



NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Green COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Held at Peck Park Computer Room on Tuesday, November 25th, 2014

Committee Member Attendees: Sarah Valdez, Darlene Zavalney, Laurie Jacobs, Alexis Gelch

Non-Committee Member Attendees: Joseph Baroud, Daisy Zaarour, Janet Gunter, Jim

Montgomery, Joe Zaarour, Leah Hernandez

Committee Members not in attendance: N/A

Agenda Item 1: Discuss possible resolution in support of the GMO-Free LA motion proposed by City Council members O'Farrell and Koretz

Jim Montgomery from LabelGMOs.org attended our meeting. Jim discussed what Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) are, and what his organization is doing to stop them or at least have them labeled. He discussed the recent LA City ordinance proposed by Council members O'Farrell and Koretz. He discussed the importance of submitting a motion of support from our neighborhood council, and the pertinent timeline for doing so. The City Council is scheduled to vote on the matter on Tuesday, December 9th. Joe Buscaino is currently in China. We discussed the possibility of inquiring about his support, through Jacob or Ryan. Laurie Jacobs asked Jim, "Will this ordinance affect the price of food in the city?" The answer is a resounding, "No." The ordinance aims to ban the growth of GMO foods in LA City—mainstream groceries grown outside of the city would not be affected. *Laurie made a motion that the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council should support the proposed city ordinance that aims to regulate the propagation, cultivation, raising, growth, and sale of genetically modified organisms in Los Angeles. Darlene seconded the motion. All Green Committee members voted in favor of the motion.* We then decided that information regarding Genetically Modified Organisms should be added to the next NWSPNC newsletter. The committee also decided that it would be beneficial to send our resolution to Joe's office, when we inquire further regarding his support (or lack thereof) on the issue. Jim mentioned that he would be happy to attend the next Board meeting to be held on December 8th. If he is unable to attend, then he will have another colleague attend in his place.

Agenda Item 2: Discuss next action steps regarding Rancho LPG. The Rancho LPG storage tanks pose a high risk to the community and should be moved away from our neighborhoods.

A sign-in sheet was passed around, and general attendee introductions were made. Janet Gunter mentioned that she'd like to be added as an official Green Committee member! Janet Gunter has been a long time activist on the issue of the Rancho LPG tanks in San Pedro. We asked her to come and give some general information about the issue, and to discuss what next action steps can be taken by the Green Committee and the NWSPNC. Janet claims that local neighborhood councils have not taken an aggressive stand on Rancho LPG. A recent private risk analysis estimates a 10-mile blast radius. This is versus the 0.5 blast radius reported by Rancho LPG officials. Rancho LPG is the largest storage tank in the country located within this dense of a population. Rancho LPG tanks exist out of exemption and were never "grandfathered in." Port of LA granted use of rail to Rancho for \$1400/month with \$1 million insurance. That's nothing! What can the NWSPNC do? We can write letters to the figures

involved—our leaders need to answer questions about liability (e.g. mayor, lands commission, homeland security, Janice Hahn). Laurie suggested that the presidents of the San Pedro and Wilmington Neighborhood Councils should gather, educate, and mobilize.

Agenda Item 3: Discuss possible motion to purchase reusable water bottles for the purpose of outreach at Board meetings, as well as for the purpose of mitigating the amount of single-use plastic water bottles used at Board meetings.

This item was rescheduled for the next Green Committee meeting, due to time constraints.

Agenda Item 4: Discuss possible greening/community improvement project on section of land that divides Western Avenue, between Summerland Avenue and West Crestwood Street

This item was rescheduled for the next Green Committee meeting, due to time constraints.

Agenda Item 5: Public comment

Joseph Baroud of the Random Lengths attended our meeting. He let us know to contact him should we ever be interested in Random Lengths coverage, etc.

New business

Contact President Ray Regalado, and discuss next action steps that should be taken to convene our local Neighborhood Councils about the Rancho LPG issue. Use our youth membership to mobilize and educate family and peers regarding the Rancho LPG issue.

Announcements & Next Meeting Date

Next meeting to be held on *Tuesday, December 16th*, from 6:00-7:30 pm, located at the Peck Park Community Center Computer Room.