



Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
September 14, 2009 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
Peck Park, 6:30pm

1. **Call to Order:** President Dan Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:42pm
2. **Roll Call:** Board members in attendance were: Dan Dixon, Paula Mazzarino, John Greenwood, Craig Goldfarb, Gabriel Rivas, John Mavar, Meryl Moilov, Philip Nicolay, Ray Patricio, Cpt. George Thompson, Barbara Schach, Peter Burmeister. The following board members were excused: Mollie Abbatiello, David Arvonio, Laureen Vivian, Mary Hamlin and Diana Nave (arrived at 8:10pm). A quorum was present. Approximately 20 stakeholders present.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the August 10, 2009 Meeting:** Pete Burmeister made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2009, seconded by John Mavar and approved unanimously by the board.
4. **Approval of Minutes of the August 29, 2009 Board Retreat:** George Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2009 Board Retreat, seconded by John Mavar and approved unanimously by the board.
5. **Election of new Board member for education seat:** Barbara Schach made a motion to approve Meryl Moilov to a second term for the Youth Seat. Approved unanimously by the board.
6. **Robert Jones Booker of LAUSD Community Outreach** announced a meeting related to South Region High School #15. Meeting will take place Tuesday, September 24, 2009, 6pm at White Point Elementary School, 1410 Silvius Avenue, San Pedro. The meeting is only for the purpose of discussing construction activities which began March 2009.
7. **Presentation by L.A.P.D.:** Liz Greenwood introduced Jim McDonnell, First Assistant Chief and Chief of Staff of the LAPD. He thanked the neighborhood council and stakeholders for their involvement in the community. Over 7 years the LAPD has changed considerably. 9,996 officers are now in the department. We have the greatest crime lab in the U.S. which is funded by Prop Q funds. Downtown is opening a new administration building. The new Communications Center is a state of the art facility. The Com Sat system is being used which is treating policing like a business. This gives them a chance to compare statistics etc. This system has helped cut the crime in half. Post 9-11 we now have sophisticated tools to assist in combating terrorism. Government agencies are now sharing information and working together like never before. The most important element is getting assistance for the community, also putting more effort into prevention, gang intervention, etc. After the presentation Officers Art Ashcraft and Jim Nua were introduced. During the Questions and Answer period Pete Burmeister asked about the Police Firing Range and why it was closed to the public. That issue will be referred to the NWSPNC Issues Committee. Dan Dixon asked about the recent fires and how effectively the various departments (LAPD, Fire, DWP, etc) were working together. Chief McDonnell commented on how well the various departments in the LA County area work together.
8. **Presentation by Port of Los Angeles relating to the Waterfront Plan:** Wally Knox, Deputy Director of the Port of Los Angeles was introduced by Phil Nicolay. Knox talked about the Port's

Proposal which comes before the Board of Harbor Commissioners on September 29, 2009. He touched briefly on key elements of the project:

- a. **Promenade:** This feature is the keystone of what the Port is doing and remains in the project naturally. There will be downtown Harbor Cuts to bring the water to the people, along with facilities for people to have direct access to the water.
- b. **Ports O'Call area:** The port is proposing that developers come in and give their best ideas. They would be asked to create a unified conception of how we are going to revive Ports O'Call. 300,000 sq ft. of space is available for development. A 75,000 sq ft conference center is also being considered
- c. **Outer Harbor Cruise Terminal:** Voyager Class and Freedom Class ships are the new cruise ships being built and they are gigantic. They are so tall that they can't fit under the Vincent Thomas Bridge and turn around. The outer harbor cruise terminal is the possible answer to this issue. Staff will recommend that they authorize a second terminal only if there is market demand.
- d. **September 29th Board of Harbor Commissioners meeting.** Stakeholders are urged to attend to let the board know where they stand.
- e. **Public Comments** were heard from Chuck Hart, Pete Burmeister and Pat Nave. Pat talked about the early warning system which gives neighborhood councils the opportunity to weigh in on issues. Suggests that the Board of Harbor Commissioners extend the period of time from when the EIR is available to when they make a decision. Also made comments about relocating future parking structures. Al Sattler with the local Sierra Club commented that many local members were concerned that a cruise ship terminal at the outer harbor might impact recreation at Cabrillo Beach. Augie (last name?) is doing community outreach for the POLA. He commented that we need to entitle this project before anything further is discussed. We can't do anything until the EIR process is completed. Changes from the draft EIR include additional pedestrian access at 9th street and a reduction in the height of proposed parking structures.

