium

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by President Dan Dixon.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were in attendance: Mollie Abbatiello, Dan Dixon, Bonnie Easley, Craig Goldfarb, John Mavar, Phil Nicolay, Ray Patricio, John Stammreich, Sanni Wehbe, Pete Burmeister, Capt. George Thompson, Barbara Schach, Jody James and Diana Nave. Mary Hamlin and John Greenwood were excused.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** John Mavar moved to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting seconded by George Thompson. Approved unanimously by the board as submitted.
4. **Reports from Public Officials:**
 - a. LAPD – Officer Plascencia and Officer Morton reported that since last month there were 7 reported car burglaries in the Westmont area. The suspect is identified as a male, white or Hispanic, approx 5’10”, 200 lbs, 17-19 years of age. He is believed to be driving a white Acura Integra. Another suspect has been identified as driving a Ford Taurus. If you see someone matching this description, write down the license plate number and call LAPD at once. One suspect that was apprehended claimed he only entered vehicles that were not locked. So it is stressed that car owners double check that their cars are locked. There have also been several residential burglaries in the Averill Park area. The burglars entered through either kitchen or bathroom windows. LAPD stressed the importance of locking all windows. Items that were stolen were primarily lap tops and flat screen TV’s. It was suggested that residents bolt their flat screens to the wall and that they engrave serial numbers on the backs of electronic items and keep records of them.
 - b. No reports from other public officials due to the Columbus Day Holiday and Government offices being closed.
5. **Presentation:** Harbor Belt Line Railroad Presentation Re: Rail Noise. Phil Nicolay introduced Don Norton who gave background information on the PHL (Pacific Harbor Line). PHL serves the highest volume container port in North America. With regard to the issue of noise: Locomotive horns sound at all crossings because it is mandated by Federal regulations. Loudness and non compliance is subject to fines. In 2006 the required loudness was increased because of grade crossing accidents. There is also wheel noise from rack curvatures. Noise reduction might result from installing wheel flange lubricators. The track is owned and maintained by the Port of LA. Also talked about the Locomotive Replacement Program. PHL, POLA, POLB, CARB and AQMD put together an agreement to bring new locomotive units to the Ports. These are newer units which emit less pollution than the older ones. PHL is now creating the Nation’s first all EPA Tier-2 (less polluting) locomotive fleet. Board members asked several questions related to Amerigas and safety. **ACTION ITEM: Port committee will follow up on issues of track noise and track safety.**

6. **Letters to Councilwoman Hahn from the San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc.** Chuck Hart talked about a letter sent by the SPPHU on June 13th. Due to the lack of response to that letter, the SPPHU wrote a second letter dated October 8, 2007. Mr. Hart presented them for the community to review.



San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc.

Post Office Box 6455, San Pedro, CA 90734
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June 13th, 2007

Councilwoman Janice Hahn
Harbor District Office
638 South Beacon Street Ste. 552
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Councilwoman Hahn:

SPPHU would like to suggest a possible new approach to facilitate the relocation of the AmeriGas propane L.P. Terminal and butane storage tank facility in San Pedro.

SPPHU believes with all the new development, the increase in our population and the expanding operations in the Twin Ports that serve as the economic engine for our area, justifies the need to update the Risk Management Plan (RMP) for AmeriGas.

We feel the results of the updated RMP will establish an unacceptable level of liability for AmeriGas to bear and would be negligent for the City to share. The City has an inherent responsibility to protect its citizenry from obvious perils.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Hart".

Chuck Hart, President

San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc.

310-833-0959



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October 8th, 2007

Councilwoman Janice Hahn
Harbor District Office
638 South Beacon Street Ste.552
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Councilwoman Hahn:

You have often stated that public safety is your top priority. However the Harbor communities have seen another year pass without the City Council's promised action of removing AmeriGas tanks from north San Pedro. Our community feels a sense of urgency that the City does not seem to share. As Chair of the Council's Trade, Commerce and Tourism Committee you are in an advantageous position to force this hazard from our neighborhoods. This aging facility has become more dangerous since its product is now transported through multiple communities by rail and truck.

