



Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
 Board & Stakeholder Meeting – December 14, 2015 Minutes
Peck Park Community Room
560 N. Western Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90731

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Ray Regalado. There was a **quorum with 13 board members**. See list below for board member attendance. Approximately 20 stakeholders in attendance.

Board Members	Roll Call/Attendance
Scott Allman	Excused
Bob Bryant	Present
Pete Burmeister	Absent
Rogelio Cuevas	Excused
Matthew DiMeglio	New seated
Dan Dixon	Present
Alberto Encinas	Resigned
Craig Goldfarb	Present
Cynthia Gonyea	Excused
Laurie Jacobs	Present
Diana Nave	Present left at 6:45 pm
Raymond Regalado	Present
Barbara Schach	Excused
George Thompson	Present
Sarah Valdez	Present
Christopher Valle	Present
Lee Williams	Excused
Darlene Zavalney	Present

2. **Introduction and appointment of new Youth Board Seat representative:**
 - a. Matthew DiMeglio gave a brief self-introduction. He is a senior at POLA High School.
 - b. The Board voted unanimously to appoint him to the Youth Board seat. He was then sworn in and seated.
3. **Public Official Reports:**
 - a. Office of Richard Vladovic, LAUSD: John Larson reported:
 - i. Superintendent Cortines is leaving at the end of the month, and the search for his replacement continues.
 - ii. The LAUSD Board approved \$132 million for the San Pedro High School modernization project.
 - iii. Larson offered to have Local District Superintendent Christopher Downing come to speak about the future funding of the Science Center.
 - iv. Bob Bryant commented that at the Olguin campus only three of eleven lights are working.
4. **First Responder’s Report:**
 - a. CPAB Meeting report from Craig Goldfarb
 - i. Residents from Harbor City expressed concerns for their area.

- ii. The City Attorney that deals with the medical marijuana dispensaries spoke at the meeting.
- iii. There will not be a meeting this month.

5. **Presentations/Conversations:** NONE

6. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

- a. Tony Mercandante commented about the homeless problem and there being tents along Western Avenue. He feels that perhaps it is time to consider recalling Mayor Garcetti.

7. **Consent Calendar:**

- a. Approval of November 9, 2015 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes.
- b. Appoint Matthew DiMeglio to Youth and Outreach Committee.
- c. Appoint Chris Valle to Community Visions Committee
- d. Consider motion requesting that the draft Waterfront Feasibility Study be circulated for public comment prior to finalization.
- e. Consider motion supporting CF 1227-S1, requesting that the Harbor Department and the LA Tourism and Convention Board develop a marketing strategy to promote tourism at the LA Waterfront.
- f. Remove Pete Burmeister from the Planning & Land Use Committee.

Motion by Bob Bryant to approve the above items marked a - f on the consent calendar, seconded by Diana Nave, and passed with 11 yes (Bryant, DiMeglio, Dixon, Goldfarb, Jacobs, Nave, Regalado, Thompson, Valdez, Valle, and Zavalney), 0 no, 0 abstention(s).

8. **Committee Reports and Motions:**

a. **Community Vision Committee:** Dan Dixon

- i. Discuss Harbor Highlands new home development and status of Harbor Highlands park improvement funds. Board member Craig Goldfarb commented that they had a brief discussion about finding funds for the park and restarting a Park Advisory Board (PAB). It was suggested that they speak to Debbie Rouser about how to revamp the PAB. President Ray Regalado brought this up to Councilman Buscaino and his staff at the monthly President's meeting. There was discussion of the pollution remediation at the Harbor Highlands housing development.
- ii. The Committee discussed finding an alternative to reporting illegal dumping by reporting on your neighbor. The committee wants the board to consider inviting a representative from the Department of Sanitation to come to the January meeting.
- iii. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2015.

b. **Port Committee:** Phil Nicolay/Carlos Garcia reported.

- i. The Port has yet to give the Harbor Area NC's the full recognition due them as legal representative bodies. We hope this will change over time.
- ii. The Port has yet to formally respond to our August 2015 resolutions on waterfront funding for public access projects and the status of the Red Car.
- iii. The 10% of the Port's net operating income, once spoken of as a floor, now appears to be a de facto ceiling based on our discussions with Port Officials at the Presidents' meeting.
- iv. The Port's Executive Director attended a fall meeting of the NC Presidents. When the topic of LA Metro grant funds received for the Sampson Way project came up, he did not seem to be aware of a discussion at the previous Presidents' meeting about whether or not this would be an offset to the Ports \$100 million pledge or whether an equal amount would be made available for new projects.
- v. Board member Laurie Jacobs feels that the way the Port treats the NC's is deplorable.
- vi. The Port is going to sign off on the Terms and Conditions of the Ports O' Call development project before it is presented to the public in January/February.
- vii. Board member Craig Goldfarb commented that the NC's need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Port which would hold them accountable. Perhaps this can be addressed at a Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (HANC) meeting.