9. **Motion to extend time:** John Greenwood made the following motion seconded by Craig Goldfarb:

WHEREAS, the harbor Department has indicated that it will release the EIR for Waterfront development on or about September 18, 2009 and will consider certifying the EIR at its board of harbor Commissioners meeting on September 29, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Section 907 of the City Charter "Early Warning System" provides, in part, that there shall be "...procedures for receiving input from neighborhood councils prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees and boards and commissions. The procedures shall include, but need not be limited to, notice to neighborhood councils as soon as practical, and a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made. Notices to be provided include matters to be considered by the City Council, City Council Committees, and City boards or commissions."; and

WHEREAS, releasing and considering the EIR with ten days for considering the document effectively precludes Neighborhood Councils from considering and taking a position on the document before action is taken by the Harbor Commission; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to imagine that ten days is sufficient time for the Board of Harbor Commissioners to consider the EIR;

NOW THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Harbor Commissioners allow an additional 30 days for circulation of the EIR for waterfront development, in order to permit the Neighborhood councils to provide input prior to certifying the EIR.

The President and Secretary of the Governing Board are hereby directed to forward this

resolution to the Board of Harbor Commissioners as soon as possible but in no event later than September 25, 2009. The motion was passed by the NWSPNC Board with 9 yes votes, 2 no votes.

10. **Motion of Support:** The following motion was made by Phil Nicolay and seconded by Diana Nave: If the Board of Harbor Commissioners ignores the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council's considered advice of extending the comment period by 30 days, then be it resolved that based on our comments on the draft EIR dated December 8, 2008, the Board supports in concept the final EIR with a single berth at the outer harbor terminal. Passed by unanimous vote in favor.

11. Report by Public Officials

- a. **Council District 5:** Ana Dragin talked about:
- i. Year at a Glance from Department of Sanitation, handout provided.
 - ii. Budget and Finance Committee meeting was depressing. Furloughs are being proposed. (every second and fourth Friday of the month.)
 - iii. Rec and Parks said that they anticipate construction at Averill Park will begin this November.
 - iv. The Horseshoe Club is looking for a location for horseshoe pits. The councilwoman's office is considering an area of Peck Park adjacent to Western Avenue near the entrance of Peck Park.
 - v. Channel Street will be repaved starting this week, the work will last about 4 weeks.
 - vi. ATSC: The council office still does not have a schedule yet. It will take about 1-1/2 years to update all the traffic lights in San Pedro.
 - vii. The State has relinquished Gaffey (end of freeway to 9th Street) to the City: ADA ramps will be updated along Gaffey, along with other upgrades.
 - viii. Sports Walk to the Water Front event will be October 12, 10am, in front of the Crowne Plaza Hotel.
 - ix. The Lobster Festival is this weekend.
- b. **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).**
- i. Due to inaccurate records from many of the neighborhood councils, roll over funds are temporarily placed on hold. The Controller did an audit and it should be out by September 25th. After the necessary approvals have been received, all Neighborhood Councils will be able to access their roll over balances which will have accurate figures going forward. DONE anticipates that the roll over balances will be available by September 25.
 - ii. Getting ready for the Congress of Neighborhoods and Mayor's Budget Day. Budget is constantly being looked at. The community is invited to attend the Congress on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 7:30am-3:15pm at Los Angeles City Hall.

12. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Item:

- a. **Soledad Garcia:** Stressed the importance of input. On September 23 the DWP is going to be having "an outreach to the community on the Comprehensive Solar Plan." There is no plan as yet but they are going to present one. The meeting will be at the Port Administration Building. It is important for representation from the Neighborhood Councils to be there because the solar plan was what we defeated on Measure B. If we don't give our input we have no one to blame but ourselves.
- b. **Al Sattler.** Thanked the NWSPNC for having a link to the webpage. Made comments about renewable power. Talked about the upcoming hearing that was announced on our website.
- c. **Gabriel Rivas.** Commented on a recent motion to move public comment at city council meetings to a time period near the end of the agenda. This motion was seconded by Janice

Hahn. Gabriel would like people who are opposed to this to contact the councilwoman's office. He feels that this is discouraging participatory democracy.

