



**Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
July 13, 2009 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
Peck Park, 6:30pm**

1. **Call to Order:** President Dan Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:36pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Board members in attendance: Dan Dixon, John Greenwood, Craig Goldfarb, John Mavar, Ray Patricio, Cpt. George Thompson, Barbara Schach, Pete Burmeister, Mary Hamlin, Laureen Vivian and Diana Nave.
Board members excused: Mollie Abbatiello, Gabriel Rivas, Philip Nicolay, Meryl Moilov, and David Arvonio. A quorum was present. Approximately 32 stakeholders present.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the June 8, 2009 Meeting:** John Mavar made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2009 board and stakeholder meeting, seconded by George Thompson and approved unanimously by the board.
4. **Special Thank you:** Peter Burmeister was thanked for his donations to the North Gaffey walking path area. He installed metal doggie water bowls and waste bags to clean up after the dogs in an effort to keep the area clean.
5. **Election of Board Officers for 2009-2010 Council Year:** President Dan Dixon gave an overview on the process of annual Officer elections by the Board. He then turned this portion of the meeting over to John Greenwood who called for nominations for the various officer positions. Dan Dixon was nominated as President and approved by the board. John Mavar was nominated and approved as Vice President. Diana Nave was nominated and approved as Secretary. Craig Goldfarb was nominated and approved as Treasurer.
6. **Open Education Board Seat:** Applications were made available for the open seat on the board created by the retirement of Bonnie Easley. The deadline to submit an application to be considered for this vacant board seat is August 3, 2009. Applications can be requested from the Administrative Assistant, Kristina Smith, by sending an email to ksmith@klct.com or calling 310-918-8650.
7. **Presentation on Peck Park Recreation Improvements.** Representatives from the Department of Public Works were available to give an update on the Peck Park Canyon Enhancement Project. They reported that the project is moving along. The design is complete and now out for bid. They will be receiving bids on August 2, 2009. They hope to move into the construction phase in November or December. Three main components of the project are: 1) to install best management practice storm water cleanup facilities; 2) make channel improvements and 3) trail improvements. The Prop O elements are to improve water quality discharging into the LA Harbor. Prop 50 components include three pedestrian bridges along the trails with other improvements and educational signage. Total estimated cost of the project is \$4,749,000. Comments from board members included requests for a water spigot at the trail heads for filling water bottles. The project does not include any restrooms or water fountains.
8. **City Attorney's Office:** Not in attendance to present the Pilot Illegal Dumping Program.

9. Reports by Public Officials

a. Council District 5: Ana Dragin talked about:

- **1st Annual Jazz Festival:** Free event put on by Crowne Plaza and San Pedro Arts Association in front of the Crowne Plaza Hotel on 6th Street, Sunday July 19th, from 2-8pm.
- **Recycling Center:** The recycling center behind the Park Plaza Shopping Center has been closed down. The owner did not have the adequate permits and business owners and property owners in the area had submitted complaints on negative activities surrounding the recycling center.
- **Pot holes on Western between Caddington and Capitol.** Cal Trans has been contacted.
- **Resurfacing:** Channel Street will be resurfaced this fiscal year. Park Western is not scheduled for resurfacing. Diana Nave reported to Ana Dragin on an area of Park Western that desperately needs attention.

b. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). Rosa Arcadia reported on the following:

- City is going through their fiscal crisis and DONE is furloughing their staff. 80% of the department took a furlough last Friday. 2nd and 4th Friday the office will have only limited staff.
- Reminder to board members to log on and update their profile information on the DONE website. This is how city departments, elected officials and stakeholders get in touch with board members.
- Regional Trainings this quarter focusing on gang reduction and public safety.
- Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting will be July 20.
- Parking Day LA 2009. September 18, 2009. Details was available on a handout.
- Next Congress of Neighborhoods event is scheduled for October 10th.
- Rosa's city cell number 323-972-7961

10. **Knoll Hill Update:** Craig Goldfarb gave an update on the Knoll Hill Steering Committee's present position on the Knoll Hill project. At its meeting of June 24, 2009, the Knoll Hill Steering Committee reached a position of tentative consensus that would allow it to complete the final design for the Knoll Hill Conceptual Plan. The current direction of the State Lands Commission, provided on May 13, 2009, disallowed a multi-purpose field if the plan area were to remain Port of Los Angeles property subject to State of California Tidelands restrictions and protections. The committee has sent a letter to Janice Hahn (which can be viewed on the NWSPNC website) requesting her position on the matter. Craig was not in agreement with the majority of the steering committee and did not support or sign the letter. He feels that the community would be better served if the area were kept by the Port as he feels the Port would do a better job of maintaining the property overall, especially in light of budget cuts in the Department of Rec and Parks.

