



NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Planning and Land Use Committee Report

Meeting Held September 16, 2015 at the San Pedro Municipal Building.

Committee Members:

- Diana Nave, Present
- Carolyn Grayson, Present
- Chuck Hart - Absent
- David Rivera, Present
- Pete Burmeister, Absent
- Jason Herring, Present
- Lee Williams, Present

Quorum? Yes

Non-Committee Member Attendees: Sarah Valdez (NWSPNC), Alan Johnson (Waterfront Alliance/Jerico Development), Bob Garcia (stakeholder), Pat Nave (stakeholder)

Vision for Downtown San Pedro

Alan Johnson presented a vision for downtown San Pedro that he has been working on for the past three years. Alan framed it as “getting downtown San Pedro ready for its close up”. Key elements of the plan include:

- 6th Street one way from Maritime Museum to Pacific (Alan noted that this is the only place where the street grid actually touches the water)
- 7th Street one way from Pacific to Harbor Blvd – this would allow for additional parking on 7th
- A trolley that continually loops around 6th and 7th with a connection to the Red Car or whatever is ultimately on the waterfront and a distinctive/eye-catching trolley stop with info about local events and services
- Activate the downtown water cut by placing casual dining kiosks between the water cut and the Maritime Museum and developing a restaurant in the portion of the building currently used for storage with outdoor dining on the water side of the museum
- Outdoor dining on 6th and 7th Streets – will need to overcome City regulations that currently do not allow a restaurant owner to non-restaurant patrons from sitting there
- Outdoor performance areas
- Greening/Activation of Alleys perhaps limiting deliveries to specific times and making them walking only the rest of the time

Discussion and comments from committee members and public included the following:

- While Alan is very supportive of the idea of closing 6th Street to all cars, he does not think it is currently a viable option. He had originally included bollards in his plan to create temporary closure but took them out as a result of strong opposition from DOT. Committee members strongly urged that they be put in.

- In response to a question, Alan indicated that the Port is currently planning to remove all of the railroad tracks South of 6th Street. There have been discussions of some type of “at grade” fixed rail that would unfortunately not be as iconic as the Red Car. The Port has also discussed increasing the number of rubber wheeled trolleys and the possibility of developing a trolley system that could connect to Wilmington, Alta Sea, and Cabrillo Beach.
- In response to a questions about whether this would bring people into downtown, Alan indicated that while the stores are not doing well, the restaurants are thriving, First Thursday and other special events have shown that people will come when they feel there is a reason to come, and there are now 6 theaters in downtown. No guarantees, but we must try.
- Waterfront Alliance architects have been meeting with the port and the contractor who is designing the downtown plaza to be sure there is consistence. Anticipate a public meeting most likely in January to share plans and get community input re Ports O Call redevelopment.

Follow Up items:

- Alan should meet as soon as possible with Larry Smith to coordinate with the Urban Greening Plan – Diana will follow up
- Need to coordinate with Central Neighborhood Council – Diana will talk with their Planning Chair
- Need further discussion, a motion for NWSPNC to consider, and then meet with Council Staff

Peck Park Canyon

Several members of the committee walked Peck Park and noted work that needs to be done including the following:

- Bridges are pitted, need to be sandblasted and painted
- Need stairs in at least two locations
- A number of homeless encampments
- Refuge that needs to be removed from Canyon
- Fencing around Hernandez Ranch is rusted, falling down and should be removed
- Trails in some areas are rutted due to the fact that the “diversions” were made of rubber and have been worn or broken away.

Subsequent to that walk, Diana walked the Canyon with Larry Smith from the Conservation Corps. Larry indicated that the “trail” connecting Leland Park to the existing Peck Park train and the stairs needed at that connection could possibly be paid for with CalFire Grant funds IF it is public property. He will develop an estimate of what it would take to install the stairs on the trail at the end of Miraflores. The fence, while dangerous in its present condition, poses additional problems to removal because it has been there so long it is holding back a significant amount of dirt in most places. Larry will discuss options with Recreation and Parks.

It was Moved, Seconded, and Passed Unanimously, that, provided the work could be done for \$4500 or less, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council apply for a LANI Maintenance Grant in the amount of \$3,000 and allocate up to \$1,500 of the funds in the community beautification line item for this project.

It was further agreed that a letter should be sent to Recreation and Parks regarding the need to sandblast and paint the bridges.

Silver Line Extension

Pat Nave reported on the Public Hearing on the Proposed METRO services effective December 13, 2015, the most important of which are the following:

- A new Silver Xpress Service (Line 950) from San Pedro (every 20 minutes) and Harbor Gateway Transit Center (every 10 minutes) during the morning and afternoon rush hours (no need to transfer); Line 450 would be discontinued
- Metro Silver Line (Line 910) will run every 30 minutes from San Pedro to Downtown LA and El Monte Station (no need to transfer)
- Both lines would begin at 7th Street and Butte Ave with limited stops on 7th St, Weymouth, 13th, Gaffey, Harbor Blvd, and the Beacon Street Park and Ride
- Line 246 on Pacific Avenue would run every 30 minutes (now it is every hour)

Continued Discussion of Goals and Update of Workplan items

The committee reviewed and updated items on the attached workplan and added possible uses for Hernandez Ranch.

Included was an explanation by Pat Nave of Senate Bill 63 that has passed the legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature. This is enabling legislation to permit establishing a Port Infrastructure Funding District for large improvement projects. It would allow tax increment funds to be used to pay for the bonds. All projects would need to comply with the Tidelands Trust Act.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Jason shared an e-mail from Robin Lynch asking how to get the following proposed for San Pedro:

"All new parking lots must be planned for full coverage, either via tree canopy, a green-roofed canopy structure, or solar panels; and all existing parking lots have five years to remediate their properties to achieve compliance with one, or a combination of the three requirements above." This has now become law in effect in France for all new buildings. Climate change is ever increasing, and temperatures are rising, especially apparent in our parking lots.

Diana suggested to Sarah that perhaps the Sustainability Committee might want to take this up and the information was forwarded to her.

Pat Nave asked the committee to request that the Port require its tenants to paint the cranes in colors that would blend in.

Next Meeting – October 21: Tentative Agenda items include review and possible comments on Urban Greening Plan; Review and possible comments on Gaffey Beautification Plan; Possible motion requesting a road through the DFSP; development of Community Beautification/Clean Up Plan; update of workplan items and continued discussion of committee goals.

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