



minutes

COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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June 20, 2023 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

DoubleTree Hotel, Bosanko Room, Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro, CA

Board Members	Roll Call
Sheryl Akerblom	Present
Dennis "Dan" Braxton	Present
Isiah Cade	Absent
Greg Ellis	Present
Doug Epperhart	Present
Bob Gelfand	Present
Noel Gould	Absent
Richard Havenick	Present
John Kopczynski	Present
Drew Leach	Absent
Chelsea Oruche	Absent
Rick Perkins	Present
Dean Pentcheff	Present
Lashanda Roz Roberts	Present
Shannon Ross	Absent
Robin Rudisill	Absent
Richard Watson	Present
Total: 17 Quorum: 9	Present: 11 Absent: 6

1. Voluntary opportunity to say the Pledge of Allegiance (no substantive discussion or comment)
2. Public comment on non-agenda items
 - a. Dylan Patel, from the Pacific Inn and Suites introduced himself and 2 others as the new custodians of the business. They are refurbishing the rooms and making changes, which they expect to improve the safety of guests and the community.
 - b. Judith Marquez gave a brief overview of the Fork to Fuel initiative, which recycles restaurant brown grease to clean biofuel.
 - c. Allen Franz announced that White Point Nature Preserve is having a native plant sale on Saturday, June 24th from 11:00am to 1:00pm.
 - d. An Unidentified stakeholder commented regarding the city asking her to trim a tree on her property 5 years ago, to accommodate installation of a stop sign at 37th and Walker, which has yet to be installed.
 - e. An unidentified stakeholder commented about a large pot on 37th at Cabrillo that has not been repaired.
3. Call to order and roll call – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Doug Epperhart. See list above for board attendance. There was a quorum with 11 Board members present and approximately 15 stakeholders in attendance.
4. Board member comment on non-agenda items
 - a. Bob Gelfand thanked the representatives from the Pacific Inn and Suites, and LAPD for having a meeting with him last week.
 - b. Richard Watson announced that on Saturday, July 8th the Korean Cultural Center is having an event at the bell.

- c. Richard Havenick announced the Sail Grand Prix (Sail GP) will be taking place out of Berth 46 the weekend of July 22nd.
5. Approval of prior meeting minutes – May 15, 2023 regular meeting approved as presented without objection.
 6. CalTrans presentation on Vincent Thomas Bridge development
 - a. The presenters gave a slide presentation overview of the project.
 - b. They have, and are, doing community outreach to get feedback from the community.
 - c. Public comment is open until July 10, 2023. Please go to <https://virtualeventroom.com/caltrans/vtb/>.
 - d. Recordings of prior meetings are available at the website above.
 - e. They answered questions from the board.
 7. Report from law enforcement and public officials
 - a. Los Angeles Police Department – Senior Lead Officer Melody Shortle
 - i. Officer Shortle gave a brief overview of crime statistics for the area.
 - ii. On Wednesday, August 2nd from 7:00am to 1:00pm there will be a blood drive at the Harbor Station. To make an appointment please visit <https://www.cedars-sinai.org/programs/blood-donor-services.html>.
 - iii. Officer Shortle’s email is 37142@lapd.online.
 - b. Los Angeles Port Police Office Morales
 - i. Office Morales gave a brief overview of crime statistics for the area.
 - ii. Office Morales also announced the Sail Grand Prix (Sail GP) will be taking place out of Berth 46 the weekend of July 22nd.
 - iii. The port police dispatch can be reached at 310-732-3500 and his email amorales@portla.org.
 - iv. Officer Morales answered questions from the board.
 - c. Office of City Council District 15 Tim McOsker – Christian Guzman Field Representative
 - i. He announced a job fair for city jobs to be held in Watts.
 - ii. He gave an update on the clear cut landscaping at 34th and Peck, their office is working with the city attorney regarding the individual responsible and to get the debris cleaned up.
 - iii. Mr. Guzman answered questions from the board and stakeholders.
 8. Report from the Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety Committee – Bob Gelfand, Chair
 - a. Dr. Gelfand gave a presentation on the accomplishments of the committee for the year.
 - b. To view the presentation go to the CSPNC website at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bi2q5qUHiEns4Q2E_J4RxzMYNvImM8r1.

9. Motion urging consultation on the Vincent Thomas Bridge Deck Replacement Project – Planning, Land Use, and Transportation

"Resolved, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council recommends that the offices of Council District 15 and County Supervisor District 4 request that CalTrans and other responsible agencies complete the study necessary to determine the costs and benefits of designing and building a replacement for the Vincent Thomas Bridge;

Further Resolved, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council recommends that a community advisory committee on traffic impacts and mitigations be established for the purpose of consulting with CalTrans and other agencies in anticipation of and during the closure of Vincent Thomas Bridge.

Motion by **Richard Havenick** to amend the motion **as noted above**, second by **Richard Watson**, passed without objection.

Motion from committee as amended passed with 11 yes (Akerblom, Braxton, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Havenick, Kopczynski, Perkins, Pentcheff, Roberts, and Watson), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

10. Motion to Endorse the Neighborhood Council Declaration of Rights – *Administrative Operations*

Resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council endorses the neighborhood council declaration of rights as follows:

Whereas, the people of the City of Los Angeles enacted, in the charter of 1999, a system of neighborhood councils, whose missions are “to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs” and,

Whereas, in order to fulfill these missions, neighborhood councils must be empowered to operate as independently as possible of the city’s officials and agencies and not subject to undue influence or control by those officials and agencies,

Therefore, the neighborhood councils of the City of Los Angeles declare:

Neighborhood council board members are elected officials of the City of Los Angeles.