13. **Committee Assignment:** Pres. Dixon asked the board to review the list of committee members. Several corrections and additions were made to the list. **Diana Nave made a motion seconded by Barbara Schach that the list with corrections be approved by the board. Motion passed unanimously.**
14. **Land Use and Planning Committee:** VOA (Volunteers of America) will be at the meeting this month, 4th Thursday. They will be talking about their plans for the parcel of land they own between Ponte Vista and the Schools. They are going to be requesting variances. Diana also commented on the 4-Way Stop that will be installed at Basin and Meyler. The NWSPNC has been requesting this for several months in order to alleviate a dangerous condition that existed.
15. **Issues Committee:** No report this month.
16. **Treasurer's Report:** No report this month.
17. **Secretary's Report:**
 - a. Letter sent to Janice Hahn outlining actions taken at last meeting & requesting her support. Receive letter stating that she shared our concerns about the CEQA appeals ordinance
 - b. Letter sent to Harbor Area Planning Commission re 7-11
 - c. Letters sent to Planning Commission, Gail Goldberg, Carmen Trutanich and Jane Usher re the Valley Village SB 1818 appeal and our SB 1818 implementation recommendations
 - d. Thank you letters sent to Mike Scholl and Mark Mariscal reiterating our desire to work together on Averill Park design and possible drinking fountains for the Peck Canyon trails
 - e. Thank you letter sent to Justin Houterman reiterating request for information on requirements for commercial trash bins, he requested additional info from us and will look into it
 - f. Received correspondence from Public works notifying us that a cell tower was approved for installation in the public right-of-way adjacent to 703 S. Malgren
 - g. Received preliminary plans from VOA for the portion of the old military housing that they own (accessed off Palos Verdes Dr N.)
18. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Smith, Admin Asst to NWSPNC

Attached to Minutes:

Notes from Meeting of the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Sept. 2, 2009
Notes from Meeting of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition Sept. 5, 2009

Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils
NOTES
September 2, 6:30 pm
CHAIR: Tom Houston, Harbor City NC

Present: Central San Pedro Coastal San Pedro Harbor City, Harbor Gateway North, Harbor Gateway South, and Northwest San Pedro

Gangs/Crime Reduction

Gangs/crime received the second largest number of votes as priorities for HANC to address. Several aspects were highlighted in our discussion:

- Gangs

GRYD (The City's current gang reduction effort) was discussed at the recent DONE Training session. GRYD sponsored Summer Night Lights in 16 parks this summer, none of which were in our area. They are also working with former gang members to provide intensive prevention with younger youth and developing a re-integration program with counseling, job coaching, etc for persons exiting prison.

Concern was raised about what is happening now that Jeff Carr, the City's Gang Czar has been promoted to Chief of Staff. It does not appear that a replacement has been named for him.

- Tagging

There was some discussion about the proposal by Nuch Trutanich to extend the gang injunction concept to taggers and the possibility that constitutionality challenges to it might have a negative impact on the gang injunctions

Bob Gelfand suggested that there should be a reconsideration of State Law regarding the protection of names of juveniles. Perhaps publishing the names of taggers would serve as a disincentive to tagging. Other people feel that publishing the names might be seen as a reward for taggers.

LAPD's Juvenile Impact Program is designed for youth 9-17 such as taggers. Youth can be court referred or a parent can register them. For more info contact Sgt Catherine Plows 310-726-7920. Harbor City's SLO, Andry Wilkens, is one of the Advisors.

- Need for restoration of the 70 police officers lost from Harbor Area

- Proliferation of halfway houses that lack adequate structure/supervision

Problem is both the over-concentration of halfway houses and in some cases the lack of regulations requiring a well structured/supervised program. There are some halfway houses that do an excellent job and others that are void of structure. One of the problems seems to be those with 6 or fewer beds which are unlicensed. For years Betty Karnette tried unsuccessfully to pass some type of legislation.

Part of the problem may be federal. Mary Miller (new board member at Coastal) is currently working with LAPD on this issue. Bill Orton, Senator Rod Wright's Office, will look into issue.