- viii. There was an article in the Los Angeles Times today on the China Shipping EIR.
- c. **Elections and By-laws Committee:** Scott Allman/Diana Nave reported.
 - i. The Independent Election Administrator (IEA) for the Harbor Area (Region 12) is Kristina Smith. She met with the Election committee. Candidate filing opens Feb 27, 2015.
- d. **Sustainability Committee:**
 - i. The November meeting was cancelled. No report.
- e. **Youth and Outreach Committee:** Darlene Zavalney reported.
 - i. Report on recent outreach and event participation efforts: Candy Cane Lane was a great success they got 47 new email addresses. The Parade was also great. There are several photos on Councilman Buscaino's website of the NWSPNC in the Parade.
 - ii. The committee spent time getting ready for upcoming events.
 - iii. The committee wants to start having a meeting for each newsletter publication.
 - iv. Darlene reminded everyone about NPG funds available for youth projects. The deadline for submission is in January.
 - v. Board member Bob Bryant commented that the last newsletter got out on time, but barely. The next one in March needs articles by February 20th. The March newsletter needs to be in stakeholders' hands by March 1st to support the election.
 - vi. Board member Laurie Jacobs got a list from Senior Lead Officer Bravo of neighborhood watches and she would like to have the list in the next newsletter.
- f. **Planning and Land Use Committee:** Diana Nave reported.
 - i. Discuss and consider approving motion to amend our Current Sign Ordinance CIS (Community Impact Statement) to include support for positions of the City Planning Commission: The following motion was presented for approval:

AMENDMENT TO Community Impact Statement Draft Ordinance regarding the Establishment of Sign Districts Council File Nos. CPC-2015-3059-CA Proposed Ordinance Revising the Citywide Sign Regulations /Related Council Files , 11-1705, 08-2020, 11-0724, 12-1611

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the Planning Commission Version of the ordinance if amended to remove the Port of LA from the designation as a Tier 1 Sign District, removes downtown San Pedro as eligible for a sign district, and requires billboard companies to take down all unpermitted signs prior to installing any new ones.

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council commends the Planning Commission for their continued efforts to reduce sign pollution in Los Angeles and respectfully requests that the following changes to the proposed ordinance:

 - 1. The removal of the Port of Los Angeles Plan from the designation as a Tier 1 Sign District The Port of Los Angeles is very different from the Los Angeles International Airport and should not be treated in the same manner. The Port has work diligently with the communities of San Pedro and Wilmington to beautify the waterfront and increase its attractiveness as a tourist designation. The primary drawing card for the Port is the view of the water not found elsewhere in Los Angeles. In fact, the Port has bought out billboards in order to take them down. The Port has committed \$200 million over the next ten years to the infrastructure improvements needed to make this a world-class waterfront and is in negotiations currently for the redevelopment of Ports O Call. Allowing the development of a sign district within the Port Plan area would be detrimental to these goals*
 - 2. The development of a process whereby Communities with small "Regional Centers", such as San Pedro and Wilmington, could be exempted from consideration as Tier 1 Districts. The San Pedro "Regional Center" is a small historic downtown that could easily be overwhelmed by any sign district. For the most part its buildings are one and two stories tall. The Community Redevelopment Agency and the City Planning Department worked diligently to restore the historic elements and develop planning guidelines consistent with this vision. The resulting Downtown San Pedro Community Design Overlay District (ordinance 129,935) explicitly prohibits billboards: Standard 14c: The following signs are prohibited: billboards, free-standing pole signs, banners, illuminated architectural canopy signs, inflatable devices, blinking or scrolling signs, canister wall or canister blade signs, and signs with vinyl letters. Agenda Packet Page 13 Page 5 Furthermore, a Greening Plan is currently underdevelopment to improve the aesthetics of downtown San Pedro. Billboards would be contrary to that plan.*

3. In addition the NW San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the following changes approved by the City Planning Commission:

a) Disapprove any AMNESTY for billboards that lack permits or have been altered in violation of their permits.

