



**Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
October 10, 2011 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Approved Minutes  
LAPD Harbor Division Community Room, 6:00pm**

1. **Call to Order:** President Diana Nave called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and gave welcoming remarks. There was an announcement of the resignation of board member Mark Anthony Shoats.
2. **Roll Call:** Board members in attendance were: Bob Bryant, Peter Burmeister, Dan Dixon, Charles Eldred Jr., Anise Goldfarb, Craig Goldfarb, Cynthia Gonyea, John Greenwood, Diana Nave, Barbara Schach, John Stammreich, Cpt. George Thompson and Laureen Vivian. John Mavar was excused. Approximately 20 stakeholders present.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously. (Moved by John Greenwood, Seconded by Bob Bryant).
4. **Selection of Youth Member:** Bob Bryant talked about the process for selecting a Youth Member for the Board's Youth Seat. The Youth Committee members met with 3 candidates and selected Anise Goldfarb. The motion to re-elect Anise Goldfarb was seconded by John Greenwood and approved unanimously by the Board.
5. **Election to fill Census Tract Seat:** George Thompson talked about the process. Each of the following candidates gave a statement: Carolyn Grayson, Celina Luna, and Darlene Zavalney. The remaining candidates, Jim Lewis and Richard Paoletti, were not present. There was a run-off between the two candidates with the highest number of votes, Carolyn Grayson and Celina Luna. Carolyn Grayson received 6 out of 11 votes and was elected to the board.
6. **Swearing in of New Members:** Carolyn Grayson and Anise Goldfarb were sworn in and seated.
7. **LAPD:** Report postponed until later in the meeting due to Officer Ashcraft being called to an emergency.
8. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**
  - **Lanny Nelms** provided updated information related to LAUSD. He also announced, on behalf of the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, the upcoming Christmas Parade scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> in downtown San Pedro.
  - **Gordon Teuber**, Candidate for CD15, commented on the recent bicycle event he attended with his family called Cyclavia held in downtown LA on October 9, 2011. He is also looking forward to participating in the upcoming Candidate Forum sponsored in part by the neighborhood councils.
  - **John Greenwood** announced that the San Pedro Rotary Club will have 2 candidates per week speaking at their meetings on Thursdays, 7:15am, at the Doubletree Hotel.
  - **Raymond Yu** also announced upcoming events in the Los Angeles area.
  - **Chuck Eldred** announced an upcoming YWCA event.
9. **Presentation on San Pedro Science Center:** Presenter had to cancel due to illness. The presentation will be rescheduled to a future meeting.

10. **Bylaws & Elections:** George Thompson gave an update on the discussion held at the committee meeting. The Committee approved the following motion brought forth from the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils:

*Whereas when Neighborhood Councils were initially formed the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council spent a great deal of time and thoughtfulness on how best to structure our elections, and*

*Whereas the formation committee decided that elections should be staggered to provide for board continuity, and*

*Whereas initially the Board determined that two year terms were most appropriate, and*

*Whereas, because the City later determined that the elections could only be conducted every two years, the Bylaws were revised to create four year staggered terms, and*

*Whereas lengthening the terms has resulted in vacant seats that have been filled by a vote of the remaining board members rather than the stakeholders, and*

*Whereas the City is now proposing that all terms ending in 2012 be automatically extended to 2014 because the City Clerk is not funded to conduct elections in 2012 and will not conduct elections in 2013, and*

*Whereas such an extension of existing Board Member terms would result in 6 year terms for half of the board members, all Board members being elected at once, rather than staggered terms, and an increased proportion of the Board being selected by the remaining Board Members rather than the stakeholders,*

*Now Therefore, Be it Resolved That:*

*1) The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the HANC Resolution to oppose the automatic extension of terms ending in 2012 to 2014 and request a change in the Plan for Neighborhood Councils to allow Neighborhood Councils who chose to do so, to conduct their own elections in 2012.*

*2) In the event that the requested change to the Plan does not occur in time, that DONE work with the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council so that a selection process can be conducted for those positions with a term ending in 2012.*