- Development of Future Agenda Items
 - Next meeting, Harbor City (Tom/Grant/Olive) will invite the two gang officers who spoke at their meeting to present crime/gang statistics and discuss the things what we can do.
 - For subsequent meetings – Tagging & Group Homes

Relationship of HANC to other organizations e.g. PCAC, other jurisdictions

Carrie Scoville presented her concern that the Port saw in the Neighborhood Councils and HANC an opportunity to back away from its commitment to the Port Community Advisory Committee (PCAC). PCAC was set up under Mayor Hahn to provide a mechanism for the community to advise to the Board of Harbor Commissioners and has a role under the China Shipping stipulated judgment. PCAC received a letter from the Port stating that due to its budget shortfall it was eliminating some of the PCAC committees and consultants. This was a unilateral decision and the PCAC had no input.

One of the issues raised in the letter was that PCAC's role in light of the existence of NC's & HANC.

It was agreed that the HANC had no interest/role in replacing the PCAC and that each NC that is a member of PCAC should consider supporting the use of consultants and increased self-determination by the PCAC of its budget and committee structure.

Sidewalk Repair Ordinance

Lu Watson presented the draft ordinance that would eliminate the current language that "preventive measures and repairs or reconstruction to curbs, driveways or sidewalks required as the result of tree root growth shall be repaired by the Board at no cost to the adjoining property owner." And replace it with language that holds the homeowner responsible. She urged all HANC member NCs to take a position opposing the change, submit CISOs, and send letters to the names she distributed & Janice. Coastal & HGN have already done so and will send their motions as samples.

Several concerns were raised about the proposed ordinance:

- This may transfer liability for sidewalk-related injuries to property owners City spends about \$3 million a year on this.
- A sidewalk with an offset of more than ¼ inch is considered damaged
- Many of the trees doing damage were actually planted by the City
- May lead to people taking out parkway trees
- Is counter to the Mayor's efforts to get people to plant trees in their parkways

Lu distributed a packet of info that included a memo filed by the Realtors Association detailing their opposition to the proposal to require sidewalk repair at the point of sale. The draft ordinance is currently in the Public Works Committee. No date yet for when it will be heard.

Carrie stated that CRA should also be involved.

Proposed Planning Forum

Adrienne O’Niell has agreed to convene a meeting of the Planning Chairs or their representatives to plan the forum. The date selected conflicts with a major Port meeting in San Pedro, so Diana will ask Adrienne to select a new date.

Sharing: Issues, Concerns, Questions & Announcements

- We received only three responses to our letters regarding the toll lanes (Hahn, Karnette, & e-mail from Bill Orton)
- Received a letter from Hahn agreeing in concept with our concerns regarding the CQEA Ordinance but letter did not mention the Alternative ordinance that has been drafted; no response from Trutanich
- Coastal, Northwest, Harbor City, and Harbor Gateway North all submitted their documentation re authorized representation on HANC. Still need documentation from HG & Central
- Half-Off Initiative – Doug reported on interview on KABC and LA Daily News editorial supporting the initiative
- Doug said the issue of NC Files is still very much in limbo. On Feb 17 Janice introduced a motion to create a form 55, but nothing has happened with this motion. In the meantime the City Clerk is not accepting motions. He suggested we listen to the Council Meeting consideration of the appointment of the new DONE Commissioner. Some Council Members seem to be urging DONE to create more regulations. Doug will develop a sample motion.
- Rosalie raised the issue of illegal car sales as a possible future agenda item noting that the City probably needs some type ordinance. Evidently there is an ordinance but it may need to be strengthened and there may need to be better enforcement.
- HGN, Central & Harbor City all approved \$100 for HANC expenditures. This is in addition to the funds previously approved by Northwest & Coastal. HGN will purchase a photocopy card. We will draw on the other funds as the need arises.
- Harbor City had a very successful meeting with LAPD and I Street residents regarding problems occurring directly behind their homes
- Lu announced next meeting to plan Empower LA Congress and reminded everyone of request to appoint 2 budget reps
- Doug announced plans for Alternate Congress on Oct 3 – details will be out soon
- Received letter from Wilmington outlining three concerns. Tom noted that similar concerns had been raised at his Council.
 - Documentation of Discussion – this is done in our notes – decision made to send notes to entire e-mail list, will incorporate this change into our Organizational Framework; Also agreed to set up a blog where we can post agendas & minutes, background information, etc.
 - Brown Act – although it does not apply, we have adopted many of the requirements e.g. open meetings, we are sending all agendas by e-mail to anyone who requests to be added to our list provided we can read their handwriting – three have bounced back;
 - By-Laws – while not formal by-laws our Organizational Framework serves this purpose