The method by which board members are chosen shall be determined solely by the bylaws of each council.

The sole authority to censure, suspend, remove or otherwise discipline a board member is vested in the neighborhood council of which that individual is a board member.

Each board shall determine the composition of its bylaws and no other agency or commission of the city, with the exception of board composition and boundaries of the council, may alter or amend those bylaws following initial council certification and approval by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

No official or agency of the City of Los Angeles may delay or otherwise impede the action of a neighborhood council to amend its bylaws or rules.

Neighborhood councils shall be consulted prior to the appointment of individuals to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and the appointment of any individual as the general manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Be it further resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council urges that the Los Angeles City Council and Board of Neighborhood Commissioners adopt the declaration and amend ordinances and policies to comply with the declaration.

Motion from committee passed with 10 yes (Akerblom, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Havenick, Kopczynski, Perkins, Pentcheff, Roberts, and Watson), 0 no, and 1 abstention (Braxton).

11. Motion calling on the Port of Los Angeles to maintain the area south and east adjacent to Crescent Avenue – Planning, Land Use, and Transportation

Whereas, the Port of Los Angeles is responsible for maintaining the area south and east adjacent to Crescent Avenue, and

Whereas, the area has again become overgrown and presents a fire danger,

Therefore be it resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council **Again** calls on the Port of Los Angeles to establish and implement a schedule of regular maintenance for this area and ensure that it is properly cared for.

Motion by **Richard Havenick** to amend the motion **as noted above**, second by **Richard Watson**, passed without objection.

Motion from committee as amended passed with 11 yes (Akerblom, Braxton, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Havenick, Kopczynski, Perkins, Pentcheff, Roberts, and Watson), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

12. Motion to support project at 3632 Barbara Street – Planning, Land Use, and Transportation

Resolved, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the project at 3632 Barbara St. for an addition of 827 square feet, adding to the kitchen, small bedroom, master suite, master deck and back patio.

Motion from committee as amended passed with 11 yes (Akerblom, Braxton, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Havenick, Kopczynski, Perkins, Pentcheff, Roberts, and Watson), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

13. Motion recommending that the Interactive Kiosk Experience (IKE) Program needs public outreach prior to Request For Proposal (RFP) and should go through City Planning Process of Consideration

Whereas, the Interactive Kiosk Experience (IKE) is a program that calls for 300-400 8-foot tall two-sided digital ad structures on our city sidewalks, presented as a way to assist tourists in navigating L.A.;

Whereas, these signs violate a number of existing community-specific plans and the City’s Mobility Element of the General Plan, and should not be permitted to do so;

Whereas, the IKE Program is not going through City Planning, but is instead going through the Department of Tourism, with assistance from Public Works;

Whereas, the LA Tourism and Convention Bureau developed the program starting in 2016 and the City's new Department of Tourism has adopted the program;

Whereas, the City is expediting Billboard programs, with the IKE program having had no outreach and engagement with Neighborhood Councils and/or communities during this entire time period prior to, during, or after the execution of a 2017 Letter of Intent entered into for the program with a pre-selected vendor;

Whereas, our City should not allow the invasion of our shared public open space with commercial advertising structures, which distract drivers and take up space otherwise used for trees, sidewalk dining, and enjoying the out of doors;

Whereas, our public right-of-way should not be for sale to commercial advertisers;

Whereas, the City Council has prematurely approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the IKE program with no public input;

Whereas, prior to any drafting of the IKE RFP there must be public outreach and engagement.

Resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council demands a public process, outreach, public engagement and transparency for the Interactive Kiosk Experience (IKE) program, in order to impact how the program is implemented and how the Request for Proposal (RFP) is written.

Further resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council demands that all off-site billboard programs go through City Planning Department's process of consideration.

Motion by **Dean Pentcheff** to recommend that the Interactive Kiosk Experience (IKE) Program needs public outreach prior to Request For Proposal (RFP) and should go through City Planning Process of Consideration, second by **John Kopczynski**, passed with 11 yes (Akerblom, Braxton, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Havenick, Kopczynski, Perkins, Pentcheff, Roberts, and Watson), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

14. Treasurer's report – Shery Akerblom, Treasurer – Ms. Akerblom gave a brief overview of funding items. Budget and Finance (Consent Calendar)

15. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report for May 2023.

16. Approval of Monthly Expenses, including approval of Treasurer's payment of all recurring Neighborhood Council expenses including (but not limited to) meeting space (DoubleTree Hotel), Lloyd Staffing, Bridgegap Temporary Staffing and Services Agency, The Mailroom, and office supplies.

Motion to approve consent calendar items 15. and 16. passed with 11 yes (Akerblom, Braxton, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Havenick, Kopczynski, Perkins, Pentcheff, Roberts, and Watson), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

17. Motion to approve funding to purchase a Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council banner. Item not considered.

Resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council shall allocate funds not to exceed \$800 to purchase two advertising banners for the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council from VistaPrint.

18. Appointments of committee officers, committee members, and Board representatives, including but not limited to the appointment of Shivam Patel to: Administrative Operations Committee and Communications Committee. Approved as presented without objection.

19. Motion to appoint a Robert Gelfand as liaison to the Cultural Affairs Department.

Motion to appoint a Robert Gelfand as liaison to the Cultural Affairs Department passed without objection.

20. Announcements – None

21. Public comment on non-agenda items – None

22. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is July 17, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Akerblom,
for the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council