



Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Re-Scheduled Sustainability Committee - Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 6:00 - 7:30PM

San Pedro City Hall, Room 452

638 S. Beacon Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

AGENDA

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions**
- 2) **Public Comment on Non-Agenda items.**
- 3) **Action: NCSA bylaws** - motion to address & resolve issues with NCSA bylaws.
- 4) **Consider a workshop on the Open Space, Community + Cultural portion of the General Plan.**
- 5) **ECOFEST update - Rainbarrel/Water Harvesting/Native Plant & Habitat event** to be held at Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center on Saturday November 4th, 2017 from 9AM – 3PM.
Who can volunteer – Seed bombs. Face painting. Help with www.stormwater.org table?
Social Media & Flyers/ Posters & Newspapers/Radio? – how to spread the word.
- 6) **Discuss [Council File 15-0499](#)** – a CIS on Protecting Biodiversity, City Practices, Working Group
- 7) **Discuss [Council File 17-0940](#)** – motion to review & report on the City’s ability/authority to regulate and inspect below-ground storage facilities for natural gas and other hazardous materials. (aka Aliso Canyon in Porter Ranch) No deadline set. Expires 8/18/2019
- 8) **Discuss [Council File 17-1044](#)** – the San Pedro Community Plan Update – any last minute landscaping / sustainability recommendations? Last day to act 11/22/2017.
- 9) **Discuss [Council File 17-0930](#)** – “California WaterFix.”
- 10) **Discuss [Council File 18-0997](#)** – excess levels of Chromium 6 motion for city-wide inspection.
- 11) **Discuss [Council File 17-1063](#)** – a condition survey of Community Parks – possible collaboration with Planning & Land Use, Public Safety and Community Vision. <http://parkgrade.la/> See Ron Galperin letter.
- 12) **Discuss [Council File 15-0719-S17](#)** motion to inspect and report on city bike lane safety.
- 13) **Discuss [Council File 15-0198-S1](#)** motion to form a *Committee on Cooling and Urban Heat Impacts* – strategy – send a letter. Possibilities include request Neighborhood Council representation on this Committee.
- 14) **Adjourn - Next Regular Meeting will be held 6 pm Tuesday, November 21, 2017.**

Note: Anything on this Agenda Could Result in a Motion

To contact us: www.nwsanpedro.org , board@nwsanpedro.org , or 310-918-8650

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – The public can address the Committee on any agenda item before the Committee takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the Committee Chair.

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To

ensure availability of services please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council at 310-918-8650.

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS – In compliance with government code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to all or a majority of the Board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at 1840 S Gaffey St, San Pedro, CA 90731, at our website: www.nwsanpedro.org, or at a scheduled meeting. In addition if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the Agenda, please contact the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council at 310-918-8650.

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS– Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows: • Harbor Division Station, 2175 John S. Gibson Blvd, San Pedro, CA 90731 • www.nwspnc.org • You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at: <http://www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.htm>

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: For information on the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NWSPNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website <http://nwsanpedro.org/board/>

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Secretary, 310-918-8650 o por correo electrónico board@nwsanpedro.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.



RON GALPERIN
CONTROLLER

September 13, 2017

Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor
Honorable Michael Feuer, City Attorney
Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council

Re: Department of Recreation and Parks - Condition Survey and Report Card

Our community parks provide Angelenos with opportunities to play, learn and relax; they increase quality of life, foster community, enhance air quality, and improve health. To assess how well the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) is shepherding these resources, I retained KH Consulting Group to study 40 L.A. community parks and survey 3,749 L.A. residents, in partnership with RAP. This methodology was inspired by "New Yorkers for Parks," which has issued report cards for New York City parks since 2003. Los Angeles parks need more support. The results of this report show that maintenance, sustainability and safety are among the chief concerns. The resulting scorecards also indicate that the lowest graded parks are throughout the East San Fernando Valley, South L.A./Harbor, and Metropolitan/Greater downtown Los Angeles areas.

Prioritizing and Planning Park Maintenance

While L.A. Parks received "A" grades for the maintenance and conditions of children's play areas and park center interiors, both the survey research and report card assessment agreed that park restrooms are most problematic. 37% of surveyed L.A. residents indicated that maintenance, especially cleanliness, is the area in need of greatest improvement. Restrooms received "C" grades overall, and 16 community parks received "D" or "F" grades for their restrooms. Although reduced staffing has caused RAP to focus on unplanned and on-demand requests in a reactive manner, a more proactive approach is needed. RAP should implement an operations and staffing plan that can improve the condition of parks, and among other things, provide staff to monitor and clean restrooms daily. In addition, an asset inventory management system could help RAP plan preventative maintenance by making it easier to analyze life-cycle and work-order trends; such a system would also help allocate management and repair crews. These changes would increase efficiency, leading to cleaner facilities and, eventually, reduced costs. It is critical that we first prioritize better maintenance of our park facilities, prior to creating additional parks.

Ensuring Sustainability for Years to Come

L.A. parks face a number of environmental challenges. Due to pests, disease and drought, RAP estimates it will lose 30% of its trees over the next three to five years. Such losses would harm the City since trees offer significant environmental and health benefits. City leaders should support RAP efforts to replace dead trees and increase the diversity of tree species.

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Additionally, recent changes to the L.A. Department of Water and Power rate structure will increase RAP's annual water costs from \$9 million to \$22 million. Although RAP reduced its water use by 56% since 2007 and invested in "smart" irrigation systems, the high cost of water will be increasingly burdensome. As a solution, better stormwater management can offset the need to purchase water, while protecting natural resources during drought; therefore, it is important to invest in infrastructure such as permeable ground surfaces.

Creating Safe and Inviting Parks in All L.A. Communities

In our survey of L.A. residents, 46% said safety deterred them from using parks more. The presence of gangs can intimidate everyday users and RAP employees alike. Graffiti, vandalism, and other crimes drain resources from RAP and restrict access to facilities such as restrooms and recreation centers. Improving safety, especially in high-crime areas, will require increased coordination with the public, nonprofit groups, and public agencies such as the Police Department, and the City's Gang Reduction and Youth Development program.

Homeless encampments pose another challenge for many parks, particularly in terms of maintaining clean restrooms, preventing public health hazards, and performing grounds maintenance. Current allocated resources are inadequate to meet the need and removing encampments is not a solution if people have nowhere to go. Despite these challenges, better coordination with City and County agencies should be pursued to limit the negative impact of encampments.

Planning and Funding Solutions

To address these issues, the City must plan strategically. In that regard, the L.A. Parks Report Cards can help set standards for future evaluation, identify park priorities, develop a Citywide master plan, and monitor progress. By first focusing on park *assets* with the lowest grades, and parks with the lowest *overall grades*, RAP can improve user experiences more efficiently. I urge RAP to adopt the Report Card model, and continue to fill existing maintenance position vacancies, to mitigate its maintenance issues and determine how best to manage its assets. In order to maximize RAP's operating budget, the Department should explore partnership opportunities with nonprofit organizations to fund the scorecard assessment.

I also recommend that RAP think more creatively about funding maintenance and upgrades with existing funds, such as exploring the use of special City funds that typically have been used for new parks, and to reallocate other existing funds. This could allow RAP to pay for these plans, invest in innovation, and fulfill important mandates such as emergency preparedness. Without sufficient staff, equipment and more strategic planning, RAP cannot adequately improve maintenance, sustainability, and safety. With smart, strategic investment, all Angelenos can enjoy the safe, clean, and welcoming parks they deserve.

You may find more detailed findings and recommendations, in the attached report, and online at parkgrade.la.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron Galperin
CITY CONTROLLER