11. **Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils:** Diana Nave talked about the formation of the Harbor Alliance which is an alliance of all the neighborhood councils in the Harbor Area. The alliance met about four months ago. The founder of a similar alliance in the valley was at that meeting, as well as a representative from the Westside Alliance. Diana felt that we should appoint an official representative from our council to be able to vote at the Alliance meetings. **John Greenwood made the following motion which was seconded by Pete Burmeister:**

MOTION TO JOIN HARBOR ALLIANCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS:

Whereas the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is desirous of working with other

Neighborhood Councils in the Harbor Area; and

Whereas a Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils is being formed to a) provide a forum for support among the Harbor Area Neighborhood Councils, b) sponsor educational forums and opportunities for dialogue with governmental officials, and c) take collective action on common issues;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council join the Harbor Alliance on Neighborhood Councils (HANC), appoint at least one official representative to the HANC.

Be it further resolved that the NWSPNC authorize said representative/s to vote on matters where the action is consistent with prior action of the NWSPNC, matters that are ministerial in nature, and matters of urgency. All other matters should be brought before the Board of the NWSPNC for a vote.

The NWSPNC board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Diana Nave, John Mavar, and Laureen Vivian volunteered to be the official representatives. Dan offered to be an alternate. **Barbara Schach made a motion to approve up to \$100 for expenses related to the Alliance. The motion was seconded by George Thompson and passed by unanimous vote of the NWSPNC Board.**

12. **Port Committee:** At its next scheduled meeting, the PCAC will be voting on a motion related to the relocating of a Rail yard in Wilmington. The proposed relocation will result in cutting off access to residents of the Marina and therefore there is a need for a bypass road to get out of the rail yard and also a sound wall/barrier. This is a non-controversial motion and the NWSPNC Port Committee recommends that our representative vote yes. **The NWSPNC Board voted unanimously in favor of having our PCAC representative vote yes on this motion when it is presented at the PCAC meeting.**
13. **Issues Committee:** A written report was provided by the Issues Committee which included the following:
 - a. Report on the increase in drug activity in the Central SP/Vinegar Hill area. This area is from 8th St. to 14th St. and Palos Verdes Sr. to Mesa. There was a murder in that neighborhood in relation to the drug activity but thankfully the suspect was caught. Neighbors living in the area are scared and frustrated with this activity. Community meetings and increased police patrols are now happening.
 - b. Report on recent kidnapping/sexual assault of local student in NWSPNC area and how to prevent this type of crime. Senior Lead officer Art Ashcraft attended indicated this was an "isolated" incident. They have increased patrols but what we all need to do is know our surroundings. The victim was on her regular routine to school. This suspect had to be watching her to know when to strike. Park Plaza Assistant Property Manager, Chris Daniell talked about the center updating their lighting and answered questions related to conditions around the property that need to be upgraded and addressed problems related to the recycling center.
 - c. Officer Ashcraft also indicated 50% of crime in San Pedro is property theft. So lock your cars and don't leave iPods or phone in plain sight.
 - d. Officers Gomez and Kyle were available to address traffic issues. Overall traffic issues are down but DUI's are up 20%. The Issues Committee also gave the officers a heads up to areas of needed enforcement. (Averil Park and other locations).
 - e. **Motion to support a four way stop at Meyler and Basin.** Chuck Hart gave some background. The city has still refused to put in the four way stop at that location. The community has been requesting it for years. **A motion was brought forth from the Issues Committee and seconded by John Greenwood. Diana Nave made a motion to amend the wording of the 5th paragraph. The board voted unanimously to approve the amendment and passed the amended motion by unanimous vote. Amended motion reads as follows:**

MOTION Pertaining to four-way stop at Meyler and Basin St.

Whereas, the Department of Transportation installed a two way-stop on north and south bound

Meyler St. at the intersection of Basin St., but did not install stop signs at east and west bound Basin, and

Whereas, therefore the more heavily traveled street is required to stop, but the less traveled side street is not, creating a real possibility of vehicles "darting out " into the intersection, and

Whereas, since this intersection is at the top of a hill coming from northbound Meyler, adding to the possibility of miscalculation by drivers coming up the hill, and

Whereas, the DOT installed an unexpected and difficult-to-read sign on north and south bound Meyler indicating that vehicles proceeding into the intersection from Basin are not required to stop, and

Whereas when cars are stopped on Meyler, visibility of cars approaching on Basin from either direction is very limited due to the configuration of Basin Street, and

Whereas, numerous residents have expressed concern about the danger of not having a four way stop at the intersection, and about the confusion which the instructive signs generate, and

Whereas, the clear inference is that this intersection is an accident waiting to happen,

Now Therefore the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council urges the Department of Transportation to add stop signs on Basin, turning the intersection of Meyler and Basin into a four-way stop and requests Councilwoman Hahn's assistance in obtaining an exemption from the City DOT policy that has resulted in a denial of our previous requests.