On June 13th, 2007 SPPHU sent you a letter suggesting that an updated Risk Management Plan (RMP) of this extremely hazardous facility may be the way to proceed. Although our letter did not specifically request a response, we did expect your staff to explore the idea and get back to us with their comments. None have been received. I have included a copy of that letter for your convenience.

A "Risk Management Plan" requires a hazard assessment, an emergency response plan and identifying a 'worst case scenario'. Considering the uniqueness of our community and the relationship of other large hazardous facilities adjacent to AmeriGas, the 'worst case scenario' could mean thousands of deaths with very slim chance for evacuation. It has been called the "perfect storm".

While we recognize your work to represent your constituents, I am sure you can recognize our frustration with the City's seemingly lack of interest to this issue. The answer to our inquiries has always been the same, "There is nothing new to report". What is happening, if anything? Why is there nothing to report? Unanswered letters only add to our frustration so please acknowledge your receipt of these letters by October 19th so SPPHU can consider our next course of action. Every day that passes, the chances are greater that we may have a catastrophic event at AmeriGas. Time is NOT on our side.

To help you with this urgent issue we are prepared to appeal for assistance from political, environmental, and media sources for assistance. Perhaps with upcoming elections this matter will get the needed attention it deserves.

Respectfully,

Chuck S. Hart, President
San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc.
(310)833-0959

- 7. **Public Comment:** Only one speaker card was presented but the community member left before public comment. His information was referred to the Issues Committee for further action.
- 8. **Issues Committee:** Last Tuesday was a busy meeting and the biggest issue was the DWP poles. John Mavar presented the following motion:

**NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MOTION RE DWP NOTIFICATIN OF PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES**

Whereas, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power recently installed new transmission lines to serve the new Mary Star High School at the north end of Taper Ave. in San Pedro, and also to serve a proposed future residential development on the former Naval property on Western Ave., and

Whereas, lines were run underground along Westmont Ave. until reaching Taper Ave., at which point the lines run aboveground along Taper Ave. to an easement on the south side of the high school campus property, and

Whereas, the service requirements for these two new developments required additional power lines, necessitating power poles up to 65 feet high and 48 inches in diameter, dimensions for which the adjective “colossal” would seem to apply, when compared to the size of the replaced existing poles, and

Whereas, the visual scale and appearance of the community has been substantially and detrimentally altered by this construction project, and

Whereas, the neighborhood was not informed in any manner of the commencement of this project, and the nature of the project was only learned through the questioning of the contractor by a local citizen, and

Whereas, the community had no opportunity to review or comment on this project before its commencement, thereby eliminating any possibility of mitigation for the community by requiring, through the city permit process or a specific plan process, installing these new service lines underground, to be paid by the developers of the properties, and

Whereas, the two above-named developments have gained a substantial utility benefit to the permanent visual detriment of the adjacent neighborhood, now

Therefore, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council urges the City Council to require the Department of Water and Power to notify the appropriate Neighborhood Council and impacted residents and businesses (those occupying properties directly adjacent to the work) of all plans to upgrade, modernize or create visual infrastructure to serve new development or rezoned properties requiring additional service. Such notification should occur during the planning process, at a point that would allow sufficient time for those impacted by the project as mentioned above to review the plan, consider negative impacts resulting from the planned project, and provide input in the process.

The motion was seconded by Jody James which was followed by discussion on the aspects of the motion. 14 yes votes, 0 no votes. The motion was unanimously. John Mavar gave highlights from his Issues, Traffic and Parks Committee report. Additional issues included:

- a. Miraflores Drive: Trucks double parked, big trucks making u-turns and fork lifts unloading trucks. Increased enforcement and new signage is needed.
- b. Capitol Drive: Weeds are back! Member of the Issues Committee held meetings with landscapers. They also heard that there was a possibility that a group would like to adopt the area. Clean up will continue until adoption is confirmed.
- c. Access Road is needed for Fitness Drive, hopefully into the Bisno property.
- d. Paving of Channel Street is on hold until the units or a plan is ready for the property on the south side of Channel. The city would like to have curbs, gutters and sidewalks installed so they can pave to the development.
- e. Spaying and neutering of cats and dogs ordinance is working its way in city hall. More info to come on that issue.