- Charles Eldred moved to amend the motion adding a paragraph requesting that the funds previously diverted from the neighborhood councils to the City Clerk in order to fund elections be reimbursed to the neighborhood councils. The amendment was seconded by Pete Burmeister and passed unanimously by the Board. The amended motion was also passed unanimously.
  - John Greenwood commented on the fact that he was elected in 2008 for a two year term and due to the lack of an election it has become a four year term. He finds it absurd that the City Clerk is now proposing that board members continue for two more years without an election. He feels that it is a disservice to the community who should be involved in electing the board. Diana Nave commented that this will also result in a majority of the NWSPNC board being appointed and not elected.
  - Diana Nave announced the opening of **another vacant seat due to Mark Anthony Shoa't's** resignation. This vacancy is for a representative of Tract 2964. Applications will be made available and due November. 1<sup>st</sup>.
11. **Presentation by Dodson Middle School Principal, John Vladovic.** Highlights included:
- The school has shown significant academic gains within the last school year and are now the highest performing middle school in Local District 8.
  - Goals are to continue to improve student achievement and provide professional development for all of their teachers.

- They have increased the number of intervention classes to make sure the students are successful when they go on to high school.
- Their current enrollment is 1820 students with an average class size 35. Elective classes have approximately 42 students per class.
- Current challenges are class size and obstacles related to the current cutbacks.
- Current successes are the school's drama program, as well as the Beyond the Bell program.

12. **Port Committee.** Phil Nicolay reported on the following:

- **Motion Regarding Train Noise brought forth from the Port Committee:**

*WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department, through its agent Pacific Harbor Lines, operates trains in and around Los Angeles Harbor at all hours of the day and night to move cargo to and from the Port; and*

*WHEREAS, the trains are required to blow their horns when approaching grade crossings, but also use their horns as part of regular rail operations; and*

*WHEREAS, the horns on the trains operate in excess of 100 decibels [100dba], a sound level which, according to a study commissioned by the Port in 2005 [referred to herein as "the Study"], is the sound level of a jet flying 100 feet overhead; and*

*WHEREAS, according to the Study, nighttime ambient noise levels in the NWSPNC area are between 40 and 50 dba, and an increase of just 10 dba would be perceived as a **doubling** of loudness; and*  
*WHEREAS, the Study indicates that sounds over 70 dba in residential neighborhoods are either normally unacceptable or clearly unacceptable; and*

*WHEREAS, stakeholders in Northwest San Pedro and Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council areas have complained that train horn noises disrupt their sleep during the night; and*

*WHEREAS, federal law provides procedures for the creation of "Rail Quiet Zones" so that railroad operators need not use their horns during normal operations; and*

*WHEREAS, the Study itself provided that "recommendations to reduce episodic noise related to Port activity include (1) the development of Quiet Zones, which restrict the use of train horns at at-grade railroad crossing, (2) reduce truck wait time on-site, reduce heavy truck speed to reduce noise from heavy truck traffic and (3) develop and require a rail wheel and track maintenance program to reduce wheel squeal."*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council requests the Board of Harbor Commissioners to direct staff to implement recommendation number 1, development of Quiet Zones, to lessen noise from rail operations within the Port boundaries.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to the governing boards of the Central San Pedro, Coastal San Pedro, and Wilmington Neighborhood Councils and to the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, and to the Port Community Advisory Committee for their consideration; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the Board of Harbor Commissioners to establish a working committee to assist the Harbor Department in determining the improvements necessary to establish a Rail Quiet Zone in the harbor area and to make other improvements to reduce unwanted noise from Port Operations.*

**Comments related to the motion included:**

- ✓ Donna Ethington (Wilmington Neighborhood Council) believes that the Wilmington NC will support this motion also.
- ✓ Gordon Teuber gave clarifications that the Port's owns the McFarland Line to Anaheim Street.
- ✓ Gary Sands spoke about his attempts to get assistance in his Wilmington Neighborhood. He was in support of the motion.
- ✓ Carl Marsh was mostly concerned about the red car which has been known to have 2600 horn blasts per weekend. He spoke in favor of the motion.
- ✓ Pat Nave clarified the laws that the trains have to follow. That law also gives municipalities the right to have "Quiet Zones."
- ✓ Jody James spoke in favor of "team work."
- ✓ **After discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.**