14. Land Use and Planning Committee Report.

- a. **National Traffic Trip Standards.** John Greenwood provided background on the need for the DOT and Planning Department to report on the accuracy of National (traffic) Trip Standards in evaluating LA development projects and also the need for all Departments to collaborate with neighborhood councils in preparing such reports. **The following motion was brought forth by the Land Use and Planning Committee and approved unanimously by the Board:**

Motion Re: Developing Local Trip Standards

WHEREAS, Los Angeles has the worst traffic congestion in the country; and

WHEREAS, one possible reason for this congestion is the inaccuracy of the traffic generation data used by the City and developers to predict the added traffic burden when applying for development permits for property development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles requires developers to use the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE) Guidelines in predicting the traffic impacts of their projects; and

WHEREAS, the Guidelines contain many classifications that developers might select for a particular project, each with substantially different impact predictors, such as High-Rise Condominiums, Condominiums, or Mixed Use Developments; and

WHEREAS, the City has allowed developers to use different guidelines for similar projects, with no apparent consistency, resulting in increased congestion and inadequate mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the Guidelines represent actual studies from all parts of the country, some of which are forty years old; and

WHEREAS, ITE does not reveal where its studies were performed, so that it is not possible to compare factors such as availability of mass transit, proximity of work locations, shopping opportunities and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, specific Guidelines contain a wide range of Average Daily Traffic and Peak Hour rates, for example, the average daily traffic rate for Condominiums ranges from 1.83 per unit per day to 11.79 per unit per day and the AM Peak Hour rate ranges from .15 per unit per day to 1.61 per unit per day, but the City applies only the average number which is 5.86 Average Daily Trips and the average of .44 Peak Hour per unit; and

WHEREAS, City Planner Gail Goldberg has stated that Los Angeles has unique traffic patterns;

and

WHEREAS, the City Council recently brought up the traffic data generation issue in Council File 07- 2419 but the File will expire on July 31, 2009;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NWSPNC requests that Councilwoman Hahn introduce a motion in the Council to direct the Department of Transportation and the Department of Planning to report on the extent to which the national trip standards currently used to evaluate traffic generation accurately reflect the unique conditions found in Los Angeles. Specifically, the report should address what criteria and standards should be used in Los Angeles and whether the national standards now used properly calculate traffic impacts on transportation infrastructure, taking into account the City's goal to increase transit oriented developments and other smart growth strategies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the two Departments solicit input from and collaborate with the Neighborhood Councils in preparing their reports and that the Departments explore developing uniform standards with other transportation entities within Los Angeles County.

- b. **Motion Supporting Alternate Draft CEQA Appeal Ordinance.** Diana Nave provided background information on the Alternative Ordinance and made the following motion which was seconded by Barbara Schach and unanimously approved by the NWSPNC Board.

Motion re CEQA Appeal Ordinance

WHEREAS the City of Los Angeles is in need of procedures for appealing CEQA determinations made by non-elected bodies; and

WHEREAS the former City Attorney prepared a Draft Ordinance to establish procedures for appeals to the City Council of CEQA determinations; and

Whereas, the purpose of CEQA is to provide an opportunity for the public to have input on the consequences of governmental discretionary projects, and

WHEREAS, the draft ordinance prepared by the former City Attorney would unnecessarily limit public input; and

WHEREAS the citizens of the City of Los Angeles are desirous of participating in the CEQA appeal process, and

WHEREAS a community group has prepared the attached Alternate Draft Ordinance, and

WHEREAS the Alternate Ordinance allows for an appropriate level of community notification and public input;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the Alternate Draft CEQA Appeal Ordinance and requests that the City Attorney support and submit the alternative ordinance and that the City Council adopt it.

- c. **Motion Opposing 110 Frwy Express Lane Toll System as currently proposed.** Diana Nave gave an overview of the problems with the current 110 Frwy Toll program as it has been presented and then made a motion that the NWSPNC support and sign a letter sent by the Harbor Area Alliance of Neighborhood Councils to Metro regarding the problems with the toll lanes on the freeway. The motion was seconded by Lauren Vivian and approved unanimously by the NWSPNC Board. (See letter attached to these minutes).

15. **Treasurer's Report:** Craig Goldfarb provided a Proposed Budget and made a motion to pass the budget as presented, seconded by John Greenwood. The NWSPNC Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

16. **Comment from Pete Burmeister:** Pete commented that the quality of life in our community is an important issue and he publicly thanked Chuck Hart and the Homeowners United group for their work and success on the issue of illegal fireworks in our communities. He also provided an update

on the West Coast Canine issue.

