



**Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
September 12, 2011 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
Peck Park, 6:00pm**

1. **Call to Order:** President Diana Nave called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and welcomed those in attendance. Approx. 25 stakeholders in attendance.
2. **Roll Call:** Board members in attendance were: Scott Allman, Dan Dixon, Charles Eldred Jr., Anise Goldfarb, Cynthia Gonyea, Diana Nave, Barbara Schach, John Stammreich, Capt. George Thompson and Laureen Vivian. Excused: Bob Bryant, John Greenwood, John Mavar and Mark Anthony Shoats. Unexcused: Pete Burmeister.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the August 8, 2011 meeting were approved as submitted.
4. **LAPD.** Officer Ashcraft reported on the following:
 - Property crime numbers have come down; however, burglaries from motor vehicles are still up.
 - There have been 2 recent unrelated robberies of elderly woman at ATMs around 5pm-6pm.
 - There is an ATM within the police station.
 - There was a stakeholder question about illegal parking in his neighborhood and Officer Ashcraft suggested contacting parking enforcement.
5. **Port Police.** Sergeant Hallin and Officer Ramirez reported on the following:
 - Busy with special events during the summer at the Port. Lobsterfest is this weekend.
 - A board member complimented them about how port officers handled tours of the Russian ship in the harbor.
 - Overview of increased security activities on September 11, 2011.
6. **Public Comment on non agenda items.**
 - Michael Gatanz announced an upcoming fundraiser for the Komen Foundation, October 16, 2-4pm, at People's Yoga, 365 6th Street, San Pedro.
 - John Stammreich announced Holy Trinity's event at the Warner Grand "When Irish Eyes are Shining", Tickets available at Parish Center. \$25.
 - John also announced a Knights of Columbus Dinner Dance at Angels Gate on Columbus Day, 6:30pm. \$25.
 - Diana Nave announced that the October meeting would not be at Peck Park due to the park being closed for Columbus Day. Tentative location is the Harbor Police Department.
7. **Port Tech LA.** Jeff Milantette executive director gave a presentation. Highlights included:
 - Port Tech LA is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization. Their stakeholders are the Port of LA, the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce and the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce. They hope to increase employment in San Pedro and Wilmington through their activities.
 - They are a technology commercialization center and incubator. They bring together young companies with technologies and connect them to the customers of the Port so they can meet some of their regulatory and technology challenges.
 - The focus is on green and clean technologies such as solar power and wind power.
 - UTR's are currently testing technology of oil filtering devices.

- Port Tech LA is also looking to make containers move more efficiently and to keep the Port safe.
- They rent space to entrepreneurial companies and offer advice through their consultants.
- Enterprise forum, monthly at Harbor College. 10-12 noon, every 2nd Tuesday. The college has a great new technology room.
- Port Tech Expo is coming up soon.
- They are looking to rent or buy a facility with about 10,000 sq ft.

8. **Port Committee.** Pat Nave reported on the following:

- **Motion Re: Comments on 47/110 Transition Proposed Project.** Pat explained that they are currently in the comment period for Mitigated Negative Declaration. He gave an overview of three major impacts the project will have. The following resolution was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Board.
- ***RESOLUTION Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment /Finding of No Significant Impact John S. Gibson Boulevard / I-110 Access Ramps SR-47 / I-110 Connector Improvements***
- *WHEREAS, The Port of Los Angeles (POLA), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), has released environmental documents addressing the environmental effects of the John S. Gibson Boulevard/I-110 Access Ramps and SR 47/I-110 Connector Improvements Project; and*
- *WHEREAS, The proposed project involves widening the SR 47/I-110 connector, extending the additional general purpose lane on the northbound I-110 past the John S. Gibson Boulevard off-ramp, modifying the northbound ramps at the interchange and improving the intersection at that location. The project also includes improvements to the existing drainage system, widening of the Pacific Avenue underpass and the Channel Street overpass, and installation of sound walls to abate traffic noise and*
- *WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Impact Document for the project is currently available for public comment and review;*
- *THEREFORE, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) provides the following comments to the John S. Gibson / I-110 access ramps and SR-47 / I-110 Connector Improvement projects.*
 - 1. The NWSPNC would like the opportunity to comment on the traffic management plan, landscaping plan, and aesthetics of the sound walls when these plans become available.*
 - 2. The environmental document should discuss limitations or methods to reduce additional traffic noise impacting the area west of the 110 Freeway, especially noise related to truck acceleration/deceleration. The banning of the use of jack brakes should be evaluated as part of the noise mitigation elements of the Draft Environmental Documents.*
 - 3. Since a skate park located beneath the I-110 / Channel Street overcrossing will be closed for at least a year, we request that POLA and Caltrans provide funding for a skate plaza at Peck Park or set up a temporary facility at another location.*
 - 4. As part of project design and implementation that POLA and Caltrans evaluate opportunities to underground utilities within and adjacent to the project right of ways.*
 - 5. As part of the projects relocation of existing railroad tracks may be needed, we request that as part of this effort POLA and Caltrans evaluate opportunities to include dedicated bike path right away within the project design.*
 - 6. We request that POLA and Caltrans include in the John S. Gibson / I-110 access ramps project design the potential for a new I-110 connection to Westmont Street to the west of the project area. The NWSPNC has requested that POLA and Caltrans evaluate this option in the past to provide more direct access for trucks using the distribution center in this area.*
 - 7. POLA and Caltrans should evaluate the potential growth inducing impacts of the proposed projects relative to future port growth.*