## PCAC MOTIONS:

- **MOTION Re: Role of PCAC with regard to Waterfront Plan.** (Barbara Schach moved that the NWSPNC Board support the PCAC motion, seconded by George Thompson, approved unanimously by the Board):  
*Whereas, the Port Community Advisory Committee was established through LA City Resolution #6039 and was charged with the responsibility of reviewing past & present Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and Port impacts/mitigations affecting Harbor Area Communities; and Whereas, the Port of LA conducted public presentations of the Los Angeles (LA) Waterfront Plan, but made no presentation to the PCAC, Therefore, be it resolved, the PCAC advises the Board of Harbor Commissioners (BHC) to ensure the PCAC can fulfill responsibilities assigned by City Resolution #6039 by recognizing the PCAC as the necessary venue for public presentations and discussions regarding the LA Waterfront Plan and/or that the Waterfront Plan meetings be conducted through POLA/PCAC partnership.*
- **MOTION Re: Use of Colonial's storage yard for the Wilmington Youth Sailing Center.** (Dan Dixon moved that the NWSPNC PCAC representative vote in support of the PCAC motion, seconded by Laureen Vivian, approved unanimously by the Board). Pat Nave asked that the Board's approval of the motion be in writing for him to present at the PCAC. Motion reads as follows:  
*The PCAC recommend to the Board of Harbor Commissioners (BHC) that the Port continue to designate Colonial Yacht Anchorage's existing land and water space for recreational uses and to preserve the existing uses that include a boat yard, a launch ramp and marina slips; and The Port designate Colonial's storage yard and surrounding slips on the southwest corner of Anchorage and Shore Roads for the Wilmington Youth Sailing Center, separate from any future lease of the boat yard, launch ramp and marina slips.*
- **MOTION Re: Additional \$500,000 for Wilmington YMCA swimming pool project.**  
*The PCAC supports the request from the Wilmington YMCA for an additional \$500,000 for cost overruns on the swimming pool project that was funded by the China Shipping Mitigation. The overrun came from increased construction costs and the unanticipated remediation costs for methane gas. The Committee directed Gary Kern, the Chair of the Wilmington Waterfront Development Subcommittee, to draft a letter of support proposing that the money be drawn from any remaining mitigation funds / TraPac funds or from the Port's General Fund.*  
  
*John Greenwood moved that the NWSPNC PCAC representative vote in favor of the above motion, seconded by George Thompson. During discussion, John Stammreich moved that the Board instruct its representative to ask for an amendment that the money come only from Wilmington Mitigation Funds, seconded by John Greenwood. The motion to instruct NWSPNC's PCAC Representative to introduce an amendment to the PCAC motion requesting that the money come only from Wilmington Mitigation Funds was passed unanimously.*
- Proposed Southern California Intermodal Yard. BSNF has a draft EIR to create an intermodal yard on 150 acres. The EIR is open until December 13 for comment. BSNF will attend the Port Committee meeting and also would like to attend a full board and stakeholder meeting.
- USS IOWA update. The Port is in the process of doing a Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- Clearwater Program did a presentation at the Port Committee. The committee wants to wait to comment after the EIR comes out.
- Geraldine Knatz will be attended next month.

