

**Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council**  
**February 9, 2009 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes**  
**Peck Park, 6:30pm**

1. **Call to Order:** President Dan Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Flag salute and welcome by President Dan.
2. **Roll Call:** Board members in attendance were Mollie Abbatiello, Dan Dixon, Bonnie Easley, John Greenwood, Craig Goldfarb, Gabriel Rivas, John Mavar, Philip Nicolay, Ray Patricio, Cpt. George Thompson, Barbara Schach, Pete Burmeister, Mary Hamlin, Laureen Vivian and Diana Nave. The following board members were excused: Meryl Moilov and David Arvonio. A quorum was present. Approximately 15 stakeholders present.
3. **Minutes:** **Capt. George Thompson made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 12, 2009 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Craig Goldfarb and approved unanimously by the board.**
4. **DONE (Department of Neighborhood Empowerment):** Rosa Arcadia encouraged board members to attend the Neighborhood Council Town Hall Meeting on February 14, 2009 and also announced the Regional Budget Day on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. NWSPNC Board members David Arvonio and Craig Goldfarb will be meeting with the other reps to discuss the survey results. 5,000 stakeholders and 840 board members filled out the surveys.
5. **Councilwoman Hahn's office. Ana Dragin reported on the following:**
  - a. **Solar Initiative:** DWP will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on the Comprehensive Solar Plan. This is related to Measure B on the March ballot. There will be a total of 5 meetings. Our community can attend the Feb 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7pm at Banning's Landing in Wilmington.
  - b. **West Coast Canine:** Nothing new on West Coast Canine issue but the councilwoman is negotiating the lease with the DWP.
  - c. **Upcoming Events:** Announcements included information on the Film Festival and Black History Month.
  - d. **Skate Park under Channel Street:** They are having meetings but Cal Trans can't figure out whose property the skate park is on. The councilwoman wants to revitalize the skate park.
  - e. **Bus Routes:** There is a meeting Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Council office with Dash and MTA related to bus routes in San Pedro. Ana suggested stakeholders email her with any suggestions they might have for needed bus stops.
  - f. **New Senior Lead Officer with LAPD.** The new senior lead officer for the Central area who replaces Helen Pallares is Art Ashcraft and he began his new position last Monday.
  - g. **Re-election campaign:** (Ana made this announcement as an individual not as an employee of the council office. She commented on precinct walking this Saturday for Janice Hahn's re-election campaign. Those interested are asked to participate.
6. **LAPD:** Art Ashcraft, LAPD Sr. Lead Officer for our area introduced himself and provided his work cell number: 310-867-2069. His email address is: [34536@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:34536@lapd.lacity.org) Regarding crime in our Central San Pedro area, he commented that burglaries from motor

vehicles and grand theft auto are the biggest problems. Citizens are constantly leaving valuables in plain site which entices thieves to break into the cars. Officer Art Ashcraft (who is also referred to as “Junior”) stated that he looks forward to working with the Central San Pedro community.

7. **Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:**

- a. **Roberta Jones-Booker**, LAUSD Outreach Office for new high school construction projects, announced a meeting being held Feb 26, 2009 6pm at Dana Middle School auditorium . This is a Pre-Demolition meeting for south region high school #15.
- b. **Candidate for City Council Chris Salabaj**: Running against Janice Hahn. Encouraged everyone to come to the upcoming Candidate Forum.

8. **Presentation from Department of Public Works Re: Prop O Improvements to Peck Park.** The presentation began with an introduction of the members of the team in attendance. They provided a hand out with “Fast Facts.” They gave a presentation for the NWSPNC last October and, at that time, they had completed the pre-design report. They are now at 50% design. The project is categorized in three areas: 1) Installation of Storm Water BMPs (Best Management Practices). 2) Channel Improvements (Channel stabilization and rehabilitation to reduce bank erosion and incorporate native vegetation. 3) Trail Improvements (to make a more accessible trail system within the park and to make it more educational with signage). Channel improvements include a Stepped pool, Riprap/Turf-reinforced mat, vegetation restoration, filtration basins and trash capture devices. Phase 1 of the Construction should begin September 2009 (Prop 50) Ending September 2010 (with Prop O). Estimated costs are \$4,749,000. Questions from board members included:

- a. Which trees are being removed
- b. Will more rangers be hired to maintain the park
- c. Prop O and Prop 50 are supporting these improvements. Are there any other sources of funds if needed considering that Prop 50 funds are suspended? They are hoping the monies will be released.
- d. Has a contractor been selected yet? No.
- e. Will the Parking lot improvements all be done at once creating parking problems? No.
- f. Are restrooms included? Not at this time.
- g. Prop O funds were approved many years ago, what has taken so long? Project selection took some time.
- h. Has SEQA process been completed yet? Initial study is out for public review at this time. (went out on January 15, and comments are due February 13<sup>th</sup>). Document is available on the internet).