- **Motion Re: Comments on Grand Jury Report on Port Operations:** The Los Angeles County Grand Jury presented a report which looked at four specific topics concerning the Port of Los Angeles. (The report can be viewed on the NWSPNC website) The topics were:
 - ✓ 1) Evaluating the ways the Port relates to the neighboring communities and the problems with the PCAC. (In summary, the Port Committee recommends NWSPNC ask the Port follow through with its stated intention to address the problems with PCAC.);
 - ✓ 2) Assessing POLA environmental mitigation programs, particularly on measuring ultrafine particulates. (The Committee recommends that NWSPNC ask the Port also look at health impacts beyond cancer risks.)
 - ✓ 3) Considering the benefits of Los Angeles and Long Beach port consolidation. (The Port Committee had no comment on this portion of the Report.)
 - ✓ 4) The integrity of POLA security infrastructure. This part of the report basically concluded that few, if any, events have occurred and that no changes were recommended. (The Port Committee had no comment on this portion of the Report.)

Dan Dixon moved and Capt. George Thompson seconded the following:

The NWSPNC supports the recommendation regarding the Port Community Relations portion of this report and call on the Board of Harbor Commissioners to implement the suggestions. Further we support the recommendations regarding the changes in reporting particulate pollutants and request that the Port begin to use a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that looks at all types of health impacts, such as asthma, COPD, heart impacts, etc. from projects rather than only cancer risks as is presently done in the Health Risk Assessments (HRA).

John Stammreich moved to amend the motion to remove and table the first sentence relating to PCAC subject to further review by the Port Committee, seconded by Cynthia. Public comments during discussion related to the following:

- ✓ The importance of homeowners association groups being involved with PCAC.
- ✓ PCAC was created to allow input from the community.

The motion to amend was passed with 9 yes votes and 1 no vote. The amended motion as follows was passed by unanimous vote:

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the recommendations regarding the changes in reporting particulate pollutants and request that the Port begin to use a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that looks at all types of health impacts, such as asthma, COPD, heart impacts, etc. from projects rather than only cancer risks as is presently done in the Health Risk Assessments (HRA).

9. LAUSD Introductions: Jacob Haik, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Dr. Richard Vladovic, LAUSD Board Member introduced Tim Howe, the new Deputy Chief of Staff and Lanni Nelms who is guiding their office in local issues. Later, John Vladovic the new principal at Dodson Middle School, was introduced.
10. **Pier Pass Program:** Tony Torres introduced Bruce Wargo, President of Pier Pass, a nonprofit organization created by marine terminal operators at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to address multi-terminal issues such as congestion, security and air quality. Under the program, all international container terminals in the two ports established five new shifts per week. As an incentive to use the new “Off-Peak” shifts and to cover the added cost of the shifts, a Traffic Mitigation Fee (TMF) is required for most cargo movement during peak hours (Monday-Friday, 3 am to 6 pm). About 50% of the cargo (20 million truck trips) is now moved during Off Peak night and weekend hours. They are seeking community support and will keep the community informed through newsletters.
11. **Report from Council Office:** Elise Swanson reported on the following:
 - Announced her new position as District Director with Congresswoman Hahn’s office.