b) Disapprove the “grandfathering” of 14 sign districts that have been added to the ordinance since it was reviewed by CPC in 2009. Grandfathering weakens the City’s off-site sign ban and creates a confusing and unmanageable patchwork for enforcement.

c) Disapprove any new process, including a Conditional Use Permit process to authorize construction or operation of digital off-site signs outside of sign districts. There should be no digital signs outside of sign districts.

d) Increase the takedown ratio of existing billboards in exchange for any new off-site signs in sign districts. Takedown should be no less than 5 square feet removed for every 1 square foot of TRADITIONAL billboards erected AND no less than 10 square foot removed of traditional billboards for every 1 square foot of new digital billboards. Community benefits to be offered IN ADDITION to required takedowns, not instead of sign removal.

e) Billboard companies should only get credit for removing permitted signs.

f) Request that the City Attorney review all signs without permits and those altered in violation of their permits for enforcement action and compliance.

In addition, billboard companies should be required to remove all of their unpermitted signs prior to erecting any new signs.

Finally, the City Council should increase funding to the Department of Building and Safety for the enforcement of the sign ordinance.

The Proposed Citywide Sign Ordinance MUST be improved and strengthened before it goes to the full City Council. Substantive changes made to the ordinance since public hearings were held in 2009 have significantly weakened the ordinance as the outdoor advertising industry continues to lobby to further weaken the City’s ability to reign in signage in Los Angeles. The changes approved by the Planning Commission would assist in strengthening it.

Once billboards are erected it is very difficult to get them removed. Once billboards are erected, communities cannot stop or attempt to regulate offensive, or unhealthful messages from being posted. Billboards are protected by First Amendment Free Speech rights. Messages for junk food, alcoholic beverages, violent images from films or television programs, etc. are all protected.

It is important that communities have a voice in determining how any Sign Districts in their area are operated/regulated.

Above motion from committee to approve motion to amend our Current Sign Ordinance CIS (Community Impact Statement) to include support for positions of the City Planning Commission, passed with 11 yes (Bryant, DiMeglao, Dixon, Goldfarb, Jacobs, Nave, Regalado, Thompson, Valdez, Valle, and Zavalney), 0 no, 0 abstention(s).

ii. Discuss and consider motion expressing reservations regarding Accessory Dwelling Units. The following motion was presented for approval:

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council has serious reservations with regard to Accessory Dwelling Units that unilaterally override existing zoning. These concerns include, but are not limited to the impacts on the environment, parking, public safety, traffic, infrastructure, and possible use as temporary rentals. Before any ordinance is prepared, significant opportunities for public discussion and input should be scheduled throughout the City. As a part of this process a matrix should be prepared that shows the proposed exceptions to zoning and building and safety requirements.

Motion by from committee to approve motion to express reservations regarding Accessory Dwelling Units, and passed with 11 yes (Bryant, DiMeglao, Dixon, Goldfarb, Jacobs, Nave, Regalado, Thompson, Valdez, Valle, and Zavalney), 0 no, 0 abstention(s).

- iii. Discussion: Community Beautification. Some of the items being considered are as follows:
 - *Renovate Rose gardens at Averill park*
 - *Assist in the cleanup of the hillside on the southeast corner of the CA-47 on-ramp (by Leland Park)*
 - *Cleanup: Peck Park Canyon*
 - *Cleanup: N. Gaffey Channel to Anahiem*
 - *Cleanup: Target to Barrywood on Capitol Drive*
 - *Cleanup, weed removal: Park Western Drive, Via Sebastian to Via La Paz (hillside of st)*
 - *Tree trimming: Westmont and at 15th and Leland*
- iv. Clean up of hillside update. Board member Craig Goldfarb commented that Caltrans did their part of the site. However other parts of the site are still full of trash. See item 8.h.iii. for funding of work to come out of the \$3,000 allocated for cleanup of the area.

g. **Public Safety Committee:** No report.

h. **Budget and Finance:** Sarah Valdez reported.

