



minutes

# COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

locally listening & leading ...



## November 16, 2015 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

Cabrillo Marina Community Building

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting called to order at 6:36pm by President James Dimon. See list below for board member attendance. 13 Board members present. Approximately 40+ stakeholders also in attendance.

Board Members	Roll Call Vote
James Baeza	Present
Gary Bettis	Absent
Slobodan Dimitrov	Present
James Dimon	Present
Louis Dominguez	Present
Doug Epperhart	Present
Bob Gelfand	Present arrived at 7:00 pm
Adele Healy	Present
Rick Plumley	Present
Shannon Ross	Present
John Vidovich	Absent
Jason Villicano	Present
Rachel Waugh	Absent
Christopher Jezina	Absent
Mary Salinas	Present
Ben Spolarich	Present
Brian Vassallo	Present

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
  - a. Jennifer McMullin commented on the \$1,100 in CSPNC's budget for newsletter(s).
3. **MINUTES:** Motion by James Baeza, second by Shannon Ross to approve the October 19, 2015, Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed with 10 yes (Baeza, Dominguez, Epperhart, Healy, Plumley, Ross, Salinas, Spolarich, Vassallo, & Villicano); 0 no; 2 abstentions (Dimitrov & Dimon).
4. **BUDGET & FINANCE:** Mary Salinas reviewed the Budget and Finance report and also explained the expense policy. She explained that the \$11,000 was budgeted for three newsprint newsletters and some of that money will be moved to other line items since it is only anticipated that two newsletters will be printed this fiscal year. Motion by James Baeza, second by Adele Healy to approve the monthly financial report and monthly expenditures as presented by Treasurer Mary Salinas. Motion passed with 12 yes (Baeza, Dimitrov, Dominguez, Epperhart, Healy, Plumley, Ross, Salinas, Spolarich, Vassallo, Villicano, & Dimon); 0 no; 0 abstention.
5. **LAPD REPORT:** Sr. Lead Officer Eve Wight was in attendance. Her report included the following:
  - a. No crime statistics were available.

- b. Bicycle thefts continue to be an issue. Of the 64 reported bike thefts only 11 had serial numbers. Without a serial number there is very little LAPD can do. People should register their bikes, it only costs \$5.00 per year. She recommends that people take a picture of their bike and serial number and keep it on their cell phone. It is a good idea to take photos of all serial numbers on items that have serial numbers.
- c. With El Nino coming it is a good idea to register for LA emergency alerts.
- d. On Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am they are unveiling the new children's library at Harbor Division.
- e. Officer Kyle Lee from South Traffic Division provided some traffic statistics for the year to date for 2015 in the Harbor Area.
  - I. There have been 1,644 reported accidents, which is a 12% increase from last year.
  - II. Just in San Pedro, 55 of the reported accidents involved bicycles.
  - III. There have been 9 fatal accidents in Harbor Division so far this year. This represents a 125% increase over last year.
  - IV. LAPD is conducting 2 to 3 undercover pedestrian enforcement stings a month in San Pedro.

## REPORTS FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

- 6. **Council District 15** - Ryan Ferguson, Field Deputy, reported on the following:
  - a. Ponte Vista update, they anticipate having their grading permits within the next five weeks.
  - b. The Rancho San Pedro feasibility study will be presented to the community on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, in the Harbor Commission Board Room from 6:00 to 7:39 pm.
  - c. Legislative update. The City Council was presented with a motion requesting that the Port of Los Angeles report on delayed or incomplete mitigation measures in the China Shipping EIR. The motion was referred to the Trade, Commerce and Technology Committee.
  - d. The Council unanimously approved a report from the Budget & Finance Committee to discontinue issuing Business Tax Registration Certificates (BTRC's) to medical marijuana dispensaries (MMD's) that are not in compliance with City of Los Angeles Proposition D (Medical Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Ordinance).
  - e. The upcoming free Night at the Aquarium of the Pacific Toy Drive is Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. and the annual Tree Lighting at Peppertree Plaza is on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm.
  - f. Other Legislative Updates and Upcoming Events were also provided. The full CD15 Report is available on the [www.cspnc.org](http://www.cspnc.org) website.
- 7. **LAUSD**: John Larson reported:
  - a. There will be two Local Areal Control Policy (LCAP) meetings on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, for times and locations please visit the LAUSD website at <http://home.lausd.net>.
  - b. President James Dimon asked about the Measure Q funds for the Modernization of San Pedro High School.
- 8. **Port of Los Angeles**. Augie Bezmalinovich reported:
  - a. The December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board of Harbor Commissioners has been cancelled. It may be rescheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup> instead.
  - b. The RFP for the Boy Scout property is still under review by City Attorney.
  - c. The John S. Gibson on and off ramps have been re-opened. The entire project should be completed by February 2016.
  - d. The C Street on and off ramps are closed and expected to re-open in early December. The entire project is due to be completed in September of 2016.
  - e. There will be a three cruise ship day on January 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - f. Holidays by the Sea, starts Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the base of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and the boat parade is also Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. COMMITTEE QUESTION TIME:

- a. Board member Doug Epperhart commented that they are going to start working on the first newsletter of this term. The deadline has not yet been set, but probably about 2 weeks. They are looking for articles of 100 to 150 words.
- b. Committee Chair Dean Pentcheff followed up on his presentation last month about Roberts Rules of Order. He has copies of Roberts Rules for Board members on loan from the City of Los Angeles. He provided a sign out sheet for Board members that want to borrow a copy.
- c. Board members and stakeholders discussed the Paseo Del Mar landslide reconstruction project.

## 10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS | *to board and stakeholders for non-agendized items*

- a. Board member Mary Salinas commented on Community Impact Statements (CIS). She talked about the ability to subscribe to receive updates on specific City Council files through the City of Los Angeles website at <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/m.clerkconnect>. She stated that if Stakeholders would help the Neighborhood Council follow City Council files that they are interested in that perhaps then the Neighborhood Council could file more CIS's.

## 11. APPOINTMENTS | *to Committees and other Committee actions - None*

## 12. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

- b. President Dimon thanked the Board for their work in the first half of this term.
- c. The CD15/NC Presidents meeting included discussion of customer service at the front desk of LAPD Harbor Division.
- d. He commented that there was an article in one of the local papers about the Hamilton Street widening project. This project was initially brought up by the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council Public Safety committee after the Paseo Del Mar slide.

## 13. ACTION ITEMS:

### 1) Coastal Risk and Beautification Committee

- a. Motion presented regarding long term traffic issues associated with the rebuilding of Paseo Del Mar as follows:

*"Whereas, the White Point Community Advisory Committee formed by Councilman Buscaino voted to rebuild Paseo Del Mar and part of that decision was to also resolve the ongoing and long term traffic and safety issues on Paseo Del Mar; and, Whereas, the rebuilding of Paseo Del Mar over the White Point Landslide will greatly increase the volume of traffic and related noise and potential increase of traffic offenses and collisions in the Lower Palisades area; and, Whereas, prior to the White Point Landslide and closure of Paseo Del Mar at Weymouth Avenue, the residents and stakeholders of the Lower Palisades area suffered from speeding and racing vehicles and general degradation of reasonable expectations of quality of life; and, Whereas, residents of Lower Palisades submitted in 2004 a detailed traffic plan (Paseo Del Mar Beautification Plan) to the City containing specific traffic calming measures to reduce the speeding and other negative traffic impacts on Paseo Del Mar and and the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council moved forward for consideration by the City of Los Angeles no less than five (5) Motions intended to improve traffic conditions on Paseo Del Mar and to reduce the significant quality of life impacts to Paseo Del Mar residents/stakeholders resulting from speeding, vehicular noise violations, cruising, and crime Therefore be it resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council requests that the City develop a detailed traffic plan including but not limited to the below traffic calming elements in the design of Paseo Del Mar between Gaffey Street and Western Ave and this plan be implemented in conjunction with the City's plan to rebuild Paseo Del Mar: 1) Raised median strip between Roxbury Avenue and Weymouth Avenue. 2) Turnabouts or stop-signs on Paseo Del Mar at the following avenue intersections: Roxbury, Barbara, and Weymouth. 3) And other traffic calming devices such as illuminated crosswalks, bulb-outs, appropriate signage and speed humps."*

- i. Mike Brown, member of the Coastal Beautification Committee, gave a brief background of the project and passed around a hand out with a traffic plan.

- ii. Board member Bob Gelfand asked if the view would be left intact.
- iii. Motion from committee passed with 11 yes (Baeza, Dimitrov, Dominguez, Epperhart, Healy, Plumley, Ross, Salinas, Vassallo, Villicano, & Dimon); 0 no; 1 abstention (Spolarich).