[http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/emg/Environmental\\_Review\\_Documents.htm](http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/emg/Environmental_Review_Documents.htm)

9. **Presentation on 110 Freeway on-off ramps improvements?** This item tabled until next month as Caltran reps not available at meeting.

- a. **Public comment from Carrie Scoville**: Carrie lives in Black Hills area which is close to where the improvements are being made to the 110 Freeway. Carrie and her neighbors attended a meeting and they are opposing certain parts of the project because it will increase truck traffic in their neighborhood.

10. **Port Committee:** Phil Nicolay reported that there have been no updates from the port since the last meeting. Phil reported on the following items:
- a. Container traffic is down. The port is not hiring at this time and expecting to lose 200 staff from natural attrition. Other ports are laying off people. Panama Canal widening will negatively affect many ports. The Port is presently cutting operational costs and trying to move up revenue generating projects.
  - b. ICTF public meeting is this Wednesday (February 11<sup>th</sup>) regarding the Union Pacific Project.
  - c. North Gaffey construction is coming along.
11. **Issues Committee Report:** John Mavar reported that the Issues committee discussed the following items:
- a. Sports in our community and specifically the request for funds for the football team to purchase championship rings. The request was not approved.
  - b. Guard rails in Peck Park area.
  - c. Candidate Forum February 19<sup>th</sup>. Measure B will be discussed.
  - d. **Motion Re: Averill Park. Lauren Vivian presented the motion which was seconded by Barbara Schach. John Greenwood and Diana Nave suggested changes which were accepted by Lauren. The following motion with changes was then unanimously approved by the NWSPNC Board:**

*Whereas* Rec. & Parks held a public meeting at Peck Park, on December 3rd, to discuss all issues and budget items effecting Parks in the San Pedro area; and

*Whereas* the City's Bureau of Planning and Engineering is currently drafting a plan to renovate Averill Park's stream beds, filtration system, pumps and retaining walls which is due out at the end of January 2009; and

*Whereas* the wildlife—ducks, geese, night herons, turtles, crawdads, etc.— have been confined to the lower three ponds which are now turning foul due to a lack of enough water supply and absence of any filtration; and

*Whereas* the Superintendent of Rec. & Parks, Mark Mariscal, confirmed that \$660,000 have been set aside for the above purpose and habitat restoration exclusively.

**Now therefore be it resolved** that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council request, in writing, that both Rec. & Parks and the City's Bureau of Engineering and Planning update us on design process, request a timetable and copy us on the final draft; and

**Be it further resolved**, that Councilwomen, Janice Hahn be copied on all issues pertaining to Averill Park's renovation and urge her to help expedite the process of restoration due to the urgency of these repairs as they relate to public health and safety and saving this historic landmark park; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the creation of a 501c(3) for the Averill Park Conservancy which will be executed by Lauren Vivian to serve as a partner to Rec. & Parks for the impending restoration and thereafter provide stewardship for all issues and projects related to Averill Park on behalf of the public—the true owners of this park.

Lauren Vivian commented that she is still looking into whether they can partner with the Historical Society. Fees are marginal.

12. **Land Use and Planning Committee Report:** Diana Nave reported that the committee addressed a lot of issues at the last meeting which can be seen in the written report. The following motions were brought forth by the committee:
- a. **Motion Re: Location of Plains Mid-Stream Canada from N. Gaffey to Terminal Island.** Diana explained the motion that came from the Planning Committee. She corrected the name of the company as shown on the motion from Plains Mid-Stream to

Plains Mid-Stream Canada.

**Comments:**

Phil suggested a change in the motion because he feels that the suggested relocation cannot happen without an amended EIR.

There was a comment related to propane vs. butane (that we should find out what they are using where).

Chuck Hart commented that Janice Hahn was left out of the process which is an embarrassment to the council office. He feels that it was planned that she be left out of the process. He mentioned that this same company is storing and transferring LNG also.

Jody James commented we have been waiting for over 40 years to get this out of here. This is Amerigas under another name. She feels that a business should not do harm to the community that it is in. The facility should be relocated.

Craig Goldfarb called for the question. Diana read a revised paragraph for the motion.