13. **LAPD REPORT:** Officer Ashcraft reported on the following:
- Property crime is down. Burglaries from motor vehicles are still high.
  - The LAPD has received complaints from the community about suspicious people attempting to do door to door sales. The community is asked to report suspicious behavior.
  - Halloween update. Drivers need to slow down and be aware of children in the area during Halloween night.
  - Public Comment related to the officer's opinion on my lights in the community. Officer Ashcraft is very supportive of a well lit community to deter crime.
14. **Additional Public Comment:** Annette Custaldi gave an update on her issue with the abandoned home on the 400 block of Walker. The Council office sent letters in August to Building and Safety but there has been no response to date. It was suggested that the NWSPNC Board get involved and call Building and Safety requesting a meeting to discuss the issue.
15. **Reports from Public Officials:** No reports from public officials due to Columbus Day holiday.
16. **Community Involvement and Collaboration:**
- Bob Bryant was thanked for his great job on the NWSPNC newsletter who in turn thanked Diana Nave for her input of candidate information.
  - Barbara Schach was thanked for her written committee report which was included in the agenda packet.
  - **Peck Park Halloween Carnival Sponsorship Motion:** Motion from committee to allocate up to \$500 to sponsor the Halloween Carnival at Peck Park which would include an outreach booth for NWSPNC. The motion included approval of moving \$500 from Grants to Outreach. Chuck Eldred moved to amend the motion to reduce the amount from \$250 for the cost of candy and prizes. The motion to amend was seconded by Pete Burmeister and passed unanimously by the Board. The amended motion was then passed unanimously.
  - Diana commented that volunteers are needed for three outreach events: The Candidate Forum, the Peck Park Halloween Carnival, and the Weymouth Corners Candy Cane event on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Jody James announced an upcoming event for Saturday, October 29, 2011 requesting support from the community to rally in opposition of the Rancho LPG tanks. Jody also commented on public information available from the LAPC in Nevada related to suggested dangers at the Amerigas facility near Sparks, Nevada.
  - Cynthia Gonyea commented on a leak this past weekend at Conoco Phillips which resulted in a fire that had to be immediately extinguished.
17. **Ad Hoc Committee on Krekorian Motions Update:** Dan Dixon gave an update on the DONE meetings with respect to the proposed motions. A handout was provided which included NWSPNC comments to the Krekorian Motions. No board action was proposed at this particular point. John Stammreich gave input from the meetings he had attended. There was a short discussion on the roles of DONE and BONC.
18. **Presidents Report:**
- **Training Update:** George Thompson and Scott Allman were congratulated on finishing the Treasurer's training. Pete Burmeister stated he would have it completed by next meeting.
  - **Skate Park:** Diana reported that the recent community meeting was very successful. Laureen Vivian commented that there were so many diverse people in attendance including skateboarders and parents. There is a real desire to build a first class skate park. Rec and Parks as identified \$500K out of their money to build the skate park. Restrooms will also need to be upgraded. Skaters may be able to go out and find additional funding.
  - **Appointments and Removals:** Scott Allman was appointed to replace John Stammreich as the Budget Representative and was also appointed to the Budget and Finance Committee.
  - **Chipotle issue:** The Chipotle hearing is this Thursday morning at 9am, City Hall. This relates to their Conditional Use Permit. There has been some difficulty with regard to Sprouts at Park

Plaza. This resulted in a draft letter presented in the agenda packet which welcomes Sprouts to the community and also tells them that we are interested in having Chipotle as a tenant also. John Greenwood moved that the letter be sent to Sprouts, seconded by Laureen Vivian and passed by unanimous vote.

- **HANC REPORT.** Diana commented on the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Candidate Forum. A full HANC report was included in the agenda packet.

**19. Treasurer/Finance Committee:**

- Approval of Monthly Expenses: **Chuck Eldred moved to accept the monthly expenditures for September as presented, seconded by John Greenwood and approved by the Board unanimously.**
- Duplex Printer Motion: **The committee brought forth a motion to approve up to \$500 for a duplex laser printer; to approve up to \$200 for a case for the sound system; and to amend the budget moving \$700 from Grants into Operations/Office Supplies. During discussion, Chuck Eldred moved to table the motion and have the committee provide more detailed information to the board. The motion failed 5 to 7. A motion to separate the items into two separate motions was approved. 1) The motion to approve up to \$500 for a duplex laser printer was approved by 7 yes votes and 3 no votes. 2) The motion to approve up to \$200 for a case was approved unanimously.**
- Diana asked Board Members to submit any questions regarding items for inclusion on the City Budget Survey to the budget representatives, Craig or Scott.
- Finance Committee is trying to figure out how to allocate money more consistently and not near end of fiscal year. So all committees need to submit their forecasts by November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**20. Community Vision Committee Report:** A written report was provided by Dan Dixon. Highlights from the report included: Discussion on the LANI Maintenance Matching funds program; Elberon Update related to traffic calming measures; Discussion on traffic calming measures for Cabrillo, Gatun St. and Meyler including the idea of a stop sign on Capitol; and Discussion on a Hernandez Ranch Master Plan.

**21. Safety & Security Committee:** No meeting.

**22. Updates from Organization Meetings and other Events:** No other updates from meetings.

**23. Announcements/Item for Future Meetings:** None

**24. Adjournment:** Adjourned at 8:41pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith, Administrative Assistant to NWSPNC