17. **Discussion on possible date for retreat:** President Dan Dixon announced to the Board that the next Board Retreat will be held at Port O'Call Restaurant and Mary Hamlin will be contacting board members to determine an appropriate date in the very near future.
18. **Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by Kristina Smith
Administrative Assistant to NWSPNC**

HARBOR ALLIANCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Central San Pedro • Coastal San Pedro • Harbor City • Harbor Gateway North
Harbor Gateway South • Northwest San Pedro • Wilmington

hanc639@yahoo.com

July 13, 2009

Stephanie Wiggins
Executive Officer
Metro
One Gateway Plaza – MS 99-25-5
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed Express Lanes Project on the 110 Harbor Freeway. The Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils represents the communities of San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City, and the Harbor Gateway, all of which are situated beside the 110 Harbor Freeway. Our stakeholders use this Freeway on a regular basis. The Alliance is opposed to ANY TOLL on the 110 Freeway. This **FREE**way was paid for with taxpayer funds and should remain free. The purpose of creating the HOV lanes was to encourage multi-passenger vehicles by providing for a better flow of traffic than the remaining lanes. Slowing the traffic down by adding toll paying single occupancy vehicles will reduce speed and reduce the incentive for using multi-occupancy vehicles. The MTA should negotiate with the Federal Government to alter the requirements of the grant to eliminate the 110 Freeway or simply return the funds to the Federal Government and seek alternative sources for funding of mass transit.

We have the following additional comments on the specific proposal under consideration:

- The current plan does not seem to have been fully thought through. Given the number of unanswered questions regarding the specifics of this proposal, we request that the date for comments be extended and that additional community meetings be held in the Harbor Area (San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway) prior to the close of the comment period.
- The proposed maximum toll of \$1.40 per mile is exorbitant and discriminatory. For those of us coming from the Harbor entering the express lanes at Artesia during peak travel times the cost would be approximately \$28 per day or \$7,000 per year. Although there are exemptions for persons with very low incomes, the majority of the workforce is excluded from these exemptions. Access to the lanes should be based on availability, not ability to pay.
- The proposed average speed of 45 MPH is too low and should be increased. There are two problems with this average speed: 1) It will result in longer commutes than currently for everyone using the “Express” Lanes. 2) If the optimal speed for emissions is 45-55 MPH, an average of 45 MPH will result in less than optimal emissions.

- Going North on the 110 at peak times, traffic currently backs up at the point where the HOV lanes end with one lane exiting onto Adams Blvd and the other lane merging back into the regular congested lanes. This situation poses several problems. 1) If the pilot does proceed, the Express Lanes pilot should not begin on the 110 North until the proposed changes to the Adams off ramp and surrounding surface streets have been completed. Not only is this necessary to improve the flow of traffic, but additional congestion will undoubtedly occur during the time the improvements are being made. 2) Little or no attention has been paid to the problem of the traffic that must merge back into the regular lanes. This congestion will undoubtedly increase as additional traffic is added to the HOV lanes. MTA and CAL TRANS should undertake a full study of options for relieving this congestion. 3) When traffic is backing up into the HOV Lanes, additional single occupant cars should not be allowed to enter the HOV Lanes.
- Carpoolers should not be required to obtain transponders. Requiring that carpools obtain a transponder will act as a further disincentive to carpooling. Furthermore the system will still be relying on the CHP to catch and ticket those individuals who are using the lanes inappropriately. Many Angelenos who use the carpool lane do not do so on a regular basis while others are driving into Los Angeles from Arizona, Nevada, San Diego, and San Francisco, etc. The transponders currently in use for Fast Lanes programs elsewhere in the State do not have the capacity to indicate carpooling and therefore cannot be used for this purpose. An individual who uses a Fast Pass and who also carpools on the Harbor Freeway would need to have two separate transponders.
- Transit service must be improved significantly for individuals who reside in the Harbor Area and who travel into Los Angeles and beyond. The proposed pilot program would significantly improve bus service for people starting their journey at the Artesia facility. It would provide virtually no improvement in service for commuters traveling from San Pedro, Wilmington, and Harbor City for whom there are currently very few rapid transit options. Additional rapid busses need to be added for those longer haul commuters.

This motion was approved by the following Neighborhood Councils: Central San Pedro, Coastal San Pedro, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway North, Harbor Gateway South, and Northwest San Pedro. The Wilmington Neighborhood Council did not have sufficient time to act on this prior to the deadline for comments.

Diana Nave, Secretary

CC: Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Congresswoman Jane Harman, Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal, State Senator Roderick Wright