2) **Budget and Finance Committee:**

- a. **Motion reads as follows:** *Whereas the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council previously voted to purchase 500 royal blue t-shirts for an amount not to exceed \$2,500. Resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council authorizes the allocation of \$2,500 from the newsletter budget to the advertising budget to account for t-shirts.*
  - i. Board member Mary Salinas disagrees with the purchase of 500 t-shirts. She feels it is an unreasonably large expense.
- b. **Motion to amend** by Doug Epperhart adding the following: *“Be it further resolved, the remaining newsletter expense line item be allocated as follows: \$5,000 for printing (Read Printing), \$4,000 for postage (US Postal Service), and \$2,000 for mailing services (Perry Mailing Services).”* Motion seconded by Bob Gelfand and passed with 6 yes (Baeza, Epperhart, Gelfand Healy, Ross, & Villicano); 3 no (Salinas, Spolarich, & Vassallo); 4 abstentions (Dimitrov, Dominguez, Plumley & Dimon).
- c. **Motion as amended passed with** 7 yes (Baeza, Epperhart, Gelfand, Plumley, Ross, Spolarich, & Villicano); 4 no (Dominguez, Healy, Salinas, & Vassallo); 2 abstentions (Dimitrov & Dimon).

3) **Rules & Bylaws Committee**

- a. **Motion to rescind Motion 11.B.4.a passed on 17 August 2015:**  
*“Whereas, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council desires to consider amendments to its Bylaws, but consideration of that motion failed due to an insufficient number of Board Members present at the Board Meeting on 19 October 2015; and Whereas, it is not possible to reconsider the motion to amend the Bylaws within the same session unless the original motion is first rescinded; therefore Be it resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council rescinds its Motion 11.B.4.a, passed on 17 August 2015, entitled “Changes to Bylaws to reflect language recommended by DONE regarding posting requirements and grievance process.”*  
 Motion to approve by Doug Epperhart, second by Jason Villicano and passed with 12 yes (Baeza, Dimitrov, Dominguez, Epperhart, Gelfand, Healy, Plumley, Ross, Salinas, Spolarich, Vassallo & Villicano); 0 no; 1 abstention (Dimon).

4) **Motion from James Baeza, CSPNC Vice President**

- a. **Motion reads as follows:** *In order to allow a significant amount of time and generous stakeholder outreach, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board shall ask for volunteers to serve on the Selections Committee to coordinate and validate selections for the 2016-17 Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council term. The date and place of voting will be determined by the Selection Committee and approved by the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board.*
- b. Motion to approve by Doug Epperhart, second by Jason Villicano and passed with 12 yes (Baeza, Dimitrov, Dominguez, Epperhart, Gelfand, Healy, Plumley, Ross, Salinas, Spolarich, Vassallo & Villicano); 0 no; 1 abstention (Dimon).

5) **Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement regarding the Establishment of Sign Districts brought forth from the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils.** *See attached for complete text of item*

- a. **Motion to adopt NWSPNC** position and file Community Impact Statement from Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council to mirror their position. *See attached for complete text of item*
- b. Motion to approve by James Baeza, second by Adele Healy and passed with 12 yes (Baeza, Dimitrov, Dominguez, Epperhart, Gelfand, Healy, Plumley, Ross, Salinas, Spolarich, Vassallo

& Villicano); 0 no; 1 abstention (Dimon).

**14. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- e. An unidentified Stakeholder thanked the Board for their service and the efficiency with which they run the meetings.
- f. Board member Shannon Ross has been working to create a coyote watch group. She asked for volunteers to attend neighborhood watch meetings to help educate the public about coyotes and wildlife in general in our area.
- g. Stakeholder Bill commented on an article in the Daily Breeze today about the redevelopment of Rancho San Pedro.

**15. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- h. Board member Doug Epperhart commented that he has the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council logo available in high resolution, in any color.
- i. Board member Bob Gelfand commented that Lucy Jones of Cal-Tech has been speaking at meetings all over Los Angeles about the realities we will face in the event of a major earthquake or other disaster. This Saturday, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the Emergency Management Center there is a meeting to create a citywide alliance to deal with emergency management/disaster preparedness. Pre-registration is required.

**16. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Akerblom

for the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council

**ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES RELATED TO ITEM 13, SECTION 5**

**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 commends the Planning Department 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.*

*Furthermore, a Greening Plan is currently under development 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 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 are able to have a voice in determining how any Sign Districts in their area are operated/regulated.*