- The Congresswoman's main office is being moved from El Segundo to San Pedro.
- Congresswoman has been appointed to Homeland Security and attended her first committee meeting last week. She is trying to be appointed to the Small Business Committee.
- Abandoned home on Walker: The issue has been moved to the City Attorney's office and they are meeting with the owners and the enforcement will be taken to the next level.
- Care Ordinance related to sober living and other group homes. City Council approved a planning report last June. The City Attorney was asked to prepare the actual ordinance but has not yet finished it yet.
- Harbor Highlands Street Names: No news yet.
- Speed bump on Elberon: Speed bump program suspended due to lack of funding. Diana Nave asked Elise to have the City look at other alternatives to protect the safety of the children at that location.
- Caltrans and mitigation for the skate park. Caltrans wants to hold a community meeting regarding relocating the skate park.
- Erika Velasquez, District Director, is the point of contact for the Council Office.
- DoaneLiu, will be handling Land Use/Planning Issues.

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

- USS IOWA. Environmental review is underway. 30 Day Public Comment period began August 29th till September 29th. Public meeting Sept. 13, 6-8pm at the Port Admin Bldg. A copy of the document is available on the Port website.
- Lobsterfest
- Summer concert series at the fountain has concluded and was very successful.
- SP Slip/Ghost Fish construction will began after Lobsterfest.
- Warehouses 9 & 10 proposed project "Crafting in the Port of LA."
- Maritime Museum upgrades continue.
- Downtown Harbor project is on schedule (between Maritime Museum and Firehouse). Should begin in January 2012
- Front Street beautification project. Port is meeting with DWP to see if utilities can be placed underground.

13. **Planning and Land Use Committee:** Charles Eldred reported on the following:

- **Motion to support Chipolte Request for a Conditional Use Permit to serve Beer and Wine at 940 N. Western.** This motion was brought forth from the Committee and was passed unanimously by the Board.

- **Motion to send a letter to Target regarding water run-off problem.** A draft letter was provided in the agenda packet. This motion also came from the committee and was passed unanimously by the Board.

Wording of letter:

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is an elected Board pursuant to the charter of the City of Los Angeles. We represent approximately 20,000 residents and businesses in our area. We worked very closely with Target's representatives during the application, planning and construction phases for the San Pedro Target store.

We have received numerous complaints about the persistent problems related to water leakage in your driveway and the adjoining street. The water runoff has caused major damage to the street at your Capitol Drive driveway. Although the City has patched it, the problem persists. The depression is quite rough and uneven. It is hard on our tires and it is dangerous exit, as it affects car handling.

The second problem is a persistent leak about halfway between the driveway and Barrywood to the west of the store. Here the water running across the sidewalk results in slippery moss, a very dangerous situation. In spite of the steps that Target has taken to mitigate these problems, they still persist.

We are aware that the City has proposed several solutions to you. We urge you to work with the City to implement one of these solutions before someone becomes seriously injured.

- **Motion to send a letter to Building & Safety regarding street names and sidewalk/landscaping for the Harbor Highlands Development on Gatun:** A motion was approved unanimously to send a letter to Building & Safety that would 1) ask for street names to be allowed in the development; and 2) address the issues of the wall, sidewalk and landscaping.
- **Motion Re: Rancho Holdings:** A motion to send a letter to the City Attorney regarding Rancho Holdings (Butane Tanks) on N. Gaffey was brought forth from the Committee with a draft copy of the proposed letter. John Stammreich moved to amend the fourth paragraph of the proposed letter to request confirmation that a new EIR is required and that the City Attorney provide such confirmation within 30 days; and also to remove the reference to withdrawing rail permission rights. The amendment was seconded by Chuck Eldred and passed by unanimous vote. The motion to send the letter to the City Attorney with the amended wording was passed unanimously. The amended letter follows:

Dear Mr. Trutanich:

Our community and our Council have long been concerned about the butane storage facility on North Gaffey Street in San Pedro that is currently owned by Rancho Holdings. Our concerns have increased because of the recent incident of the LPG rail car fire in Northern California. The intensity of that situation and evacuation of people over a mile away to avoid risks from a minimal spill has confirmed our anxiety regarding the enormous Rancho facility in San Pedro. We would like your assistance in safeguarding our community.