**The following motion was then unanimously approved by the NWSPNC Board:**

**RESOLUTION RE PLAINS ALL AMERICAN FACILITY ON N. GAFFEY**

**Whereas** Plains Mid-Stream Canada, has taken over the AmeriGas facility lease on N. Gaffey, and **Whereas** Plains Mid-Stream Canada is an affiliate company of Plains All American that has proposed the Pier 408 L.A. Marine Terminal Project; and

**Whereas**, the crude product of Pier 408 will be transported through new pipelines to the Valero Refinery where it will be refined and the butane and propane by-products will be stored at the former AmeriGas Gaffey Street site; and

**Whereas** the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council has long advocated for the removal of the tanks from the N. Gaffey site due to safety concerns; and

**Whereas** it appears that there is room adjacent to the proposed new tank farm for the L.A. Marine Terminal Project on Terminal Island to store the butane and propane products resulting from the crude imports of this project; and

**Whereas** moving the tank farm to Terminal Island may require additional pipelines and changes in the EIR to allow the storage and transfer of butane and propane as part of their impending construction;

**Now therefore be it resolved** that the NWSPNC requests Councilwoman Janice Hahn and the Port of Los Angeles to work with Plains All American and its affiliate to relocate the tanks from N. Gaffey to Terminal Island and to install the necessary pipelines now.

**(Motion brought forth from the NWSPNC Land Use and Planning Committee and unanimously approved by the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board on February 9, 2009.)**

- b. **Motion Re: Planning Department MOU.** John Greenwood explained the motion and that it supports the resolution that Janice Hahn brought to the City Council. The motion was seconded by Diana Nave. **The following motion was unanimously approved by**

**the NWSPNC Board:**

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT MOU RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Planning Department has developed an excellent system for notifying Neighborhood Councils of New Entitlement Applications, and  
**WHEREAS** the Planning Department has worked closely with Neighborhood Councils by providing training and participating in Plan Check LA, and  
**WHEREAS** not all planning and land use issues involve Entitlement Applications, and  
**WHEREAS** there are still some issues of importance where Neighborhood Councils are not receiving Early Notification, and  
**WHEREAS** Councilwoman Hahn has introduced a motion (CF 09-0098) requesting that Planning Department work with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to create a taskforce with interested neighborhood councils and draft a Memorandum of Understanding that will outline communication alerts pertaining to planning cases in each district of the City,  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council commends Councilwoman Hahn for this initiative and supports the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding.

- c. **Motion Re: EZ Smog: Motion brought forth from committee:** Diana Nave explained that this business is on land owned by the Harbor Department and it is on a month to month lease at \$602/mo. The motion asks that the Port to take back the lease for two reasons; 1) it is inappropriate to have such a business in that location; and 2) to make the land part of the beautification process. The motion was seconded by Capt. George Thompson. There were several comments. Phil said this was brought before the Harbor Commission before and they denied it so why are we trying again. Craig agreed and does not feel the board should be making a decision that affects a viable business. Laureen also feels that the tide land issue is very important. Mollie suggested the business be moved to the old animal shelter. **The Board voted on the following motion:**

**WHEREAS**, EZ Smog operates a smog test facility on North Gaffey Street across from the Department of Motor Vehicles; and  
**WHEREAS**, the building is on land rented on a month-to-month basis from the Los Angeles Harbor Department at a nominal rent, currently \$602 per month; and  
**WHEREAS**, the building and the operation is in the middle of the Port's North Gaffey Street Beautification Project area, and  
**WHEREAS**, although the land is a tidelands trust asset, and subject to the uses prescribed in the tidelands trust act, the use for a smog test station is not water dependent and is not compatible with the beautification efforts of the Port-owned land surrounding the test station.  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council hereby requests the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners to direct its staff to terminate the rental agreement of the land to EZ SMOG and incorporate the land into the North Gaffey Street Beautification Project.

The President of the Governing Board is hereby directed to present this resolution to Councilwoman Hahn and to the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

**There were 8 votes in favor of the resolution and 7 votes opposed to the resolution. The motion passed.**

13. **Outreach Committee:** Newsletter is going to Doug Epperhart in the next 48 hours.
14. **Youth and Education Committee:**
- a. Barbara Schach commented that the Youth and Education committee also discussed the possibility of a donation for SPHS football scholarship rings. They also felt that the donation could not be approved.
  - b. There will be service awards of \$500 offered to two students.
  - c. Beach bash cleanup report will be moved to next month.
15. **Treasurer's Report:** Discussion on procedures involving the use of the Credit Card issued to the NWSPNC.
16. **Public comment:** A local student, Estella, thanked the NWSPNC for supporting the West Coast Canine program.
17. **Chair's Report:** Dan Dixon thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone about the upcoming voter forum.
18. **Comment from Pete Burmeister:** Let's support the new lead officer and get involved with him.
19. **Comment from Ray Patricio:** He would like to see an update on the use of the ATV's.
20. **Meeting Adjourned** at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith  
Administrative Assistant