- i. Discuss and consider approval of November Expenditure Report. **Motion by Bob Bryant to approve the November Expenditure Report, seconded by George Thompson, and passed with 9 yes (Bryant, Dixon, Goldfarb, Jacobs, Regalado, Thompson, Valdez, Valle, and Zavalney), 0 no, 0 abstention(s), 1 not eligible (DiMeglio).**
- ii. Discuss and consider approval of 2015-2016 budget through the month of November. **Motion by Bob Bryant to approve the 2015-2016 budget through the month of November, seconded by George Thompson, and passed with 9 yes (Bryant, Dixon, Goldfarb, Jacobs, Regalado, Thompson, Valdez, Valle, and Zavalney), 0 no, 0 abstention(s), 1 not eligible (DiMeglio).**
- iii. Discuss and consider motion to approve Gaffey/Mira Flores hillside clean-up project budget list. The expenditure was approved last month for a total of \$3,000. The budget for this one cleanup is listed below. Board member Bob Bryant asked about potential liability as the site is littered with potentially health hazardous items. Board member Craig Goldfarb assured the board that the crew doing the work will be trained and qualified to deal with such hazards. The cleanup is scheduled for January 9th, weather permitting. If the weather causes the cleanup to be cancelled it will be rescheduled for January 22nd. NWSPNC sponsorship of the event is contingent on the participation of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

Budget for cleanup:

Home Depot – gloves, face masks, trash bags, etc.	\$	150.00
Big Nick's Pezza		100.00
Bagels Galore		50.00
Sacred Grounds Coffee		30.00
Ralphs – water, paper goods, etc.		60.00
Total	\$	390.00

Motion by Bob Bryant to approve Gaffey/Miraflores hillside cleanup project budget in the amount of \$390, seconded by Dan Dixon, and passed with 10 yes (Bryant, Dixon, Goldfarb, Jacobs, Nave, Regalado, Thompson, Valdez, Valle, and Zavalney), 0 no, 0 abstention(s), 1 not eligible (DiMeglio).

- iv. Motion to reimburse Darlene Zavalney in the amount of \$148.09 for arts and crafts materials used at the Candy Cane Lane event. **Motion by Bob Bryant to approve reimbursement to Darlene Zavalney in the amount of \$148.09 for arts and crafts materials used at the Candy Cane Lane event, seconded by Dan Dixon, and passed with 8 yes (Bryant, Dixon, Goldfarb, Jacobs, Regalado, Thompson, Valdez, and Valle), 0 no, 1 abstention(s) (Zavalney), 1 not**

eligible (DiMeglio).

v. Motion to reimburse Laurie Jacobs in the amount of \$48.65 for arts and crafts materials used at the Candy Cane Lane event. **Motion by Bob Bryant to approve reimbursement to Laurie Jacobs in the amount of \$48.65 for arts and crafts materials used at the Candy Cane Lane event, seconded by Chris Valle, and passed with 8 yes (Bryant, Dixon, Goldfarb, Regalado, Thompson, Valdez, Valle, and Zavalney), 0 no, 1 abstention(s) (Jacobs), 1 not eligible (DiMeglio).**

vi. Motion to purchase folding hand truck for transportation of water, snacks, and other items at Board meetings/events, not to exceed \$75. **Motion by Darlene Zavalney to approve purchase of a folding hand truck for transportation of water, snacks, and other items at Board meetings/events, in an amount not to exceed \$75, seconded by Bob Bryant, and passed with 9 yes (Bryant, Dixon, Goldfarb, Jacobs, Regalado, Thompson, Valdez, Valle, and Zavalney), 0 no, 0 abstention(s) 1 not eligible (DiMeglio).**

i. **Executive Committee:** Ray Regalado reported.

i. Homeless Task Force update. President Ray Regalado is the co-chair of the task force. They had their 2nd meeting and are meeting again on Thursday, December 17, 2015.

1. They have a subcommittee looking at section 8 vouchers. There are not enough housing units available that accept the vouchers.

2. They also have a subcommittee looking into the efficiency and effectiveness of food banks.

3. Also another subcommittee looking at the impact of homeless on business.

ii. President Ray Regalado commented on board members' civic engagement and participation. Mr. Conrow of the Rancho LPG Holdings sent Ray an email related to the protest over the weekend. In the email Mr. Conrow identified specific NWSPNC members who participated in the protest. Ray commented that it is each individual's right to be civically active in something they are passionate about. Being a NWSPNC board member does not limit individuals' actions of this kind.

9. **HANC Report:** Diana Nave reported.

a. The highlight light of the meeting was that Councilman Joe Buscaino was there and discussed several items.

b. The Cabrillo Beach Youth Waterfront Sports Center (Boy Scout Camp) has a new RFP out.

c. Board member Diana Nave is considering asking DONE to provide training on writing Community Impact Statements (CIS).

d. The full written HANC notes are available on the NWSPNC website.

10. **Other Reports:**

a. Budget Representative's Report – Craig Goldfarb

b. Pathways to Employment update – Laurie Jacobs

11. **Announcements/Future Agenda Items:**

12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next meeting will be January 11, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Akerblom for NWSPNC