For over 30 years and through several changes in ownership, a number of discretionary approvals have occurred without the required environmental assessment. In 2005, the Port of LA refused to renew the facility's wharf lease, dramatically altering the LPG business operation and forcing 100% of the transportation of the hazardous gas by truck and rail. Under CEQA law and the California Code of Regulations, this alteration should have triggered a new and complete Environmental Review Process. That never happened. Before that, pipelines connecting this facility with the Valero and British Petroleum refineries were installed, also without an environmental assessment. The Port and City of Los Angeles have jurisdiction over the rail line that Rancho uses to transport its products.

It appears that this facility missed an important step during these changes in operation by not conducting environmental reviews. We are requesting that your office confirm whether an environmental review is required to reflect the current operation and adequately meet the legal requirements of CEQA law. If a new environmental review is required, what is the next step? We would appreciate this information within thirty days.

By doing this, you will have asserted your authority as City Attorney in your duty to properly protect the residents of our City. This is an urgent matter that demands your immediate action. We look to your leadership to guarantee the safety and well being of our public.

During discussion on the motion, comments in support of the letter were heard, as well as comments from Mr. Conrow representing Rancho LPG.

- **Update on Ponte Vista:** They are expecting to come back with their draft EIR possibly in October.
- In November the City is probably bringing forward their community plan draft to review.

14. **Ad Hoc Committee Report on Krekorian Motions:** No report

15. **Bylaws and Elections:**

- **Motion from the Bylaws Committee to approve a proposed amendment to the bylaws was passed unanimously by the Board.** This amendment is to the Revised By-laws that were adopted by the NWSPNC on May 9, 2011 which have not yet been approved by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.
Amend Section 6, Other Election Related Language to insert the following subsection: "C. Youth Seat Appointment

The youth seat shall be appointed by the Board under the following process: Following the annual election of officers, the President shall appoint a committee to oversee the youth seat appointment process. The committee shall set the deadline for qualified applicants, solicit applications, interview all qualified applicants, and make a recommendation subject to a final vote at the next Board meeting.

The incumbent youth appointee shall continue in the seat until a replacement is appointed. In the event that the incumbent cannot or does not want to continue, an interim person may be appointed. Should the interim be interested in serving the new term, they will need to apply in accordance with the established process.

John Stammreich suggested that in the future the Bylaws be revised to have the youth seat an elected position.

- **Process to fill the vacant census tract seat:** The vacancy has been published and there are currently five applicants for the seat.

16. **Community Issues Committee Involvement and Collaboration Committee:**

- Youth Seat Application Process: Applications have been provided to local colleges and high schools with a deadline of September 14th, however, as of this meeting no applications have been received
- Newsletter: Update provided on proposed articles to be included in the newsletter.

17. **Presidents Report:**

- Craig and Anise Goldfarb both completed their Ethics training.
- Letter from Rancho Holdings inviting 4 elected board members to their community meeting.
- Social time prior to Monthly Board Meetings will be changed from 5:00 to 5:30.
- Appointments and removals: John Stammreich and Craig were appointed as NWSPNC representatives to the Mayor's Budget Day. Tim Golden was appointed to the Planning and Land Use Committee and Ray Regalado was appointed to the Issues Committee.
- Upcoming Events:
 - ✓ Congress of Neighborhoods event is September 24th.
 - ✓ City Clerk Meeting with NC's regarding elections for 2014. This is the first step for getting feedback. Monday, September 26th, Peck Park.
- HANC REPORT: Diana Nave provided highlights from the HANC report included in the agenda packet and suggested everyone review the four Krekorian motions and comments contained in the HANC report
- Skate Plaza update: Meeting with Rec and Parks and Council District 15.

18. **Treasurer/Finance Committee:**

- Chuck Eldred moved to approve the August NWSPNC monthly expenses as presented in the agenda packet, seconded by Scott Allman and approved by unanimous vote.
- Chuck Eldred moved to make the following amendments to the Budget, seconded by Barbara Schach: Move \$600 from Grants to Newsletter; and move and approve up to \$100 from Grants to Outreach for the HANC Election Forum. Motion passed unanimously.
- Craig Goldfarb moved that the \$500 previously allocated for the Taste in San Pedro for Outreach be placed back into Grants. Motion seconded by George Thompson and passed unanimously.

19. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith, Administrative Assistant to NWSPNC