- f. Averill park has a new resident who is working on making some changes to better the park. She provided a list of goals and will work with the Issues Committee.
 - g. New meeting date for the Issues, Traffic and Parks Committee. 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm at San Pedro City Hall, 4th Floor. No meeting in October. November 21 will be the next meeting. Pres. Dan thanks John Mavar and Julia Parker for their diligent work on the issues committee. 3rd wed of every month. No meeting in October. Next meeting will be November 21, 2007.
9. **Planning and Land Use:** Main issue is a motion Re: City's EIR Process. Diana Nave presented the following motion and explained the reason for supporting the motion.

**NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
RESOLUTION RE CITY'S EIR PROCESS**

WHEREAS the environmental impacts of proposed developments often include impacts on traffic, air quality, aesthetics, and a host of other factors vital to the quality of life in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS the City of Los Angeles currently requires developers to conduct their own environmental impact analyses using consultants retained by the developers; and

WHEREAS the practice of requiring developers to prepare their own environmental impact assessments raises the appearance of a conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS other entities such as the Harbor Department of the City of Los Angeles and the City of San Diego contract directly with environmental consultants; and

WHEREAS Councilmember Weiss introduced a motion on June 22, 2007 (CF 07-1534) requesting that the Planning Department conduct an analysis of the merits of the City contracting directly with environmental consultants and report back within 30 days;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the Weiss/Garcetti Motion (CF 07-1534) and urges the City to act upon this with all due haste, and that the Planning Department be requested to consider all possible alternatives, including the possibility of having an independent body prepare the environmental assessments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council requests that a copy of the report be provided to Neighborhood Councils for comment no later than the time at which it is released to the Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee.

14 yes votes, 0 no votes. Motion passed unanimously. Next meeting of the Planning and Land Use committee is October 25th.

10. **DWP Proposed Rate Action:** Gabriel Rivas presented the Responses for Proposed DWP Rate Actions for 2008-2010. He clarified several of the items. Soledad Garcia was also available to explain additional details. The following motion was presented by John Mavar: **Motion Re: LADWP 2007-2008 Proposed Revenue Increases and Rate Modernization for Board Meeting Held on 10/8/07. The NWSPNC opposes any rate increases as proposed by DWP on June 5, 2007, and accepts the Letter of Resolution of September 3, 2007 presented by the Oversight Committee.** The motion was seconded by John Stammreich. 14 yes votes, 0 no votes. Motion passed unanimously.
11. **Youth and Education Committee:** Barbara Schach reported that the committee needs to broaden its horizons on scholarships. Their next meeting will be on October 18th at 6:30 Coco's. The committee will continue presenting the school awards. Barbara has been in contact with the schools. Barbara gave two awards last week at her school. We are soliciting for a board member for our youth seat.
12. **Port Committee:** Phil Nicolay gave his report. Last meeting they discussed their goals. 3 EIR's coming out. Air Quality report should be coming out on October 23rd. Possible presentation in November at our meeting. The next Port Committee Meeting will be held on November 6, 2007 at City Hall.. Diana Nave thanked Phil Nicolay and Pat Nave for their work on the TRAPAC EIR. **ACTION ITEM: Clean up of port dust.**
13. **COPSS:** Bonnie Easley gave her report. Last meeting was on September 27th. Their goal is Emergency Preparedness. Not getting enough community support. They are considering an event to create community awareness of the need for Emergency Preparedness. November 13, 2008 there will be a major test of all emergency systems in the city, simulating an 8.0 earthquake. 72hours.org is a website created by a San Francisco company and it was suggested that the community check out this interesting site. We will consider linking to their website from ours.
14. **Youth seat vacancy.** There was a short discussion on the Youth seat vacancy on our board. Applications will be created by Barbara and Dan and distributed.
15. **President Dan** tabled the motion relating to the Board's 2007-2008 Priorities.
16. **Presidents Report:** John Greenwood will take over Dan's position as Planning Chair. John Stammreich has stepped down as Outreach Committee Chair, Diana Nave has taken that position.
17. Due to time constraints no further business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Smith, Administrative Asst to NWSPNC