General agreement that we are comfortable with how we are proceeding in these areas, particularly in light of the changes we adopted at this meeting and the last one. Diana will try to meet with Cecelia to clarify.

- **Next Meeting -**
Wed October 7, Rosalie Preston, Harbor Gateway North, to Chair
Agenda to include presentation by LAPD Gang Officers

**LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COALITION
NOTES FROM SEPT 5
MTG**

COMMENTS BY BERNARD PARKS ON CITY BUDGET CRISIS

- **Key meetings:** Sept 14 – Budget & Finance; Sept 15 – City Council meeting devoted to budget problems
- We are 50%-60% short on revenue projections for this year;
- Currently spending \$1 million/day more than taking in
- At this rate will be bankrupt by May
- Could eliminate 20 depts and not close the gap
- Mayor thought he had a deal with unions for \$350 mil savings by 10% reductions in benefits package, they have not kept their end
- Cost for every 1 police (inclu benefits, pension, etc) is roughly equal to two civilian employees – will need to make hard decisions on how balance needs
- Revenue is based on 18 sources – in past declines in one have been off-set by increases in others, but not this year; 12 revenue sources are either even or down
- Anticipates 3-4 thousand lay-offs
- Street repair comes from gas tax so not as impacted
- City can't afford to implement Early Retirement
- Fed Stimulus – City requested \$800 mil; received \$300 mil, mostly for green jobs 7 equipment at airport, DWP, & Harbor; could still receive some or all of the remaining \$500 mil
- DWP transferred over \$200 mil to city last year and is expected to transfer \$234 mil this year; law suit may prohibit transfer of water funds
- Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (amount City borrows at beginning of year and must repay prior to end of fiscal year) increased from \$500 million last year to \$1 billion this year.
- Video excerpts of his comments are posted at www.OURL.org

- **Congress of NCs/Budget Day** – Oct 10 is limited to first 500 who sign up; must pre-register both for event and for workshops

- **NC Action Summit** will be held at LACC on Oct 3- will be issue/action oriented. Selecting 3-4 issues. Info pro & con will be put on website before the summit; there will also be brief presentations & opportunity to discuss each issue at the summit; attendees will vote on the issue; voting will reflect the people who vote, not the consensus of NCs; notes will be published; people who do not attend will have an opportunity to vote on line

- City is developing new policy re **special event permits**

- **DWP** Dept contribution to retirement is expected to increase over next five years from \$149 million in 08-09 to \$558 million; electricity rates in that time period are expected to increase from \$107/megawat hour to \$178/megawatt hour; water will have similar increases

NCs had a profound affect on stopping the uncapping of the Energy Cost Adjustment Factor, but issue may not be over

- www.OURLA.ORG discusses a number of issues to NCs & includes video of Bernard Parks' comments at the LANCC Mtg
- West LANC has developed a **Leave it & Lose it Campaign** (to get people not to leave valuables in their cars) and is encouraging other NCs to adopt it; also working to develop a **Mobile Neighborhood Watch** enlisting the eyes & ears of delivery persons, etc.
- West Hills NC – sponsoring Fall Fest & CERT Training
- Parking Day LA (Shawnsimons@sbcglobal.net) disappointed more NCs are not participating
- DONE rep told one NC that there will no carry-over of funds this next year
- Suggestion that there should be an NC ex-officio rep on City Council with staff funded by collective NC funds
- **AB 811** provides a mechanism to create a bond district that could be used to finance **solar energy**
- **SB 1818** city will have to re-visit their implementation as result of recent court case
- Fires revealed breakdown in communication especially between LA City & LA County & media; NCs can play an important role in getting out information
- DOT accepted most of proposed MOU